

Happy Holidays

President's Message

It is hard to know where to even start when I sit down to write the President's message for the newsletter each December. There is so much to tell and choosing which highlights to share with you is a difficult task.

We are proud to end the "2007 Kitty Season" with **157** adoptions which brings our total adoptions in ten years to **1250!**

In my opinion, 2007 was one of our best years. We made some changes in how we do things (like dealing with all the paperwork) and that has made a tremendous difference for me and the amount of office time that is required. Susan Leroy, a **RESQCATS** volunteer, set me up on the computer!... (that is a scary thought) and made my life so much easier. I can track when kitties arrive, when they have vet exams, get tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV,



when they are wormed, vaccinated and spayed or neutered. When the medical protocol has been met....I just print it out! SIMPLE!

All the volunteers have been wonderful about adjusting to some new time schedules. That has given me a little more private time since **RESQCATS** is located on the same property as our home. New volunteers have jumped right in with the commitment to work through the entire kitten season.

RESQCATS has adopted out some wonderful kitties. The majority of them have been what I call "instant gratification" kitties...the friendly, cuddly, in-your-face kitties that every one wants. I have the Santa Maria Shelter to thank for that. The shelter is forced to euthanize hundreds of animals each year due to lack of space and illness. It is not the animals' fault...that responsibility falls with the

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RESQCATS™

A non-profit sanctuary dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of abandoned cats and kittens

December 2007 Newsletter & Holiday Fundraiser

Why I Volunteer at RESQCATS

"We can do no great things. But we can do many small things with great love."

Story by Vikki Taylor

My 20-year-old daughter and her boyfriend adopted a kitten from RESQCATS last summer. I never thought these words would change my life forever when my daughter said, "Mom, you gotta meet this Jeffyne lady at RESQCATS and see her cat sanctuary. She burns incense for the cats, plays music for them, they all have little heated beds with matching blankets. It is so Woo-Woo and sooo YOU. You've just gotta meet her and they need volunteers."

It's true that I have been an animal lover, advocate, rescuer, owner and caregiver all of my life. As an only child, my animals were my best friends and siblings. They were my whole world.

However, I have also been a single parent for the last 17 years with no financial, emotional or physical help from anyone. Trying to make things work here in beautiful and expensive Santa Barbara left no time for getting the bare bones essentials done in any given week...much less volunteering. It was a great week when we had clean underwear, clean litter boxes for our three cats, gas in the car, and groceries in the cupboard. So, I postponed calling "this Jeffyne lady." But my tenacious and strong-minded daughter persisted, asking me every week if I had called her. Finally, I did.

Something in my heart was stronger than my head and logical thinking. I knew from past experience that this could be dangerous territory! During our first phone call, Jeffyne said she detected a southern accent and asked me where I was from. I told her "Dallas, Texas" and she said she was from there too! The conversation just flowed as we laughed and briefly shared our stories. I hung up thinking...UH OH, it sure feels like I am being called and directed! So, sure enough, I made an appointment to meet her on the following Saturday.

Let me fill you in here...for many years I have dreamed of having my own animal rescue sanctuary someday. I even traveled to Washington to take classes entitled "Sanctuary 101."

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Believe in Miracles

Every once in a while a cat or kitten arrives at RESQCATS and I know instantly that there is something very special about this particular one... there is that something about this cat is going to capture my heart more than any of the others. This season her name was "Vanity."

To tell her story, I need to back up a few years and tell you about one of my kitties. Her name was "Neiman." (her brother was "Marcus!") Neiman was a very old kitty when she crossed the "Rainbow Bridge" but I was fortunate enough to know that she was near the end of her earthly life and to be able to spend some special time with her towards the end. Although it was almost four years ago when she died I will always remember the gift she gave to me at a very difficult time in my life. My husband, Mitch, was recovering from back surgery and in a great deal of pain and discomfort. And my late father had been hospitalized and was not given much chance to survive. I felt helpless....I couldn't ease Mitch's pain and I couldn't save my dad. What Neiman gave to me was some escape time from all the emotions that accompanied these totally helpless feelings.

Everyday, I took some time to go into the cattery and visit Neiman. We had a very special song that I played on the CD player and I called it "our song." I did not realize until years later that it is actually the theme song from the movie, *The Deerhunter*. I just know it was disc number 12 and the 12th song on that disc. It is a beautiful song and while I held Neiman in my lap and listened I was able to escape from the pain I was feeling.. Each time it played I visualized myself flying above the Earth looking down at a field of green with trees and ponds. As I floated around, I hadn't a care in the world...it was the five minutes a day that I felt free...and Neiman was right there with me.

When Neiman died, I continued to let disc 12 and song number 12 play. Shortly after she died, I sat in a rocking chair in the cattery, listened to the song, let the tears flow, and thanked her for all she had given me. The last image I have of her is just as clear to me as it was that day....she was flying above the Earth looking down... and she had wings...angel wings. To this day, when the song plays, tears well up in my eyes and my heart is humbled.

When "Vanity" arrived at RESQCATS on April 14, 2007 she was a "to-be" mom—a sweet kitty but very shy and frightened. She had a penetrating gaze in her beautiful green eyes that made me feel strange. I touched her sweet face and said to her, "Who are you?" It was if I knew her from somewhere but I didn't know why I felt that way.

Vanity had four babies on April 21. She was a wonderful mother, proud of her babies and seemed grateful that they had been born at RESQCATS instead of the apartment parking lot where she was found. All seemed normal, but something still felt strange to me.

Within a few days, disc 12 was playing, but the song number 12 would not play. I tried adjusting the CD player...I messed with all the knobs...tried to forward to the twelfth song...even tested the same procedure on other CDs. It worked on every other disc to forward to a song...but not on disc 12, song number 12! The

volunteers and Mitch tried to get Neiman's song to play. No one could get it to play.

It may sound strange to some, but I realized then that part of Vanity's soul was my Neiman. That was my answer to, "Who are you?"

If there was a doubt in my mind it was confirmed several weeks later. For almost two months, Neiman's song never played regardless of my efforts. When it was time for Vanity's babies to be put up for adoption and Vanity was ready to look for a home as well...the song suddenly just played one day and it has played ever since with no problems.

