

RESQCATS™

A non-profit animal rescue organization
dedicated to the care and welfare of stray and abandoned cats and kittens.



President's Message



Jeffyne with Mimosa & Confetti

It has been a busy summer with a lot of new things happening at RESQCATS. But I certainly want to take time to bring you up to date.

For those of you receiving this for the first time: **RESQCATS is a non-profit animal rescue organization dedicated to the care and welfare of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Our objectives are to fund spay and neuter programs, sponsor humane education projects, assist other non-profit cat rescue organizations and provide hands-on foster care.**

In addition, several un-adoptable resident cats live at the sanctuary and we are committed to them for their entire lifetime.

The focus of this newsletter is to share some of the stories of the cats and kittens we have fostered this season. Over 35 cats and kittens have been fostered in just the last few weeks (by the time you receive this newsletter I am confident that the number of fosters we have cared for will be even higher).

Fostering has allowed me to get back to "hands on" time with the cats. For me there is nothing more gratifying than caring for and nurturing cats and kittens. Since the kitties come off the streets as stray or abandoned, they arrive with some challenging medical problems. Stray moms are not fed properly and therefore are not in the best of health when they give birth to a litter. So we see a multitude of different issues and challenges. We deal with nasty parasites, flea infestation, and more

serious health problems such as distemper. (see photo of "Mimosa" and "Confetti").

Caring for all these kitties takes a lot of time and dedication. There are good days, sad days, days that seem endless and other days it feels like I am a full-time nurse working a lot of overtime at a kitty hospital! But I do love it...everyday. It is my passion and I am finally back to following what has always been in my heart. Rescue has taught me that life in itself is a miracle. And even though some of the kitties don't make it, they leave their own blessings with me...each unique and humbling.

In addition, RESQCATS completed our first humane education project in partnership with **All for Animals** in June.

RESQCATS also added a new resident cat named "Lila." She is finally home after almost 7 years of searching... be sure and see: [A Tail to Read!](#) on page 11.

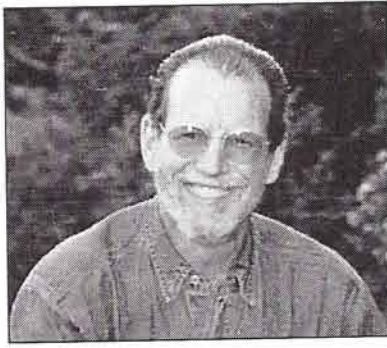
The purpose of the RESQCATS newsletter is to keep you up to date on all that we are doing to help the community and the cats. It is also to entertain you, educate you, make you smile and hopefully, inspire you to make a difference in the world.

You have the opportunity to make a difference when you receive this newsletter. The cats and kittens need your support and they need it **NOW!** RESQCATS foster program is in full operation. However, because the kitties return to their original organization for adoption, we do not receive any adoption donations. So all those medical expenses are out of **OUR** pocket...and we need dollars out of **YOUR** pocket to continue. So please, find it in your heart to make a donation. It is tax-deductible. We also have a **PayPal** button on our website for those of you who prefer that method of donating. Our website is www.RESQCATS.org.

I know times are tough, but even small donations add up and help cats have a chance at life. If everyone that receives this newsletter made even a \$10 donation, RESQCATS would have over \$5000 to help the next 35-40 cats and kittens. So please, the kitties are counting on you...

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jeffyne



A Few Words From "Mr. Jeffyne" ... How to Survive the Loss of a Love.

Many years ago, while I was going through a rather difficult period in my life, I read a small book entitled "How to Survive the Loss of a Love" by Melba Colgrove, Harold Bloomfield and Peter McWilliams.

This was a very simple book based on the premise that loss is an inevitable part of the life cycle, but how we cope with loss is the key to our very survival and future growth.

During that complicated, rather dark period of my life, it was hard for me to comprehend the depth of my loss and it was equally difficult for me to realize that I would ultimately get through it... but I did, it just took time.

That particular loss was related to a personal situation. But loss actually can and does, manifest itself in many forms... the loss of a loved one, the loss of a friendship, the loss of a job, one's health, mobility, security... the list of potential losses is virtually endless. But, because we're so heavily involved in the world of animals, the loss that frequently hits us the hardest is the loss of our four-legged companions.

For those of you who follow either Jeffyne or me on Facebook, you know that we recently lost two of our wonderful collies within 10 days of each other... a timely departure since they were inseparable since birth.

Faith and *Apollo* were brother and sister littermates that we adopted from Southland Collie Rescue almost 13 years ago. *Faith* was a very tall tri-color female and *Apollo* was a mahogany-sable boy with a very distinguished and classic "Roman nose!" They were two of our "kids" and their loss, although not unexpected, has been extremely hard for us.

Faith, affectionately known as "taco-breath," was a loving, confident girl who carried herself as if she came from a family of royalty. *Apollo*, on the other hand, appeared to come from more modest means... the other side of the tracks... much like Tramp in the Disney movie, "Lady and the Tramp."

Faith, like all of our female collies, was named for soft, esoteric feelings... *Miejek*, (*Magic*), *Spirit*, *Charity*, *Angel*, *Joy*, *Harmony*, *Destiny* and *Starr*... while *Apollo*, like the rest of our boys, were named after Greek gods and warriors... *Triton*, *Poseidon*, *Orion* and *Triumph*.

