

RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Spring 2013



President's Message



Jeffyne and a new arrival

Can you believe it!? **RESQCATS** is starting our 16th year! Has it really been that long!?

We have seen over 2000 cats and kittens come through our doors in that time!

I think back over all the years and you know, I really do remember so many of the cats and kittens and their stories. In fact, I will let you in on a little secret. I am working on a book about **RESQCATS** that will include stories about some of those special kitties who touched my heart and others who survived only by the grace of a miracle. I hope to have it finished by the end of this year, so stay tuned!

For **RESQCATS**, 2013 is "Sweet Sixteen!" It will be a year of special events and celebration!

Just a peek into the future... The Cat House Hotel is sponsoring a "Pedi-Paws" event every month (on the 16th, of course) and offering nail trims for just \$10. All the money from the nail trims is donated directly to **RESQCATS**. In February, March and April they raised \$140 just trimming nails! We are so excited about the monthly event. It is a way to truly make a difference for the cats and kittens and receive something in return. And don't forget to pick up a fleece kitty blanket while you are there...they

are hand-made by a volunteer and are only \$10.

RESQCATS is also scheduling several weekends with the Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa to have a booth in front of the store. That is a great time for you to do your shopping and a portion of all sales on those weekends goes to **RESQCATS**. It is your opportunity to stock up on food, litter, and toys while making a difference for **RESQCATS**. Kittens will be available for adoption those days, as well. I will also be there and would love to meet you.

You can find out about the events by following us on **RESQCATS'** Facebook. Or, if you would like to be added to our e-newsletter mailings let us know your email address. You can email me at: jeffyne@resqcats.org.

Now, let's get down to other business. As of the writing of this "President's Message" on April 18, 2013, we have already fostered and/or adopted over 40 cats and kittens. That is more at this time of year than in any previous years, so I am anticipating a very busy season. I am counting on your support more than ever.

RESQCATS dedicates a lot of time to rescuing kittens advertised on Craigslist. The kittens are given away or sold for what the ads call a "re-homing fee." The problems with kittens that are adopted this way are multiple. They have not received vet exams, vaccinations, fecal exams or feline leukemia tests. They may suffer from parasites that left untreated can be deadly. And most importantly, they are not spayed or neutered! Unfortunately, experience reveals that when people adopt these kittens, they do not usually follow up with any medical care. So guess what, six months from now, the kittens themselves will be pregnant at just 7-8 months old and giving birth when they are less than a year in age. I call it "kittens having kittens." **RESQCATS'** goal is to stop this cycle by rescuing them off such ads and providing them with the care they need. Then we adopt them to qualified responsible guardians. We don't stop there! **RESQCATS** takes care of the costs of spaying and neutering the moms and dads in the households so more kittens from the same homes don't show up on Craigslist in a few more months!

RESQCATS also assists owners who find

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themselves with an unexpected litter of kittens. More than once, the owner of a mother cat has gotten the cat from who knows where and are told that the cat is spayed. Then, surprise! Surprise! Surprise! They get pregnant! We offer to spay the mom and only ask in return that the kittens be relinquished to us so that we can provide medical attention and spay/neuter surgery as yet another attempt to stop the over-population problem.

In addition, RESQCATS works with other rescue groups by rescuing moms and their litters who may be euthanized because they do not fall under the shelter's definition of "adoptable!"

And when there is "room at the inn" RESQCATS offers our foster program to other groups who need assistance and a safe environment for kittens until they are ready for adoption.

RESQCATS is committed to humane education. Teaching children about kindness towards animals. Not just cats, but all animals. Think about how important this is. Children have the future responsibility for animals. When I leave this Earth, I want to know that I have done all I can to inform young people of the importance of rescue and treating animals compassionately.

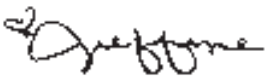
The season is off to a busy start, I am dedicated to making the world for stray and abandoned cats and kittens a better place. It would be easy to get lost in the sheer numbers of kitties out there needing to be rescued. It just makes me sad to think about it. I end each night with a look in the mirror. I say to myself, "I did the very best I could today." And I do....everyday!