I started to wonder if Vanity wanted to stay at RESQCATS as a new resident. She hid anytime someone came into look at her for adoption. One by one her babies were adopted, but Vanity remained hidden and responded only to me and a few of the volunteers.

The cats that become RESQCATS residents are here because they are not adoptable for some reason: too old, too shy, too many health issues, or too feral. But Vanity did not fit any of the criteria. Yes, she was shy...but with the right person she would be a wonderful cat. She was only about three years old and I felt she deserved to be the center of someone's life. I love all the resident cats, but many of you know how limited my time is and spending a lot of time with them is not a luxury that I have when I'm busy with RESQCATS.

As the weeks went by, I started to worry about whether Vanity was going to be adopted. I talked to her from my heart and told her that I loved her and I knew she had been part of my

life before, but she would be so much better off with someone else where she could receive all of their time and attention. More weeks went by.

Vanity was Pet of the Week in the Santa Barbara News Press, flyers were put up all over town in hopes that someone would give her a chance, and she was part of our "A Home At Last" program that sent difficult-to-adopt cats home with a lot of special incentives. Nothing worked and she broke the record for the longest stay of an adoptable kitty....FIVE months!

One day, I received a call from a lady, Roberta Roeser, who said that she would like to have an older female cat and it would need to be inside because that is what was required by the mobile home park where she lived. I told her about Vanity but I didn't have much hope and expected the same reaction from Vanity as I had seen before...hide and avoid.

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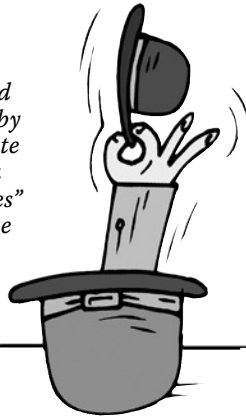
Vanity



Vanity with her kittens

An Opinion: Hats Off!

(Recently, one of the RESQCATS volunteers visited a local pet store to buy supplies. She was so upset by the selling of cats and dogs that she decided to write a letter to the local newspaper, the Santa Barbara News-Press. Her letter was published in the "Voices" section of the paper and it is worth repeating in the RESQCATS newsletter. The selling of animals that have not been spayed or neutered is part of the pet overpopulation problem for every rescue organization in the country. "Hats Off" to Susan Leroy for taking the time to "voice" her opinion!)



What is wrong with this picture?

Santa Barbara is fortunate to have so many people dedicated to the rescue and care of abandoned animals. I happen to be involved with a non-profit organization that rescues cats and kittens.

The volunteers in this arena know that female kittens can become pregnant as young as five months old. Two cats can multiply to **420,000** in seven years. Last year Santa Barbara County euthanized 1,057 cats and kittens due to the lack of homes and/or health

problems. The United States euthanizes (kills) approximately **three to four million** dogs and cats in our shelters each decade, which averages about one animal every nine seconds.

<http://.cahealthypets.com/faqs.htm>

The foundation that I volunteer for requires a small donation (under \$100) when you adopt one of their cats or kittens. The donation helps with the costs for vet exams, leukemia tests, vaccinations, deworming, spay/neuter and treatment of other health problems. All of this is done before these kitties are available for adoption. I recently walked into one of our local pet supply stores and saw seven kittens for sale at \$200 each. I was told these kittens were not spayed or neutered, no vaccinations had been given, and when I asked what the \$200 fee was for they had no answer.

How will those of us so passionate about the health and well being of cats, kittens and all animals ever make a difference when there are those who are only interested in making a profit selling animals?

Pet supply stores need to stick to selling "pet supplies" and not animals.

– Susan Leroy

RESQCATS volunteer

President's Message

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people who do not spay or neuter their pets. Therefore, they produce litter after litter and finding homes for all of them in Santa Maria is impossible. The poor kittens that do not survive the outside conditions that they are born into are the unluckiest ones. Their lives are desperate and their deaths can be long and cruel. I am reminded of this everyday. That is why I wanted to help the Santa Maria Shelter.

I have worked with the veterinarian, Dr. Darcie Barnes, for ten years and she has spayed and neutered almost 90% of the RESQCATS kitties. I visited and helped out at the shelter one day while Dr. Barnes was spaying and neutering a litter of kittens for RESQCATS. I asked her if she would trust me to take a few shelter kittens home and try to find homes for them. She was elated. I picked six that were ready to go, took them back to RESQCATS and by the end of the next day all of them had been adopted! It was easy.

The kittens had already met the standard medical protocol that we require and they were wonderfully social kittens...just waiting for the purrfect home. I am good at finding new guardians for the kitties. My telephone interview is tough and only about one out of three people meet all that I require. Each new guardian is required to sign a contract stating that the kitties will always be indoor-only cats and never, under any circumstances, be declawed.

I thought if I could get kittens into RESQCATS that were ready to find homes immediately, I could place even more. Sometimes a pregnant mom may require occupancy in an enclosure up to 10 or 12 weeks depending on when her kittens are born...and that is just fine. But if I have the space, why not help more and never have an empty enclosure waiting for any amount of time for the next litter to arrive.

So that is what we did during the last half of kitten season. Kittens came directly from foster care in Santa Maria to RESQCATS when they were all ready to go. Several of the fosters visited our website or made a trip to Santa Barbara to visit our facility. I think they wanted to make sure I passed all their requirements! I am sure we did. The fosters said they would love all their foster kitties to come to RESQCATS! We were able to place 36 of the Santa Maria Shelter



Jeffyne with Scamper and her babies

kitties into perfect homes. Our commitment next year is to help even more and greatly reduce the number of cats and kittens that the Santa Maria Shelter has to euthanize.

RESQCATS helped several people who had pregnant strays show up at their homes, bringing the pregnant moms to RESQCATS, where they could have their babies in a safe environment. Then we adopted out the moms and all their kittens.

In addition, we have contacted people advertising free kittens in the paper and were able to help by paying for the mother cats spay surgery in return for relinquishing the kittens to RESQCATS. That way, the moms are not having more kittens in a couple of

months and the kittens aren't having kittens next Spring since they get spayed and neutered before they go to their adoptive homes.

