



## Looking Back on 11 Years... President's Message

As 2008 draws to a close and another kitten season ends, it is time to reflect back on the year. RESQCATS adopted 164 cats and kittens this year and 1414 since we began our mission to rescue, care for and adopt stray and abandoned cats and kittens eleven years ago!

I remember the first year we opened—we started with only a couple of enclosures. Within a year we built two more and were proud to have four enclosures for the cats and kittens. Now, there are nine enclosures that temporarily house the cats and kittens at various stages of our required medical protocol while we search for their purrfect homes. There are also four enclosures dedicated to resident cats that prefer to not mingle with the other cats, complete with a private suite inside and an outdoor overhead tunnel that connects to their own outdoor enclosure!

We also have an isolation area for sick kitties and overflow....and there are several bathrooms in my house that I use when all the enclosures are full or if a litter of kittens needs 'round the clock care. It seems like I am always begging for a place to put the

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**December 2008 Newsletter & Holiday Fundraiser**



### How "Misty" Stole My Heart and left me with an enlightened vision of my own journey

Every year there is ONE kitty in particular that just steals my heart! I try not to spend a tremendous amount of time with the kitties...that is part of what the volunteers do. And it is also my way of not getting attached so that my heart is not broken every time one leaves. My protective wall crumbles when I have a very sick kitten that we have somehow managed to save. After all the heart and soul and care that goes into them...it is hard not to get attached.

Usually, however, it is an adult cat that arrives at RESQCATS that has a special need or story that touches my soul and leaves me with humbling lessons in life and a forever place in my heart.

This year, her name was "Misty."

Rebecca Branscome is a long-time RESQCATS volunteer and foster, so I would do just about anything for her! She called one day in early September to share a sad story. She had picked up a six-year-old kitty named Misty who had been living with a single older woman whose health was failing. The woman's caregiver arrived about an hour after the lady passed and found Misty sitting on her owner's lap meowing at the top of her lungs!

Within the next day or so, the lady's family had come and gone, taken care of business, removed what they wanted and left instructions with the caregiver that Misty could go to the pound. Misty lived in another county and the shelter in her area would most likely euthanize her within a few days if she was not adopted so Rebecca asked if Misty could come to RESQCATS.

When Misty arrived later that afternoon she was obviously distressed, confused and depressed. Rebecca and I agreed that she would not do well in a typical shelter situation.

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## Believe In Miracles... Foxy's Story

(Written October 19, 2008)

Foxy was not even a year old when she was discovered under the bushes by a gardener who was working at a home in beautiful Montecito. Stray cats usually get ignored by most people, but every once in a while there is someone who really cares and calls RESQCATS. That is exactly what Teri and Fred Sahhar did. I am grateful to them for their compassion and all their support during the following weeks.

When I was contacted by them in mid-August about Foxy there was urgency in Teri's voice on the other end of the phone. Foxy also had seven newborn kittens under the bushes!

Within a couple of days, Foxy and all seven of her babies were relocated to my bathroom! Six of her kittens were black and white little puffs and we named them "Dotted Swiss," "Prince," "Princess," "Minnie," "Panda" and "Oreo." The last one looked like the ink had run out in the printer...she was the only gray and white one so we named her "Half-Tone!" They lived as a happy little family in my bathroom for almost four weeks. Foxy is a sweet little mom and she did a wonderful job taking care of her family. I always feel sorry for such young moms who are not cared for and end up pregnant and on the street. They don't get a chance to be kittens themselves! She is probably only about a year old! Foxy is a lucky cat being at RESQCATS. There are soft fleece blankets for her babies and an endless supply of food and water. Mother cats need good nutrition and a safe place for their babies so that they don't have to rely on hunting for food and do not have to fear their babies being hunted!

When the kittens reached about four weeks of age, I felt they would have more attention and socialization in foster care with one of the volunteers, Susan Leroy. The kittens were just starting to come out and explore my bathroom—they were curious about the litter box and they began weaning from their mom by eating some moist canned food. It seemed like the perfect time to send a healthy litter of kittens and a mom home with Susan. She has taken care of so many sick kitties in the past and I wanted to honor her request to care for a healthy litter with a sweet mom that she could just house and enjoy!

Unfortunately, the kittens developed some diarrhea within a few days and needed to go to the vet. Susan and I decided that we would take that opportunity to take Foxy in for an exam and her Feline Leukemia/FIV test. The results of her test were devastating...Foxy was positive for Leukemia! Leukemia can be deadly and one way of passing it is through her milk!

Hearts sank. Fears rose. What does this mean for Foxy? What does it mean for her babies? The positive was only the second positive test for Leukemia that the vet had seen in years.

The vet recommended that Foxy's blood be sent into the lab for further testing. The test would indicate if the leukemia was in full blown activity in her body. The results of the IFA test indicated that the disease was not in her bone marrow or her white blood cells. This means that she had probably been exposed to the virus and that she was building up antigens to ward off the leukemia. The vet shared with us that cats with these results can be retested in six to eight weeks to see if their bodies did just that. She said that 90% of cats with positive test results will then test negative and all will be okay.

However, it also meant that her seven babies faced possible exposure through nursing. Dr. Harmon recommended that the litter be separated from their mom and tested immediately. It was so sad to take Foxy's babies from her. The babies cried for days. But we had to do what was best for their health. If any came up positive...they could be separated from the other littermates and lessen the risk of



Dotted Swiss



Princess



Oreo



Half-tone



Foxy



Panda



Prince



Minnie

further exposure. Susan, Dr. Harmon and I all went home and burned our "Believe in Miracles" candles, hoping for the best.

All the kittens tested negative! A miracle had occurred.

Leukemia, however, may take some time to appear after exposure and the kittens would have to be tested again in three weeks just to make sure. We spent the next three weeks watching every move the kittens made and looking for signs that anything was wrong. They got immune support tablets ground up in their food. We smothered them with love and positive energy. "Believe in Miracles" candles burned at the houses of the volunteers and Dr. Harmon.

On October 17, 2008, the kittens were re-tested...they were all negative! Another miracle! Now they are free to get adopted into purrfect homes!

Foxy will be retested in mid-November to see if her body has rejected the Leukemia virus. She gets the same immune boosters as her kittens did. And she is loved just as much as them if not more. The volunteers spend a lot of time brushing her, talking to her from their hearts and surrounding her with light and positive energy. The candle is burning for her now...I hope it is not too much to ask for another miracle!

**P.S.** November 7, 2008. "Foxy" tested negative on her follow-up Feline Leukemia test!

Could it have anything to do with all the love and positive energy the volunteers gave to her? Could the immune support supplements she received in her food over the last six weeks be the reason? Or is it a third miracle!?

What do you think?

Foxy will be spayed mid-November and her search for a new home begins. Do you have a space in your heart to give a lifetime home to this blessed cat?

**Update: November 22, 2008.** "Foxy" was adopted today by Emily Nevarez and her family. ■



Misty's beautiful eyes showed the story of her sadness and loss. But her heart seemed open to her new surroundings. She was quietly curious and never minded being held and cuddled from the moment she arrived.

Misty went to the vet the next day and her vet exam, urinalysis and full blood work panel report was purrfect! It was obvious that she had been well cared for. However, over the next week she began to decline. I couldn't get her to eat...not even the food that came with her as her usual diet. She seemed depressed. She was responsive to our touch and love, but something was wrong. I tried feeding her everything...baby food and any flavor of Fancy Feast I could find. I even went to the store and bought a broiled chicken for her, but she wouldn't touch it. The vet recommended that I give her some sub-q fluids to perk her up a bit.



