

RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Fall 2013



President's Message

Written on August 11, 2013



Jeffyne with "Stellar" and "Starz"

There is so much to tell you that I hardly know where to start. It has been an amazing kitten season so far. **RESQCATS** has helped over 130 cats and kittens through our rescue network. We have found "purr"-manent homes for 96 as of today. We continue to have cats and kittens arriving so we certainly are not done for the year. So many moms out there are now giving birth to their second litters of the year and we are here to help.

Many of our rescues have been relinquished through Craigslist. Most people who advertise free kittens or ask for a re-homing fee on Craigslist do so without thinking of the consequences for the kittens. Most kittens will never receive proper medical care including vaccinations and spay or neuter surgery. Therefore, they will be adding to the pet over-population problem when the female kittens reach six to eight months of age and can become pregnant. Almost eighty of the kitties passing through **RESQCATS** have fallen into that category. Just think of all the unwanted kittens we have prevented in the future by rescuing the kittens now, paying to have their moms spayed, and spaying and neutering the kittens prior to adoption.

RESQCATS has also continued to help stray and

abandoned cats and kittens.

I wish there was time to tell you about them all. I am writing a book about many of the special stories over the past sixteen years of **RESQCATS**. It will be published and available next Spring. I hoped to have it ready by the end of the year, but time slips away when you are taking care of all of these special little creatures. Finishing the book will be a winter project...so stay tuned.

I would like to share just a little about some of the cats who have captured my heart this season.

Madeline arrived with a broken leg and punctured cornea in mid-July. She is a sweet girl who is only about 1-2 years old. She was put on pain medication immediately as her leg appeared to be in bad shape. Her eye looked infected and she had a serious puncture wound on her head. Within just a few days, I took her to an orthopedic surgeon to see if anything could be done. X-rays determined that the break was several weeks old and it had already begun to heal in the wrong position! However, Madeline seems to have compensated. The surgeon did not advise doing any surgery to correct the break...it would certainly cause her undue pain to re-break the leg and go through the tough recovery that would follow.

I then escorted Madeline to the ophthalmologist. Our fear was that something foreign had lodged in her eye and was causing damage. It turns out that the cornea puncture was also an old injury (probably from the same time as the break in her leg) but there was no damage to her retina.

And more good news! no foreign bodies were present either. I was relieved for Madeline in that we would not have any serious surgeries and recovery to go through. At the same time, I was overwhelmed with sadness in that she had gone through pain and suffering for who knows how long because someone abandoned her. Madeline did have to have some surgery to help a wound above her eye, most likely related to the bite wound on her head when she arrived. But she has done beautifully. She is able to put weight on her leg, get onto her condo and does quite well. Her gold eyes glisten now and she appears grateful that she is not "out there" on her own. Madeline is now asking me to find her a home.

Joy arrived as a young mom...I would estimate she was only about 8 months old and had five babies. She weighed less than 4-1/2 pounds due to a parasite that is

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A Bonded Pair...for life!



Butch & Sundance at RESQCATS

You would think that after 16 years of operating RESQCATS that I would become accustomed to what people say and the reasons they give when they call and ask me to take their cats. I hear every reason in the world as to why they cannot fulfill the lifetime obligation they made to their kitty and most of them are inexcusable.

This particular pair of brothers was being advertised on Craigslist along with their sister who had given birth to five kittens. I had no room at RESQCATS but was able to get the sister cat and her litter into foster care through another local organization. At the same time, I advised the owner that the brothers go to her local humane society in Santa Maria. For some unknown reason she did not take them there. She called two weeks later asking RESQCATS to pay for having the one year-old-boys neutered and vaccinated. If we agreed to that, she would consider taking them with her when she moved to Texas. If not, well, I don't know what she would have done.

I asked her how she could give them up. Her reply, "Oh, I got them for my kids last year from my mother-in-law when they were kittens. But now that they are big, they are not as cute anymore. I always planned on getting rid of them when they were no longer kittens." No kidding! That is what she said.

I was saddened by this...not only for the cats, but

for the poor example she was setting for her three kids. Disposable when they are no longer "cute." What kind of message was that for her children? I will tell you what it is! They will do the same thing in the future with animals and think it is okay!

At that time, I had room at RESQCATS so "Butch Cassidy" and "Sundance" arrived a short time after our phone conversation.

