

“Ohio” Catnapping Incident Collection

Ohio, a cat described as a “free spirit and hustler,” was taken from her owner, Ben Thornberry, by a lesbian couple on Christmas Eve 2005. The women, from West Orange New Jersey, claimed that the cat was malnourished and was being mistreated in being forced to live on the streets. After being questioned by police, they asked if they returned Ohio whether they could bring him to New Jersey for visits; they also offered to buy Ohio for \$1,000. He was finally returned to his owner Feb. 2, 2006. The incident was a *cause celebre* and was widely covered in the press.

Collection includes: Clippings from the Provincetown Banner, The Cape Codder, Cape Cod Times, and In NewsWeekly (Boston), Jan. 25-Sept. 19, 2006 (death of Ohio); flyers and wanted posters; letters to the editor; Ohio drink recipes; and a Free Ohio t-shirt. There is also a 3 p. ms. biography of Ohio.

Location: Archives Room Range 5, Shelf K