I spent that Sunday afternoon with Misty. I talked to her from my heart and told her I realized how much she missed her owner. I shared with her that her owner was so glad that she had not been alone when she died...she was happy that Misty had been there with her. I held Misty and told her that her owner was in a good place now...and that it was time for Misty to let her go, to move on and to make someone else happy.

On Monday, I returned to the vet with her to see if anything was wrong physically and besides a low protein level in her blood all was okay. She had eaten only a small amount for the vet.

I took Misty home, gave her sub-q fluids and we had another heart to heart about freeing her heart from her sadness and loss. That afternoon, Misty started eating normally. A follow-up blood panel a week later indicated that she was back on track!

Misty had a soft quiet presence about her as she greeted anyone who visited her. She loved the volunteers to brush her and talk to her, but what she really yearned for was a new home she could call her own. Her enclosure was surrounded by enclosures full of adorable kittens. She greeted everyone as if they were her hope for her future home.

Potential adopters would visit her when I introduced them, but as usual, once they saw the kittens...it was a lost cause for her. I remember standing in the enclosure with potential adopters telling them her story while they stood there and stared into the enclosure next door where six kittens were playing! Everyone liked her and thought she was sweet...but once they saw the kittens...well, we all know how that story goes. I thought that if any one RESQCATS kitty needed a home the most...it was Misty! But it seemed hopeless.

I always worry about the adult cats finding homes—I wake up at night thinking about how to market the adults; where to hide every single kitten in the cattery so that someone would have to take her because they would have no choice. But I know that is only wishful thinking. My heart tells me to be patient and wait for an "angel" to walk into the door who sees nothing else but her!

Misty's "angels" e-mailed me after losing their 19-year-old cat. They were devastated over their loss. In fact, "Oliver" had been with Jocelyn since she was 10 years old! He had moved with her many times, welcomed the man she married and even moved a few more times. I called Jocelyn and Chris Kuzminski after receiving their e-mail. Their note to me did not indicate they would be interested in "adopting a kitten" as most of the e-mails reveal. Perhaps they would consider and adult if I told them about Misty. They were

open to meeting her on their way out of town for a wedding and promised to stop by.

Jocelyn and Chris met Misty, fell in love with her, understood what she had suffered and knew how much more difficult it was to find a home for an adult cat. They felt that they would get a much better idea of the personality of a cat as opposed to a kitten.

I left the couple alone with Misty for a while....and as far as I know (unlike 99.9% of the people) they never ventured away from Misty's enclosure to see any kittens that were up for adoption.

Misty went home a few days later. I warned them that she would cry all the way home as she had every time we went to the vet. I felt that the energy was right for her in this new home, but I also thought that Misty may take

a long time to adjust. I worried that she would become depressed again and stop eating. In order to ease my own mind and attempt to make the transition easier, I sent her home with 24 cans of Fancy Feast, two bags of her favorite dry food, her favorite basket while at RESQCATS, a bottle of Rescue Remedy for stress and a mile-long list of instructions. As I loaded Misty into her carrier for her journey to her new home I told her it was all going to be fine. I whispered, "Misty, these are your new people and you have a job...their hearts are broken, too; they lost a very special kitty and it is your job to help their hearts heal. You can make them happy again."

I received the following e-mail the next morning:

Hi Jeffyne,

I just wanted to send you a quick note to let you know how "Misty" is doing. We decided to change her name to "Lucy Belle" as she is as sweet as she can be. As you promised, she did cry the whole way home, but once we got inside, she was much better. She checked things out and promptly hid under the bed. But after only 20 minutes, she came out to see us and has been so friendly ever since. She is running her purr motor, rubbing up against us, letting us brush her and is following us everywhere. She ate multiple times last night and has found her litter box. She fell asleep on our bed with us last night, but apparently, when we were not up at 4 a.m., we were sleeping too late for her!

Anyway, just wanted to let you know that she has already made herself right at home and seems to be very comfortable here!

Thank you again for everything,

Jocelyn and Chris Kuzminski

I thank Misty for touching my heart and reminding me that life is a journey...and so is dealing with profound loss.

While Misty grieved she remained open to all the comfort and love we could offer her. So many of us just shut down or run and hide emotionally when we lose something we love. When I told Misty that it was okay to open her heart and let someone else in, it also gave me permission to do the same. I was sure she would find happiness again.

Our journeys are not always clear at times...but Misty's is a happy one now!

Misty left me with an enlightened vision of my own journey.

And I am so thankful that Misty got not just one, but TWO angels...Jocelyn and Chris! ■

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*A kitten is chiefly remarkable  
for rushing about like mad  
at nothing whatsoever,  
and generally stopping before  
it gets there.*

- Agnes Repplier

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## And Now, a Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne...

Story by Mr. Jeffyne (aka, Mitch Telson)

As we approach the end of RESQCATS 11th season, it seems only appropriate to take a few moments to look back over the years and reflect on one of the organization's many interesting stories.

Volunteers and adopters, alike, have asked me a number of times, "Has Jeffyne always been this passionate about cats and kittens?" "Has she always wanted to have a cat rescue organization?"

The answer to these questions is a resounding...Yes! (Although Jeffyne probably doesn't even realize this!)

Jeffyne's desire to help cats and kittens and her knowledge that she WANTED to have a sanctuary to help stray and abandoned animals was apparent long before she actually knew she WOULD have such a rescue organization!

I recognized that cat rescue was Jeffyne's dream the first time I saw her soft spot for cats and kittens nearly 25 years ago.

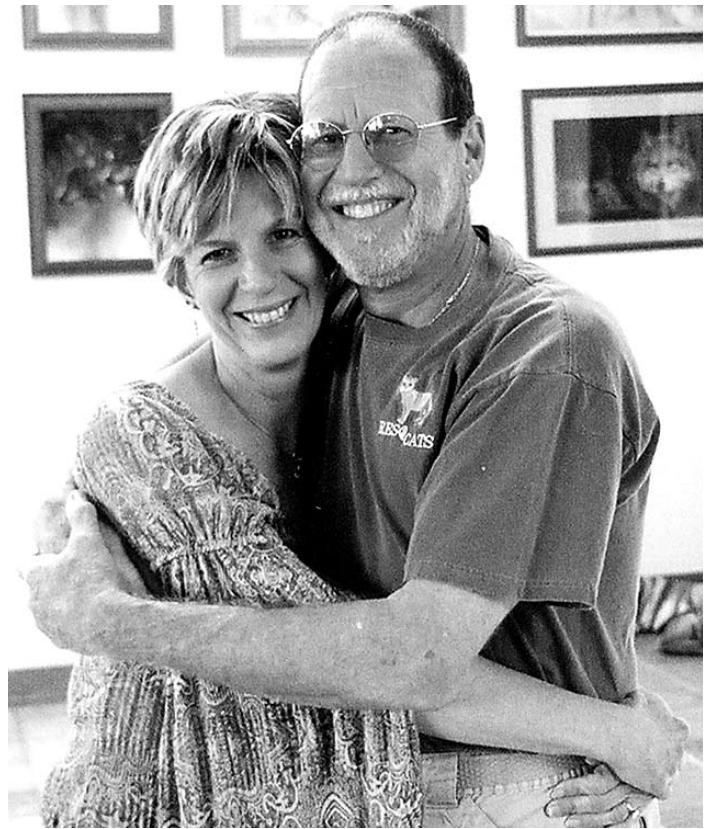
She and I used to run around White Rock Lake in Dallas, Texas on Saturday mornings. One particular Saturday, when we finished our run and were returning to our cars, she spotted a large cardboard box in the middle of the driveway. As we approached the container, we could hear the cry of little kittens. Upon opening the lid, Jeffyne, literally, melted to the driveway! Inside were five tiny kittens that appeared to be no more than a few weeks old.