When we lose one of our animals, whether it is one of our dogs or one of our cats, we are often asked the same questions, "How do you do it?" "Why do you do it?" "How are you able to pick yourself up and go on?" "Why do you open yourself up to so much pain?"

Well, for us, the answers to these questions are not so difficult.

As you know, all of our animals are rescues. Many were rescued from questionable situations. Some may have been neglected... some abused. But when they came to us, they brought with them a very special gift... the priceless gift of unconditional love.

So, why do we do it, how do we go on, how do we pick up the pieces and move forward?

We do it with the knowledge that we're making a difference in the lives of all these amazing animals. And we open our hearts knowing that the animals in our care have had a wonderful life... no matter how long or short we get to be with them. But we're especially able to move forward because of those who are still with us, and still need us... *Ares*, *Adonis*, *Shep*, *Laddie*, *Misjef*, *Journey*, *Whisper* and our newest girl, *Echo*.

So, while it may not work for everyone, it works for us... and this is how we survive the loss of a love.

*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog.
You are his life, his love, his leader.*

*He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat
of his heart.*

You owe it to him to be worthy of his devotion."

(author unknown)



Faith

Apollo



Dear Jeffyne,

Thank you for the cute toys you sent to "Puck." He is enjoying them thoroughly!

Puck is a delight, but still a little mischievous. He pulls open my desk drawer and takes out my pens and hides them under the bed. He also removes items from the bulletin board and hides them!

We love him dearly and are grateful to you for choosing us as his parents!

Warm regards,

Geoff and Sondra Aggler

Jeffyne!

I can't believe a week has already passed, it feels like so much longer already. My new kittens are just so much fun, I can't fathom how much energy they have. So happy they have each other to play and wrestle with though, because they are always at it and are a source of endless entertainment. I have named them "Scout" (girl) and "Radley" for the boy. I have been reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* lately and it seemed so fitting. Scout is still the most outgoing and exploring little gal, always the first into anything and everything. And Radley has been her little shadow, he was super shy for the first few days, wouldn't really come out from under the couch except to eat and sometimes play if we were being really quiet. He has already gotten so much better though and is always out and about, but he's really scared whenever we go to pick him up, just runs away so fast. If we are sitting down he'll come up on his own terms, the other day he even jumped on the couch and came up and cuddled right up next to me, but he still doesn't like anyone trying to pick him up. I think he'll just take more time, but hopefully will warm up more.

Having such a good time, everyone who has seen them is instantly obsessed, and they are a welcome addition to our home. It's crazy how fast they are growing up already, don't want them ever to stop being kittens!

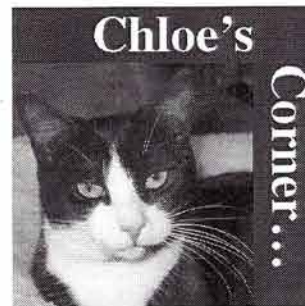
Hope all is well with you, I'll continue to keep you updated periodically.

Madison

(continued on page 4)

Are you ready for another fun-filled article written by the most magnificent "moi"?

Of course you are - I never doubted it for a minute! And I'd like to begin by talking a little bit about me (my favorite subject!). I am what is called a Polydactyl Manx.



Polydactyl means "many toes" and Manx means "a short or stubby tail". I have 24 toes and just a little nub of a tail. I think I look pretty amazing and as you look at my picture, I know you agree whole hardily. Did you know that the most famous polydactyl cats were raised by Ernest Hemingway who had over 60 of them at his home in Key West? They were all descendents of a 6-toed cat who was a gift to him by a sea-faring captain. Hemingway just loved his big-footed cats! I have no doubt that he would have loved me most of all ;)

Let's move on with this wonderful piece of Hebrew folklore...

Cats came into existence because Noah asked God for help to protect the food on the ark from being eaten by the rats. God answered Noah's prayers when he made the lion sneeze and out popped a cat. All was saved! Hail the cat!!!

Now on to more pussycat praises...

(continued around the corner)



GetMyCat.com

Is your cat missing? Then time is of the essence!

GetMyCat can help. Their mission is to help you find your missing cat.

GetMyCat was founded in 2011 by a team of cat lovers who have all experienced losing cats and recovered them by using techniques that this new website offers. They truly understand the pain that is experienced when a cat goes missing.

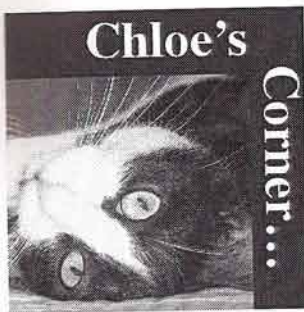
GetMyCat has created and compiled a list of resources to help you begin your search. One of the key features is the dynamic questionnaire that uses specifics customized to help you find your cat. Expertly designed templates for making lost cat posters and articles are also available... and all of this is FREE!

Additional services such as pet amber alerts, post card and delivery services are also offered.

Visit www.GetMyCat.com.

It may save your cat's life!





CONTINUED!

