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CONTACT: Rusty Shelton (512) 785-4469

Cat lit: Nine lives beget 101 tales

Chicken Soup for the Soul unleashes America's most memorable felines

COS COB, Conn. - Are you a "cat person" or a "dog person?" According to U.S. pet ownership statistics compiled by the Humane Society, America is home to more "cat people" than "dog people," with 15 million more felines owned than dogs. In fact, nationwide cat fancy may have dog lovers outnumbered on a global scale as well - to the tune of 600 million cats in homes, ranking them the most popular pet in the world.

When cats aren't ruling the world, they're charming the hearts of the people who care for them, as chronicled in the new release *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats* (Chicken Soup for the Soul, August 2008, \$14.95, paperback). Their newest pet lovers title bundles tales about cats who healed their owners, rejuvenated relationships, gave new meaning to life and mended family rifts.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats is part of the new "101 Best Stories" series by the new publisher of Chicken Soup for the Soul books. With refreshed cover designs and interior layouts, books in the "101 Best Stories" series offer the Editor's favorite tales and poems submitted in the 15-year history of Chicken Soup for the Soul, reflecting the brand's excitement and energy on this memorable anniversary.

Sorted into 12 chapters ranging from "Bringing Out Our Best Qualities" to "Learning to Love The Cat" to "The Power of the Bond," *Loving Our Cats* shares the true stories of feline family members who touched - and often saved - lives.

In just one of many heartwarming true-life stories in *Loving Our Cats*, "Medicine Cat," doctors had sent Joan Walker's mother, a 15-year survivor of breast cancer and two heart attacks, home to die. When Walker's cat, Otto, took an unusual liking to the patient, despite obtrusive in-home medical equipment and nurses, her mother began to rally. Otto gave her purpose and helped her restore her strength, starting with daily trips to the sink to refill his bowl. Three years later, doctors reported that she was cancer-free and had a strong heart, and pointed to Otto's love as a medicine more potent than anything they could prescribe.

In "The \$100,000 Stray Cat," Viann Meyer attributes her platform as a speaker and master gardener to once-orphaned kitty, Oliver. Devoted to environmentally conscious pet-care, Meyer and her family built an elaborate outdoor cat run - costing upwards of \$100,000 - where he could safely spend his days enjoying naturally grown catnip and area wildlife. The Meyer Cat Garden became a local tourist attraction, bringing more than 10,000 visitors from nursing homes to tour groups from a national garden convention.

Inside *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats*, readers will also read about:

- Oscar, the garbage can kitty who won the heart of one dog-loving dad
- A mother's love: How an aloof cat sought her owner's help after nearly losing all her litter
- One couple's reuniting with a lost cat during a cross-country move
- Star, the cat who is celebrated every Christmas with an ornament in her likeness

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Amy Newmark) releases August 2008. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes all the latest titles in the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series which are distributed through Simon and Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold over 112 million copies, with titles translated into over 40 languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous trademark to high quality licensees through IMG, the world's premier licensing agent. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, is working with TV networks on several TV shows and is developing a major Internet presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support and inspiration. In 2007, *USA Today* named *Chicken Soup for the Soul* one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit: www.chickensoup.com.

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To request a review copy or excerpt of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats*, please contact Rusty Shelton at (512) 785-4469 or rusty@sheltoninteractive.com.