Obviously, these little creatures had been abandoned by some thoughtless person who didn't have the means or the compassion to see that these helpless animals were out of harm's way.

At that time, neither Jeffyne nor I had the facility to properly take care for these baby felines, so we loaded the kittens into her car and drove them to the local animal rescue organization.

Clearly emotional, Jeffyne brought the kittens into the rescue group's facility and begged the staff, which was closing for the weekend, to take the kittens and adopt them out to good people. She was asked to leave a donation of \$20 per kitten to help defray their costs. Neither of us had money in our running shorts but Jeffyne assured them that she would return with the cash if the staff would just promise her that the kittens would be safe, properly cared for, adopted out and not euthanized.

True to her word, before going to work the next Monday morning, Jeffyne got \$100 out of her savings, returned to the rescue organization and presented them her donation.



"Mr. Jeffyne" (Mitch) and Jeffyne at home

It was at that moment that I realized that someday this woman was going to make a difference in the feline community.

So, 25 years later and more than 1400 cat and kitten adoptions since her cat sanctuary dreams were fulfilled, those of you who visit RESQCATS can plainly see, Jeffyne is still just as passionate and just as concerned about the care and welfare of every single cat and kitten that comes into RESQCATS today as I saw in that Dallas parking lot so many years ago!!

By-the-way, if you're wondering why my by-line for this article is "Mr. Jeffyne" instead of Mitch...it's simple. For all the years that I was a business leader, Jeffyne was often met by others as "Oh, you're Mitch's wife." To which Jeffyne would exert her independence and sternly reply, "No, I'm Jeffyne!"

Today our roles are reversed and so are the introductions...the only difference is that people now say to me, "Oh, you're Jeffyne's husband." Reflecting on all the wonderful things she's done for so many cats and kittens, I proudly respond, "Yes, I'm Mr. Jeffyne!" ■



## Catch a Catnap Wherever You Can!



One Saturday morning in early September, all the volunteers were late to RESQCATS! It was highly unusual. Once they arrived, they shared that they had been detoured off Las Positas Road because it had been blocked off for some reason.

I later learned that a woman had been hit by a drunk driver at 7:30 a.m. while training for a cancer research charity marathon. Her name was Carolyn Samuels. She died a few hours later. I didn't know Carolyn Samuels...but I still felt very sad for whoever she must have left behind to grieve.

Las Positas Road is the main road approaching Cliff Drive which is where I live and where RESQCATS is located. A memorial of flowers and a cross with the team photo marked where the horrible event had occurred. I must travel on that road several times a day while doing all my RESQCATS errands. Most people probably notice the marker the first few times they drive by...but something really bothered me about it. I felt a heavy sadness as I slowed down and passed the colorful flowers and picture, though I just couldn't pinpoint why it bothered me so much. After all, I did not even know Carolyn Samuels.

A couple of weeks later I got a call from a lady who asked if RESQCATS would "foster" a cat in a home environment while she looked for a home for him. She said, "A friend of mine was killed, her other cat died a few days later after she didn't come home. "Claire's" health was failing but I think she finally died of a broken heart." I offered my sympathy and proceeded to explain to her that RESQCATS was dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of STRAY and ABANDONED cats and kitten. In my past experience, "fostering" had not been a good situation. I had fostered a cat one time for two weeks that turned into six months!

I asked her how old the cat was and she replied that Skip was 13 years old. I went on to tell her difficult it would be to find a home for a 13 year old cat! I had one-year-old sweet loving mother cats that just wanted to sit in people's laps that no one would adopt. They would rather have the frightened, hiding, hissing kittens just because they were little! She understood.

I am not sure why I asked, "Would this cat happen to belong to the lady that was hit on Las Positas Road a couple of weeks ago?" She said, "Yes, as a matter of fact it does. I am the pet sitter and Skip is not doing well all alone in the house."

She went on to explain that her family could not give Skip a home—all their reasons were valid and I accepted that. I shared with her that I would ask around to see if I could find anyone willing to foster Skip in their home and that I would get back to her.

I didn't sleep all night.

By the next afternoon, Skip was at RESQCATS! He was a young 13 year old with a great personality. His special diet came with him along with his medications and he just made himself right at home! I knew that Skip could not become a permanent resident and join the general population of cats because of his special diet.

But, how could I find a home for a 13 year old cat...no matter how cute and how much personality he had! I contacted the News-Press and asked if they would do a follow up story about Carolyn Samuels and her orphaned "Skip." They ran a beautiful article in the Sunday paper on page four!

No one called.

When I have put a picture of a kitten in the pet adoption section of the paper, I have received as many as 53 calls in three days!



## *"Skip" Finds a Home with an Angel*

the lady that was hit and killed?" Elizabeth was quiet when she answered, "I was running just ahead of her when she was hit and I held her hand as we waited for the ambulance...and I was at the hospital with Carolyn when she died."

It took a minute for me to say anything. I felt tears well up in my eyes and my heart just sank as I imagined Elizabeth's world in dealing with such loss.

Elizabeth visited Skip that same day and the two of them looked like they were made for each other. Skip is the kind of cat that loves everybody...but it takes a special person to even think of adopting a 13-year-old cat that's on a special diet and also has a series of medications. Elizabeth shared some of her grief with me. I was so taken back by the openness in her heart during such a vulnerable time in her life. Here is a woman going through such pain and all she wanted to do was the right thing by giving Skip a home.

When Elizabeth and Skip left together, I gave her a big hug and told her I just couldn't believe the angel she was. Her words were..."It's the least I could do."

Elizabeth called the next day to say Skip was doing well. I also had the opportunity to meet two of Carolyn's grown children. They visited Skip and Elizabeth and said he is happy and right at home.

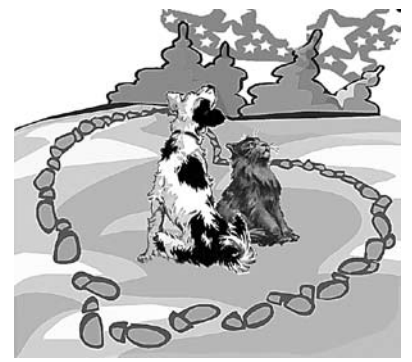
I think of Elizabeth and Skip everyday when I pass the memorial on Las Positas Road. I am sorry that I never knew Carolyn Samuels in person. I feel we know each other on a different, more spiritual level. There is a reason that her memorial bothered me. Somehow, it was meant for Skip to come to RESQCATS. And somehow, Skip was meant to find a home with Elizabeth so that he can help her through her grief and heal her heart.