Famous cat lovers –

President Abraham Lincoln had a cat named “Tabby” who was the first of several cats to live in the White House (*Vote Chloe for President!*).

Edgar Allen Poe used cats as symbols of the sinister in many of his stories, but in truth, he really loved them all (we know how inspirational we can be – should we have been on his payroll?).

Mark Twain was also a huge cat lover (see his quotes that follow).

The founder of the Muslim faith, Mohammed, once cut off the sleeve of the robe he was wearing to avoid waking a sleeping cat as he rose to pray (that was very kind of him but perhaps he could have left the entire robe for that kitty...hmmm?).

A thirteen century Egyptian sultan left his entire fortune to the needy cats of Cairo. For many years afterwards homeless cats received free daily meals (I hope they were catered!).

Cat Quotes by Mark Twain

“If man could be crossed with a cat it would improve man. But it would deteriorate the cat.”

“If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow, but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much.”

“When a man loves cats, I am his friend and comrade, without further introduction.”

Well, my many toes are tired from all this typing so I will say goodbye. Until next time my darlings...

xoxo, Chloe



Letters to RESQCATS

(continued from page 4)

Dear Jeffyne,

Your words of thank you in response to my donation towards your humane education project were so loving and kind.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to express your gratitude and thoughts. Your humane education projects for kids and animals are “beyond important!”

Thank you for being you!

My love,

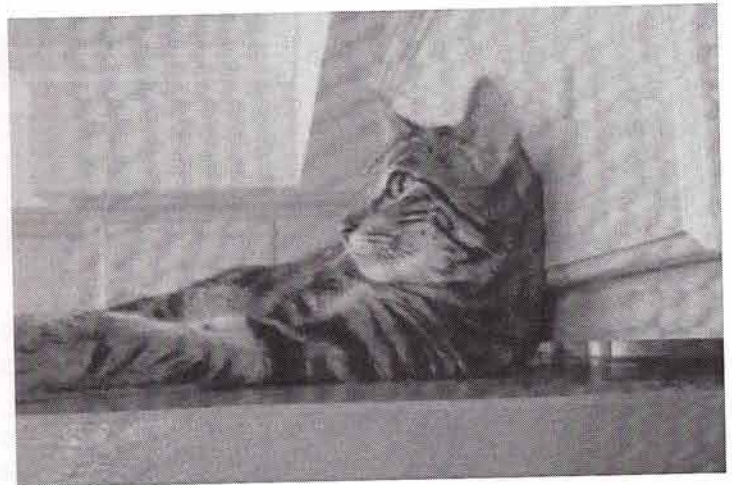
Carole Beckett

Dear Jeffyne,

I just have to share a couple of images of pure contentment ~ Gump atop the refrigerator on this warm Ojai evening. We'd just finished our evening play-time, and he was so happy ... almost purring as he essentially *tossed* himself into that position. I want to send this photo as a precursor to a few more (another day). It's our “Thank you”, with all our hearts, for saving Gwinnie and Gump for us ~ Jeffyne. Our ‘babies’ have brought us the deepest, most needed, unconditional love and we adore them with all our hearts ... with our souls too. They just celebrated their 6th birthday on April 21st!

Love,

Gump and Gwinnie and Laura and Nathaniel



P.S. He doesn't look it, but Gump weighs just over 10 pounds (with quite a bit of muscle!) -- and Gwinnie weighs about 10.6 oz. -- with a more girlish figure (I weigh them regularly to keep them on an even keel ... over these past 6 years ... it's cute, Gwinnie has always weighed about 5 - 8 ounces more than Gump, ever since they were about 10 months old.)

Hello Jeffyne,

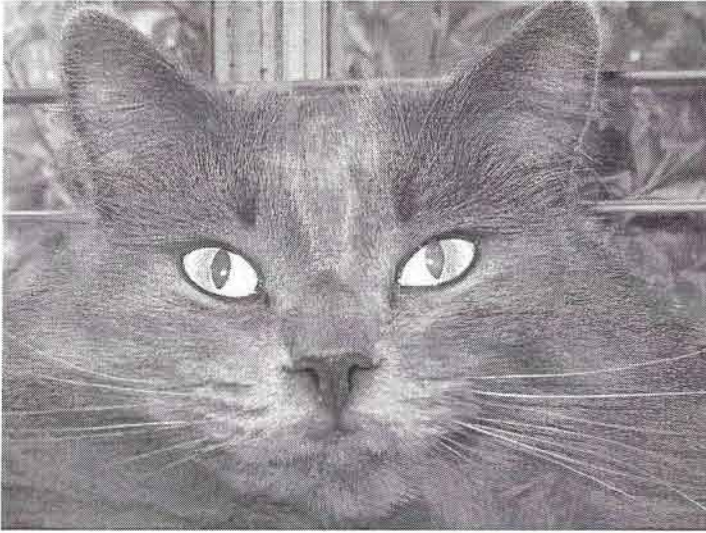
Each month, Janice and I contribute to a special fund that we call “The Kitty.” From that we withdraw the money that pays for cards and gifts on special occasions, to us, from the cat! Doesn't every feline lover exchange things in their cat's name!?

“Kimba, Le Magnifique,” a Rag Doll who prefers a less fancy title---simply Kimba---seems to have a surplus; therefore, he wants to help the less fortunate kitties.

