



RESQCATS™

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



It's "Kitten Season!"
 You can take ONE home but it is more FUN for you and the kittens if you take two!

August 2011 Newsletter & Summer Fundraiser



Jeffyne with *Iris*, who just gave birth to eight kittens.

President's Message

written August 15, 2011

It is that time of year! RESQCATS is so busy with cats and kittens that I hardly know where to start in an attempt to bring you up to date on everything that's happening.

It is our 14th season and as of today RESQCATS has already placed over 100 cats and kittens since we re-opened in April, after a winter break. The amazing news is that we have now placed over 1830 stray and abandoned cats and kittens since we began in 1997! Awesome!

To get the volunteers started back at full speed for the season, I set aside a Sunday afternoon in early May as Volunteer Appreciation Day. All the volunteers were invited into my home for an afternoon of food and fun, the chance to get to know the other volunteers and, of course, a show of my appreciation for them. I have done this for several years now. Believe me, they deserve more than a day of recognition for all they do but since that is not possible, I make it as special as possible for that day.

I cook for the group of volunteers and their significant others, the vets are invited and it ends up being about 80 people. Everyone gets a new RESQCATS tee shirt for the year and a few other thank you surprises. It give me the opportunity to see all the volunteers together in one room, to talk to them from my heart when I deliver my presentation, to thank them, to hopefully inspire them and to cherish them out loud for all they give to me and to RESQCATS. It is a wonderful day of appreciation for them...and I love being able to give something back to them...if only for one lovely afternoon in May.

RESQCATS began the season with a running start as we always do. Spring is the time that kittens start having kittens...and I mean that literally. Many of the mother cats that arrive are less than a year old...they can get pregnant when they're as young as six to eight months. It does not leave much in the way of kittenhood for them....getting pregnant so young in life, having a family to nurse for eight weeks or more. Often, we do not really get to see what the mommy cats are like until after their kittens are weaned. That is when moms such as "Honey," "Sophie" and "Angel" become kittens again...it's just in bodies that are almost grown. Watching the mother cats recover from all their trauma and start to play and blossom with personality is one of the favorite parts of my job. And we have been very fortunate this year in that "angels" in human form have walked through the doors of RESQCATS and adopted the moms. Most people are interested only in the kittens because they are small and have the misconception that they can "mold" a kitten's personality. I hear it all the time and try to educate people about that myth...but most of the time my words are not heard.

So let me take a breath and a moment here...thank you to every one of you that have had it in your heart to adopt a mommy cat...you have earned your angel wings on Earth as far as I am concerned. And thank you to those of you that have adopted adult cats like "Romeo," "Perla" and "Gabbie."

I am working very hard this season to educate potential adopters about the commitment they are making. Lifetime commitment means just that. It is so easy to fall in love with a tiny kitten, the emotions take over and people think only of the "instant gratification" of getting a kitten home. It is my job to make sure that every adopter realizes that this "instant gratification" plans

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RESQCATS

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Where Do RESQCATS Kittens Come From?

When you run a rescue operation like RESQCATS, the question, "Where do you get all your cats and kittens?" is common one. I am not sure that everyone really wants to hear the sad stories that arrive with the kitties. Sometimes I even wish I didn't know! Often, I don't know the whole story. And more often, I am glad I don't know it!

It is beyond any part of my being to begin to understand why some people treat animals as they do. I ask myself—Why would someone dump animals somewhere as if they were garbage? How can someone move and just leave an animal behind? How can someone call and say, "I adopted two years ago and now I am moving and cannot take the cats" or "I adopted ten years ago; I just had a baby and the cat is not adjusting" or "I don't have enough time to spend with my cat and need to re-home it." RE-HOME!? What is RE-HOME? Is that the new language for

not following through on the lifetime commitment that was made to the pet when it was adopted?

I have decided that there is not a bone in my body that wants to remotely understand why some people treat animals the way they do. My mission in this lifetime is to help as many stray and abandoned cats and kittens as I can...and to find the human beings who feel as I do about them...and who want to give them lifetime homes.

Here are some of the stories about a few of our 2011 arrivals. They all have happy endings because they found their way to RESQCATS and we make sure they are adopted to people who have met all our requirements: indoors only for the lifetime of the cat, absolutely no de-clawing, and just as important is that we strive to find people that realize that they are making a lifetime commitment to the kitty when they adopt it.



"Sterling" and **"Nugget"** were being given away as **"FREE KITTENS"** on Craigslist in Santa Maria when they were only five weeks old! **Melissa Jahnke**, a RESQCATS volunteer gave them a home.



"Faith" and **"Hope"** were turned into the shelter after being adopted as kittens in September 2010 from RESQCATS (the reason given was they were tearing up the carpet). RESQCATS got them out of the shelter because they were terrified. They found a home with **Julia and Nicole Dubiel**.



"Abigail" was turned into the Santa Maria Shelter and gave birth to five kittens that very night. She came to RESQCATS to raise her family and found a home with **Susannah Lavorin**.



"Groucho" was found in the engine of a jeep as a tiny kitten trying to stay warm. After being rescued by a former adopter and volunteer...he went home with **Sumi Kato**, another volunteer!



"Johnny" was found on the Johnson Road exit ramp in Ventura. Two young ladies spent 30 minutes trying to catch this little nine-week-old kitten...he was terrified! He was caught when he ran into Toys R Us (I think Petco would have been a better choice). He found his perfect human guardians with **Simon and Euzetta Williams**, and got a new name, **"Manrico."**



"Puck" was being kept in a bird-cage while waiting to be given away as a **"FREE KITTEN"** on a Spanish-speaking radio station in Santa Maria. He was rescued, brought to RESQCATS and found a loving home with **Geoff and Sondra Aggeler**.

"Sophie" was relinquished to RESQCATS along with her five kittens by a college student who was advertising **"FREE KITTENS"** on Craigslist before the kittens were even born. The young lady was contacted by Nancy Aguirre, a volunteer, and she agreed it would be best to bring Sophie and her family here so we could find homes once the kittens were old enough to be spayed and neutered...and of course, Sophie was spayed, too. She found her home with **Jerilyn and Tyler O'Donnell**.



When **"Honey"** was rescued by a local pet shop, along with her five kittens, the shop asked if RESQCATS could take them because of their poor health. Honey had a long road to recovery, two of her babies died and the other three had some neurological issues that have since been resolved. Honey found a home with **Lanette and Michael Parry** and got a new name of **"Lexy."**

RESQCATS has placed over 1830 stray and abandoned cats and kittens since we began in 1997! Awesome!



Black Is Beautiful

Story by Nancy L. Aguirre

We all know the myths about black cats: they bring you bad luck; they are the reincarnation of the devil; they are tied to witches and black magic...did I leave anything out? At any given time, at any animal shelter, approximately 75% of the cats awaiting adoptions are black. And in this day and age, I find it difficult to understand that people still believe the ridiculous and absurd lies regarding these beautiful creatures.

Can you honestly look at a black cat and envision the devil? Do you see evil when you look into their eyes? I don't think that you do. I think that we get so wrapped up in a mob mentality that we forget to think logically, and for ourselves. There is no truth to these myths. Black cats are no different than any other cat. In our minds, we have to know that none of this stuff rings true...the good and the bad.