I send light and love to them both everyday. ■



*"A cat does not want all  
the world to love her—  
Only those she has chosen  
to love."*

— Helen Thomson



*In Honor, Celebration and Memory of  
Some Very Special Friends and Family of the Human & Fur  
Purrsuasion! May we view their stars in the sky this holiday season...*

- ♥ For **"Harmony"** and the **"Joy"** she brought us  
*With love in our hearts, Mitch & Jeffyne*

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- ♥ In loving memory of **"Chessie"** and for **Susie Groves**  
*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

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- ♥ In memory of **"Athena"** and for **Pam Haldeman**  
*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

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- ♥ Remembering **"Chestnut"** and for **Ralph & Kebi Brown**  
*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

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- ♥ Happy Birthday to Me!! (One year old on Sept 16, 2008)  
*Love, Pumpkin (the cat)*

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- ♥ Remembering **Ann and Jon Moss**  
*Love from your son, Bill Moss*

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- ♥ In celebration **"Sophie"** of my six year adoption date from RESQCATS!  
*Joyce and Alex Carasa*

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- ♥ For **"Tex"** and the doctors and staff at *La Cumbre Animal Hospital*.  
Tex wandered into the hospital one day many years ago and became the hospital cat.  
He found his spot not only in the hearts of the clients... human, furry dogs and fluffy cats...but right in the middle of the computer (of course, while all were trying to work!)  
Tex will always be remembered and missed by so many of us.  
*Light and love, Jeffyne*

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- ♥ In loving memory of **"Hobie"** who is now chasing butterflies at the *"Rainbow Bridge."*  
*Love, "Pumpkin," "Cha-Cha," "Grace" and Julie Kaplin*

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- ♥ In honor of **Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare** and their marriage on October 4, 2008!  
*From Daniel and Alma Ledbetter*

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- ♥ Remembering **"Cody"** and thinking of **Daryl Kemp and his family**.  
*From Jeffyne and Joanna*

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- ♥ In memory of **"Wrigley"** and for **Rich, Tomoko and Jake**. May light, love and healing energy be yours during such time of sadness.  
*Love, Jim and Annette Howarth*

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- ♥ In celebration of **"Guilietta"** and my one year adoption date from RESQCATS!  
*Joyce and Alex Carasa*

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- ♥ In memory of the **three little kittens** that live at the *Rainbow Bridge* and for **Susan Leroy** who gave them a chance here on Earth.  
*All of us at RESQCATS*

- ♥ For **Simba, Jetty, Patches and Abby**...I sometimes think I see you in the cattery...must be your beautiful spirits!  
*Love, Jeffyne*

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- ♥ In Celebration of **Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare** and their marriage!  
*From Vickie Sloan*

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- ♥ In memory of **"Oliver"** and the nineteen years of joy he gave to Jocelyn from the time she was 10 years old. And for the years he gave to her husband, Chris. He will always be have a special spot in your hearts..  
*Love, Jeffyne and "Misty" (aka "Lucy Belle")*

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- ♥ In sweet memory of **"Ella"** and for **Tiffany Truffo** who adopted her from RESQCATS in Spring of 2007 as a blue-eyed calico and the most beautiful kitten I have ever seen. Ella died on November 3, 2008 of a fatal virus called FIP at only 1-1/2 years of age.  
Tiffany, remember all Ella's gifts to you and keep this in your heart...  
"Angels are never on this Earth very long."  
*Love from all of us at RESQCATS*

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- ♥ In memory of **"Rosebud"** who was a long-time resident at RESQCATS. She came to RESQCATS in Spring 2000 with five kittens, ringworm, upper respiratory problems and a fever of 106°. Rosebud was also terribly sick with a kidney infection that destroyed about 2/3 of her kidneys. She was not adoptable and spent the next eight years on a medical regimen to support her kidneys. Rosebud went to the *Rainbow Bridge* on November 3, 2008. She was a unique and independent kitty who "called all the shots!" We miss her beauty and her presence, and even her attitude which was questionable at times. Rosebud will always bring "heart smiles" to my soul. We all miss you, Rosebud.  
*Love, The RESQCATS volunteers and me, Jeffyne*

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- ♥ In memory of **"Sam,"** the **"Raindog,"** in Yachats, Oregon; and for **Dave, Stephanie and Dylan**.  
Sam touched the lives of many near and far as people traveled on the Oregon coast and met him in the specialty gift shop named "Raindog." Sam went to work with Stephanie and Dave several times a week. Many people stopped by the store to shop but others made a special trip just to see Sam. The store even had a sign that said: "Sam is in today" or "Sam is not here today." One will never truly know how many hearts he touched and lives he changed. He is one dog that many will grieve for.  
Dave, Stephanie and Dylan—May you find peace in your hearts knowing all that you did for him.  
*Love, Jeffyne, Mitch, "Journey," "Triumph," "Misjef," and "Harmony."*

*Bonnie Epperson has created a peaceful, spiritual place for me and the animals, with a carving by Mitch to make...*

## *Our Own Rainbow Bridge*

The Rainbow Bridge poem has always touched my heart. I have developed a very spiritual side to my being and feel that it helps me in dealing with the loss of RESQCATS kitties we cannot save and the letting go of some of my own special cats and dogs.

I really do believe that there is a place where we will be reunited with our pets... and how beautiful that rainbow will be. I see it in my dreams. And I think of that reunion when I spend the winter months at my home in Oregon watching all the storms and rainbows they create. The rainbows on the Oregon Coast are so magnificently displayed in the endless skies. They never last long enough but their presence is a beautiful reminder that my animals are always with me in spirit.

There is a place in my backyard where several of my kitties rest in peace and any of the RESQCATS kitties that were not strong enough to survive are buried, as well. Several of our friends have also asked to lay their pets to rest in this area we call "Twilight Park." Our pet cemetery was named after one of my kitties who died many years ago from Feline Leukemia. It is a beautiful place, but for years it sat unattended. I never really found the time to make it look like the postcard I had pinned on my bulletin board with a photo of what I had always dreamed Twilight Park could be. I am terrible with plants and I hate working in the yard or garden...the dirt, remembering to water, picking weeds and all!

My friend, Bonnie Epperson, asked if she could turn my dream into reality and make Twilight Park into a real garden. She worked for days designing the most beautiful place you can imagine for the animals to rest. One plant or another is in bloom at all times of the year so it is filled with color. There is a birdbath that many birds visit and a bench for sitting to reflect back on times spent with those buried there. A solar glass bulb marks each grave and at night each one glows! It is beautiful. Bonnie appears every once in a while to tend to it...getting dirty, weeding, watering, pruning and all! She has created a peaceful, spiritual place for the animals and for me. She has been a wonderful friend and teaches me daily about kindness and compassion for others.

My husband, Mitch, knew that the last touch the garden needed was an actual Rainbow Bridge. He got his wood carving tools out and went to work to create a unique hand-carved wooden bridge that sits inside Twilight Park. It is a beautiful symbol of his love for the animals and his compassion for all those who lose such special friends. After all, Mitch is the only one left at RESQCATS at the end of the day to take care of me when loss seems to overwhelm me. He is my bridge here on Earth on so many days...and now he has given me the hope that there will someday be a bridge to Heaven, too. ■



### *Rainbow Bridge*

(author unknown)

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who have been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing, they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body begins to quiver. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face, your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

*Then together you and your special pet cross the Rainbow Bridge.*



## A Warm Holiday Welcome to the New Members of Our Family!

We all have a choice when we make the commitment to adopt a new addition to our family. I am so touched when people decide to rescue an animal rather than support a breeder or buy from a pet store! There are so many shelter animals looking for homes and the pet-overpopulation in this country is staggering. So I would like to give special recognition to all of those special humans that adopted a RESQCATS kitty (or kitties) in 2008....THANK YOU!