Composing the "President's Message" is something I enjoy. Keeping you informed is important to me. But there is more than one purpose for this newsletter. It is intended to bring you up to date, make you laugh and cry, entertain you, educate you and ask for your support.

Asking for support is still the hardest part of my job. I am most comfortable giving, not receiving. I can only give to the cats and kittens because of donations from you! So please make a donation today! Every dollar counts and each donation is truly appreciated. It really will make a difference!

Please help by sending your tax-deductible donation today.

From my heart,



Jeffyne Telson
President of RESQCATS, Inc.

Chloe's Column



Hello all my purr-fect friends – I am hoping that you are all settled into the new year and are keeping up with the resolutions that you have made. I know I am...one of mine is to make sure that I keep you all entertained with wonderful, as well as useful, information about your very favorite pet: the cat! Read on to see what I have come up with for you this time...

Cat Facts...

- 🐾 When well treated (and kept indoors) a cat can live twenty or more years.
- 🐾 Aspirin is poisonous to cats.
- 🐾 Cat saliva contains a detergent that keeps their fur clean.
- 🐾 Cats beat dogs for the #1 spot as the most popular pet in the United States.
- 🐾 Dogs and cats are color blind.
- 🐾 A smooth and shiny coat is a sign of a healthy cat.
- 🐾 Cats have AB blood groups just like people.
- 🐾 Kittens are born with both eyes and ears closed. When the eyes open, they are always blue at first. They change color to their final eye color between 6-1/2 and 7 weeks old.

Cat Proverbs...

"In a cat's eye, all things belong to cats." (As well they should!) - *English Proverb*

"Happy owner, happy cat. Indifferent owner, reclusive cat." (Always pay attention to us!)

- *Chinese Proverb*

"Happy is the home with at least one cat." (Even happier with more than one!) - *Italian Proverb*

"The cat is nature's Beauty." (You got that right!)

- *French Proverb*

I hope you are now much more knowledgeable and informed about cats. I can't tell you how much I enjoy having the opportunity to share these fun items with you. So now I am going to eat, play and snooze until it is time for my next article...

xoxo, *Chloe*

And now...

A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne



Just about everyone who reads the **RESQCATS** Newsletter knows that in addition to rescuing, caring for and adopting out, almost 2000 cats and kittens over the years, we also have been the guardians to 22 rescued collies...(sorry, Mr. Jeffyne has badly flunked the fostering side of rescue!) As of today, we have 9 beautiful collies who share our home with the 18 unadoptable **RESQCATS** that have become our permanent residents.

The collies and cats, of course, are the “normal” members of our family that we always talk about. But how many of you know that there is third species of rescued animals that also share our life?

No, not guinea pigs or hamsters...nor tropical fish or horses. And certainly not a colony of trained fleas!

Our third group of animals is from the reptile family: giant African sulcata tortoises.

Now before you start rolling your eyes and questioning, “How did they get into tortoise rescue?” you’ve got to understand that this is not a “they” issue” — it’s a “me” issue. You see, even though Jeffyne would never harm any creature (with the possible exception of fleas), her affection for animals actually stops at the reptile house...it’s probably that “snake thing!”

So, how did I get started with tortoises, particularly, giant tortoises?

Well, it all began when I was a mere child! I actually moved across the country from Baltimore to Southern California when I was 11 with a box turtle in my lap. Sadly, “Myrtle the Turtle” didn’t survive the trip, but it marked the beginning of my life-long love affair with our shelled friends.

Before my business career started me moving all over the country, I had amassed a collection of 14 California and Texas desert tortoises. I never bought or took any of these animals from their native habitat; they just seemed to “find” me. They’d come wandering into the yard, or friends would have one and give it to me, and several even came from hatchlings. (Now please understand, unlike the very abundant African sulcata tortoises, California desert tortoises are an endangered species, so raising a baby from a hatching to an adult tortoise was a blessing.)