Reality set in within a couple of days for me. Here I was, in the middle of kitten season with two one-year-old brothers that were so bonded that they certainly needed to be adopted together. That is not an easy task when there are so many baby kittens capturing the hearts of people.

I have to admit that I fell in love with Butch and Sundance. In the history of RESQCATS, I have never witnessed such a bonded pair. Like two peas in a pod, inseparable, they spooned when they slept, groomed each other, played with each other and obviously loved each other very much. It was a special thing to witness. I can still see them in my mind even today as I write about them.

I got lucky, or so I thought, when at the end of a RESQCATS adoption event, I found someone who was interested in giving them a home. She had adopted from RESQCATS many years ago and now that both of those kitties had gone of old age, she wanted two more. However, she did not want to go through the whole "kitten thing" again. Butch and Sundance were perfect. She signed all the papers and I agreed to keep them for the next week or so until she returned from vacation. I was elated to find a home for them.

I won't go into all the details, but on the day the boys were to go home, another family member arrived with the lady. They were not wanted by that particular family member and she made it obvious. The energy surrounding the whole process was wrong in many ways. I was not about to adopt Butch and Sundance to a home where they would not be welcomed by all so I refused to let this family take them home.

Butch and Sundance deserved to enter a loving home with a family where everyone would welcome, cherish and love them. I stood my ground that day. And I was glad I did.

Reality crept back in again! Now what? I still had two one-year-old cats that needed a home together in the middle of kitten season.

A few days passed and I received an email from a man "looking for two kittens/cats" to become family members. I sent him every photo of a pair of kittens that had been looking for a home and RESQCATS had hoped that they would get adopted together, too. It was not absolutely necessary, but I had held

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out on several people who wanted just one or the other. Maybe this was the family for, "Lil'Dot" and "Polka Dot." These sisters were only about 12 weeks old. I hit the "send" button with their information and photos.

But for some reason I went back and read their email again. It said, "kittens/cats!" I thought to myself, "might as well give it a try" so I sent a second email with the photos and information on Butch and Sundance. I followed up with a phone message.

Steven called me the next morning and I shared information with him about Lil Dot and Polka Dot. They were at the Montecito Pet Shop (they handle most of RESQCATS adoptions for us) and I offered that he and his wife, Joan, were welcome to meet Butch and Sundance at RESQCATS.

Steven shared that he and Joan would like to meet both pairs without their three children first. They felt that the kids would fall in love with whomever they met first and they just wanted to make sure that the kitties would be a match for the family before the children were present.

It was love at first sight for Steven and Joan when they met Butch and Sundance. They witnessed the bond between the boys. I knew that they were all about what I refer to in rescue as "who needs a home." I could see that this was a couple that wanted to do something to make a difference and adopting the brothers certainly would. They did agree to meet Lil Dot and Polka Dot at the pet shop and then make a decision about introducing their kids to the kittens/cats.

Steven expressed his love for Butch and Sundance and it was echoed by Joan.

He said, "I know the kids are going to love whichever kitties they see, so how should I handle this as I would really like to take Butch and Sundance."

I stayed objective and honest although I hoped with every bone in my body to find a home for the brothers with them.

I said, "You just be honest with the kids. Tell

them that kittens always find homes but sometimes it is about who needs a home and Butch and Sundance certainly do need one. You at least have the opportunity to educate them about rescue and adoption by sharing this with them. Then, as a parent, you have done your job for your kids and for the cats. And just so you know, I would be comfortable with you having any of the cats or kittens from RESQCATS! You are exactly what every rescue person dreams of in an adopter."

They left to meet Lil Dot and Polka Dot. Then they planned to go home and discuss the options with the kids.

Two hours later, Steven called and said, "I presented both options to my children." My heart skipped a beat or two.

"And they have decided that they would like to give Butch and Sundance a home." I choked then spit out the word, "Really?!" Tears welled up in my eyes and finally I managed to ask, "What time would you like to bring the kids to meet them?"

It did not take long for me to see and understand how important their message was to their children. And I would feel that way even if they had chosen the sisters. Steven and Joan set an example that is positive and will be forwarded on to other animals when their children grow up. It is a message of love, compassion, and what rescue really means.

It is a very different message than the first family: throw them away when they get big because they are not cute anymore.