What I find most sad is that many parents entering shelters with their children will say that they are not interested in looking at any black cats. What does that message say to those children? That there is something wrong with being black? That they should choose who to be friends with or love according to color? Children are very impressionable and learn from what their parents teach them. We have to be so careful what we say to our children; what we teach them. We must not force the terrible fate of discrimination on them. Do we want people to choose to like us according to our skin color? Weight? Income? Nationality? All of these things are not important in choosing like and love. Animals will never choose us, or not choose us according to any of those things. All they want is to be given a home where they can love and be loved back for their entire lifetimes.

Let's Step Back in Time a bit...

It is believed that these myths and superstitions all probably began after the pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock. Being devout Christians, they were afraid of anything that symbolized evil or was connected with the devil. Being of European and/or British backgrounds, black cats were considered to be the companion animals or "familiars" to witches. Any person found with a black cat in their possession was either severely punished or put to death. The black cat was believed to be part devil and part sorcery.

With the Christians growing in numbers in America, these myths grew more powerful. It was believed that black cats were used in witches' crafts and rituals and therefore became the unfortunate victims of torture and murder. Puritan Christians believed that witches transformed themselves into black cats to avoid death. That myth is so powerful today that many shelters will not adopt out black cats during the week before Halloween for fear that they might be abused, tortured and possibly killed.

Is it the color black that throws people off? Black is the color of night, and of "evil." Yet at the same time, black is the color of elegance and class (think evening gowns and black-tie events). Black represents such ideas of power, sophistication, formality, wealth, and mystery. Black can also represent fear, unhappiness, anger, remorse, and sadness. All of these beliefs come from the "traditional" interpretation of the color black.

Okay, Let's Throw out Some More Myths...

If you live in the United States or most European countries, a black cat passing in front of you means that no matter how dismal life is for you now, things will only get worse.

However, if you live in the United Kingdom or Japan, a black cat that crosses your path will make you happy as it is believed that good fortune is coming your way. In Germany a black cat crossing you from right to left is a bad omen, but from left to right and you have just been granted favorable times by that cat. In Italy there is a superstition that if a black cat lays down on the bed of a sick person death will follow. In China it is believed that black cats bring famine and poverty with them. Latvian people who find black kittens in their grain silos dance with joy as they believe that they have been blessed by the spirit of "Rungis," a god of harvest. In Scotland, people believe that if they find a black kitten sitting on their porch, they will be rewarded with riches and happiness.

I can go on and on with these unfounded myths but I choose to stop at this point. I don't believe in silly myths. And I don't believe in unfounded superstitions. With everything we have learned and know in this day and age, and having to rectify the damages we have created from our past mistakes, why do people still believe these untruths about black cats? A black cat will not bring you bad luck just as a white cat will not bring you good luck. These beautiful creatures will only bring you happiness and joy for their entire lifetime provided that you treat them with care, respect, love and kindness. And that is what any animal, of any color, requires and deserves. Do not let people with these narrow-minded viewpoints affect the kind and color cat that you want because those beliefs have no merit, have no foundation. They hold no truth. A black cat is just as sweet, loving, playful and gentle as any cat of any other color is.

I believe that if you go into a shelter and simply spend time with a black cat, you will see that what I am saying is the truth: **Black Cats are Beautiful.** ♦

Meet some of our Black Beauties, from top to bottom:
1) Cinders 2) Ace 3) Tail 4) Maverick 5) Sweet Soot 6) Cinderella





And Now... A Few Words From Mr. Jeffyne...

Sometimes people ask me why I invest so much time and money talking about kindness to animals when there is so much cruelty among men. My answer is simple...I am working on the roots.

– George T. Ansell

As I sat down to write this piece for the summer RESQCATS Newsletter, I took a few moments to go back and re-read some of the articles I've written over the past several years. While many of my topics were light, heart-warming and fun, I've noticed that my subjects have become progressively more and more serious.

Noting this change in subject matter, I was initially disappointed with myself. After all, this column was supposed to be cheerful and breezy...a break from the more pressing issues that face RESQCATS on a daily basis...pet-overpopulation, animal hoarding, the need for more spay/neuter clinics.

I originally undertook this assignment to tell behind-the-scenes stories...carefree, non-controversial tales about living with a passionate cat rescue person...little known details and fun facts about Jeffyne, RESQCATS and our wonderful group of volunteers.

But something changed. The more I've gotten involved in animal rescue...whether it be with cats or dogs or tortoises...the more passionate I have become about the issues that face all rescue people and groups...the really serious issues that impact companion animals of all species...animal hoarding, the indiscriminate disposition of pets, and this issue's subject, a predominately dog problem that has serious consequences in the cat community as well...the crisis of puppy mills and kitten factories in the United States.

So, I hope you don't mind and that you will indulge me as I find myself using this column more frequently as a platform for sharing my thoughts and opinions on a broad range of important topics related to animal welfare with the sincere hope that it will not only educate and inform you, but just as importantly, provide an inspiration and a call to action...for the animals!

Picture this: you're out shopping, but you just can't resist stopping to look at those cute little doggies playing in the pet shop window. You go in, and in spite of yourself, before you know it, you have one of those cute little darlings in your arms, or you're sitting on the floor in a puppy room with a little one to cuddle.

"How much?" you ask, finding the licks and tail wags impossible to resist.

"Only \$600," the salesperson says. "Special this week...he was \$950." And the next thing you know, you're walking out of the store with a puppy of your own.

You probably have no idea that you just helped finance one of the biggest torture machines in the animal world. Puppy mills...the source of the majority of pet shop puppies...cesspits of filth and disease, where dogs are kept confined in cages their entire life while their feet become deformed and their fur falls out in clumps!

The mother of the puppy you hold in your arms is probably exhausted, starving, sick; has never run on the grass of a yard or felt loving arms cuddle her. She has never known kind voices or a full meal or a warm clean bed to sleep in.



She has never been brushed. She probably sleeps on wire. Her toenails grow around until they cut into her pads. She compulsively paces back and forth...if her cage is big enough for her to move. Feces and urine drop on her from the cages of the dogs stacked above her. She shivers in winter and pants in summer, with little shelter to protect her from the freezing winds or blazing heat.

She may die this month, from any of a number of ailments. If not, she might wish she had...if she could wish. But she will die young...whether from neglect and abuse or by being shot when she can no longer produce puppies to sale. She will not be adopted. She will not be loved. She will die alone.



Your new puppy's litter mates may have already died in the cage with him in while being transported to the store. After all, they were only five- or six-weeks old...too young to eat dog food, too sick to care, too lonesome for their mother.

Your puppy is one of the "lucky" ones. But another puppy you saw in there just last week was not so lucky. He was sick. He died because it would have cost the pet shop too much to have him treated. So they let him die.

Your puppy may die too, if he has a congenital defect...ailments that puppy mill breeders rarely care about. Kidney disease, blindness, hip dysplasia, deafness, behavioral problems...the list goes on and on. If your puppy is sick or does die, the pet shop will not give you back your money. But they may give you another puppy...because puppies are cheap!

To irresponsible pet shops and puppy mills, puppies are not considered living beings. They are, very simply...inventory...merchandise that can be written off and thrown away when it becomes defective. These people either don't believe or don't care that animals suffer pain, hunger, loneliness and fear.

Far too many puppy mill animals die young...but the puppy mill operators don't care. They just keep breeding more, and more and more.

So give this some thought: if you want a dog...if you REALLY want a dog...don't get one from a pet shop or off the Internet. Please, go to a shelter or breed-specific rescue group and adopt a dog who otherwise might spend his entire life in a small space or worse...be euthanized.