When my job took me from the Arizona desert to Illinois, I knew the right thing was to re-home my shelled family to someone who could properly care for them in their native climate...so all 14 tortoises went to the “Phoenix turtle guy.” It was a sad day when I gave them up, but I realized that a damp basement in suburban Chicago was no place for creatures that love the dry desert heat.

For the next 3 decades I was a tortoise-less pet rescuer. Sure there were lots of collies and cats, but no chelonians, (the scientific name for all turtles and tortoises.) Enter Jeannie Vaughn. Jeannie is the founder of Turtle Dreams, a turtle and tortoise rescue organization located right here in the Santa Barbara area.

Jeannie is the real turtle expert in the area and she is also the person responsible for introducing me and getting me hooked on African sulcata tortoises!! That was more than 12 years ago. (Jeffyne curses Jeannie whenever I travel because it’s at those times that she sheds her cat woman mantle and becomes the “tortoise lady” of **RESQCATS**!!)

Despite the similar shape of the shell and type of scales on the California desert tortoise, the sulcata tortoise is actually a native of sub-Saharan African. But the likenesses stop there, because unlike their California cousins, the African sulcatas are not endangered, but VERY prolific breeders. In fact everything that describes a sulcata can be measured in superlatives! They are absolute eating machines consuming huge quantities of grass, weeds, rose pedals, hibiscus flowers, meadow grass and hay, as well as an occasional piece of watermelon, cantaloupe and strawberries. (At least their pure vegetarian life style agrees with Jeffyne!!)

They are also unbelievable diggers. Whether making a hole to lay her eggs or tunneling a nighttime nest, a sulcata can easily burrow over 10 feet in one day! Gophers aside, these guys can make quite a mess of the yard!

While all tortoises are very quiet...they don’t bark or meow...they do have quite a mating “grunt!” And their mating routine goes on EVERY day...just

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??? ASK AIKIN ???



Hello friends! I'm sure you all noticed that I didn't have an article in the last newsletter. Aunt Jeffyne had so many stories to tell you about so I gave up my space to her. But I'm back now and ready to answer your feline-friendly questions.

Q - Help! My cat is chewing up the leaves on my indoor plants and I'm scared she will get sick or worse. Can you tell me which ones are safe for her?

A - The ASPCA website has a lot of information regarding plants that are poisonous to cats and dogs, but I will give you a short list of the most common indoor plants so you can make sure if you have any of them, you can put them out of the reach of your cat:

Aloe Vera, Amaryllis, Asparagus Fern, Azalea, Begonia, Bird of Paradise, many of the Ivy's, Jade, Corn Plant, Cyclamen, Daffodils, Devils Ivy, Dieffenbachia, Many of the Lillies, Mistletoe, Nephthysis, Pencil Cactus, Pointsettia, Sweetheart Ivy, Tomato Plant, and Yucca.

But check out the list for more...as well as phone numbers in case of an emergency with your pet.

Q - What human foods are dangerous to my cat?

A - Good question! Never give your pets any of the following:

Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine, Alcohol, Avocado, Macadamia Nuts, Grapes or Raisins, Yeast Dough (it can expand in the pet's digestive system and cause the stomach or intestines to rupture), Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs & Bones, Onions, Garlic & Chives, Milk, Salt and Xylitol (a sweetener used in many products).

Food made specifically for your pet is always the healthiest for them!

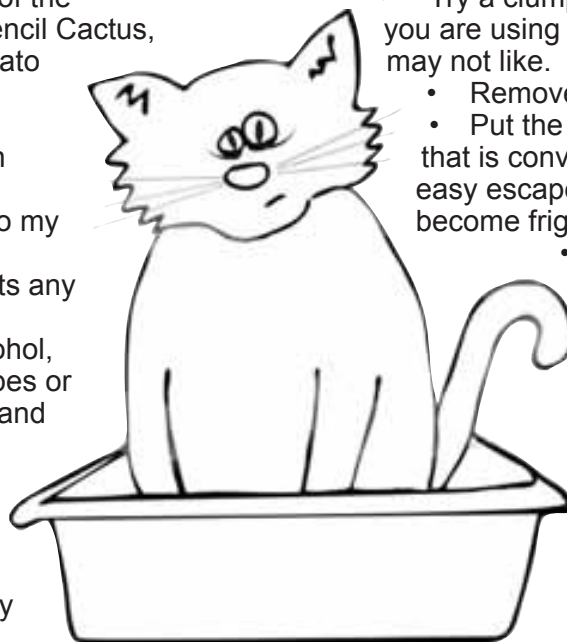
Q - My cat has stopped using the litter box and is urinating on my floors and carpet. What can I do to stop this?