It is a message of the importance that everyone in the family be on the same page when adopting and about providing a positive environment filled with love and acceptance by everyone in the house.

I thank Steven and Joan Crossland and their children for giving "Kingston" and "Satchell" (the boys' new names) the home they have always wanted and deserve. I still hear from them, receive photos and videos of the boys and hear the kids laughing and playing with them in the background.



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Hearing from them is a great way to end some long hard days...my heart sings.

May Satchell and Kingston bring the Crosslands many many years of joy, laughter and most important of all...unconditional love.

The beginning...



"Kingston" & "Satchell" in their new home!

Ten Reasons Why Having Two Kittens is Better than One!

1. You are saving two lives instead of just one.
2. One cat can become lonely.
3. A single kitten can drive an adult cat crazy!
4. Two kittens will self train (example: the litter box).
5. Two help burn off all that excess energy.
6. There are fewer behavior problems.
7. Curiosity overcomes food finickiness.
8. Two act as pillows for each other.
9. Having two is insanely fun!
10. They each have a friend for life.



"Grizzly" and his brother "Sesame"

Chloe's Column



Hello to my favorite feline fans! I'm donating a bit of my article space to Auntie Jeffyne because she has some super important stories to tell you and needs the extra room for them. I'll be back with much more next
Purrs ... Chloe

Cat Quotes

"It is a man's sympathy with all creatures that first makes him truly a man." - *Dr. Albert Schweitzer*



"As anyone who has ever been around a cat for any length of time well knows, cats have enormous patience with the limitations of the human kind."

- *Cleveland Amory*



"I believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through." - *Jules Verne*



"One cat just leads to another." - *Ernest Hemingway*



"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."

- *Robert A. Heinlein*

Cat Superstitions

- If a cat washes behind its ears, it will rain.
- *English*
- A cat sleeping with all four paws tucked under means cold weather ahead. - *English*
- When moving into a new home, always put the cat through the window instead of the door, so that it will not leave. - *American*
- A cat sneezing is a good omen for everyone who hears it. - *Italian*

Thanks to you...

Thank you, **Cat Pollon**, for your compassion for cats and for your generosity when it comes to helping RESQCATS through your support. You cannot imagine the difference that you make for so many here! I really mean it...thank YOU!



Thank you, "**Chico**" and **Pat Pellino** for all your support over the last 12 years. Hard to believe that Chico is twelve...but he has never missed taking the opportunity to donate each time he receives a RESQCATS newsletter. That has added up to helping a lot of kitties.



Patricia Kulha! Thank you so much for your beautiful donation...you are an "Angel In Heaven" and will touch so many lives here at RESQCATS with your generosity.



A heartfelt thank you to **Angela Kroemer**...for giving so generously and from your heart to "Stellar" and "Starz." You made such a difference for them...you gave the gift of life.



Thank you, **LeeAnn Kaulbaurs** for all the love, care and compassion you have for each kitten you foster for RESQCATS. Your TLC cures all!



Thank you **Nancy Aguirre** for all you do for RESQCATS and for me. You are always ready to meet the challenge and schedule that is asked of you...with a smile, creativity and fun!



Thank you **Erika Sacks** for 17 years of wonderful service!



A special thank you to **Janet Dewey** for stepping in to help with all those special projects. You have made RESQCATS an amazing facility with your ideas and hard work.



Jim Hurnblad, I am not sure what we did before you...thank you for all you do.



A special thank you to **Marguerite Williams and Kim Harston** for returning to RESQCATS to help socialize kitties...tough job!

Thank you, **Rachel Ross**, for joining RESQCATS' morning clean up crew... And a special thanks for all the knitted blankets.



Thank you to **Andros Floor Design** for assisting us in our "Mats for Cats" project. Through your guidance and help, we were able to revamp the old, cold concrete floors by placing lovely linoleum mats throughout the walkways in RESQCATS. Custom mats were fitted for the individual cat enclosures, as well. Not only are the mats easy to clean, but they are softer and warmer for cat and kitten paws...and my feet, too!



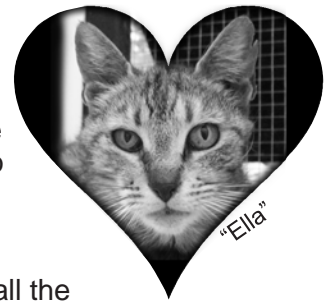
Thank you, **Montecito Pet Shop** for hosting RESQCATS anytime we want to have an adoption event at your store. But mostly, thank you for your dedication to handling adoptions for RESQCATS. You have enabled me to be where I am needed most...on the streets rescuing!