He says “PURRRRR” which means keep up the good work!

Our best,

Robert and Janice Hopper... and Kimba



Ask Aikin!

Q – My sister got divorced about a year ago and has been having a hard time dealing with it. Her doctor suggested that she get a pet to help her with depression and loneliness. Will that really help her?

A - Yes! Her doctor is absolutely right!!! Let me ask you this: have you ever been sad or lonely and wet sloppy kisses from a dog or a gentle purr from a cat instantly made you feel better – even laugh out loud? Those are the healing qualities that animals have and give to us.

There have been many scientific studies that have proven that owning a pet or just being around an animal can lower high blood pressure, lower anxiety levels, help with depression, ease PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Even Alzheimer's patients have been shown to have fewer outbursts when an animal is present. Pets are healing emotionally and physically.

Spending time with your pet is a great way to get some exercise. It gives you a comforting sense of companionship and helps you get out and meet new people. That in turn makes you feel less lonely.

Pets help people who are shy have more people contact and build confidence. Who can resist petting an adorable pooch being walked by their owner?

They make us feel better when we are sad or sick. They help us get our minds off of our own problems because we concentrate their needs... not our own. That keeps people and pets healthy and happy.

In addition, they are loyal, non-judgemental and love us unconditionally That's more than enough to perk up our spirits!

Talking to your pets can also be therapeutic. Verbalizing your troubles out loud to a pet is safe...nothing but a good ear and lack of judgment on their part. After all, you are perfect in their eyes. A study on the bonds between animals and their owners revealed that 97% of pet owners talk to their pets.

Animals teach us to relax, focus on the moment and see the good things in life. They live in the moment with no regrets or worries. They simply live life to the best of their ability and everybody could benefit by learning that from them. It will make our lives so much better!

And I'm not just talking about owning a dog or a cat. Having an aquarium full of fish has been known to lower blood pressure significantly and can be even more of a relaxant than many meditative techniques. Rats, birds, rabbits, etc., they are all wonderful pets and many of them, including dogs and cats, are waiting at shelters for someone to give them a chance at true love.

Animals have what it takes to make someone's life an amazing thing...do you have that for them? It goes two ways you know...so think about ways to make your life better with a pet, and also, how to make your pet's life better. Or consider making life for a lonely homeless animal better by adopting.

It will be the best thing you have ever done!

From a kitty who knows!

Aikin "Bones" Aguirre



Giving from the heart....

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Nancy Aguirre for the hours of time she gives to RESQCATS as a volunteer.

You read two of her columns in each newsletter; "*Chloe's Corner*" and "*Ask Aikin.*" Nancy and her cats, Aikin and Chloe, spend hours researching so that they may share fun facts and valuable information with you. I have a feeling that her other three cats, "Rose," "Daphne" and "Maya" help, too, but just don't get any of the credit!

And those darling return donation envelopes inside the newsletter, as well as, the mailing envelopes are all hand-stamped and colored by Nancy and her team of kitties. It is a group effort for her and her kitties to stamp and color 1200 envelopes for each newsletter mailing!

Nancy also takes many of the beautiful photos of the foster kittens that you see in our newsletter. Many of those photos are posted on RESQCATS Facebook page and on-line when the kittens are available for adoption.

(continued on page 6)

(Giving from the heart, continued)

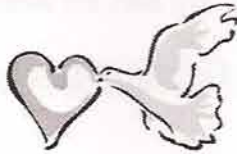


She has fostered numerous kittens over the years for RESQCATS, too. She recently took a little feral kitten named "Mittens" home for some special attention and TLC. Mittens left RESQCATS hissing, spitting and frightened. When Mittens returned 24 hours later, she had "turned the corner" with Nancy and was calm, purring and sweet.

Nancy is a volunteer who gives from her heart... unconditionally, constantly and without reservation. She works tirelessly, is not afraid to conquer the challenges of fostering sick or unsocial kittens and has a work ethic that surpasses most. And she is about the most talented, creative person I have ever met. I wish I could list ALL that she has done...but that would take this entire newsletter.

Thank you, Nancy, for making such a difference!

A gift from "Picadilly"



Recently, I faced one of the toughest challenges with a litter of kittens from a winery in Buellton.

The four kittens were 4-5 weeks old when they arrived. I saw warning signs of trouble by the second day. They refused to eat but that seemed easy enough to fix. Sometimes you just have to show them how! I finger fed them several times a day so they would become accustomed to canned kitten food.

But something more was very wrong with a tiny little girl I named "Picadilly." She vomited every time I fed her and began losing weight rapidly. Her brothers, "Jaspurr" and "Mimosa" looked fine. However, her sister, "Confetti," also seemed compromised, but to a lesser degree than Picadilly.

The trip to the vet revealed nothing alarming. I was instructed to keep finger feeding to entice them to eat and to administer sub-q fluids 2-3 times as needed to prevent dehydration from their diarrhea and especially from Picadilly's vomiting.

It was a long weekend; feeding every 3 hours, checking for dehydration and looking for any signs of further decline.