I guarantee that you will get the same "licks and tail wags" from your rescued companion...and you will have saved a life!



A portion of the above was reproduced from *Dying for Love* written by a group of friends against Puppy Mills.



Where Do Babies Come From?

Over the years, as children, we probably all asked our parents a similar question, 'Mommy (or Daddy), where do babies come from?'

As parents, when we get that question from a young person, we usually shuffle our feet, hem and hah for a few moments as we look for just the right words to satisfy that young person's curious mind...and then go on to have, what is frequently, a very awkward conversation.

Well, have you ever stopped to think how that discussion might go when that youngster asks the question, 'Mommy, where do puppies and kittens come from?'

Perhaps the dialogue could sound something like this...

"Well sweetheart, puppies and kittens come from accidents and mistakes when dogs and cats aren't spayed and neutered. They also come from backyard breeders...families like ours who let their animals have babies, sometimes without a plan of where those babies will live."

"Baby dogs and cats also come from professional breeders... people who bred specific animals for show or because other people want a dog or cat that has a certain color or look."

"And, sadly, many puppies and kittens come from terrible places that are called puppy mills and kitten factories where little animals are produced by the hundreds and sold to pet stores and over the Internet!"

"But, Mommy, with all the dogs and cats that are in animal shelters who don't have homes of their own, why don't people adopt them instead of bringing more animals into the world?"

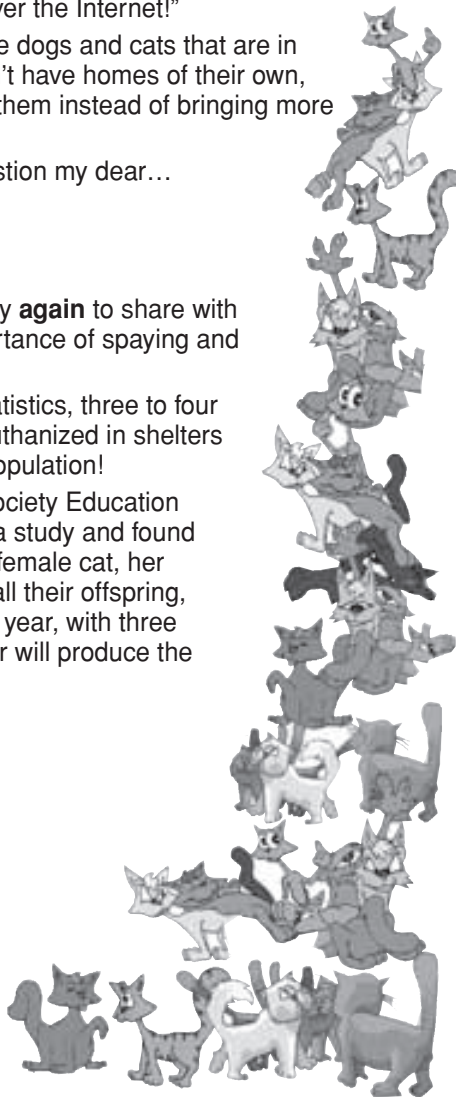
"That's a very good question my dear... a VERY GOOD QUESTION!!"

I will take this opportunity **again** to share with all our readers the importance of spaying and neutering our pets.

According to ASPCA statistics, three to four MILLION animals are euthanized in shelters every year due to overpopulation!

The Arizona Humane Society Education Department conducted a study and found that a single un-spayed female cat, her un-neutered mate, and all their offspring, producing two litters per year, with three surviving kittens per litter will produce the following!

1 year: 12
 2 years: 66
 3 years: 382
 4 years: 2201
 5 years: 12,680
 6 years: 73,041
 7 years: 420,715
 8 years: 2,423,316
 9 years: 13,958,290
 10 years: 80,399,780



Wendy McCaw made a beautiful donation that enabled RESQCATS to upgrade our isolation room...known as the "Rainbow Room" to honor "**Cat Pollon**," a special friend of hers.

Thank you...

Rachel Ross knitted and donated some of the most beautiful blankets I have ever seen from all her scrap yarn. Now the cats travel in style to the vet for their check-ups and appointments. Rachel, you have made it a First Class operation here at RESQCATS with your beautiful work. *Thank you...*

A special *Thank you...* to all the RESQCATS volunteers who gave so much of their time to help out during my husband, Mitch's, knee replacement surgery...we truly could not have done it without you.

There is a job at RESQCATS that is 24 hours a day and 7 days a week...it is called fostering. It takes some extra-special volunteers to commit to bottle-feeding and caring for young kittens that may be sick or need lots of extra TLC. *Thank you...* to some very special ladies: **Rebecca Branscome, LeeAnn Kaurbars, Sue and Cathi Sadler-Pare, Nancy Aguirre and Eliane Martin**. Your commitment and compassion and willingness to help is "angelic."

A very special *Thank you...* to **Nancy Aguirre** for your help with so many things:

- Photographing and creating the flyers of the cats and kittens for posting
- writing articles for the newsletter
- fostering special needs kittens such as "Topaz" and "Rose,"
- running errands, and
- volunteering your time on some of those hectic Saturdays when there are so many adoptions.

You are a big part of the success of RESQCATS. My admiration for you goes well beyond our friendship...you are a shining light here!

A very special *Thank you...* to **Keith Flannery of Flannery Designs&Graphics** for his continued dedication to designing the best newsletter out there! He donates his time to create a beautiful newsletter three times a year, designing unique illustrations to fit each story. They just keep getting better and better. Your hours of work and commitment do not go unnoticed...my appreciation is from the bottom of my heart!

Thank you... to those of you that adopted from RESQCATS this season...I hope you know the difference you have made by deciding to rescue a kitty rather than support breeders and pet stores who see these little souls as money...rather than the precious little souls they are.



Somewhere Over the Rainbow...



While *The Wizard of Oz* is one of my favorite movies, I know that is not why I hear the *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* melody in my head all the time. I hear it because it is a reminder to me that one day I will cross the Rainbow Bridge where animals wait for us after they die until we join them. I believe it will be a wonderful day of joy to cross over and see all my animals there waiting for me.

I write about loss often because it is a life experience that I visit more often than I would wish for anyone. With so many cats and dogs as part of my rescued family, I am always at some point in the grief process and journey that loss presents. It is much easier for me to work through it with pen and paper than it is to subject myself to feeling more vulnerable by talking about it with even the best of friends.

Recently, I created something to help me in my journey and I would like to share that experience with you.

Most of you know that my visits to Oregon Coast during the "off" season of RESQCATS are times of physical healing from all that is required of me in rescue. I also spend much of my time reflecting on those I have lost during the previous year. So it is a time of emotional healing, as well.

Rainbows often follow the dramatic storms that I love in Oregon during the winter months. They span the sky with radiant hues of color, dance in the spray on the waves on windy days and symbolize to me that all is well with my loved ones waiting for me on the Rainbow Bridge.

This year, I decided to make a quilt to honor of all the cats I have been blessed to share my life with for the past 30 years. Quilting is one of the things I love to do...it satisfies that creative spirit that remains in my soul from my professional graphic design days. On my 50th birthday (a few years ago!), several of my volunteers went in together and bought me a sewing machine to replace the one I was using that had belonged to my late mother-in-law (it must have been 50 years old, as well!) The new machine was like graduating from a ride in a rickety old pickup truck to a cruise in a brand new Mercedes! I love my sewing machine!