**Gump** adopted by  
**Laura & Nathaniel Courtens**

- Gerard Zellers**
- Jiyeon S – 2 adults!**
- Mirasol Quinonez**
- Leith & Diana Carlson**
- Aaryn Levy**
- Patti Comito**
- Tricia French**
- Debra LaMantia**
- Brittany Harris**
- Laura Murphy**
- Allan Paskin & Taylor Perkin – 2 kittens!**
- Jane & Erik Herner – 2 kittens!**
- Jo Goodman – got a buddy for the kitten she adopted from RESQCATS last year!**
- Dano Pagenkopf**
- Francisco & Teresa Romero – 2 kittens!**
- Dianne & Bob Miles**
- Margaret Beraldo – 2 kittens!**



**Bryce** wants some!



**Bryce** fostered & adopted by  
**Sue & Cathie Sadler-Pare!**

**Karyn Schoen & Jay Denham – 2 kittens!**

**Samuel & Robert Feinstein**  
**Sue Grafton & Steve Humphrey**

**Margaret Hennessy – 2 kittens!**

**Sarah Rosenblum – Adopted an adult that nursed nine kittens from two litters!**

**Kris McShane**

**Katrina Kimport & Matthew Villeneuve**

**Cori Anson & Ross Fender – 2 kittens!**

**Violet Hatipogly**

**Enkel Brintrop**

**Heidi Kirkpatrick – 2 kittens!**

**Joanna Haynes – 2 kittens! (she has given a home to six RESQCATS kitties!)**

**Yanika Schneider**

**Kathleen Bresslin – adopted an adult kitty whose previous guardian had died**

**Yvette Pazzato**

**Tiffany Truffo – adopted her second kitty from RESQCATS!**



**Tiger** adopted by  
**Roger & Betty Inman**

**Christine Chapman & Vick Carrillo – 2 kittens!**

**Jaime Teuchert**

**Susie Groves – 2 adult mommy cats!**

**Emily Fleck**

**Norah & Michael Eldredge**

**John McWilliams & Ariel Seth – 2 kittens!**

**Ken Hatch**

**Gina Camacho**

**“Texas” Tom Nelson**

**Nicole Laehle**

**Kat Klein**

**Pete Sproul – 2 kittens!**

**Larry Lester – 2 kittens!**

**Marta Jensen – 2 kittens!**

**Jacques Habra – 2 kittens!**



**Butch** adopted by  
**Caterina & Todd Sanders**



**Apollo & Athena**  
adopted by  
**Shannon & Ryan Kwast**



**Roxy** adopted by  
**Shelby Smith!**



**Zataar & Majnoon** adopted by  
**Jacques Habra!**



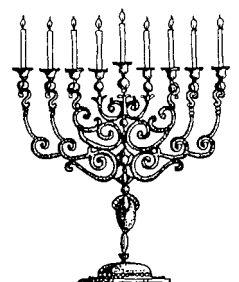
**Lucas & Lenny** adopted by  
**Tracy Merrick!**



**Hina** adopted by  
**Casey Pelletier & Paul Nugent**



**Lenny** adopted by  
**Tracy Merrick**





**Kara Hess**  
**Aracely Navas**  
**David Lewis**  
**Tiffany Lowery – 2 kittens!**  
**Susanna Lavorin**  
**Lisa & Mike Romerenko**  
**Roger & Betty Inman – 2 kittens!**  
**Nancy & Jeffrey Marroquin**  
**Stephanie Dotson**  
**Carol & Larry Nordgaarden – 2 kittens!**  
**Rebecca Branscome**  
**Joseph Braun**  
**Kristin Livingston & Gabe Brown – adopted an adult!**  
**Kelsey Hawk**  
**Lynn Richardson – 2 kittens!**  
**Silvia Navas**  
**Lance Wilhoite & Karen Dwyer – 2 kittens!**  
**Angeleen Kildare**



**Miu** adopted by **Casey Pelletier & Paul Nugent**



**SuzyQ** adopted by **Kelly Fishback**



**Mia** adopted by **Michelle Eulenhoefer**



**Bryce** fostered & adopted by **Sue & Cathie Sadler-Pare!**



**Roxy** taking a break adopted by **Shelby Smith**



**Gatsby** adopted by **Joanna Haynes**



**Gump** adopted by **Laura & Nathaniel Courtens**



**Casey Pelletier & Paul Nugent – gave a mother cat and her daughter a home!**

**Renee & Tom Mata**  
**Joe Boxley**

**Zora DeMichel – 2 kittens!**  
**James Pluhar & Christina Zumstein**  
**Elizabeth Streeper – gave “SKIP” (13 years old) a home after his guardian was killed!**

**Megan Fernandes**  
**Traci Merrick – 2 kittens!**  
**Jenni McNamara & Ryan Leone – 2 kittens!**

**Andrea Haefele**  
**Kathleen Reardon – 2 kittens!**  
**Monica Senn**  
**Jocelyn & Chris Kuzminski – adopted “Misty” (six years old) after her guardian died!**

**Sue & Cathie Sadler-Pare**  
**Robin Andre – 2 kittens!**  
**Kyle & Deneane McClung – 2 kittens!**



**Lapsang** adopted by **Joseph Braun**



**Princess** adopted by **Mary Marshall**



**Vanity** adopted by **Roberta Roeser**



**Missy** adopted by **the Sprouls**

**Diane Dunhill – 2 kittens!**  
**Tracy Brenning – 2 kittens!**  
**Melissa & Drew Beckwith**  
**Kim Hartson – 2 kittens!**  
**Kelly Fishbach – 2 kittens!**  
**Caitlin Harris & Sam Miller**  
**Pamela Vincent – adopted a feral mom and her litter!**  
**Allyson Blomeley**  
**Kory Rapanot & Jason Stone – 2 kittens!**  
**Daniel Zengel & Nicole Nelson – 2 kittens!**  
**Mer James**  
**Shannon & Ryan Kwast – 2 kittens!**  
**Christina Larson & Dan – 2 kittens!**  
**Tyler Kotowski & Kyle Tapia – 2 kittens!**  
**Marilyn Fendrick – 2 kittens!**  
**Michelle Eulenhoefer**  
**Angela Crisp & Nathan Vera**  
**Judy Malmgren**  
**Emily Nevarez – adopted an adult kitty**

## A Special Letter to Share Fostering for RESQCATS

Every volunteer at RESQCATS is a gift. The commitment and dedication that they display on a daily basis has taught me about giving unselfishly and that is what each and every one of the volunteers do. Whether it is scrubbing floors, cleaning enclosures, socializing feral kittens or running errands, thank you just does not seem like enough.

There are some volunteers that take that extra mile by bringing mommy cats and their litters, sick kittens or the overflow of kittens into their bathrooms when all the enclosures are full at RESQCATS!

It took four years for me to even consider giving up the any kittens to foster care. It wasn't a matter of trust...it was lack of understanding when it came to delegating! Denny and Bonnie Epperson can attest to that for they were the first fosters to be granted that privilege. Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare followed years later and Rebecca Branscome has stepped up to the plate many times. They may have the responsibility of bottle-feeding kittens, socializing a frightened litter or any other task that a particular kitty needs.

Susan Leroy has been a volunteer at RESQCATS for seven years and has fostered numerous litters. And not all of the litters have been the fun, playful healthy kittens that we hope for. There have been many that needed 'round the clock care and Susan is there for them 24 hours a day and seven days a week! She has saved countless kittens since she began fostering.

RESQCATS can have as many as 25-30 kittens at a time so I am not always able to give them all the time that is required when there is a failing kitten. Susan is always there to help. She sets up her downstairs bathroom...it looks like a nursery at a fine hotel. Her accommodations are a hard act to follow once the kittens return to RESQCATS! In fact, I have learned to let HER set up the enclosure at RESQCATS when they return so that it will be up to par!

I remember the first time Susan fostered...I thought I would never get the kittens back from her...it was so emotional for her to let them go! Now I look back at that time and just have to chuckle. If she had kept them all, she could not have saved the many kittens that followed.