Thank you, **La Cumbre Animal Hospital!** For giving Ella a home as the hospital cat...you have no idea how this touched my heart!



Thank you, **Susan Boesch**, for all the marketing advice and hard work producing the e-newsletters.



A very special thank you and tribute to the Jan Mills family

Thank you to the Jan Mills family for the beautiful donation they gave to RESQCATS in honor of Jan. I feel like I knew her after our visit in July. Her love and life was vivacious and her connection with cats was felt with all her soul. She felt the unconditional love of cats and returned it to them. RESQCATS celebrates Jan's life because of her love of cats and because of the generosity of her family. Jan's soulmate cat was named "Cozy."

RESQCATS has decided to name the main area of the cattery where resident cats reside, "**The Cozy Suite**" in honor of this special lady and her family.

And we are still working on some other special ideas!



In memory of...

Please accept this donation for "special kitties" with special needs in memory of "**Frances.**" We would like to make her an "honorary" RESQCAT!

Paula Schmitz



In memory of **Sheri Rinfret...**

Kay and Howard Segal

In memory of **Stacy Abel**, who was loved by her friends, had an infectious smile and always had a rescued cat. For her kitty, "Clydefrog" and her mom, Karen Morra.

Love, Julie Kaplan

In memory of "**Lily**" who adopted Suzanne Shanelec. A donation was made in honor of both.

Kari Bass

In loving memory of "**Zoey**" and "**Shasta.**"

Melinda Haffner

In memory of "**Spooky.**"

With love from Shirley Nelson

In memory of **David Francis Partlow** and for his son, Michael and his wife, Kelly Partlow.

Stan and Carmel Bloom

In memory of **Barbara Viand** and for my friend, Tina Long, who finds comfort in the company of her kitties while missing her mom.

Love, Robyn Walton

In loving memory of my mom, **Barbara Viand.**

Love, Tina Long and cats... "Cheyenne" and "Chumash"

In memory of "**Zoe**" ... for all the blessings of her presence and all the joy she gave to me, my husband, and her sister, "little Emma." She is truly missed every day.

Love, Roxine Brown

Good-bye my dear "**Laddie.**" Run to the Rainbow Bridge on legs that are like new and not aching from arthritis. See the colors of the rainbow with eyes that are not blind. Send me a message that all is okay with you there and that you find all the others that have touched my life with their much too short presence on Earth. I miss your sweet sweet face...but I know it was time for you to go. I love you, Laddie.

Jeffyne



For you "**Miejek,**"...steal my soul, still my soul.

Jeffyne

In celebration and honor of...

To honor "**Lacey**" and "**Willow**" --- celebrating two adorable cats for two wonderful years!

Jan Sande

In gratitude for all the love, joy and antics of "**Chloe**" (adopted in 2002) and "**Giulietta**" (adopted in 2006)

Alex and Joyce Carasa

To celebrate my mom and dad's 5th wedding anniversary. I lucked out having such wonderful parents as **Becki and Jay Eaton.**

Love, Julie Kaplan

To honor "**Rusty**" and "**Spencer!**"

Marlene Debue

\$36 for 36 years! Happy Birthday **Amy Dobson.**

Ellen Wall!

In honor of **Julie Kaplan** and all she does for others!

Becki and Jay Eaton

In celebration of "**Zuki's**" 10th birthday! She comes to visit us at RESQCATS every July and give us her birthday dollars to help us with the kitties. In celebration of you, Zuki and Marian Jean.

Jeffyne



And now...

A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne



"Charity" - adopted at nine years old



"Jewel" - adopted at nine years old



"Triumph" - adopted at six years old

Why Not Senior Pets?

Over the years, I've been as guilty as anyone of focusing on a younger animal to adopt. It's only natural. Who can resist the sheer jubilation exhibited by a little kitten or puppy...their rollicking and tumbling about... the gentle look in their eyes...that ultimate adopters aphrodisiac of "puppy breath." It's virtually impossible to resist!