This year's quilt is known as a landscape quilt. I designed it to create a scene that looks just like the view outside my home in Yachats, Oregon. There is grass and plant life, the beach, a wild ocean with a rock landing for waves to crash upon and a beautiful dramatic sky with clouds of reflective color and...well, just drama! The process of building the scene was not easy...in fact, the whole quilt was a huge challenge for me as I had never attempted anything like it. I realized early on that creating was supposed to be difficult...because loss is difficult. That thought alone gave me the courage to tackle the project a little at a time. It gave me process.

Once the landscape was complete and the borders of the quilt were sewn around the perimeter...it was time to quilt each kitty's name onto the borders. I made a list of all my little blessings...past and present. You can imagine the sinking feeling in my heart when I recalled 56 cats and their names....18 are still with me, all the others are gone.

It was a few more days before I could gather up the emotional energy to quilt each individual name into the border. I smiled as I thought of "Tattoo" wrapped around my food plate 30 years ago and I remembered painting her as I did freelance graphic design layouts. I used to put blue eye-shadow and blush on her when I got ready for work, too!

I chuckled through the tears as I thought of "Greyco" and his single focus in life to escape to the outdoors by way of the back cattery door. He bolted past each new volunteer. I knew he would do that but the new volunteer sure didn't! I used to tease new volunteers in their moment of panic that it was his way of initiating them as a true volunteer at RESQCATS! It seems like yesterday that I found him in a mall parking lot and brought him home.

I missed "Mandy" sitting in the rocking chair that she claimed as hers and hers alone in the cattery for the 1-1/2 years she spent at RESQCATS!

I imagined that I heard "Abby" giving orders from the first enclosure to anyone who would listen and especially to those who tried to ignore her.

I remembered "Violet," my first rescue. She was in the middle of the three lane service road along Central Expressway in Dallas, Texas. I was single, working as a graphic designer. I spotted her, got out of my car, stopped all traffic and ran into the street in my four-inch high heel shoes I had worn to work that day to get her out of the way of oncoming cars. She spent 17 years with me.

I had to stop and wipe the heavy tears when I got to "Seacliff," "Zorro" and "Zultan."

I knew I made the right decision to also honor and include the living ones like "Blackie," "Houdini," "Rain-Beau" and "Pebbles." It added life to include them in this circle of names.

As that afternoon of quilting passed and I worked diligently to get past this part of the process...something happened. I began to hear the rhythm of the sewing machine...a soft repetitive sound...ironically it almost sounded like a purr. It was constant...I seemed to hear it even when I stopped sewing between each kitty's name.

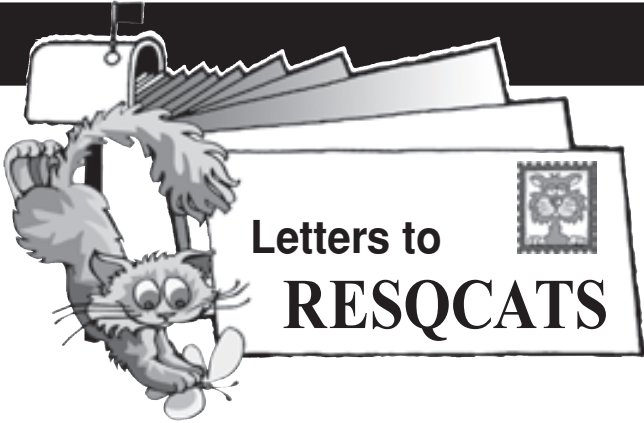
Then it came to me...there is a sort of rhythm to life...and you know...there must be a rhythm to loss as well.

There it was...right in front of me...the quilt and the process of making it helped me to understand life...and loss a little better.

The last thing left to do once all the names were quilted was to add the rainbow in the clouds. I chose to illuminate the sky with soft hues of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple beads. I strung each bead and sewed it across a beautiful sky.

Lastly, I added a single white bird to carry their spirits across. The quilt was done...the lessons and the process of creating it are true blessings to me. ♦

Thank You For Staying In Touch!



Hi Jeffyne:

My newsletter from RESQCATS came today; I have been sitting here reading it and absorbing all the beautiful feelings of those who love our animals in this world. I know you don't write this journey for amusement, but I'll tell you honey, it is just amazing to read.

I smiled when I saw your connection with the White Wolf...how many people in this world get a kiss on the lips from a white wolf...or, a long dog named GI Jane sitting the back part of her body on your lap. You are like a magnet to these creatures that sense your caring for animals.

So true that you have to reflect back, yet look forward to season after season (and I can hardly believe it's been 14 seasons now. Pride has to reflect the work you are doing, yet the tears that are shed is sometimes almost unbearable...it takes a strong person to do all you do, have done, will do.

My favorite cat quote is: "A dog comes when called; A cat takes a message and gets back to you later"...that was written for my Cricket. He would always stalk across the long den floor when a group of people were visiting...never looking at a single one whose eyes were upon him...yet demanding that we all saw him for sure. This happening was when Kathryn and her family were visiting at my house...they were amazed for sure, but knocked away when Cricket jumped up on the bar stool and continued to dip his paw into his goblet of water I kept up there (with his paw...for a little drink). Each little furry heart has a special personality that captures our soul and brings back memories when they are no longer with us. I have loved many animals that have ventured into my life, but these two little boys that are with me today have me completely mesmerized with all they do and with all of their love that they have to give to me.

Bye for now.....

Love,

your mother

.....

Hi Jeffyne,

I wanted to let you know that Bloom has taught Blossom a new trick...how to unroll the toilet paper roll when mommy forgets to close the bathroom door!

It's pretty funny, because she can't really see the toilet paper, but she knows it's up there. Of course, if sister makes it roll around, she can hear it and it's easier to find.

I'm trying to get a picture, but I can't catch them in the act fast enough, Bloom knows I don't want her to do it, so when I peek my head in, she runs!

They make me laugh :)

Tricia Krout

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Thank you, Jeffyne, for all the joy that "Mittens" has brought to my life. I adopted my little black polydactyl kitten in September 2007. She is "Queen of the House" and very spoiled and loved. INDOOR ONLY!

Thanks for all you do for the animals.

Margarita Sanchez

.....

Hi Jeffyne,

It's been a long time since I sent you pictures of my kids. Daley enjoys laying by the sliding door to the balcony and checking out the birds/bugs/anything else that flies by...and, God forbid a frog should come onto the balcony. Live frogs are Daley's favorite toy...fortunately, he does not see or catch them very often. My condo is on Carpinteria Creek so we hear the frogs all the time and see them up close occasionally. As you can see, Daley is very 'healthy...as evidenced by his ample tummy.

DeeDee loves to sit on the kitchen counter and watch the action on the other side of the condo. She also follows me to the kitchen and hops up so that I will get her treats from the cat treat container (not pictured) but it's a plastic cat...just lift off the head and voila there are treats.



Daley



Dee Dee

Both kids are doing very well and they continue to flourish. My life is much fuller for their presence. Thanks for resQing them and getting them to me.

Marca Rowley

.....

Jeffyne and RESQCATS friends,

Thank you for all the loving care you give to our furry friends.

Your never-ending work and the sanctuary home is amazing. Every creature that finds its' way to your doorstep is truly blessed, whether spending a few days or a lifetime with you. And those of us who visit and adopt are truly grateful.

With affection,

Jan Sande & John Higbie

.....



Shadonna was adopted in 2010 by Dion Cherot



Riley enjoying his nap & home with Nell Foster since Fall



...of Some Very Special Felines, Canines and Humans, too!