She kiddingly asked me once, "Why do I get all the sick ones? Can't I just have a healthy mom and babies to foster?"

After much thought, she and I both realized that she gets the sick ones because she is the only hope they have and she can give them every chance on earth to live.

Susan is a gift to the kitties and to me. She gives from the heart without reservation and understands the blessing of saving a kitten. I think the unconditional love she has for her fosters are just as much a cure for them as all the medical support they receive!

I recently received a letter from her thanking me for trusting her with fostering and for all that it had taught her. It was beautiful and I thought I would share it with all of you!



October 2008

Dear Jeffyne,

This letter to you is long overdue, however, with each passing year that I volunteer at ResQCats I gain clarity as to why I so enjoy being a part of your organization.

Volunteering at ResQCats has given me an entirely different perspective on "the gift of giving." I have always loved all animals but never realized how much they truly depend on their human guardians until now. I'm so grateful for all that I've learned during these past seven years as a volunteer. Of course there are the never-ending chores of laundry, cleaning, etc. that go on every day of the week...all year long...but in addition to the daily tasks I have had the privilege of fostering the most vulnerable kitties. Of course with this responsibility comes many sleepless nights, numerous trips to the vet, giving medications and the constant monitoring of their daily activities (including what goes in and out of them) that ultimately brings rewards and some heartache. I do want you to know that without your unconditional love and commitment to giving all these little abandoned kitties the

best possible care and chance for survival, I would not be willing to take on this task. I will always remember the first four kittens that you allowed me to foster (Emma, Ellie, Ely and Elyse). I cried for two weeks following their

departure and tried to convince you to get them back for me. After two days of listening to my phone messages and taking my calls, your final comment to me (in a kind way) was: "I'm not going to let you foster if this is how it is going to be each time". I promised to practice to do better at "letting go", and I knew I had to or that would have been my last time I fostered for you.

I've learned so much about caring for the kitties. Volunteering with ResQCats has also given me the opportunity to work with a group of positive, spiritual individuals who love animals as much as I do. It is so rewarding when the cats and kittens at ResQCats find their purrfect home and we volunteers have been a part of that process.

Jeffyne, I know that your days are full and at the end of each day you are beyond exhaustion. I also know that your heart and soul is replenished with unconditional love and joy that comes from each and every cat and kitten that is given a chance. I only hope that as a volunteer I am able to give back to you and ResQCats what you have given to me...a chance to make a difference.

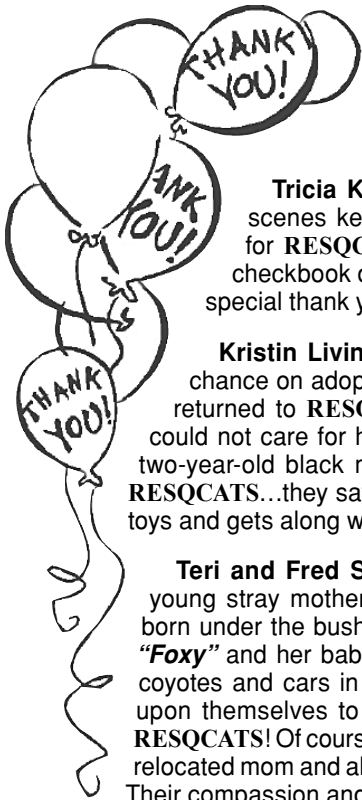
Thank you my dear friend (aka Lucy) for opening your heart and trusting me to be part of ResQCats and your life. I will be forever grateful for this special journey.

Much love, Susan (aka Ethel)

PS: Included is a picture of my first 4 foster kitties that will always have a special place in my heart, Emma, Ellie, Ely and Elyse



## Some Very Special Thank Yous...



**Tricia Krout** spends all year behind the scenes keeping up with all the accounting for RESQCATS. I cannot even balance the checkbook or read my own writing...so a very special thank you, Tricia.

**Kristin Livingston and Gabe Brown** took a chance on adopting "**Huckleberry**." Huckleberry returned to RESQCATS when his aging guardian could not care for him. Kristin and Gabe picked this two-year-old black male cat above all the kittens at RESQCATS...they say he loves to play with all his new toys and gets along with their other adult cat!

**Teri and Fred Sahhar** were concerned about a young stray mother cat and seven newborn kittens born under the bushes in their front yard. They knew "**Foxy**" and her babies were in danger due to all the coyotes and cars in their neighborhood. They took it upon themselves to feed her until they heard about RESQCATS! Of course, we were there the next day—we relocated mom and all the babies safely to RESQCATS. Their compassion and caring is unsurpassed!

**Jocelyn and Chris Kuzminski** adopted "**Misty**" who came to RESQCATS after her owner died. She was six years old and was found by her owner's caregiver about an hour after she died. Misty was perched on her owner's chest, howling at the top of her lungs. Jocelyn and Chris had just lost their nineteen-year-old kitty (Jocelyn had gotten "**Oliver**" when she was ten years old.) They never even visited the kittens available for adoption...just fell in love with Misty and knew it would be difficult for RESQCATS to find a home for an adult. Misty got a new home and a new name..."**Lucy Belle**" and made herself right at home within a day! (see *How Misty Stole My Heart* on page 1.)

**Susan Leroy** fostered several litters of kittens this year...many of which were very sick. She gave them a chance for life with her 24-hour-round-the-clock care. Her love and compassion for the kitties is endless. Susan has saved the lives of many kittens this year and been a wonderful emotional support to me when times are tough. Susan, I never feel I am in this all alone with you as my friend!

**Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare** fostered three litters of kittens for RESQCATS this year. It is such a wonderful feeling knowing that I can ask them to take a litter and never have to worry that they are in anything but the very best hands. When frightened kittens leave from RESQCATS and go to the Sadler-Pare house they return with purring motors because of all the love and attention they get from Sue and Cathie. Four-week-old abandoned kittens that have never been handled or had anything but mother's milk go home with them and return fat, healthy, lovable and well adjusted! Thank you both!

**Elizabeth and Nate Streeper** gave "**Skip**" a home...that was the greatest miracle of all!

**Casey Pelletier and Paul Nugent** wanted to adopt an adult cat only. When they visited a mother cat named "**SweetPea**" and saw how attached she was to her daughter, "**Keshet**"...they could not bear to separate the pair. They contacted their landlord who was on a trip overseas and asked if they could be allowed to bring mother and daughter home. Three days later Casey and Paul took them home together. They also got new names: mom

was named "**Hina**" which is a Polynesian goddess and her kitten is "**Miu**" which means beautiful feather in Japanese. They are romping and playing together in their new place and adjusting well. What a pair...Hina and Miu! And Casey and Paul! (see Letters to RESQCATS)

**Greg Haskell, DVM** and **Adobe Pet Hospital** have been wonderful to RESQCATS. Dr. Haskell and his staff see most of the RESQCATS kitties and go out of their way to do exams, Leukemia/FIV tests, and take care of those that need special medical attention. The compassion they have for the RESQCATS kitties and for all of us caring for them is unsurpassed! A big thank you to all of you!

**Walt and Evelyne Chezum** made a beautiful donation in memory of **Joy, Simba, Abby, Jetty and Patches**. Their donation will go to help so many kitties at RESQCATS. Their compassion, emotional support and friendship are my greatest treasures!

**St. Francis Pet Clinic** does more to help rescue organizations than I believed possible. **Dr. Faoro, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Lawrence** have been joined by a wonderful new doctor...**Dr. Harmon**! This year they helped with so many of the cats that came from a collector/hoarder situation and saw many of those sick kittens through severe medical conditions. It is no wonder they are called "**St. Francis**."