RESQCATS has helped several kittens with health problems and I just think we are lucky that we don't see even more than we do. We have had our share of losses...some very special kittens like "Lullabye," "Butterfly," and "Pearl" that touched our hearts, as well as, "Snowie," one of our resident cats. We will always remember them for sharing their unconditional love with us and cherish their memories and the beautiful lessons in life they left behind.

Each of you that receive this newsletter has been a part of our success in some way. You have adopted a RESQCATS kitty, donated food and supplies, and/or made monetary donations to help the kitties in the past.

I am offering you several ways to help RESQCATS this year. Your donation to RESQCATS is tax-deductible and every dollar makes such a difference for the kitties. Or, if you need a special something for someone and want the benefits to go to the cats... a special "Believe in Miracles" candle has been designed for RESQCATS (see page 7 and visit www.BazilEssentials.com). It makes a beautiful holiday gift for someone special in your life and all the proceeds go to RESQCATS. Thank you so very much for finding it in your heart to help.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season filled with light, love and miracles.

Sincerely,

A New RESQCATS Resident!

Many of you have visited RESQCATS and know that we have several unadoptable RESQCATS resident cats. When a cat or kitten arrives at RESQCATS as a stray or abandoned kitty but is not adoptable due to: health issues, is too old, too shy, too feral, too blind or too ANYTHING...it just stays. And then RESQCATS commits to caring of the kitty. And we meet its every whim and wish for his or her lifetime!

Some fit in just fine with all the other cats and some require their independence from the other cats. In the later case, we build them their own space so they have the luxury of an indoor space with all the amenities: a heating pad and running water fountain along with a driftwood ramp that leads to an outdoor tunnel for sunbathing and a personal outdoor enclosure! "Abby-Michelle," "Smudge," "Jake," and "Simba" all enjoy these cozy studio apartments! And so did my beloved "Snowie" that I lost very suddenly in July (see the Fall 2007 Newsletter and the article titled: "Cat in Moonlight" on the website www.RESQCATS.org).

"Snowie" spent much of her time in her outdoor enclosure trying to find the least bit of sunlight to put her little nose in. Many of you remember that Snowie had a long history of skin cancer and had recovered from several surgeries to fight it including having her ears amputated due to all her years on the street before arriving at RESQCATS.

*God made the cat in order to give humans
the pleasure of petting the tiger.*

~ ANONYMOUS

I had no idea that her loss would be so difficult for many of us and it just about broke my heart. There is not a day that I don't think about her. I have less difficulty when I pass her inside space.... perhaps that is because she was always in her outdoor enclosure unless it was pouring down rain. The day after her death, I took a pregnant mom and put her into Snowie indoor space, blocked the tunnel leading to the outdoor one and thought: "This will put some life here and that will help to heal my heart." But it didn't. I thought writing about her and the blessings and lessons that she gave to me in the last newsletter would help. But it didn't.

The hole in my heart and lump in my throat surfaced every time I gave a RESQCATS tour to potential adopters or guests each time I passed her outdoor enclosure. There was no Snowie peeking out over her basket and the enclosure was just as empty as my heart. What do I say to people when passing it? Will it help to tell them about her or is that really fair to them? Am I being selfish by sharing her story and loss for my own peace of mind or is that an important part of teaching them one more reason for kitties to be indoors...the skin cancer and all. Almost three months after Snowie's death, I found the answer.

One of my good friends, Laura Sacks, works at a vet hospital. Her mom and I were having dinner one night and Carolyn shared that Laura was considering bringing home a 15-year-old cat that had been dropped off at the vet clinic to be euthanized. The owner said that she could not care for him and that he was keeping her up at night, so she wanted him "put down." The vet ran a blood panel and found that he was actually in pretty good shape, he only showed very early stages of kidney failure. Laura wanted to care for him and give him a home for whatever time he had. She had also taken in a very special dog earlier this year when his owner did not want to care for him anymore. Carolyn was concerned about the time Laura would have to spend with the cat with her full time job at the vet clinic and her school schedule as well as wanted to consider the expenses



Snowy

involved in caring him. We talked about it in passing and the last thing I said was, "Tell Laura not to talk to me about it....the last thing I need is another resident cat!" I knew that was never Carolyn's intention.

motive) "You know the ironic thing about the cat at Laura's vet is that his name is "SNOWY!"

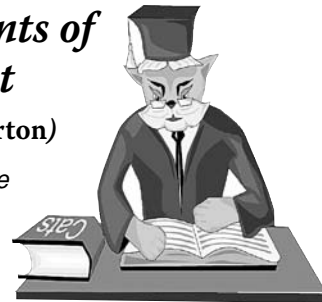
UH-OH!
I knew it was a sign from my Snowie. Yes, his name is spelled differently and S-N-O-W-Y is how it appears on his paperwork, and he is a "he" and my Snowie was a "she." But I knew it was meant to be.

Snowy arrived that afternoon. I thought I could fool myself by visiting him at the vet and not taking a carrier with me....I borrowed one from the vet to get him home! He is a sweetheart and quite the purring machine. He eats his kidney diet and we are still testing the water so to speak with sub-q fluids. It took a while for him to discover his outside enclosure but now that he did...he is loving it, and loves to sunbathe there. I now have a new-found perspective of the Snowie/Snowy enclosure. My heart is healing and there is no lump in my throat and I love to share his....and her...story on the tours! ♦

The Ten Commandments of The Gentleman Cat

(from *The Fur Person* by May Sarton)

1. A Gentleman Cat has an immaculate shirt front and paws at all times
 2. A Gentleman Cat allows no constraint of his person, even a loving constraint.
 3. A Gentleman Cat does not mew except in extremity. He makes his wishes known and waits.
 4. When addressed, a Gentleman Cat does not move a muscle. He looks as if he hadn't heard.
 5. When frightened, a Gentleman Cat looks bored.
 6. A Gentleman Cat takes no interest in other people's affairs, unless he is directly concerned.
 7. A Gentleman Cat never hurries toward an objective, never looks as if he wanted just one thing: it is not polite.
 8. A Gentleman Cat approaches food slowly, however hungry he may be, and decides at least three feet away whether it is Good, Fair, Passable or Unworthy. If Unworthy, he pretends to scratch earth over it.
 9. A Gentleman Cat gives thanks for a Worthy meal, by licking the plate so clean that a person might think it had been washed.
 10. A Gentleman Cat is never hasty when choosing a housekeeper.
- And most important of all is the 11th commandment:
11. A Gentleman Cat becomes a Fur Person when he is truly loved by a human being.