In Special Memory of "Sassy" and the twenty years of feline love and joy that she gave to our good friends, **Fred Dawn** and **Donna Mancuso**.

Love,
Jeffyne and Mitch

In Honor of Susan Leroy and for her birthday!
Kathy and Don Stamp

In Honor of "Deacon," (formerly known as "Modoc") and *"Web"* (fondly referred to as "The Webster") for their first birthdays!
Happy Birthday...April 2011!
Penny Huff

*In Honor of Jeffyne...*and all you do.
Penny Huff, Deacon and Web

In Honor of Jeffyne and her three fine dogs who visit Yachats!
Wendy Smyth @ Paddy-Kait
Yachats, Oregon

Happy 4th Birthday, *"Cha-Cha!"*
From Julie Kaplan

*In Honor of "Soho"...*although your stay with us at RESQCATS was brief, your memory will last a lifetime in the human hearts you touched.

Jeffyne and Sondra



In Loving Memory of "Rusty" who got a second chance at life here on *Earth* with the help of **Lesley Zahara** and **Maryjean Ballner**.

*In Memory of "Moocher"...*hard to believe you have been gone for 10 years...not a day passes without a thought of you, my friend.

Roger West

In Loving Memory of "Sayge" and for the wonderful life that **Deborah** and **Xaviar Hartman** gave to her in her too-short five years on *Earth*. May she run and play and be healthy on the *Rainbow Bridge*.

Love,
Jeffyne

In Memory of "Aunt Jeanne" and for **Susan Leroy** and all you did to help her in her last days.

Patsy and Woody Sadler

In Memory of my Dad, Mike! I miss you but take care of all of those on the *Rainbow Bridge* and one day I will join you.

Love from your favorite feline,
"Blossom."

In Memory of Jeanne Leroy
Bill and Rita Collins

*In Memory of "Grayson"...*you only had about 10 weeks of life before crossing over the *Rainbow Bridge* so when you died I was just beside myself. I must remind myself that *"angels are never on this Earth very long."* I guess I just did not know you were an angel until that sad day. Watch over all the kitties...Earthly and Heavenly, little Grayson.

Love,
Jeffyne



In Memory of "Zultan"

"They will not go quietly, the cats who've shared our lives, In subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives. Old habits make us think we hear a meow at the door. Or step back when we drop a tasty morsel on the floor. Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be. And sometimes, coming home at night, we miss them terribly. And although time may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill.

That one place in our hearts belongs to them and always will."

Love,
Jeffyne

Always and Forever, my heart has a place only for you, *"Miejek."*

Love,
Jeffyne

Visit our beautiful ResQCats website
www.RESQCATS.org

You can read past issues... the heart-warming stories or see the entertaining photos.

Nathaniel & Laura Courtens are the designers.

Thank you for all your hard work.



What about “Bob” – Our Poster Kitty

Transcribed by Judy Malmgren, human mom for Bob, who lacks opposing thumbs



Well, yes, that is me on your pens and postcards, invitations and flyers for the 2011 Volunteer Appreciation for all our extraordinary volunteers!

I really don't look that much different today, although I have put on about 12 pounds since that first photo (on the left) was taken. They call me a “good eater”; I think that is a compliment?

I still have that adorable little caplet on my head, those little black pointy tufts on my ears, and the bottoms of my paws are stunningly black in contrast to my fawn colored feet and legs. Oh, and my eyes are mostly turquoise. There, that takes care of the physical stuff.

Now, on to my many talents and abilities. I hum; yes, I do. Mostly around Judy and my oldest brother “Julius” (he's eight and was rescued by Judy when he was only six days old.) I like to snuggle with and be groomed by “Violet” (she is our rescued Golden Retriever). I like to wrestle with and dash through the house with “Roger” (he is two and a half and came from RESQCATS, too).

About a month ago Julius finally deemed me play-worthy. For a while there, nothing was sacred in the pantry—I tell you I could get into everything! Some stuff really wasn't that tasty, though—where did they get that bland cereal? They were actually surprised that I just left it all on the floor after I snatched it from the pantry, hauled it to my spot under the dining table and tore open the bag.

My preference was really for plastics...especially lids of which I am very good at perforating...and hiding. Sorry, Judy, didn't mean for you to have to buy new lids. Gotta hand it to Judy, she figured me out eventually and got those containers with snap on lids for dry food and treats. Bummer! It is also a bummer that I really don't fit into the pantry these days—I have gotten so big that I can't navigate those shelves and all my favorite nooks and crannies anymore!

But I have found new hobbies!...like detaching the lining under the sofa, hunting spiders, hiding Judy's ponytail holders, playing

with ice cubes in the kitchen sink, grabbing and running with food lifted from unguarded plates and tearing up paper. Dean, my human dad, says I have great potential in the document shredding business!

How did I get here, you ask? Judy says I picked her out, but the way I see it is SHE came into my room at RESQCATS and said, “Ohhhh, are you ever cute!” Yup, that is what I remember.

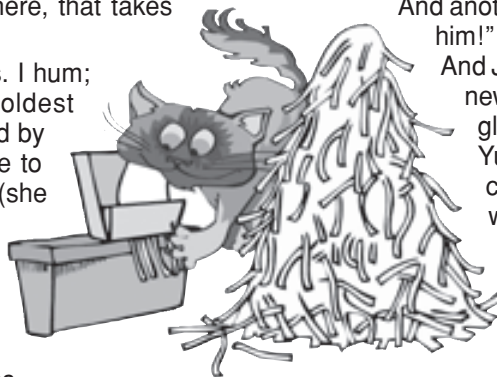
And another thing I remember is Judy saying, “I want him!” And Jeffyne said, “He's yours!” So, you see! And Judy said she actually wanted a kitty for their new dog Violet, because Violet seemed a little glum and in need of something to nurture. Yup, that is what Judy said! Then she had to clear it with Dean; I always wonder how that went, but I am here, aren't I, so as far as I'm concerned, it went very well.

The next day, here comes Judy with a little carrier to take me home—she really meant it! I was a good boy on the ride home...not a peep, or hum, or meow outta me. When we got home, Judy set me down in the carrier while she went to get my “stuff” ready, whatever that meant. And along came Violet. She laid down near my carrier so I decided to win her over right away, although I was not exactly sure who or what she was. I reached my paw out as far as I could until I touched hers. And I was so surprised that she let me do that!

Violet and I became close buddies right away. Funny thing is, it was weeks before the two cats living in the house would even acknowledge me. But here is a dog who loves me unconditionally right from the start.

It took Roger a month to really accept me and Julius took over two months before he would even give me the time of day. These days, however, we all get along—One big happy family.

Hum! Life is Good!



We Apologize if the photo you sent doesn't appear in this issue of the newsletter.

We really appreciate all your wonderful letters and photographs.

We occasionally get photos that we can't use because they are too small or are low resolution. To be able to use these images they have to be at least 1.5 mb. We try to put all the photos you send into the newsletter.