A very special thank you to **Keith Flannery** for the countless hours he spends putting the newsletter together three times a year. So many of you comment about how beautiful it is and I find something new every time I look at one. I think it is the best rescue newsletter out there and it would not be possible without Keith. He is one of those behind the scenes guys that makes all the difference in the world for the rescue kitties...and especially for me. Thank you for all you do, Keith!

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## Cats Rule the World

*Sing to the tune of "Joy to the World"*



**Cats rule the world, the kitties are king,  
Let the can-openers ring!**

**Let every hearth, prepare them  
room,**

**And birdies and mousies sing,**

**And birdies and mousies sing, And  
birdies, and birdies and mousies sing.**

**Cats rule the world, the kitties reign,  
with all their charms and toys,**

**Their hair balls, vet bills, ticks  
and fleas, and knocking down the  
Catmas tree,**

**Are not meant to annoy. They  
bring your home such joy**

**They bring, they bring your home  
such joy!**

— credit to celebratemasdogmas.com



Dear Jeffyne,  
 As promised, I send you these lovely photographs of my darling kittens, "Harriett & Omar" (aka "Tabitha & Chuck"). I'm so happy to have them in my life and grateful that they were rescued and spared a lonely, unhealthy life. They have a lot of new friends stopping by to meet them or wave to them as they lounge in their "kitty width" window sill.  
 Hope you like the pictures.  
**Lynn Richardson**



**Harriett & Omar**

Dear Jeffyne,  
 I am glad you have RESQCATS and that Huyen, my girlfriend, and I can enjoy the cats and help out some. I know you have a huge workload and I am thankful to you for being flexible with my volunteer hours due to my commitments to work and school. RESQCATS has been a memorable, enriching and wonderful experience time after time that I have had the privilege of lending a hand. You have really helped bring out the best in me on all those days. So thank you for that!  
**Your friend, (and RESQCATS volunteer)**  
**Ross Fisher**

Hey!  
 It's Kim Hartson. I adopted "Pierre & Felipe." I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that they have settled in beautifully. Pierre has been renamed "Alfie" and Felipe is now "Ozzie." They are both very sweet boys who love to cuddle and play. I could not be happier and neither could they!  
**Thanks so much for my boys!**  
**Kim**



**Alfie & Ozzie**

Hi Jeffyne,  
 Jacques (now Jack, or sometimes Captain Jack) is doing wonderfully. And I am so happy to have him. He still has the odd shy moments – usually when he is in crazy kitten mode, but most of the time he is either purring in my lap or playing with his toys. He seems very happy, and I know that I am very happy.  
 Thank you so much!  
 I have attached a picture. He has definitely grown!



**Jack**

**Many thanks, Allyson Blomeley**



Jeffyne,  
 I got your e-mail and we will absolutely let "SweetPea" and "Keshet" know you are thinking of them. They are adjusting to us and the new environment. They are just adorable!  
 We have decided to name SweetPea "Hina" which is a Polynesian goddess and change Keshet to "Miu" which means a beautiful feather in Japanese. We are so excited to have them as part of our family. We can't thank you enough for everything!



**Miu & Hina**

**Best, Casey and Paul**



Hi Jeffyne...  
 Happy Birthday to me!!  
 Can you believe I'll be a year old on September 16???  
 I want to thank you again for finding me such a purrfect home (with Julie Kaplan) so I am sending my birthday money to RESQCATS so you can help more kittens find forever homes.  
**Love, "Pumpkin"**  
**(the cat)**



Hey Jeffyne,  
 Here is a favorite photo of mine of "Boomer" and "Sidney."  
 They are doing great. I am so happy and "Carl," our black lab is doing great with them. Carl even lets Boomer and Sidney drink out of his water bowl even though they have their own!  
 Kyle and I just love the kitties and we are so happy we have them. We have gotten them so many toys and they just love them. They have roam of the entire house now.



**Boomer & Sidney**

Thank you so much for adding two bundles of joy in our life...we just love them!

**Love, Tyler Kotowski and Kyle Tapia**

Hi Jeffyne!

I've been meaning to send over some pics of our little guys for quite some time now! I can't believe it has been over a year since we brought them home! They were so tiny back then. It was love at first sight when Todd and I laid eyes on them at RESQCATS. It was a bit of an adjustment for everyone—especially our oldest, "Beatrix," who herself was a feral kitten we found up in the Oakhurst area on my mother-in-law's property. She is about a year older...and definitely the big sister. After about two weeks of hissing and a little growling, she has taken to grooming and playing with "Butch" and "Sundance." Now the three of them are inseparable! They all keep our home very

lively, and we cannot imagine life without them! I am sending some pics of them as babies, as well as some current photos so you can see how big they have gotten!

They've got wonderful personalities and are each special and different in their own way. I could go on and on about the cute stuff they do! They are so affectionate and playful.

Thank you for everything you do!! It is an inspiration and a comfort knowing that there are people like you in the world, working to ensure that our animal friends are properly cared for. We are likewise indebted to them for providing an opportunity to show love and for making our lives richer!

I will be up this weekend to bring some gifts for you and the kitties from Butch, Sundance, and Bea (and Todd and me.)

Love, Caterina Ferraro Sanders



Butch & Sundance  
over a year old (left)  
&  
as kittens (right)



## *Happy Holidays from Our Resident RESQCATS!*



**Krystal** (9 yrs old)



**Snowy** (16 yrs old)



**Wizard** (16 yrs old)



**Mandy** (11 yrs old)



**Grayco** (13 yrs old)



**Blackie** (10 yrs old)



**Seacliff** (13 yrs old)



**Precious** (9 yrs old)



**Zultan** (10 yrs old)



**Bella** (11 yrs old)



**Houdini** (6 yrs old)

**President's Message**  
continued from page 1

overflow of kittens. I use every one of the foster volunteer's bathrooms, too! When a fostered litter arrives at RESQCATS, it is not uncommon for that foster person to be back within a few days to take another litter of kittens home to their bathroom! There have just been so many kitties this year! (By the way, do you have any extra bathrooms!?)

The first year of operation I sat by the phone waiting for people to discover RESQCATS and hoping for the phone to ring. There was no web site and very few volunteers. I just counted on divine intervention and hoping to be discovered! RESQCATS was open seven days a week or any other time someone called to adopt! I struggled to find homes for 57 cats and kittens that year.

Somehow, word has gotten out about RESQCATS! I now answer 50 to 75 calls a week and almost as many e-mails! The demand for kittens is tremendous (I wish as many people wanted adult cats) and it is hard to keep up with everyone's wishes. I have hours of operation now and even close to the public on Sundays and Mondays just to have a break! Of course, the cats don't give me a break those days....they still eat and poop and need attention so there is plenty of work. I spend part of those days just catching up on all the paperwork, working on the newsletter and scheduling for the following week.

My, we have come a long way!

Our mission has always been to rescue, care for and adopt stray and abandoned cats and kittens. RESQCATS extended that mission this year. In 2008, we found homes for "Toby," "Skip" and "Misty" who were all left behind when their owners died. We also helped several people that could not afford to spay their mother cats...or just didn't care if they were spayed when RESQCATS paid to have the mother cats tested, vaccinated, spayed and returned

to their owner in an attempt to stop future kittens and more pet overpopulation. In return, the kittens came to RESQCATS and all received vet exams, feline leukemia and FIV tests; and were wormed, vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they went to new homes. We also worked with a caring man who discovered feral cats living in his yard—one mom had a litter of kittens and the other was pregnant. RESQCATS

found homes for all the kittens and helped with the expense for the moms. Our toughest job this year was dealing with a collector/hoarding situation—several breeding adults and kittens were removed from a horrible situation. It took 4 months and over \$5000 to complete the job.