What animal-lover can say with impunity that he or she just went out to "look" at a new puppy or kitty and was not overcome with "puppy love?" No one can. It's just not possible to pass one of those little faces without wanting to scoop them up and take them home.

Actually, that's very true of every specie...newborns are just so darn cute... be they dogs, cats, tortoises or giraffes... baby animals are so appealing and so hard to resist that we hear ourselves saying, "I'd like to adopt THAT one!"

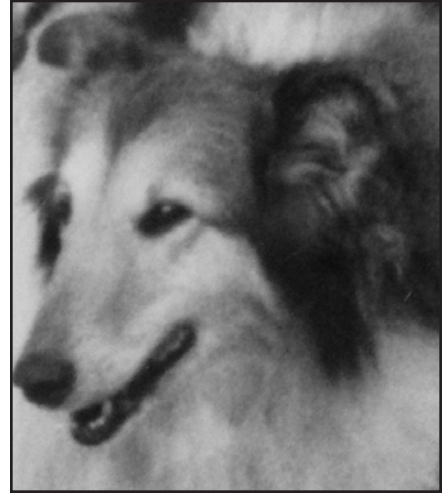
While it's wonderful that so many people open their hearts and their homes to new born animals, what about the older cats and dogs? What about the senior animals that are no longer "quite so cute?" What about those guys with the gray muzzles and slower gaits? Don't they deserve a home too?

Because, unfortunately, in addition to those cute little kittens and puppies, there are many other animals that need good homes...many older cats and dogs who themselves were cute roly-poly little kittens and puppies just a few short years ago. And especially, what about those senior dogs and cats, which may be just past their prime, but still are wonderful companions who need homes...have you ever considered giving one of them a "forever" home?

When I Am Old and Gray...

When I am old and gray,
my step might be slower.
I may not hear as well.
I may not see as well.
I may not feel as well.
But...
My love will be the same.
My devotion will be the same.
My appreciation will be the same.
My heart and soul are grateful
for all that you have done and do...
When I am old and gray.

*With much appreciation to
Bridget of Linked Souls*



"Destiny" - adopted at ten years old



"Shep" and "Laddie" - adopted
at nine years old



"Orion" - adopted at eight years old

♥ *Believe in Miracles...* A gift of life for Stellar and Starz ♥



We all hate fleas. They are a nuisance, can cause itching, scratching, skin problems and parasites. But many people do not realize that something as small as a flea can also be so dangerous, especially in numbers on a small kitten! So dangerous, in fact, that "Stellar" almost died. And he would have died if he had not landed at **RESQCATS** on July 13th along with his brother, "Starz."

When Stellar and Starz arrived, a volunteer and I noticed fleas. It is not uncommon, but I don't want them in the cattery so we always try to rid the cats of them before they ever enter an enclosure. Fleas were hard to see on Stellar and Starz because both kittens had beautiful long hair. I determined quickly that a flea comb was just not going to do the trick. I took the brothers, who were only four weeks old and weighed less than 10 ounces, into the house for a bath.

I gasped at what I saw as I ran warm water across each tiny body along with some Dawn dish soap (it is great stuff to use on fleas as many flea shampoos are not recommended for tiny kittens because of pyrethrums and chemicals.) I didn't count, but can tell you that I bathed no less than 150 fleas off of each kitten and watched bloody water run down the drain as I rinsed each of them.

Fleas suck blood. With that number on such tiny bodies, trouble had already taken hold of Stellar. Both kittens should have had pink gums, but theirs were pale white. I knew that was an indication that their red blood cell count was low. The pads of their feet were pale gray. Starz was certainly active enough, but his brother, Stellar, was much less active. I put both on high alert in my mind and monitored them every couple of hours.

By the next morning, Starz was still active and eating but Stellar was weaker than the day before. I rechecked his gums and foot pads. They looked

even paler.

It was a Sunday morning that I packed the little guy up and off to the emergency room we went. Emergencies always seem to happen on a weekend when the regular vet is not open. Stellar and I headed to Advanced Veterinary Specialist where I knew 24-hour emergency care was available.

The vet did a full examination and asked that I leave Stellar with them for additional tests and blood work. I left with a heavy feeling in my chest knowing that things may not turn out well.

The attending vet called a couple of hours later and confirmed that Stellar suffered from severe flea anemia. A normal red blood cell count would be in the twenties and his was seven! The vet recommended a blood transfusion. The life had literally been sucked out of him by so many fleas.