Jaspurr was the biggest and healthiest looking kitten until Sunday morning. He lost three ounces overnight and that is significant for a kitten that weighs less than a pound to start. It's like a hundred pound person losing 20 pounds overnight! He was added to the intensive care list that day. I found him on Monday morning. He had died during the night. I was devastated, heartbroken and didn't understand why or how this had happened.

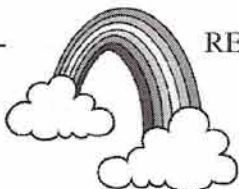
By Thursday, Picadilly and Confetti were declining rapidly. Both received blood plasma transfusions. Blood was drawn from their tiny veins for the lab and a fecal sample was submitted for an extensive PCR test to look for an answer as to what would cause such illness and rapid decline. The tests revealed that the litter had distemper. Nothing could be done except to continue supportive care and hope that their immune systems would kick in and get them through it all.

Picadilly came home from the hospital after her blood transfusion with the hopes that the plasma would provide her with the antibodies she needed to survive. By 8 PM, I knew she would not make it. She grew weaker with each passing minute. My husband, Mitch, made a bed for me on the couch and I stayed with her as she slipped into a peaceful coma. I placed my hand around her tiny body and put my thumb on her heart until the very last beat of it. She died in my arms. I felt peace and light for her to be a free angel on the Rainbow Bridge and imagining her there helped me through my own sadness and despair.

Confetti wasn't too far behind her sister. It seemed she could not decide whether to stay with me on Earth or die and journey to the Rainbow Bridge with Jaspurr and Picadilly. We made several additional trips to the vet. She received another plasma transfusion and continued with sub-q fluids and antibiotics. She fought hard and I fought for her... and she made it! I know the supportive medical care she received had something to do with it. But I also believe that prayers and support from all of you who followed the whole story of Confetti and her brother, "Mimosa," on Facebook,

Little miracles are hidden in this story...not just for the survival of Confetti and Mimosa...but even in the loss of Jaspurr and Picadilly.

Picadilly gave me the chance to love and nurture to the very best of my ability. She fulfilled my need for the "hands on" caring that I love so much. She left me enlightened with the "gift" of realizing that when your "heart light" is back and you are doing what you are meant to do in life; that there is also some heartache. She died knowing love. She was not alone and neither am I... her spirit is in my heart.

In memory of...

In memory of "Faith"...

What is "faith?" "Faith" is a hope and belief in something beyond us in our real world. "Faith" was also one of my collies...she was very old and tired and she left us May 11 for the "Rainbow Bridge." So rightfully named....Faith.... for I do have hope and do believe that there is a rainbow bridge and she will be waiting for me when I join her and all the ones who went before her one day. Until then, my friend...run, play, meet with all the others that went before you. And know you are loved. And I miss you.

Love for eternity, Jeffyne



May 21, 2012

"Apollo" joined his sister, "Faith", on the Rainbow Bridge this afternoon. Faith left 10 days ago to get everything perfect for him and she finished making preparations today. Faith and Apollo are together now forever and they are once again like puppies in mind, body and spirit....I do find comfort in that.

Love always, Jeffyne



In memory of Loretta Wilson (1937-2012), whose love for all animals knew no boundaries. Always in our hearts,
Jesus & Nancy Aguirre



In loving memory of "Skidley" and for my sister, Kim.

Love,
Leanne Knavel



In memory of a very special dog named "Charlie"...and for David and Deb.

Love,
Leanne Knavel



Monday, June 25, 2012

For "Jaspurr"...a tiny little five week old foster kitten at RESQCATS who left during the night for his journey to the Rainbow Bridge...

It is so sad to lose one so young and without an answer as to why. At times like this I remember something my mom said to me one time, "Angels are never on this Earth for very long..."

Fly my little angel, Jaspurr...fly to the Rainbow Bridge with your angel wings.

Love, Jeffyne



Thursday, June 28, 2012

Last night, "Picadilly", Jaspurr's sister, slipped into unconsciousness and died a few hours later and only three days after her brother. I was with her until the last little beat of her heart. She had separated herself from her brother and sister in the cattery.....so I brought her in and slept with her last night and stayed with her even after she was gone.

She has her angel wings now....and is free...and left some great lessons for me. Amazing how quickly so much love can evolve....how fragile life is. I feel that everything that could possibly be done for her on Earth was done....and she did struggle with whether or not to go or to stay on Earth.

Fly, little Picadilly...have the little healthy kitten body you so deserve and join your brother, Jaspurr. And always remember that I loved you...and thank you for giving me what I love doing the most...taking care of you and the cats. Love, Jeffyne



To my precious angel "Tango"

You joined the Rainbow Bridge at only 3 months old, but the love you gave us during that short time left a deep imprint in our hearts. Forever Yours,
Jesus & Nancy Aguirre

(continued on page 10)



Ace



Boo



Carmel



Confetti and Mimosa



Dandy

Some Feline Good News!

RESQCATS is in full swing with our new foster program. I shared in the last newsletter that I felt it was time for me to personally return to what I love and have missed for so long. It is also what I am best at doing... that is hands-on caring for and nurturing cats and kittens.

It didn't take long for the word to get out about RESQCATS new mission helping other cat rescue groups through our fostering program. To top it off, RESQCATS also assumes full financial responsibility for the foster kitties. We have fostered over 35 cats and kittens already (by the time you receive this newsletter I am sure it will be even more).