I spend many hours away from RESQCATS, too! If I am not here to answer the phone or e-mails, there are several places you might find me. Many of my hours are spent going to vet appointments and taking kitties to and from the Humane Society for spay/neuter surgery. Sometimes I can be found pulling kittens out from under someone's house who doesn't want them. I responded to a call earlier this summer about two kittens under a house but returned from that site with the two kittens...and SIX more PLUS three nursing mother cats. Other times I can be found digging a litter of kittens out from under someone's bushes with the hope that their mother will feed her newborns once I get them all back to RESQCATS. There are also nights spent in my bathroom while I bottle feed kittens that have been left at the



Jeffyne and Monet

Police Station in a box or have suffered some sad circumstances.

There are many days that I get up and feel like I have everything so organized that the day will flow beautifully. Reality is that there will be emergencies, changes in schedule, a litter that must be rescued right NOW and the list goes on. I like feeling in control of a situation and I hate change...but rescue does not always follow that path. This year has been a year of many challenges. It has been a test

of my patience and flexibility of trying to just "go with the flow" that each day presents.

I ask myself, "Why do I do this? Why do I work so hard?"

The answer is this. Some days I don't know why I do it. Many days I am past mental and physical exhaustion. On those days I take some time to just sit in the cattery. It takes only a few minutes for me to find resolution. I listen to the soft music that we play for the kitties and sit in the rocking chair outside the enclosures. The sweet smell of incense surrounds me. I look at all the faces on those little kittens. I watch the mother cats caring for their young in a peaceful and clean environment. The resident cats pass by in front of me or crawl up into my lap. I hear the soft flow of water from the cat fountains. Tears well up in my eyes and as they begin their journey down my face, the passion in my heart for rescue resurfaces.

Then I ask myself, "Where would they be if they were not here?" This is why I do it.

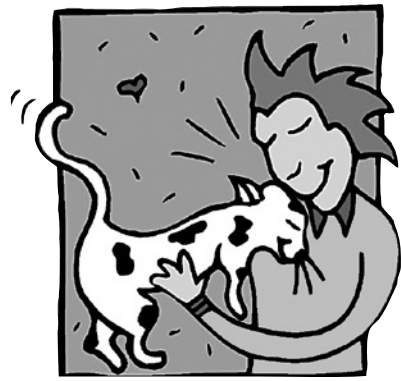
The volunteers at RESQCATS have given countless hours of their time this year in order to care for the residents and the cats and kittens that are available for adoption. I try to thank them each day when they leave...they will never know how much they are appreciated for all that they do. The fosters have enabled RESQCATS to help so many more this year... for them...there is not a thank you big enough.

I realize that times are tough for many this year. The economy is in jeopardy, people are losing their homes and their animals are in shelters or left behind. I want so much to continue to do my part and make a difference. I know it is a small difference compared to all that is going on in the world. When I feel like I just don't do enough, I have to remind myself of the 1400 plus kitties that RESQCATS has saved and the lives that each one of them has touched when they are adopted by their person. And you know, it all adds up!

Your donations have added up too. Each and every dollar added to the one the person before you sent and the one still in the mail will make a difference at RESQCATS. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me to save the stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Your donation does make such a difference...it touches not only the lives of the kitties, but also the lives of those who adopt them.

Have a holiday season full of light, love and miracles!

Jeffyne Telson, President  
RESQCATS, Inc.



## Dedication to "Betty Gardner"



This newsletter is dedicated to a lady named Betty Gardner. I met her in a local quilting class...in the early days of RESQCATS when there was still time to do things like quilt!

Betty adopted one of the first RESQCATS about ten years ago. She named her "Angelina."

For almost ten years, Betty wrote me wonderful notes about Angelina. She was a supporter of RESQCATS during all those years and sent a donation almost every newsletter, always including an update about Angelina. Her notes were so kind and I loved hearing about Angelina over the years.

I was saddened when I learned that Betty died last July. She had always been a friend to the cats and I felt I had lost a friend too. I will miss her sweet words about Angelina!

Betty continues to be a friend to the cats even after her passing. She asked that RESQCATS be included in her will...her generous donation and compassion will help many future cats here. I hope she knows how grateful I am...she continues to live in my heart that's full of many wonderful people.

I have a feeling Betty Gardner is taking care of all that join her on the Rainbow Bridge and will remain there until Angelina arrives! ■

## Away in a Basement

(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Away in a basement, old rags for a bed, the little lost kitten lay down his sweet head

Snow, through a cracked window, blew in where he lay; the little lost kitten found shelter that day.

His tummy was growling, his paws were like ice; some cream and a blanket would make him feel nice

He mewed for his mommy; he'd lost her he feared, and prayed for a family as nighttime drew near

The kitty awakened, his head in a whirl; curled up, warm and snugly in the arms of a girl His own little angel, she made him her own; on this Catmas eve, Kitty found a new home.



- credit to www.celebratecatmasdogmas.com

*"There are people who reshape the world by force or argument, but the cat just lies there, dozing, and the world quietly reshapes itself to suit his comfort and convenience."*

- Allen & Ivy Dodd

## 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.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

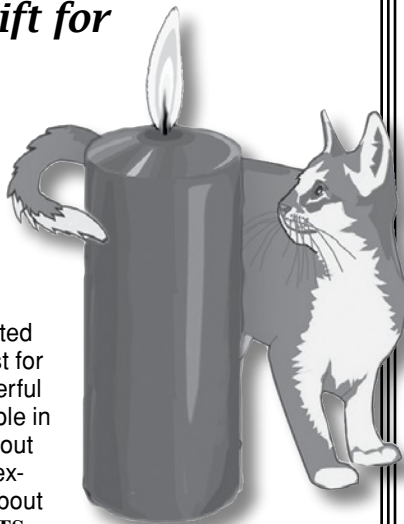


## A PURRfect Gift for the Holidays

Wouldn't it be nice to have something to give your family and friends for the holidays that also benefits 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 "Believe in Miracles" candle is specially designed for RESQCATS and the label 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 for each candle, \$17.00 goes to support RESQCATS and their amazing work to save the lives of our beloved cat and kitten friends."*

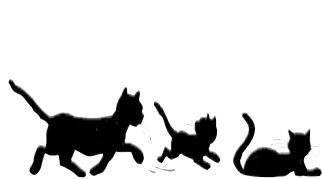
Visit Elizabeth's website to order the RESQCATS candle as a special gift and make a difference for the kitties, too.

**www.BazilEssentials.com**

## Wish List!

- I wish for people to be able to stay in their homes and keep their pets...not be forced to put them in shelters or leave them behind.
- I wish for all to experience the beauty of nature and do their part in protecting the planet for all creatures.
- I wish for all people to do just one thing to make a difference for a humanitarian or animal organization by giving volunteer time or supporting with a donation.
- I wish for you to experience the unconditional love from an animal by adopting one from a shelter or rescue organization.
- I wish for an end pet overpopulation by educating people about spay and neuter.
- I wish for love.
- I wish for peace.
- I wish for harmony.
- I wish you a beautiful journey this year.

## Let Us Renew Our Yuletide Prayers For Peace On Earth.



# RESQCATS™

PO Box 3852  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130



Visit our ResQCats website  
[www.RESQCATS.org](http://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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