I gave the okay to do the transfusion. The cost of the blood alone was about \$900. But Stellar's life was more important to me than any amount of money it was going to take to accomplish that, and the odds were high that he would be fine with the transfusion. What more precious gift do any of us have than the gift of life!

Starz remained at **RESQCATS** and I did my best to feed him and comfort him without his brother. At only four weeks of age, he had not truly begun to know how to eat on his own, so I needed to show him where his food was constantly and encourage him to eat. He did fairly well.

Stellar's blood transfusion went well and he was allowed to come home a day later and rejoin his brother. I had instructions to return with him for a follow-up blood tests the next day to make sure that his red cell count was headed in the right direction.

Once Stellar and Starz were re-united, I faced another challenge with Stellar. He seemed to have no inclination to find his way to the food bowl no matter how many times I encouraged him to eat. This was turning into a 24/7 job. In addition, several other kittens at **RESQCATS** required my full attention.

Thank goodness, Nancy Aguirre, a valued **RESQCATS** volunteer and foster asked to help. She took care of the boys for over a week while we travelled back and forth to the vet with Stellar.

I happened to take Starz with me on the follow-up visit. His gums and feet looked pale so we decided to do a red blood cell count on him even though he was active and eating like a normal kitten. The results were not good. Starz's count was rated at nine... almost as low as his brother's had been prior to his transfusion. It looked as if Starz was going to need a transfusion, too.

To add head-ache to heart-ache...the blood that had been used for Stellar had already expired. Once

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a bag of blood is punctured it is only good for 24 hours. I thought I was looking at another \$900 for an additional bag of blood?! But, okay, fine, we can do that!

Sadly, there was no more blood available. Not even a new bag. The usual cat blood donor had just undergone surgery so she was not in a position to give blood.

The vet asked, "Do you have a big healthy cat that might be a donor?" I thought, surely one of my cats could qualify. I immediately thought of "Pebbles" and "Paisley," two three-year-old sisters. I sped home, ran into the house yelling "Who wants to save a life?!" Poor Paisley, sitting calmly on the back of the couch, was the first one I saw.

I picked her up, kissed her and said, "Here we go, Paisley...gonna save a life."

It worked to Starz' benefit in that transfusing him did not seem as urgent as it had with Stellar. He was active, eating and looked pretty good regardless of what his blood test revealed. That gave us time to blood type Paisley and do all the necessary tests to make sure the two were compatible without risk.. Starz and Paisley arrived at the hospital as a team. Something happened then. I call it a miracle.

The vet decided to retest Starz' red cell count prior to putting him through the transfusion procedure. Sure enough, it had started to go up on its own!

"So, was the transfusion not needed?" I asked.

"Let's wait a couple of more days and see," the vet said. Two days later, Starz' count was up to thirteen! That meant that his own body was manufacturing red blood cells on its own. No transfusion was needed!

What great news for Starz!

And to add even more happiness to the story is that Paisley is all tested and can be a blood donor for another kitty that may need life-saving blood in the future. She is "hope" for a kitty in need of blood!

Nancy worked 24/7 over a week's time dedicating herself to teaching the boys how to eat on their own and use a litter box. I know it was difficult for her to pass them onto another foster, but her job was done and I needed her for the many tasks that she does for **RESQCATS**.

LeeAnn Kaulbaurs took Stellar and Starz for the next several weeks. She spent hours and hours making sure they ate, drank, grew, and were loved. She is so good at that ... her love does cure so much!

Stellar and Starz returned to **RESQCATS** in early August. Stellar went home with Andrea Wells, DVM, the vet who cared for him. And Starz found a home with LeeAnn's (the foster mom) son!

I am grateful that **RESQCATS** could save them, but I owe much to not only the vets, Nancy and LeeAnn...but to those of you who helped to save them because of your generosity and financial

support. Their veterinarian bills amounted to over \$2000 and you gave from your hearts and donated every cent of their costs.

I think there is more than just one miracle buried in Stellar and Starz' story...listed below are some of them!