RESQCATS continues to follow the same medical protocol that we always have: vet exams, fecal exams, testing for Felv/FIV, worming, vaccinations and, of course, spay and neuter surgery for each kitty. In addition, we also provide any other medical assistance they may need... at our expense.

Although we have helped in other situations, most of the kittens have come through a local organization that traps, neuters and returns feral cats (TNR) called Catalyst for Cats. Many of the kittens are young enough to socialize and then be adopted. So, in addition to covering all the medical expenses, RESQCATS is also responsible for socializing the kittens so that they will be ready for adoption into qualified homes.

As you can imagine, many of the kittens come from the streets, behind barns, and/or are born in unhealthy situations to moms that are less than healthy themselves. So each litter seems to have their own set of medical challenges. Sometimes it feels like I am running a hospital! I make countless trips to the vet with sick kittens. My medicine cabinet is now filled with medications to treat every kind of parasite that can make little ones miserable, cause diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, decline in weight and dehydration. Sub-q fluids need to be given accordingly along with antibiotics and a whole lot of TLC.

There are vaccinations to be administered and spay/neuter surgery must be scheduled.

And in the middle of all of this, enclosures must be cleaned and resident cats must be cared for, too. Most of you know that I am a purr-fectionist and take none of this lightly.

But more importantly... I love what I am doing. I feel like my "heart light" is back on. I don't miss any of the administrative tasks that had taken over my life during the 14 years of managing RESQCATS as a volunteer and adoption facility. Finding that heart light once again and getting back to my passion in life also comes with some pain. Some kittens don't survive, regardless of everything humanly possible that I have provided for them. That in itself makes me appreciate the miracle of each and every little life and enables me to work through the heartache. It also reminds me of what my mom once said, "Jeffyne, angels are never on this Earth for very long."

So let's tell you about some of the fosters!

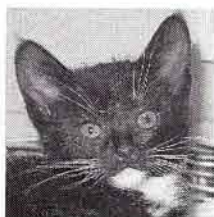
"Savia," "Tiger Lilly," "Dandy," "Pastelle" and "Skeeter" were the first litter of the season that RESQCATS fostered. They were a great litter to start with in that they were healthy and friendly. They got me into the swing of things... fostering, making sure all the medical requirements were met and then back to Catalyst for Cats for adoption.

"Tabitha," "Boo," "Socks" and "Mittens" came from a feral colony in Guadalupe. They were in good shape with the exception of two nasty parasites, Giardia and Coccidia, that were easily treated. The four were also a little shy, but by the time we spent some time loving on them, they felt safe and secure and quickly found homes.

A beautiful litter of six kittens were about to be turned to a local county shelter by a lady who discovered them in her backyard. A Catalyst for Cats volunteer offered to take them because they were frightened and did not seem social enough to escape euthanasia at the local shelter.



Figi



Latisse



Mittens



Panama



Pastelle



Razzle



Rio



Savia



Sista



Skeeter

"Carmel," "Figi," "Jamaica," "Panama," "Rio" and "Tahiti" found their way to RESQCATS and it did not take long to socialize them. Most often, I entered their enclosure to find a pile of six purring kittens all in one basket.... beautiful!

A sweet mom gave birth to four kittens at the Lompoc Prison of all places. She arrived one afternoon along with her niece and babies. We named her niece "Sista" because of the way she cared for her four tiny cousins. We named the mom "Madelline." She was very thin, but, what made it worse was that I could not get her or Sista to eat. Apparently they had been eating scraps of chicken and fish that the prisoners offered to them. It took several days before I found just the right smelly canned cat food that pleased them. Madelline was a wonderful mom to her babies and cared for them in a sweet nurturing way that I could only admire and often brought a tear to my eye. Her kittens were small for their ages and slow to develop. It just goes to prove that if the momma cat is not in good shape that her babies suffer the consequences, too. Two of her little black kittens were named "Aces" and "Spades." And the remaining two black and white ones (a girl and a boy) had the longest whiskers and eyelashes I have ever seen on a kitten. So the boy was called "Whiskas" and the tiny girl was named "Latisse" after the prescription drug on the market that makes humans' eyelashes grow!

One of the most recent litters arrived from a winery in Buellton. They were by far one of the sickest litters I have ever seen in the history of RESQCATS. They had feline distemper! Distemper in cats is similar to Parvo in dogs in that the only thing that can be done is to offer supportive medical care and all the love you have in your heart to give. I did both. Sadly, it was not enough for "Jaspurr" and his sister, "Picadilly." They both journeyed to the Rainbow Bridge way too early in their little lives. Now they are the thriving healthy kittens there that they never got to be on Earth. They left beautiful lessons and blessings for me (see the story; A Gift From Picadilly.) On a happier

note, their sister, "Confetti," fought long and hard to overcome her battle with distemper. She received two blood plasma transfusions and a lot of intensive care. Her brother, "Mimosa," was right there beside her along the way. They are both thriving now. It is my hope that when they become available for adoption that there is someone out there who understands what these two have been through and that realizes that they should go to a home together.

So you see, each litter and each kitten has a story. And each has a way of reaching into my soul and touching that passion that is so much a part of my heart and being.