A - Here are some of the main reasons your cat may not be using their litter box:

- The box is not cleaned often enough or adequately
- There may not be enough litter boxes if you have more than one cat.
- The litter box may be too small.
- Your cat can't easily get to the litter box in time due to an undesirable location for the cat.
- The litter box has a hood or liner that makes him/her uncomfortable.
- The amount of litter in the box may be too deep or too shallow (most cats like about two inches of litter in their boxes)
- You may have recently changed to a different litter that the cat doesn't like.
- Your cat may not like the location of the litter box.
- Household stress can cause inappropriate bathroom behavior. New home? New pet? New baby? Change in your daily routine and schedule can upset a sensitive cat.
- Negative litter box association such as associating the litter box with pain if your kitty is suffering from Feline Interstitial Cystitis, kidney stones or a blockage. In all instances, a trip to the vet is imperative!

A And finally how to fix this problem:

- Clean your cat's litter box at least twice a day rinsing it out with bleach/water or baking soda or unscented soap once a week or more.
 - Try a clumping, unscented litter if you are using a scented litter that the cat may not like.
 - Remove the lid or liner on the box.
 - Put the litter box in a quiet place that is convenient for the cat allowing easy escape routes if they should become frightened or feel threatened.
 - Look for any signs of pain or distress and if in doubt, see your veterinarian immediately.



Aikin "Bones" Aguirre

The Truth Behind “No Kill” Shelters

I have debated with myself many times about writing on the subject of so called “No Kill” Shelters.

I receive calls daily from people looking for places to relinquish their own cats where they will be adopted and not euthanized.

I think it is time for me to step out of my comfort zone, put my foot out there and educate the public. I have had enough of people being misled by shelters that claim to be no-kill when in reality they are not! I believe that these organizations and county shelters should be honest and post the disclaimer: “No Kill of **ADOPTABLE ANIMALS.**”

What is their definition of “adoptable?” It states that cats and kittens must be eight weeks old, social and healthy.

Let’s start with the eight weeks of age requirement. Any kittens that do not meet the eight week criteria are subject to euthanasia. It is at the discretion of each shelter to make that decision based on “resources” as to whether or not the kitten(s) will be put to death.

What do “resources” mean? Let’s clarify that! Is there a foster to bottle feed newborn kittens that arrive without their mom? Is there someone that can take four week old kittens and wean them for the next four to five weeks until they are considered adoptable? Is there room for a nursing mom with newborn kittens? They require space for several weeks. Kitties that are of age and ready to be adopted could occupy those cages. Are there funds within the county system or organization to pay for the supplies needed to bring the litter to the eight weeks of age requirement so they can be adopted? Answer “no” to any of the previous questions and the kittens are likely to be put down.

Then there is the consideration of how social a cat is. What happens to the cats that are judged (or misjudged) as unsocial? I understand that most adult feral cats can never be tamed or considered adoptable. The lucky ones are relocated to ranch or barn situations if a shelter has a relocation program. But who determines the fate of the cats that come into a shelter and are simply scared out of their wits? Some cats just need time to get used to their new environment. Sadly, some never do. Are they given time to adjust or are they evaluated too quickly and euthanized to make room for others that are more outwardly social? As for feral kittens, many of them can be socialized given time, handling and patience. They do well in homes with people who understand that the kitty may always be timid or shy. Are feral kittens given the opportunity to come around or does that take up too much time, money and space?