Chai adopted by **Bri Spells**



Paw-lette adopted by **Kate Parker**



Daphne & Chloe adopted by **Jesus & Nancy Aguirre** in 2001



Pocket was adopted by **Angie & John Eck**



Violet (dog) & Roger (cat) who was adopted by **Judy Malmgren**



Paw-lina adopted by **Leith Carlson**



Romeo adopted by **Bart Hawthorne**



Sidney with her new kittens, **Dexter & Lacey**



Deacon was adopted by **Penny Huff** in 2010



Tiffany & Tabatha adopted by **Nicole Brown**



Dagny was adopted by **Sarra Borhanian** in 2010



Ginger
adopted by **Jason Vasquez**



Frosty, Sterling & Nugget help with the newsletter



Lacey & Dexter in their new home & growing



Gwinnie doing her yoga,
adopted by **Laura & Nathaniel Courtens**



Mink & Zinc adopted by **Steve & Kim Timbrook**



Perla adopted by **Tamarind Harmon**



Bottle feeding *Caspur*
adopted by **Shennie Smith & Rogan Allen**



RESQCATS • FAMILY ALBUM

Welcome New Family Members & Some Familiar Faces



Gabbie adopted by **Ned Dibble**



Xander adopted by
Monica Weisblott a few years ago



Skippy adopted by **Jason Vasquez**



Jonsie adopted by **Bart Hawthorne**



Zelda & Link
adopted by **Rayna Halby**



Sterling & Nugget
adopted by volunteer **Melissa**



Lexy (formerly *Honey*)
adopted by **Michael & Lanette Paery**



Venus adopted by **Stacie Good**



Etta was adopted by **Carmody Cutter**

Thank you credits

Thanks to all of you who send in your photos of your kitties. They're wonderful! You make it possible for us to create a great photo album in each newsletter.

I would like to recognize **Nancy Aguirre** for the beautiful job she does photographing the kittens for all of our postings on *Petfinder*, *Craigslist*, *the Santa Barbara News-Press* and the website.

Many of her photos are included in this album!



Dexter & Lacey

Plants That Are Potentially Poisonous To Cats



I recently received a letter from Sarah Pederson, a wonderful lady who adopted two kittens from RESQCATS eight years ago. Sarah, “Jackson” and “Kennicott” have continued to send me photos, letters and donations to help the other cats since their adoption. Her letter shared a horrible experience that she had with her boys when they got into some flowers she had on a table. Her letter was a reminder about the danger of certain plants to cats and that some plants can even be fatal.

I have taken the liberty of sharing Sarah’s letter with you and the opportunity to list plants that can be fatal to your cats according to the ASPCA. It is a long list, but certainly one that is worth printing and asking you to save or pass on to other cat guardians.

Dear Aunt Jeffyne,

Hello! How are you doing? How is kitten season going? I can’t believe you’re in your 14th season already. Congrats on your incredible work. Can you believe it was over 8 years ago that my boys – Jackson and Kinnecott – came home with me? I am so grateful to them to this day.

Things are going well here, but we had a pretty big scare late last year. In late December, I was working crazy hours and also getting prepared to go on a trip to Seattle to celebrate my birthday. Anyhow, in the midst of the insanity, I accidentally left a vase of flowers out on my table in my dining room. At some point in the night, the boys got up on the table and munched on some of the flowers (including a Stargazer lily). As I was leaving to go to work in the morning, I noticed that “Kenny” had thrown up. I didn’t really think twice about it at first, because Kenny is prone to a little puking here and there (he eats his meals way too fast!) But then I noticed that Jackson had thrown up, too. Anyhow, I put two and two together and realized what had happened. Thanks to one of your old newsletters that listed poisonous plants, I realized the situation was serious and that I needed to act quickly.

My first step was to call animal poison control. They let me know that I needed to get the boys into a vet immediately. They

called my vet for me to let them know that I was on my way and to give them all the relative information about the incident. I got the boys in within 30 minutes; they were immediately put on IVs to flush their systems. For the next five days, the boys stayed at the vet in separate cages, with their IVs. The vet ran a battery of tests on them each day looking for signs of kidney failure (the result of most lily poisonings) and other symptoms the poison might cause.

I can’t tell you how miserable I was during these five days. I was allowed to visit in the evenings, but it was torture for me to see the boys locked in with their IVs and clearly scared and tormented by the situation.

But, in the end, I got lucky. Because I had gotten the boys in so quickly, even before they showed any signs of symptoms of poisoning, I was able to save them. I can tell you now that they both have perfect bills of health.

I wanted to share this story with you so that hopefully, you can share it with your adopters. My vet told me that I saved my boys’ lives because I brought them in before any symptoms of the poison were present. Many times, pet owners wait for their pets to exhibit symptoms...but this means it is often too late.

So please remind your adopters of two things:

1) If they are going to bring flowers into the house, make sure they are cat safe. The ASPCA has a great list of toxic and non-toxic plants @ <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>

2) If your cat gets into anything poisonous, call animal poison control first. It will cost you \$65, but it might be the most important \$65 you ever spend. If animal poison control tells you to get to a vet, do so immediately. You can save your cats lives in these scary situations by being prepared.

I am a lucky girl to have Kenny and Jackson still with me.

Hugs,

Sarah Pederson, Kenny and Jackson

Please be advised that this is not a complete list of poisonous plants that can be harmful to your pets.

Go to www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/ for a comprehensive list.

Aloe
Amaryllis
American Holly
Andromeda Japonica
Angelica Tree
Apple
Asian Lily
Asparagus Fern
Autumn Crocus
Avocado
Azalea
Baby Doll Ti Plant
Bead Tree
Begonia
Bird of Paradise



Amaryllis



Avocado

Boston Ivy
Caladium
California Poppy
Calla Lily
Cardboard Palm
Carnation
Castor Bean
Cherry (seeds, wilting leaves & pit)
Chinese Evergreen
Chives
Christmas Rose
Chrysanthemum
Clematis
Corn Plant
Crocus



Caladium



Clematis

Croton
Cyclamen
Daffodil
Delphinium
Devil’s Ivy
Dicentra
Dieffenbachia
Dog Daisy
Dog Hobble
Donkey Tail
Dumb Cane
Easter Lily
Elderberry
Elephant Ears
Emerald Feather

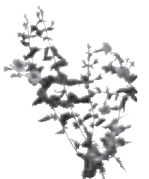


Delphinium



Donkey Tail

English Ivy
English Yew
Eucalyptus
Feather Geranium
Fiddle-leaf
Philodendron
Figwort
Florida Beauty
Four O’Clock
Foxglove
Foxglove
Foxtail
German Ivy
Gladiolus
Hawaiian Ti
Hemlock
Hemlock Plant



Foxglove



Hemlock Plant

Holly
Honeysuckle
Horse Chestnut
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Indian Hemp
Indian Pink
Iris
Ivy
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Jade Plant
Japanese yew
Jerusalem Cherry
Jerusalem Oak
Jimsonweed
Jonquil
Kalanchoe
Kiss-me-quick
Klamath Weed
Kudu Lily
Lace Fern
Lantana
Larkspur
Laurel
Leatherflower
Leek
Lily of the Valley
Lobelia
Malanga
Maleberry
Marigold
Marijuana
Mauna Loa Peace Lily
May Apple
Marble Queen
Marijuana
Mayweed
Meadow Saffron
Medicine Plant
Mexican Breadfruit
Milkweed
Mistletoe
Morninglory
Mother-in-Law's Tongue
Mountain Laurel
Mushrooms
Naked Lady
Nandina
Narcissus
Nephthytis
Nightshade
Oak Tree (buds and acorns)
Octopus Tree
Oilcloth Flower
Oleander
Onion
Orange Day Lily
Oregon Holly
Panda Plant