I am grateful to the rescue groups that have allowed me the privilege of fostering and for trusting me with the care of their cats and kittens. It has given me personal strength and satisfaction to be back at something that is pure to my heart.

I think RESQCATS mission and foster program reaches out to the community in even bigger ways than ever before. We take the pressure of numbers of kittens off their backs as our facility is able to handle several litters at once. Their financial burden is lessened because RESQCATS takes financial responsibility for all the medical needs.

I know what you are thinking...this is where she asks for money. You bet I am. I ask for it on behalf of the kittens. They need your help. It takes hundreds of dollars to care for stray and abandoned cats and kittens. The four kittens from the winery with feline distemper surpassed \$1300 in expenses.

RESQCATS expenses are not offset by adoption donations. The kittens go back to their original rescue for adoption, thus they receive the adoption fee.

YOU can give them a chance at life. Every single dollar adds up and makes a difference. I will continue to do my part but I need your support. The kitties need help now! Together we can change the fate of many cats and kittens through RESQCATS.



Socks



Tabitha



Tahiti



Tiger Lily



Whiskas

(continued from page 7)

In loving memory of "Sola".....

These are times of grieving the loss of a loved one and are times of change. It is as though we leave a room we have been comfortable and functioning well in, and enter a new room. Some of the same furnishings are there and some of the same people. But the room is different, nonetheless and requires a whole new adaptation from us—and probably from others in the room with us.

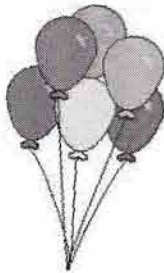
We have choices. We can hide in a corner cowering, unwilling to look around. We can tear around mindlessly looking for an escape, though we know there is none. Or we can look around: see where the windows are and where the doors open into the future, for the door we came through is closed. We can look for people who can help us... and begin to attend this life, day by day.

Lisa Acho Remorenko



For my "Miejek." I see you in my in my mind as if you were here yesterday; you are forever be in my heart.
Love, Jeffyne

In honor and celebration of...



In honor of "Mr. Millie"

You were taken away from my friend, Suz, by a reckless man driving his car too fast down your street on the same day I lost my baby Tango. I know you are together watching over us, loving us, and that you are proud that we went on to give new kitties our hearts and homes. You both gave your lives so others could live, love and be loved.

Always in our hearts,
Nancy Aguirre



In celebration of Mel Kyle's birthday... my friend and the best cat sitter my cats could ever dream of.

Love, Julie Kaplan



In honor of "My Baby Boy," (Yoda)!

Love, Eliane Martin



In celebration of my boys, "Web" and "Deacon."

Love, Penny Huff



In honor of "Chloe" and "Bella!"

Laurie Pfeiffer

With love for "Mimosa" and "Confetti"...

And to help with their care....

Love, Eliane Martin



This donation is to help save "Confetti" and "Mimosa!"

Ginger Anderson



Sending good thoughts and light and a donation to help with "Confetti" and "Mimosa"

Heather MacNeil Montgomery.



For "Yoda!"

Kate Canon!



For little "Confetti" and "Mimosa" to help with their vet expenses.

Kate Parker



In honor of "Daphne"

You were deemed unadoptable because you didn't like people but I loved you for your challenging attitude. You are now the biggest love-bug. Happy 2-year adoption birthday!

Jesus and Nancy Aguirre



In honor of "Aikin Bones" - the best foster brother any kitten could have! He has played with, groomed and loved every baby that has come into our home either temporarily or permanently for the past 2 years.

Love, Nancy & Jesus Aguirre



For "Mimosa" and "Confetti"....with much love and kitty paws all over your little hearts.

"Yoda"



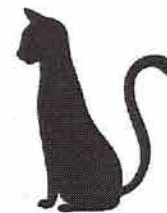
Happy 6th birthday "Tank" and "Mini Marvin"

Micheal Kew.





A tail to read...



As you know, RESQCATS spent the first fourteen years of our existence taking in stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Then, we found homes for them... almost 1900 kitties were placed through RESQCATS!

It was almost 7 years ago that "Lila" and her brother, "Huckleberry" arrived. Huckleberry was a sleek, fun black kitten. He was "Mr. Social" meaning that he was friendly and outgoing. But Lila, his Himalayan Siamese sister was severely traumatized. I never know the circumstances causing such fear in some kittens when they arrive off the streets. Many times it is impossible to un-do the damage that is so apparent in their scared little souls. Lila was that kind of kitten. She hid under blankets for weeks and was terrified of everyone except her brother, Huckleberry. She found comfort and security with him.

The volunteers and I felt that they should be adopted together but would need an understanding adopter who would give Lila time to adjust... and lots of it! I wondered if settling into a home environment and feeling comfortable was even possible for her. My expectation for Lila was that she would always be traumatized, and live in fear.

She would be considered un-adoptable in many shelters and therefore, euthanized. But that doesn't happen at RESQCATS!

Lila and Huckleberry stayed at RESQCATS for weeks waiting for the right person to come along and adopt them. But no one did. As more time passed, they grew into bigger kittens. I have learned over the years that human nature seems to draw people to the smallest kittens, thus, the bigger these two got the less interested adopters there would be.