Why I Volunteer at RESQCATS

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I certainly didn't plan to start the process while still working 60 hours a week and with a daughter in college and officially still on the "payroll."

But my heart won out over my head and I went to meet Jeffyne. The minute I pulled in the driveway, I felt a distinct and very real physical feeling of peace overwhelm me. I just knew that I was at "home" here. Less than 30 minutes after meeting Jeffyne, getting my official tour of RESQCATS, and having her show me that all of the cat condo blankets and covers that were even color coordinated, I was officially hooked! You see, if you are a female growing up in Dallas Texas, you NEVER appeared in public without your belt, bag and shoes matching perfectly! And Dallas gals were perfect hosts to guests in the house where the linens, towels, accessories and toilet paper matched perfectly, too! Good Gosh, this woman was my clone and soul mate and the kitties were all so happy and peaceful.

RESQCATS was a slice of pure Divinity that sharply but beautifully contrasted and seemed to balance the sometimes brutal, and anything but Divine business world I live in day to day. I heard myself asking how many hours she needed volunteers a week and offered whatever she needed. I floated out there feeling giddy and euphoric with a sense of peace that I hadn't known in a long time. When I arrived home and announced that I would be getting up on Saturday mornings at 7:00 am to go scoop cat poop, scrub floors, do laundry, clean up cat pee, etc., the humans in my life looked at me like I had three heads! My reputation in the family is the Queen of sleeping in on weekends, and I had firmly told everyone who had known me for years, "If your name isn't Paul McCartney or Michael Jordan, please do not expect to talk to me before noon on weekends!" The first Saturday (near the end of kitten season) I was to volunteer, the giddy euphoria was gone, and reality set in as that alarm went off! Really exhausted and spent from a brutal work week, I fell out of bed and stumbled downstairs for coffee as I wondered what in the heck I was thinking! But I promised I would be there, and proper Texans NEVER go back on a promise, so off I went...groggy, tired and arrived (with no matching belt, bag and shoes) promptly at 8:30 am!

There was Jeffyne with all her Texas-woman hospitality, glory and "what you see is what you get" personality.

The hours flew by and I had never had so much fun working my butt off in pure bliss and serenity. I crashed out after I arrived back home and got nothing of my own laundry, house cleaning, car maintenance, bill paying, errands, yard work done at all! Still, I went back the next Saturday and every one after that eagerly and with joy and excitement. Saturday mornings became my own "sanctuary" and the highlight of my week very quickly.

Then Jeffyne left for Oregon to take some time off and things slowed down a bit. That is when I really got to know each of the wonderful resident cats and one in particular named "Snowie." I began to

discover things about myself that I had not had time to see in my 55 years. Snowie, a shy kitty with no ears, scars on her face and nose, and recurring skin cancer became my therapist, angel, best friend, daughter and soul mate. While some might think her missing ears and reclusive personality made her undesirable or unattractive, I found her to be courageous, beautiful spirit with a heart and soul that was more angel than cat. When I finished my chores, I put a brush and treats in my pocket and headed down the sandy path to her outdoor enclosure where she could typically be found. When she heard the crunching of the sand under my feet she would poke her little earless head up over the top of her basket and leaped out to greet me. I always told her that she was the most beautiful one at RESQCATS. I asked her please not to tell the others I said that so their feelings would not get hurt. I think she kept our secret, as the others never seemed to have their feelings hurt at all! She purred & snuggled in my arms when I brushed, hugged, petted, and poured my heart and soul out to her.

RESQCATS and Snowie, in particular, allowed me to find the parts of myself that were missing and reaffirmed my belief that indeed there were miracles and beauty in the midst of adversity, loss, sadness, and a whole bunch of other splendid lessons that fill my heart with joy, peace, love, and magic beyond description.

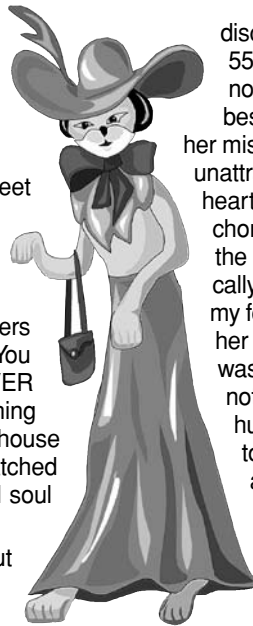
I started volunteering at RESQCATS thinking I was the one giving something to the sanctuary and Jeffyne. I believed that it was they who needed me. Now, a year later, as it has turned out, I am the one who comes away every week with gifts of love and blessings that are impossible to measure or describe.

To me, Jeffyne and Mitch represent amazing examples of the authentic expression of people who truly 24-hours a day and seven days per week "walk their talk." They live and breathe their destiny, as opposed to talking about it, or doing it every once in a while. They leave "Soulprints" in many lives and the world is a better place because they are in it. They are living breathing personifications of that rare expression of grace and beauty. I stand in awe and am inspired always by what these two people GIVE and the difference they are capable of making in so many feline, dog, tortoise and human lives.

Sometimes I drive away so peaceful, euphoric and joyful, I feel guilty that I am getting more than I am giving. However, I remind myself of what I am giving by remembering one of my favorite quotes of all time from Mother Teresa, "We can do no great things. But we can do many small things with great love."

So, I show up every week rain or shine, certainly WITHOUT my belt, bag and shoes matching, with GREAT LOVE and do whatever is needed. I don't think Jeffyne or the kitties care one bit about the non-matching outfit, the disheveled hair or coffee breath, but I do think they feel my great love for them all and it does make a difference!

**With Gratitude, Blessings, Light, Love & Peace to you all
in abundance! ♦**



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China Kitty



China Kitty was found by long time supporters and previous adopters from RESQCATS, Dierdre Stites and John Coplin. She was a stray that could barely walk and was in pretty bad shape when Dierdre called and asked for help. She and John wanted to keep her as they immediately fell in love with this black and white sweetheart.