Honeysuckle



Jimsonweed



Lobelia



Marigold



Nightshade



Oleander

Paper White
Paraguayan Jasmine
Peace Lily
Peach (wilting leaves & pits)
Philodendron Pertusum
Poinsettia
Poison hemlock
Poison Ivy
Poison Oak
Poison Sumac
Poppy
Potato (all green parts)
Pothos



Poppy

Precatory Bean
Ragwort
Ranger's Button
Rhododendron
Rhubarb
Rubber Tree
Sabi Star
Sacred Bamboo
Saddle Leaf
Sago Palm
Satin Pothos
Seaside Daisy
Seven Bark
Shamrock Plant
Sorghum
Stargazer lily
Star of Bethlehem
Stinging Nettle
Stinkweed
Swiss Cheese Plant
Tail Flower
Taro
Ti-Plant
Tiger Lily
Tobacco
Tomato Plant
Tree Philodendron
Tree Tobacco
Tropic Snow
Toadstools
Tobacco
Tomato Plant (entire plant except ripe fruit)
Vinca
Wahoo
Wake Robin
Warneckeï Dracaena
Water Flag
Water Hemlock
Wax-Leaf
Variegated Philodendron
Water Hyacinth
Weeping Fig
Wisteria
Yew



Rhubarb



Stinkweed



Toadstools



Water Hyacinth



Chloe's Corner

I hope I am finding all of you happy, healthy and purr-fectly content with your latest issue of the RESQCATS newsletter. I know I don't have to ask which article you read first (and liked best)...I am quite sure it is mine! But you know me – I never like to boast about my many skills – so I will simply let you commence with your reading enjoyment!

Famous Cat Quotes -

"When my cats aren't happy, I'm not happy. Not because I care about their mood, but because I know they're just sitting there thinking up ways to get even."

- Penny Ward Moser, contemporary writer

"Cats always know whether people like or dislike them. They do not always care enough to do anything about it."

- Winfred Carriere, American writer and publisher, 1912-2002

"How we behave towards cats here determines our status in heaven."

- Robert A. Heinlein, American writer, 1907-1988

"With the qualities of cleanliness, discretion, affection, patience, dignity, and courage that cats have, how many of us, I ask you, would be capable of being cats?"

- Fernand Mery

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens."

- Abraham Lincoln

Curious Cat-Related Facts -

- Cats are the only four-footed animal, with the exception of camels and giraffes, that walk by moving their front and hind legs first on one side and then the other.
- Napoleon Bonaparte hated cats! (*He was probably scared of us because we were all bigger than him.*)
- Johannes Brahms (*you know...the music guy*) also hated cats. One of his favorite forms of relaxation was to sit at an open window and attempt to kill neighborhood cats with a bow and arrow. (*He may have made beautiful music, but he must have had an ugly heart.*)

Curious Cat Legends -

There is a legend that many kittens were thrown into a river to drown. The mother cat wept and was so very sad that the willow trees on the bank of that river felt great compassion for her and held out their branches to the struggling kittens who clung to them and were saved. Ever since that time, every spring, the willow trees wear gray buds that feel as soft and silky as kitten tails. That is why they are called "pussy willows."

Well, that's it for now. I hope you enjoyed my offerings to you in this newsletter. I will leave you with one very important and very true final thought: "Cats rule, Dogs drool!" as suggested for my article by a huge fan, Susan Boesch.

Thank you, Susan – I couldn't agree with you more!!!

xoxo, Chloe



President's Message

continued from page 1

on being around for thirteen plus years...that is the average lifespan of an indoor only cat. Every posting written for our web site, Craigslist or Petfinder addresses LIFETIME COMMITMENT! And potential adopters are told that during their initial phone interview...and reminded again when final adoption papers are signed. RESQCATS is proud of our number of adoptions...but numbers mean nothing if adoptions are not done the right way. What is important is finding the right person for each little soul and feeling assured that they will be with their adopter: for better or worse, in sickness and in health, 'til death do they part.

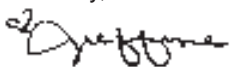
The season has been full of challenges. I think the word rescue should always be followed by the word challenge! Some of the battles we have been fortunate enough to win, so to speak. And others end in sad loss. Blessed be the humbling experiences and lessons in precious life that "Tidbit," "Soho" and "Grayson" have taught me in their journey to the Rainbow Bridge. Their loss reminds me of the story about the little girl on the beach trying to save sand dollars. When an old man passes by and asks, "What are you doing?" She answers, "I am saving the sand dollars." He looks at her and says, "But there are hundreds stranded on the beach, how can you possibly make a difference?" The little girl picked up a sand dollar, threw it back into the ocean and said, "I made a difference for that one!" I have to remember that I cannot save them all...but I sure do try!

There have been several cats and kittens that have required so much medical care well beyond the normal protocol at RESQCATS. "**Braveheart**," a ten-week-old kitten, has been diagnosed with a severe heart murmur. By the time you receive this newsletter, he will have made a trip to a cardiologist in Los Angeles to see if there is anything in his tiny heart that we can medically repair to give him the gift of life. "Iris," a mother cat who gave birth to eight kittens goes in for exploratory surgery and biopsies to determine whether or not she has intestinal lymphoma...she has been through a whole battery of tests, x-rays, ultrasound and so far, we cannot diagnose what is causing her tremendously high white blood cell count. In addition, one of Iris' kittens, "Rose," also has some serious medical issues that are yet to be diagnosed. RESQCATS is proud to be able to help these kitties...most shelters deem Paw-I, Iris and Rose as unadoptable...and euthanize them. I believe that every life is precious...a gift, a miracle...and I hope for miracles for these three special ones.

I realize how fortunate I am to be the kind of rescue that can take on this kind of project and expense. It is you I have to thank for that. Those of you that receive this newsletter have helped in the past with your support...and I am hoping that you will continue to do that now. I know that times are tough economically in the world, but understand that every single dollar makes a difference at RESQCATS. All the dollars add up to help the Iris's and Rose's and Paw-I's if you decide to designate your donation to the "Polar Bear Fund" for those kitties with special needs. Your donation will help us keep doing what we are doing...making a difference one kitty at a time...just like the little girl on the beach did with each sand dollar thrown back into the ocean.

Thank you for making a difference...one kitty at a time...thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,



Jeffyne Telson

President and founder of RESQCATS, Inc.

ASK AIKIN

— by Aikin "Bones"

I received some really great questions in the mail from RESQCATS newsletter readers and I have done some research to answer them and put them in writing for all of you to read...enjoy!



Q – What is the difference between a Calico cat and a Tortoiseshell cat?

A – First, let me state that calico and tortoiseshell are colors and not breeds. A calico cat has a white base with orange and black splotches that don't intermingle. They can also be diluted calicos – that is when their colors are gray and pale orange on a white base coat.

The tortoiseshell cat has a black base coat with chocolate and cinnamon colors mixed in together – in a brindle-type pattern. The majority of these cats have what is called a "split-nose" which means that their nose is black on one side and orange on the other. If the cat has white on one side of its nose, then it is a tortie and white, not calico. To further confuse you, some torties have stripes (tabby markings) and are therefore considered torbies.

Q – Are all calico cats female?

A – Most of them are (see next question & answer)

Q – I have heard that it is very rare to find a male calico cat and that male calicos are born sterile. Is that true and why?