Healthy...what does that mean in a no-kill shelter? I realize that many cats are sick and beyond medical help and their suffering can be humanely ended. That is not what I am addressing here. The point is that many medical conditions can be addressed with positive outcomes. For example, if a litter of kittens arrives at a shelter with upper respiratory infections, the entire litter may be put down and a shelter can still call itself “no-kill.” In reality, upper respiratory infections can be treated with antibiotics and supplements. Most kittens respond to medication and they live perfectly normal lives afterwards. Another determining factor in such cases is that the risk of infecting an entire shelter with upper respiratory is high. Without a place to isolate sick kitties... euthanasia is their answer. Or if there are no “resources” available to treat sick kittens...immediate euthanasia!

I understand that there is an overwhelming number of animals that come into shelters every day. County facilities take in every animal and do not have the luxury of turning

people away because they are full. They fill up their cages quickly and as more animals come into the shelter they have no choice but to make room for adoptable animals by deciding the fate of others that are less fortunate due to circumstances.

That is not my point.

My position is that those shelters that claim to be NO-KILL should **be honest!** Let the community know the definition of no-kill has a footnote that states **No-Kill “of adoptable animals”**

and educate the public about what adoptable really means.

And let’s not lay it all on the county shelters. Most shelters do the very best they can with what they are given to deal with by the public. What are shelters to do when people relinquish their animals so readily? Who is really to blame? Lame excuses such as: I am moving, I can no longer care for it, my girlfriend broke up with me and I don’t want the cat, I had a baby, my new roommate is allergic, the cat meows too much, I got a puppy and my 9 year old cat is not adjusting, my 12 year old cat was just diagnosed with kidney disease and I cannot take care of it anymore. The list goes on and on. I have heard them all.

Those phone calls echo in my head beginning with excuses for getting rid of the cat followed by a proclamation of love and concern for it and finally, the expectation of finding a place that will not kill it. People have the attitude that it is the shelter’s job to take on their cat that THEY made a lifetime commitment to. Expecting a shelter to adopt out a nine year old kitty is tough. Be prepared for the cat to sit there for months waiting for a

“ Shelters that claim to be NO-KILL should be honest! Let the community know the definition of no-kill has a footnote that states No-Kill “of adoptable animals” . . . Secondly, it is long overdue for people to be responsible and understand that having a pet is a lifetime commitment. ”

Remembering...

In memory of all our kitties that have filled our lives with love.

Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell



In loving memory of "Poipu" who gave 16 years of joy, laughter and unconditional love. You are so very missed and will always be in our hearts.

Susan Boesch and Geoff Hassen



In memory of "Mo" and for his human friend, **Lee**.
Love,

Nancy and Jesus Aguirre



In memory of my sweet "Polar Bear" kitty cat, "Isabella" — my angel.

Love,

Donna Abboud



In memory of "Andy Cat!" and for **Liz Benishin** and her husband, **Wayne**. They gave Andy Cat Heaven on Earth.

Love,

Julie Kaplan



In loving memory of my sister, "Virginia" who loved and cared for rescued cats.

Robert Saperstein.



In memory of my calico "Callie" who I miss everyday.

Love,

Aileen Pautsch



In memory of "Honey" ...the best foster dog for kittens in the world.

Rebecca Branscome

For **Beverly Holmes** and her family...in loving memory of "Emma."

Love,

Jeffyne



In memory of "Pinot" who was adopted from RESQCATS almost 10 years ago and for her wonderful moms, **Lisa Givan** and **Brenda Lee**.



In memory of "Tango," the Queen of the House.
(1995-2013)

Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare



In memory of "Sophia" and her five two day old kittens that never had a chance and died at RESQCATS in March 2013...may they all rest in peace together...and maybe I can start to heal, too.
Jeffyne

A kitty that will always be remembered and in our hearts forever. In memory of "Poppy" and for **Amy Vukovic and Chris.**



In memory of "Babinka" and for **Barbara Hirsch.**
Ilana Eden



Always"Miejek."
Love, Jeffyne

In honor and celebration of...