RESQCATS was able to take care of all her medical bills which included x-rays to see if she had any injuries, her medical exam, Feline Leukemia and FIV test, and vaccinations. China Kitty turned out to be an eight-year-old Manx kitty (she has no tail) with some kidney issues. She also needed some time to recover from her time out on the street.

I think she is one lucky kitty to find John and Dierdre and I will always be grateful to them for their compassion and decision to give China a home. They both have "angel" status in my book! ♦

In Remembrance, Honor and Celebration of some very Special People and Furry Friends



In Special Memory of Joy

~ Written November 1, 2007 ~

**My beautiful collie, JOY died very suddenly on
October 27, 2007...she was only three years old.**

Joy was one of sixty-six collies taken into custody in Yolo County three years ago from a man who was a breeder and hoarder of collies. None of his dogs were spayed or neutered and all were allowed to breed indiscriminately. Many of the dogs were deaf or blind due to the inbreeding and all suffered from lack of care.

Joy was a newborn puppy at the time criminal charges were brought against the man. Joy and her sister, Harmony, who we still have, were sent to separate foster care homes immediately. The court process took a year and then the dogs were put up for adoption. That is when my husband, Mitch and I adopted Harmony. It was almost a year later, when the sisters approached two years of age, that we adopted Joy.

I remember seeing the two sisters, (or "sista's as I liked to call them,) running through the yard together the day they were re-united. They flowed across the back lawn in beautiful synchronized form with such gaiety and poise running and chasing each other as if trying to make up for all their lost time together.

I love to take Joy, Harmony and a few of our other collies to our home in Oregon when I take a break from RESQCATS. Joy had been in several foster homes during her first two years of life and was unsure of everything. But she blossomed here on the Oregon coast last year and evolved from a shy timid rescue into a confident, loving sweetheart of a dog. She would run and lead the pack on our walks and never seemed to tire.

Many of the "Yolo collies" have died during the past three years. Mitch has kept in touch with the wonderful lady that coordinated the rescue and ultimately, the adoptions of the dogs. I recall so many times that he would say to me, "We lost another Yolo collie today." I remember pausing for a moment and thinking how sad it was...and then asking "what was the cause of death?" Most of the time, his reply was the same...lymphoma. After that, I never gave it another thought.

Last week Mitch and I traveled to Oregon with Joy, Harmony, Triumph (also a Yolo collie), Misjef and Journey. When we arrived, we noticed that Joy had some difficulty walking. The next day, I took her to the vet thinking she had hurt her back jumping into the car and just needed some down time to heal. And what better place than our home in Oregon...I come here to heal myself from all that comes with rescue and having a lot of animals in my life.

Joy became progressively worse each day, and then by the hour. She lost control of her back legs, then her bowels and then her bladder.

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- ♥ In celebration of **Nancy Cook**... "Happy Birthday!"
From Suzan Bryant

- ♥ In memory of "Girlfriend" and for **Linda Broderick**
From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

- ♥ In memory of "Jazzie" and for **Danielle and Andrew Spitz**
From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

- ♥ For "Chase" Marmor---our grandson cat!
Dave and Flo Marmor

- ♥ With loving remembrance of "Sugar's" little "Lullabye"
& "Butterfly"
Walt & Evelyne Chezum

- ♥ I still think she would have looked good in little garnet studs!
In loving remembrance of "Snowie"
Walt & Evelyne Chezum

- ♥ In thanks for the joy of living with "Whiskers" and "Katie"
Betty and Keith Gehr

- ♥ In memory of "Michigan" Conrad and for Eileen Conrad
From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

- ♥ Happy Birthday to "Abbe & Zabba" from "Seamore & Willow"
c/o Barbara Weisblott

- ♥ For "Jack" Sacks...the most loved dog on the continent!
How we miss you!
Love, The Sacks Family

- ♥ In memory of "Rascal" who was an absolutely one of a kind
cat that made everyone smile!
The Sacks Family

- ♥ For "Estella" and all who loved her.

- ♥ In memory of "Pearl" and for all the blessings and lessons
that she and her guardian, Elizabeth Nicholson gave to me.
Pearl is gone but never forgotten.
Love, Jeffyne

- ♥ In memory of my mom... "we were never without a cat when I
was growing up and with no doubt that is where I got my love of
cats. We were never without cats growing up and I could always
convince her we needed one more. Up to the time she died she
always stopped to pet and talk to all the neighborhood cats."
Love, Diane Ledbetter

- ♥ In honor of "Chloe" and her fifth birthday!
Alex and Joyce Carasa

- ♥ In honor of my feline SOLM8... "Mitch."

- ♥ He was truly one of the best cats God ever created and I know he was
sent just for me. He went to Heaven to wait for me on Oct. 25, 2006.
Love, Tammy Jensen

- ♥ For "Miejek" and all the softness you still bring out in my heart
when I think of you each day
Love, Jeffyne

continues on next page

♥ For “**Jetty**” ...a kitty I rescued off the jetty in San Diego. She was ripped open to the muscle in a five-inch gash by a rose bush thorn. She was two years old and gave me unconditional love for the next 15 years. I love you and miss you, Jetty.

Love, Jeffyne

♥ In memory of “**Jetty**”
 “You are not limited by this body-
 you are life without boundaries.
 Since before time you have been free.
 Birth and death are only doors
 through which we pass.
 We will meet at the source
 Of every moment
 We offer our love to “**Jetty**”
 during this moment of transformation.”

Love, The RESQCATS volunteers

In Special Memory of Joy

continued from page 6

Joy became progressively worse each day, and then by the hour. She lost control of her back legs, then her bowels and then her bladder.

Her spirit remained positive and she looked at me as if to say, “I don’t understand why I cannot walk...what is happening to me?” I made an emergency trip with her to the veterinary hospital at Oregon State University. Mitch and I expected that an x-ray and myelogram would diagnose a slipped disk or at worst, a tumor in her back that we would have surgically removed and then bring her home to recover.

But, Joy was diagnosed with spinal lymphoma.

When I saw her hours after the myelogram, she had developed pneumonia and was declining quickly. The vet gave her a poor prognosis even with chemotherapy and radiation. Collies are very sensitive dogs and they do not tolerate treatment nearly as well as most other breeds. I remember a vet once saying to me that collies don’t get sick, but when they do, they get very sick!