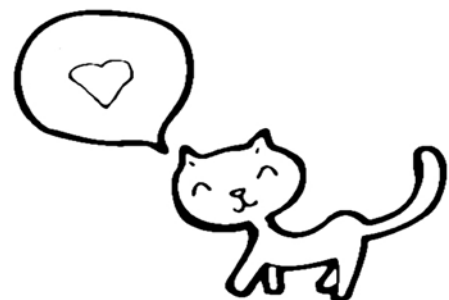
*Elyse Pardoe
Jan Oldham
Julie Kaplan
Susan MacDonald
Colleen Root
Angela Kroemer
Tessa Hill
Susie Browne
Nancy Aguirre
Erika Sacks
Dede Georgen
Deborah Stafford
Marisa Ericson
Tami Fitzsimmons
Jacquee Christnot
Jim Jensvold
Darcie Barnes*

*Katie Clark
Heather MacNeil
Sarah Pedersen
Peter Cohen
Jill Birschbach
Sherrie Narusis
Sheri Bohnemann
Juliet Connor
Liz Benishin*



A poem to my foster cat

I am the bridge between what was and what can be.
I am the pathway to a new life!
I am made of mush.
Because my heart melted when I saw you;
matted and sore, limping, lonely, unwanted
and afraid to love.
For one moment in time you are mine.
I will feed you with my own hand,
I will love you with my whole heart.
I will make you whole.
I am made of steel.
Because when the time comes,
when you are well, when your eyes shine,
and you purr with joy, then comes the hard part...
I will have to let you go—
Not without tears, but without regrets.
For I know you are safe in your forever home.
A new cat needs me now!



“Marley” and you!

In mid-May, I posted an urgent message on RESQCATS' Facebook page about a little nine week old kitten that was in big trouble. His name was “Marley.”

Marley had been rescued by a lady trying to save kittens advertised on Craigslist. He was a newborn kitten without a mom and needed to be bottle fed. She wanted to help, answered the ad and went to pick up one of three kittens. When she arrived, her heart could not bear to leave the other two, so she came home with all three!

The well meaning lady did not have the experience required to bottle feed kittens nor did she have the time with her full time job. One kitten might have been doable ...but three was next to impossible for her. Kittens that are only a few days old need to be fed every 2-3 hours around the clock...it is a 24/7 job!

When this kind soul realized she was in over her head, she asked for help and a very experienced bottle feeder and RESQCATS foster, Deanna Koens, stepped up to help by taking two of the three kittens.

Just so you understand a little about kittens, they nurse not only for nourishment but also for gratification from their moms. Bottle fed babies miss out on the luxury of nursing just to nurse for pleasure. Often they resort to suckling on other objects such as blankets or even siblings.

Marley and his brother, “Cheez,” did not get to experience the gratification from just nursing to nurse.

It is common for kittens that are taken from their moms too early in life, and obviously these were, to nurse on each other for comfort and gratification.

Cheez, however, didn't choose and elbow, ear or loose skin to nurse...he suckled on his brother's little penis. Marley's penis became swollen and it became difficult for him to pee. He went to the vet and a minor procedure was done. That along with some medication seemed to solve the problem. It was treated as a urinary tract infection.

No one realized at the time why his penis was swollen so Marley and Cheez were reunited.

Two weeks later Marley's symptoms returned... but much worse. It was then we realized what Cheez was doing but it was almost too late! When Marley did manage to pee, it was full of blood. A few short hours later, he could not urinate at all! Scar tissue had built up with the continued suckling and the swelling added to the his inability to go. Marley was in big trouble!

He was rushed to the Emergency Hospital. Marley spent two days in intensive care, had a catheter put in, antibiotics were administered and he received around the clock care. Fortunately, he responded to treatment remarkably well. And everyone loved Marley! He had a great little spirit about him throughout his entire ordeal. He was one lucky little kitten.

His medical bill was \$1492! Kitten season had just



started and RESQCATS had almost 40 kittens in our care....so that expense hit us hard.

It was at that point that I reached out to all of you.

The donations poured in. I was in awe of your generosity and the number of you who responded. Your compassion and your generosity were beyond what I ever imagined. I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Marley's entire medical bill was taken care of by you. I cannot express my gratefulness in a big enough way. You made such a difference for this little guy.

I also want to thank Deanna for all the care she provided for Marley....and for all the good wishes and words of support and love.

From my heart and on behalf of Marley, who is living happily in his new home, thank you.