I contacted the local newspaper and managed to convince them to let Lila be "Pet of the Week." One day, I received a call from a lady who said Lila was going to be her kitty and she would love to have Huckleberry, too. Her name was Liz Zeller and I invited her to RESQCATS to meet them.

When Liz arrived, I realized she was well into her eighties! I was concerned that she may not be able to make a lifetime commitment to such young kittens. I attempted to introduce her to some of the older adults that were up for adoption. She would have nothing to do with it. Now, Liz may have been eighty-something but she was not the typical little old lady you might imagine.

She was fashionably dressed in a purple pantsuit with a hat to match. She was active, spry, had a great sense of humor and her mind was sharp as a tack. She made it clear that she wanted only Lila and Huckleberry. I could not deny her of that joy for any reason and they desperately needed a home.

The volunteers and I packed a care package and watched Lila and Huckleberry leave RESQCATS in Liz's bright yellow sports car! She was the kind of lady who just might outlive Lila and Huckleberry! Regardless, knowing that Lila would be a difficult kitty to adopt, I told Liz that if something ever happened that she could no longer take care of Lila and Huckleberry that they could return to RESQCATS. Liz and I kept in touch.

That day did come about two years later.

Lila and Huckleberry returned to RESQCATS when Liz's health began to decline. Liz had accepted Lila with all her fears and Lila had adjusted remarkably in her home. Lila spent a lot of hours in Liz's lap! When they returned to RESQCATS, Lila was better than when she left, but she still had fear and anxiety issues and was not the kind of kitty that most people would give a second chance to as Liz had done.

Of course, I hoped the same thing would happen all over again. I hoped that Lila and Huckleberry could go to a new home together. But I had to be realistic. I spoke with Liz and she felt that Lila would be fine without Huckleberry. She shared that he was so interested in play and romping that it actually disturbed Lila. It wasn't long before Huckleberry was adopted and there sat terrified Lila at RESQCATS for a second time.

Over the following weeks, we did make progress. Lila actually became a resident cat at RESQCATS. She mingled with all the other resident cats but was cautious and kept mostly to herself. She did adjust with some time to her new home.

Liz and I stayed in touch and we were friends until the day she died suddenly about two years later. She never forgot RESQCATS and was generous in her support... but more importantly, her friendship was a treasure over the years.

In 2009, RESQCATS was a volunteer based organization. One of the volunteers thought her boyfriend would like Lila. He had always been partial to blue eyed kitties. She brought him to meet Lila during her shift one day while I was away on vacation. He fell in love with Lila at first

sight. Lila was very responsive to him and allowed him to approach her and pet her immediately. Wow! I would never have imagined her positive response to him.

I was not aware of any of this until I received a phone call while still on vacation from the volunteer and her boyfriend asking to adopt her. I was so surprised! We had a lengthy conversation. They completely understood the lifetime commitment they were making to Lila, so I said yes to this very special couple.

Sadly, the couple broke up a year later. Happily, Lila remained with the young man. He and Lila were quite bonded. That was three years ago.

In June 2012, I was notified that Lila had been turned into the Humane Society by the man. I won't go into all the excuses as to why he gave her up...but I can say this...the last thing a scared cat who is particularly bonded to a single person needs is to be relinquished to a shelter, especially with her history of insecurity and fear. I understand that a lot was going on in his life, but to make such a decision for her is something I cannot even begin to understand. Apparently he expressed that if she was not adoptable at the shelter and was euthanized that "that was just life."

NO! That is death!

The Humane Society is a wonderful organization. The entire staff welcomed RESQCATS with open arms over 15 years ago and have assisted us with hundreds of spays and neuters. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the people that work there making a difference for animals everyday. But I also knew in my heart that it would be next to impossible to find an adoptive home for Lila. The Humane Society has so many relinquished animals to place that are healthy, friendly, social and adoptable. I felt like the last thing they needed was a kitty like Lila. It could take months for her to come around... if at all. The staff was reassuring and gracious and said, "Jeffyne, let's just give her some time." They dedicate months and even years to give every animal a chance. They give purely from the heart.

Three weeks went by and Lila made very slow progress. I know that three weeks is not much time to truly evaluate the situation...but something told me it was time for Lila to come home....for a third and final time...to me... and to RESQCATS.

On August 9, 2012, The Humane Society graciously allowed me to adopt Lila. RESQCATS will provide her all the medical care she will ever need and I am in charge of loving her. She will be with me until the day she dies.

When I got Lila home, she immediately found a safe place and buried herself under a blanket in her enclosure. I put my hand over the mound, felt her body underneath and whispered, "Lila, you are home."



She started to purr.

Lila is still purring, she is belly up for pets and she LOVES to be brushed. It will take some time...I know. I have all the time it takes...welcome home, Lila!



RESQCATS™

A non-profit animal rescue organization dedicated to the care and welfare of stray and abandoned cats and kittens.

I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation:

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

() Please designate my donation towards special needs kitties and the Polar Bear Fund.

Make your check payable to:

RESQCATS, PO Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130
Or visit our website and PayPal at www.RESQCATS.org

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/Zip: _____

And if you would like to receive our e-newsletters:

Email address: _____



**Or email jeffyne@resqcats.org
and we will add you to our list!**