

## Long Distance Love

*By Suzy Hopkins*

I love cats. They are beautiful, smart, independent, playful and sometimes sweet. My favorite thing is they purr. When you hold a purring cat in your lap it is a relaxing, calming sound and sensation. Unfortunately, in the recent past I have become allergic to cats.

However, I have had a cat in my life for the last fourteen years. She was rescued as a kitten by the no-kill shelter North Shore Animal League in New York City. Katie had asthma and a serious neurological problem that affected her balance and mobility. She needed to be carried to the litter box, her bed, the window sill and to her food dish. She was considered unadoptable by most people. She got a foster family while the shelter continued to care for her medical needs. They described Katie as 'sweet and good natured.' I sponsored her by sending Katie's foster mom, through the shelter, \$10 a month for the fourteen years. Every three months they would send me a status report on her life with her care-giver family and any medical treatments done for Katie. I sent her a Xmas catnip toy every year.

This September I received a sympathy card from the shelter. Katie had a stroke and passed away. Even though I had never held this cat she had been part of my life for 14 years. I wish I could have felt her purring – just once.