*Kim Hartson
Colleen Root
Martie Roberts
Susie Browne
Megan Mowatt
Lorene DiStefano
Mallarie Stevens
Sheri Bohnemann
Evelyn Wade
Grace Tobias
Katie Clark
Sherrie Narusis
Jim Jensvold
Angela Kroemer
Haley Thomas
Dede Georgen*

*Petra Simoncic
Sue Sadler-Pare
Tami Fitzsimmons
Ann Muirhead
Ashley Van Meter
Jan Oldham
Stephanie Welch
Tiffany Truffo
Irma Singer
Nancy George
Kirk and Karen Nielsen
Jacques Habra
Melinda Haffner, “Tigger”
& “Butterscotch” Casberg
Lori Keiffer, “Iommi” and
“Pooh Bear”*

Congratulations to these RESQCATS who found their "Fur"ever Homes!

From left to right: Benny, adopted by Amanda and Mike; Sam, adopted by Amy and Glenn Dobson; Zoe and Cocoa, adopted by the Friemann family; Biscuit and Basho with Molly Hahn and family; Sia Bonita, adopted by the Kot family; Daisy, adopted by the Siebolds last year; Charlie, adopted in 2013, and Yammie, adopted in 2000; Grizz and Charlie adopted by the Battle family.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

normally found in cattle. She was a wonderful mom to her babies but she suffered persistent diarrhea because of the parasite while nursing and needed constant supportive care in the form of fluids, medication to treat the parasite and pro-biotics. The day finally arrived that she was able to take a permanent vacation from motherhood and be the kitten she missed out on because of her family. She has blossomed. Joy is a small cat and always will be... she is up to 5-1/2 pounds and looks like she is six months old. Joy was adopted by Donna Gilmartin on August 13!

Ella and Portia, two young cats were found in a backyard. Each had a litter of kittens. They cared for each other and each other's kittens. Luckily, a sweet lady found them and happily let RESQCATS take care of them. "Pirate," one of Ella's kittens has had a pretty tough start in life and has required a lot of love, care and persistent medical treatment. He is doing well now and will be able to go to a new home along with his littermates/ friends from Portia's litter. It is one of the few times in RESQCATS history that two moms found homes before all of their kittens. Ella is now the hospital resident cat at La Cumbre Animal Hospital! Portia captured the heart of a wonderful lady who fell in love with her at first sight.

RESQCATS continues to help other rescue groups when they are overwhelmed and we have the space. Such was the story with "Tulip" and her five babies. Tulip was pregnant and scheduled for euthanasia at a shelter in San Bernadino... it is a very high kill shelter. I saw a plea on Facebook about Tulip. My heart sank. I had recently watched five newborn kittens die within two days from pneumonia and some very sad circumstances. Their mom, "Sophia" joined them on the Rainbow Bridge just a few days later. I was feeling very vulnerable and sad that there had been nothing I could provide or do to save Sophia and her babies.

I contacted a group called Kitty Devore when I saw the posting about Tulip. The group pulls from this shelter when funds can be raised to do so and either foster or relinquish the death-row cats and kittens to qualified rescue groups. I had all the required information needed to qualify and in their hands within a couple of hours. RESQCATS was approved and Tulip got out just in time. She gave birth to five kittens the next day at the vet where she was required to be checked before going anywhere. Tulip and her five babies arrived at RESQCATS the following day. Hmm... Tulip and five newborn kittens... a gift sent to me by Sophia... I am sure of it.

These are just some of the stories that I know... I don't always know why cats and kittens end up here in poor health and bad shape. There are many other stories I could share, but time is always of the essence these days.

This newsletter is a bit different. I have left some of the customary articles out and shared some special stories that I hope touch your heart. I had a lot to say this time, but you will see "Letters to RESQCATS," "Ask Aiken" and some of the usual articles you enjoy back in

the next issue...promise!

And, of course, many of you that know me realize how difficult it is for me to ask for your support. It is the least favorite part of my job, but certainly just as important as caring for the cats and kittens. RESQCATS really needs support. We have helped many so far and have incurred some huge expenses in order to be able to care for all the cats and kittens so far this year.

So I ask you to do the following: read the stories, learn from the message in each one, laugh at the fun stuff, be educated by the information...and then, open your heart and let us continue to help through your donation.

I really do appreciate each and every one of you and the difference you make with your support.

Jeffyne

Jeffyne



"Joy": adopted by Donna Gilmartin

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!