Joy’s suffering ended on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 9:15 in the morning. She became the thirtieth Yolo collie to die and the youngest to die of lymphoma.

I am in shock. I am sad. I am lost.

What about Joy’s sister, Harmony? Is there a genetic predisposition for the same thing to happen to her? And is Triumph at risk as well?

I am angry. When a person loses it and becomes a hoarder of animals and lets them breed indiscriminately, they hurt not only the animals, but they also hurt the people that love them. The suffering is endless and the emotions are overwhelming.

I choose to remember Joy running with her sister in perfect “harmony”. I see her one blue eye twinkling at me in the picture I have of her on the mantle. I feel her on the bed every morning at the crack of dawn asking for breakfast. I feel her soft glistening fur in my fingers. I feel her spirit next to me today.

Will, my friend here in Oregon, expressed it so well...“It is such an emotional commitment to love a dog and know that they will not be here for a human’s entire lifetime.” He is right. When we have a dog, we love them in the purest form because every emotion they give to us is in purest form. So, when we lose them our grief is in purest form, too.

I have thought about what Will said over the last few days and ask myself why I continue to rescue cats and dogs knowing that I will lose them. My answer...for the “JOY” of them. ♦

Believe in Miracles

continued from page 2



Vanity, waiting to be adopted.

But this time was different. BJ Hawley and Monica Weisblott were here as volunteers that day. I came running in and said, “Get Vanity warmed up, someone is coming to meet her.” All their efforts were in vain. When Roberta walked into her enclosure, Vanity came out of her condo, curled around Roberta’s legs and even allowed some petting and brushing.

We usually introduce the cats and kittens to prospective adopters and then leave them alone for a while so that they can make up their own mind about taking a kitty home without our influence. As Monica, BJ, and I left the cattery, our chins fell to the floor in shock. Vanity responded beautifully to Roberta...in fact, she was the only stranger Vanity responded to the entire time she had been here. We waited patiently outside and when I got the nerve to go back into the cattery I felt in my heart that it was Vanity’s only chance to be adopted. If Roberta’s answer was no, I had a new resident. When Roberta asked if she could take Vanity home that afternoon I knew it was a perfect match!

Roberta was very kind and compassionate when I told her my story of Neiman and that I thought Neiman visited me through Vanity. I think it touched her heart and she understood that it was going to be hard for me to say good-bye. She wrote me a beautiful letter a few days after taking Vanity home that I would like to share with you. This letter says it all.

Hi Jeffyne,

Update on the first few days with “Vanity.” Well, the ride home was quiet except for two small cat cries. I talked to her all the way home and when I looked over at her; her eyes were fixed on me like she was really trying to understand just who I was and where we were going! When I got home I unloaded the car and her things. You were overly generous and thoughtful giving me a “cat shower.” I never expected to receive so many wonderful things to help me set up a nursery! When I had everything arranged with cat food and water in place, I brought the carrier in from the car. I put it down in her new room and opened one end so she could come out at her leisure. She carefully stepped onto the floor, then dashed around the corner to my room and went under the good old safe place “the bed.” I had been on the floor doing exercises for about a half hour when she decided to come out to see what I was doing. Vanity started purring and let me brush her, then she was off to explore the closets and hallway, coming back frequently to touch base with me and get petted. When I got into bed to settle down for the night I soon felt a small weight on the bed and then on my chest where she thought it would be the best place to feel safe and be within arms’ length to continue getting petted. When I woke up in the morning I turned on the light and she jumped up on the bed. We said our good mornings and then she was in and out of the room as I got dressed for work. She went into hiding before I left so I didn’t see her, but I left the radio station on soft music so it wouldn’t be so quiet the next several hours while I was at work. She is just the most loving cat. I can’t wait to get to know her better and assure her that she is safe and loved.

Again, thank you so very much for your passion in placing your cats with the right person and giving them the time it needs to make sure that there is a happy connection. I also thank you again for your generosity of gifts and a special thank you to your special volunteers that I met that day, genuinely making me feel that Vanity and I were meant to be together. I will keep you posted....

Sincerely,
 Roberta Roeser ♦



Dear Auntie Jeffyne,
In our family we're the "Black on Whites!"

"Seamore" and "Willow" would like to do something special because it is "Zabba" and "Abbe's" birthday and they are OUR pets, too. Jeffyne, you are an angel in our lives because you gave us all a second chance. We know our pet (Barbara Weisblott) has a very special place in her heart just for you!

Love,
"Seamore, Willow, Abbe and Zabba"



Abbe & Zabba

Hello Jeffyne,

My boyfriend and I came to you in the beginning of June this year and adopted two cute little kitties that we have named "Jax" – a black and brown mackerel tabby and "Mickey" – a grey and black striped tabby with a white belly. I just wanted to thank you because those little darlings have brought so much light into our lives....they are true joy!

Thank you,
Annie Heigh

Dear Jeffyne,

Willow continues to be a joy and a comfort. She is cuddling much more and right now she is playing with one of her favorite toys – a paper shopping bag. She has really filled out, since she doesn't have six kittens to care for now, and she has gotten very good at sneaking outside on the back of my wheelchair. Fortunately, she doesn't seem to want to dash out the front door! Whew! I have adjusted well to HER routine. Willow was not about to adjust to mine. We play for about 10 minutes at 3 am every morning, then go back to sleep until sevenish. When we get up she has my full attention until about 9 am. Then it is okay for me to go on with my daily schedule!

My neighbors love her and she really likes them. We are a perfect match!

Thank you, Jeffyne
Hugs,
Bonnie Elliott (and Willow)

Dear Jeffyne,

"Pumpkin" is now 5 years old and 15-1/2 pounds! We love each other and he watches over me.

Much love to you, Jeffyne – and thank you for your help during the wild kitten days!

Love,
Gloria Dettner

Jeffyne,

This kitten season has been really great! I really enjoy being with all the new kittens, but I also love just being with the adult resident cats. I know each of their personalities which is why I love being around them. I also love seeing all the volunteers. They are all so positive and friendly. And I also love being around you and Mitch!