A – All male calico cats are sterile at birth. Without getting into all the details of the genetic makeup that occurs for these cats, in order to get all three colors required to be a calico, there must be XX (female) chromosomes. Male cats have XY (male) chromosomes. A male calico has XXY chromosomes, thus rendering him sterile but at the same time calico. It is rare to find a male calico – only 1 in 3,000 calicos is male.

Q – I recently saw a cat that had 8 kittens. Some of them were large and some of them were tiny. Why do you think that is?

A – As most of us know, kittens can have multiple fathers. When a female cat goes into heat, it can last for up to one week. During that week, she can get pregnant on the any of those days. So some of the kittens may have been conceived on the first day and some on the last day. Since they are all born at the same time, the kittens who were conceived on the first day will naturally be bigger than the kittens conceived on the last day.

I hope I have helped some of you to better understand your cat and their behaviors. I really enjoy answering the questions you have sent in and hope you will continue to send more for future newsletters.

Always, Aikin "Bones" Aguirre



Following is a beautiful tribute written by my special friend to a special bird. It is a humble reminder that life's lessons and gifts come from all creatures!

A Tribute to "Tweeter"

Spring 2004 – Aug. 23, 2005

By Sara Kvass



For those of you who never knew Tweeter, he was a penny-sized bird with a silver-dollar-sized heart and personality. He came to us in a very round about way....He was undoubtedly a *PETCO* escapee and fell into one of the vet clinic's outside kennel runs when he was on his very last legs. Too weak to perch, I brought him home in a little box, reminded Bob of our wedding vows "for better or for worse" and showed him an emaciated, rag-tag dirty little bird. Although Bob was not real keen on caged birds, he took one look and fell in love. I assured Bob that he was a finch and that finches DO NOT sing like Canaries. Famous last words... the next morning we awoke to vibrant song as the sun broke over the horizon. And that was the beginning of the songster, happily sharing songs sun up to sundown. He never lacked for a song to sing or an occasion to sing it.

Tweeter Lesson 1: *Always meet the new day with joy and share it with those around you.*

He always had to have the last word in any conversation and became famous for his conversational "tweets" which earned him his name "Tweeter." He loved anything that would talk back to him...the TV, alarm clock, bread making machine, Bob's hand video games...he had to out tweet them all.

Tweeter Lesson 2: *It's not your size that matters, it's character that makes you stand tall.*

After gaining strength, he began his famous hop and crash stage. We quickly discovered he had a slight problem perching...once he got on he often immediately fell off, crashing undaunted onto the bottom of the cage. And when flying from perch to perch, he invariably missed, again landing in a heap far below his original destination.

Tweeter Lesson 3: *When you crash, get up, shake yourself off, sing a song, and try again. Bob and I often discuss his need for a crash helmet and finch-sized glasses.*

About the time that he discovered his dearly beloved bathtub, we discovered that he was actually a beautiful brown and white society finch that always had a bad hair day. When sleeping he kept the cowlicks fairly well concealed but when singing, he'd stretch up his bald neck, the feathers on his head would stick straight up in grand punk style, he'd puff out his cotton-ball-sized body, jump up and down on toothpick-sized legs and let the notes fly.

Tweeter Lesson 4: *Be uninhibited when you're happy and show off a little. Who cares what you look like – it's the style that counts.*

Because he fell off his perches at night we gave him a little canary nest which was to be his bed from then on. As night fell, he'd get a drink and then hop the length of his top perch and jump into his nest which he kept neatly filled with his favorite seeds and millet just in case....As we rumbled around, we often glanced over to his cage just to see his little periscope neck and head peeking over the side of the nest watching our every move. It was common to hear one of us say, "uh oh, Tweeter's peeking..." and that he was. The thought of missing some action after "lights out" was just too much for him and the only time Tweeter went to bed was when WE went to bed!



Stray Cat

Author unknown

Dear God,

please send me somebody who'll care.
I'm so tired of running and sick with despair.

My body is aching and filled with such pain;
And dear God I pray, as I run in the rain
That someone will love me and give me a home,
A warm cozy bed, and food of my own.

My last owner left me alone in the yard...
I watched as they moved and God it was hard.

So I waited a while, then went on my way
To rummage in garbage and live as a stray.

But now, God, I'm so tired and hungry and cold;
And I'm so afraid that I'll never grow old.

They've chased me with sticks and hit me with straps
While I run the streets just looking for scraps.

I'm not really bad, God, please help if you can,
For I have become a "Victim of Man."

I'm wormy, dear God, and I'm ridden with fleas;
And all that I want is an Owner to please.

If you find one for me, God, I'll try to be good.
I won't scratch the carpet; I'll do as I should.

I'll love them, play with them and try to obey.
I will be so grateful if they'll just let me stay.

I don't think I'll make it too long on my own,
"Cause I'm getting weak and I'm so all alone.

Each night as I sleep in the bushes I cry,
"Cause I'm afraid, God, that I'm gonna die.

I've got so much love and devotion to give
That I should be given a new chance to live.

So dear God, please hear me,
please answer my prayer,
And send me somebody who will really care.

We had the "little twerp" for almost a year and a half and although we grieve his loss deeply, he taught us about overcoming the odds, the benefits of being perpetually happy, and living life to the fullest which will stay neatly tucked inside of us. He's now buried under the thistle seed feeder by the almond tree where he will have a constant supply of bird friends, seed to eat and sunshine to keep him warm. May he rest in peace and may we have half the spirit and enjoyment of life that he did.

Rest well little friend....you are alive and well in our hearts. ☐

Giving From the Heart

Girl Scouts Donate to ResQCats

The Girl Scouts of Troop 50134 sold those delicious Girl Scout cookies and selected RESQCATS as one of the organizations to donate some of the proceeds to. They presented RESQCATS with a check for \$135! It is so important to teach the children and young people in the world about giving from the heart and making a difference...I have no doubt that each one of these young ladies will continue to make a difference in the world.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of RESQCATS kitties!



(Left to right) Cadyn Cole-Dombroski, Alegra Zuchowica, Clarie Hayatt, Lauren Caplan, Jeffyne, Belle Gilliam, Zuinn Pendergast.

Maya's Thought for the Day...

"Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul remains unawakened."

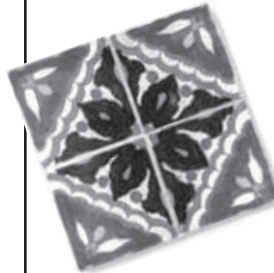
~ Anatole France ~



Maya was brought to RESQCATS at a few months old. She was adopted by Jesus & Nancy Aguirre and is the oldest of the four cats in their household. Now she shares the celebrity status of having her own article in the newsletter with sister **Chloe** and brother **Aikin "Bones."** Her "mom" Nancy also writes an article for the newsletter...it's become a family affair!

Join us on Facebook

Be sure and see RESQCATS on Facebook. We would love to have you join us as a friend...our goal is to have 1000 friends by the end of the 2011 kitten season. So keep up with the latest, see cats and kittens that are available for adoption... and let's be friends!



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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.

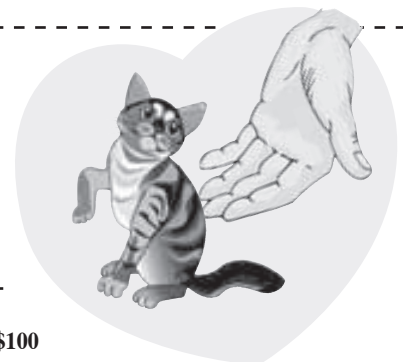
Make your check payable to:

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____



Give a Helping Hand!