Thank you,
Courtney
(volunteer)



Pumpkin



Valentino
Adopted by
Joanna Haynes



Ernie & Moonbeam
Adopted by
Wendy Robins & Gail Stefan



Tommy
Adopted by
Kelly Johnston



Jeannie
Adopted by
Gail Steffan



Mia
Adopted by
Joanna Haynes



Heidi & Haiku
Adopted by
Jessica Stubblefield



Kate
Adopted by
Kelly Johnston



A Thank You Isn't Big Enough



The Rotoact Club (above) spent two long Saturdays in July and August painting the outside of the entire cattery! A job well-done! There is not a thank you big enough!

Wayne, Tina, Emma, and Olivia Ward gave "Bakey," a home. Bakey was featured in the Fall Newsletter as "A Home At Last" kitty who waited a long time for someone to see her beauty as a young adult cat. She shares her perfect home with a one-year-old kitty, "Nola," and the family collie, "Piper."

Pam Gates saw one of the many flyers posted around town that featured our "A Home At Last" mommy cats that needed homes. She fell in love with "Mia and Farrow" and adopted them in August. Words cannot describe how happy I am for this inseparable pair of adult kitties. I think Pam is an angel!

Alex and Joyce Carasa, volunteers at RESQCATS and previous adopters, adopted a young mother cat named "Gulietta" even before she became a hard-to-adopt mommy cat. She would have ended up on our "A Home At Last" program if it had not been for them instantly falling in love with her the day she arrived with her five three-day-old kittens. It is the first time in the history of RESQCATS that a mother cat was actually pre-adopted and got to go home BEFORE her kittens!

Thank you, Santa Barbara Humane Society for helping RESQCATS with the spays and neuters of all the kittens.

Thank you, Susan Leroy for always being there to foster and care for even the sickest of kittens. You are their reason for life on this Earth! You will never know how grateful I am for all you give to the cats and for always being there for me...you are my strength!

Thank you for all you do, Walt and Evelyne Chezum. You have helped so many cats and kittens with your generosity over many, many years now! You both have "angel" status in my mind!

Roberta Roeser gave "VANITY" a home! Vanity waited almost five months for her purrfect guardian, always hiding when anyone came to look at adopting her until Roberta walked in. Vanity immediately came out from hiding, curled around Roberta's feet begging to be petted, and the two left for home that afternoon!

Ruth Kollenborn was concerned about a stray kitty that showed up at her home...she suspected "Scamper" might be pregnant. A vet visit confirmed her suspicion and she was brought to RESQCATS where she gave birth to four kittens. Ruth visited Scamper everyday and the shy young mother grew more confident and trusting with each visit. Then, Ruth volunteered to foster the kittens and find homes for them under the strict guidelines of RESQCATS when I left for a vacation. And to further earn her "Angel" wings...Ruth gave Scamper a home!

Thank you to Adobe Pet Hospital and Greg Haskell, DVM for all your help this year in seeing over 100 RESQCATS kitties for exams and tests. Your help with our sick and special needs kitties

has saved many and I cannot express my gratitude to you and all your wonderful staff!

Thank you, Barbara Edwards for your years of dedication to RESQCATS and especially to the resident cats. We all miss you on Sunday mornings, but wish you the best in your volunteer work with the Women's Assistance League!

Elizabeth Nicholson designed the "Believe in Miracles" candle for RESQCATS and donated all the proceeds to RESQCATS. Her web site is awesome: www.BazilEssentials.com.

Thank you, St. Francis Pet Clinic and Drs. Faoro, Morgan, and Lawrence for all the special care you give to the RESQCATS mother cats when they have their spay surgery.

Lisa Acho Remorenko, Executive Director of Animal Adoption Solutions, helped place countless cats and kittens at RESQCATS through her organization. She was always available to take photos of the kitties that needed homes, listed them on www.Petfinder.com, put them on Craig's List, and designed special flyers to distribute all over town to help find homes. She is amazing and I encourage you to visit her web site: www.animaladoptionsolutions.com.

Thank you for always being there to step in and take care of anything and everything...every organization should have a volunteer like you, Linda Higbee! ♦

"CANDLES"

A PURRfect gift for the Holidays

Wouldn't it be nice to have something to give your family and friends for the holidays that would also benefit the kitties at RESQCATS!

Elizabeth Nicholson of Bazil Essentials has created a lavender soy candle just for RESQCATS. It is a wonderful gift for those special people in your life that also care about animals. Following is an excerpt from her web site about the candle and RESQCATS:

The RESQCATS Pure Soy Glass Pillar titled "Lavender Bud" is scented with pure Lavender essential oil and sprinkled with dried Lavender buds. Lavender helps create an emotionally calming, relaxing and balancing atmosphere, while also healing the soul, providing nervous tension relief and relieving slight depression." The label is specially designed for RESQCATS and shares that a donation was made to RESQCATS with the purchase of the candle. "The benefits of Lavender are symbolic to what RESQCATS does everyday with our feline friends, as well as to the way a loving pet can help you in everyday life.



"Out of the \$22.00, \$17.00 goes to support RESQCATS and their amazing work to save the lives of our beloved cat and kitten friends."

Visit Elizabeth's website to order the RESQCATS candle as a special gift and make a difference for the kitties, too.

www.BazilEssentials.com

PS Anyone want to guess what I am giving for holiday gift!

A Warm WELCOME to the Newest RESQCATS Family Members!

RESQCATS congratulates and thanks each and every one of you for giving a home to one or more RESQCATS kitties in 2007! 152 cats and kittens were adopted this year and our total number of adoptions since we began 10 years ago is 1245!

Beth Dolinsek – also adopted from RESQCATS in 2006
Carole & Jack Beckett – adopted two six month old kittens!
Ali & Erik Runge – also adopted one of “Snowie’s” babies seven years ago
Ken & Melissa Dase
Maria Clark
Chelsea Clishem
Matt McLoone
Megan Mowatt
Novva Milton
Bill & Elaine Uonimi
Kathy Holland
Catherine Furnari
Ashley Woods
Sorel Carradine
Sandra Carradine
Caterina & Todd Sauders
Jennifer & Cassie Pascoe
Eric & Lupe Salgado
Betty Briggs
Melodie Simoni
Alice Forsythe & Mary Wood
Patricia Canton
Matt Murdock
Steve O’Leary
Alison Knight & Chris Weddle
 – also adopted from RESQCATS about 5 years ago
Anielle Heigh & Jon Stratford
Rosa Nava & Jay Fontaine
Ned Andrews
Tammy McCarthy
Nick & Gloria Solano
Leilani & Mannie Harris
Ashley Bryon
Andreas Christodoulou
Amy Vukovic
Rosa Pinter



TJ & LU

Adopted by Helen Adams & Kristen Blanchard.

Laura Goodell
Lori & Ron Keifer
Mary Hershey
Peter Cohen
Hilary Anne Demeter
Amelia Ribbons
Allison Turkish
Jared Blankenship
Jeremy Gray & Jamie
DJ Colgrove
Joanna Haynes
Deborah Schiller
Kristen Blanchard & Helen Adams

Wayne & Theresa Burke
Bobbi Younce
Aaryn Levy
Dean & Rosa Newcombe
Romina Murillo
Ashley Chudley
Alice Green
Carrie Althoff
Jon Dean
Holly Ellis
Charm Robb
Phil & Sabina Boise
Kelly Johnston
Chris & Sancha Fowler
Chris & Fleur Nelson
Margarita Sanchez



Gus
Adopted by Amanda Mirabella.



Jersey
Adopted by Bobbi Younce

Sue & Dave Dickenson
Rosanna Covarrubias
Jessica Stubblefield
Donnalyne Shaw & Mark Mooney
Noah & Mickey Trescott
Amanda Mirabella
Ryan Hedge & Chris Carson
Dennis Spangler & Ron Bishop
Mike & Julianne Fishell
Kimberly Adams
Jason Hunter
Carol Craney
Gina Torres
Judy Battaglia
Jen Jeter
Anne Cravens
Missy Dunn
Travis Cross
Patricia Diorio
Jamie Chavez
Max Waggoner
Sheri Leigh
Gail Steffan
Jo Goodman
Judy Johnson



Heidi
Adopted by Gina Torres

“A Home At Last” THANK YOU!

Thank you to each of you for having
the heart to give an adult kitty a home!

Natalia & John Newcomb adopted our first “A Home At Last” kitty
Bonnie Elliott adopted a mama cat!
Sandra Carradine gave a home to a stray mom and one of her babies!
Nancy Cook adopted a mama cat!
Christina Toy & Nick Brown adopted a two-year-old kitty!
Lori Brown adopted a mommy cat..
Alex & Joyce Carasa adopted “Gulietta” after she weaned her five babies
Hilary Anne Demeter adopted a mom and one of her babies!
Tina Ward and her family adopted “Bakey” from our “A Home At Last” program!
Dierdre Stites & Jon Coplin found and adopted a special-needs stray named “China”
Pam Gates adopted “Mia & Farrow,” two inseparable kitties from “A Home At Last” program
Roberta Roeser adopted “Vanity,” a mother cat that waited for five months (our “A Home At Last” long-timer) until she recognized that her purrfect guardian had arrived
Wendy Robins adopted a pregnant stray that showed up in her backyard—she brought “Sugar” to RESQCATS where she had her babies and then adopted one of her babies, too!
Ruth Kollenborn found a pregnant stray named “Scamper” and gave her a home after she had four babies at RESQCATS. She also fostered the babies and found homes for them under the guidelines of RESQCATS.



Frankie & Avery
Adopted by Amy Vukovic

Some of you may remember from the Fall Newsletter when a special lavender scented candle was designed by Elizabeth Nicholson. Her company, Bazil Essential (www.BazilEssentials.com) created the candle to help raise funds for a special tiny kitten named "Pearl" who was suffering from seizures (most likely due to the over-breeding of 30-plus cats in a Santa Maria colony). Several other kittens had also suffered seizures but were never given a chance for life—no one was there to help them medically or otherwise.

When I wrote about Pearl, medical advice had been sought from several veterinarians plus extensive blood panels and x-rays had been done. She received seven acupuncture treatments over the next few weeks and a trip to the emergency hospital, with no success. Anti-seizure medication did not work either. Pearl's seizures clustered with one right after another becoming more severe each time.

Even Elizabeth's love for Pearl was not



Dedication to "Pearl" & Elizabeth



enough to help her survive on Earth. Friday, October 5, Pearl was given the most unselfish gift a kitty could ever receive...Elizabeth made one last trip to the vet where Pearl was euthanized.

There is never an easy way to lose such a young kitten. I am only reminded of something my mother told me once after the sudden loss of my one-year-old kitty years ago. She said, "Angels are never on this Earth very long."

Pearl taught us all many lessons...of courage, living life in the moment, and accepting when it is time to cross the "Rainbow Bridge" without fear.

And Elizabeth...well there are no words that can truly describe her commitment, courage and the beauty of her unconditional love for Pearl.

I feel blessed to have been a part of their journey together. So it is with both sadness and gratefulness that I dedicate this newsletter to a very special kitten and her guardian angel....**"Pearl" and Elizabeth.** ♦



Consider This:

-A gift donation to honor a friend or family member who loves cats but "has everything" for the holidays.

-Contributing to RESQCATS in memory of or in honor of a friend of the human kind or fur kind.

*I love cats because I enjoy my home;
and little by little, they become its
visible soul.*

- Jean Cocteau



RESQCATS™

A non-profit sanctuary dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of abandoned cats and kittens

I am enclosing my tax deductible donation :

Angel in Heaven.....	\$1000	Caring Spirit.....	\$100
Miracle Worker.....	\$500	Supporter.....	\$50
Magic Maker.....	\$250	Helper.....	\$25

Please designate my donation to the Polar Bear Fund to help kitties with special medical needs.

Make your check payable to:

RESQCATS
P.O. Box 3852
Santa Barbara, CA 93130
(805) 563-9424

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____



Our Wish List Was Granted!



A home for "Bakey"
Adopted by Wayne, Tina,
Emma & Olivia Ward



A home for "Vanity"
Adopted by
Roberta Roeser



A home for "Mia & Farrow" together!
Adopted by Pam Gates



{helenCadams}

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www.RESQCATS.org

Please take the time to see our website.
You can read the heart warming stories in past issues or you may
just want to see the entertaining photos.

The designers are **Nathaniel and Laura Courtens.**
It is beautiful.

Thank you for all your hard work.

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