In honor of **Brenda Lee, Lisa Givan** and "Pinot,"
"Turley" and "Sydney"
From your long-time friend,
Dodi Gauthier



In celebration of "Web" and "Deacon," both adopted
from RESQCATS in 2010!

Penny Huff



For my beautiful daughter, **Suzanne Wells.**
Alice Harper



In honor of the "black and whites"
we adopted from RESQCATS!
..."Seamore," "Willow," "Abbe"
and "Zabba."
Barbara Weisblott



In honor of our friend...**Dodi Gauthier**... who loves me!
"Sydney" Lee-Givan
(the cat!)



For my friend, **Julie Kaplan!**
Liz Beninshin



To honor my mom and dad, **Becki** and
Jay Eaton...they are the BEST!

Julie Kaplan



For the best kitty sitter ever...**Mel**
and **Hal Kyle!**

Julie Kaplan



In honor of our friend, **Beth Crews!**
Suzanne and Rick King



In celebration and honor of "Nola!" who
was a mother of four and adopted from
RESQCATS in November 2011.

Ken and Linda Schmidt



Happy Birthday to my aunt! **Barbara Hirsch**...
another cat lover who prefers helping the kitties as
her birthday gift!

Nadja Reynolds



Wishing **Peter Cohen** the purr-fect birthday!
Katie Rudolph



In honor of **Tess Rafferty!** She says she is quite
content with what she has and asked that a donation
be made to RESQCATS instead of a personal gift to
her. I call that an angel!

Tim and Rosemary Rafferty.



Happy Birthday, **Barbara Hirsch!**
From your friend,
Ilana Eden



Happy Birthday, **Harley.** It's #5!
Tiffany Truffo



For **Susan Boesch!** Happy Birthday!
Ken, Debra, Jeffery, Susan,
George & Marcia



Happy Birthday, **Liz Benishin.**
Love, "Cha-Cha"
and **Julie Kaplan**



Happy number six to "Cha-Cha" (the cat!)
Julie Kaplan!

Like the new look of the newsletter? **Demi Anter** is
a student at UCSB with a very busy life. But she has
volunteered to design the RESQCATS newsletter!
And I love the new look, but more importantly,
I appreciate Demi for making the time to help
RESQCATS keep you informed with such a great
looking newsletter!



So many to thank!

A very special *thank you* to one of my high school friends, **Peggy Rogers!** She saw my request for making a difference in honor of my birthday back in October.

Peggy went out and adopted two kittens from her local shelter in Texas...and gave them middle names after me. So welcome, "Murphy Milton Rogers" (Milton was my maiden name) and "Violet Jeffyne Rogers!" Wow! She really made a difference for two shelter kitties and touched my heart, too.

Thank you, Pam Vincent, for all your support that I know comes from your heart...a big heart, at that!

Thank you John and Judi O'Steen for hundreds of cats and kittens you have helped over many years at RESQCATS through your support and the compassion behind those donations.



No words are big enough to *thank Karen Wilson,* who adopted "Willy" in 1998 from RESQCATS. Willy is still with Karen at 17 years old and every year they remember RESQCATS with a beautiful donation that helps other stray and abandoned kitties...like Willy was!

A special *thank you* to **Gretchen Norqual** for your surprise donation that bought us more fabric for the fleece kitty blankets we sell and for your help with our medical expenses. I cannot tell you how much your visit meant and how many lives you have touched.

Always there to make such a difference in so many ways on this Earth...for the kitties she has given homes to and for RESQCATS...*thank you* from my heart **Diane Ledbetter.**

A very special *thank you* to **Donald and Christine Anderson** who have made a difference at RESQCATS all the way back to 2006! You have touched so many feline lives over the years... given them a chance for life and made a difference beyond words. Your continued support is truly appreciated!

Thank you, Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell, for your years of dedication to RESQCATS and giving so many cats and kittens a chance for life. And not to forget all those donations you put in the donation box at The Montecito Pet Shop! Thanks so much!

A heartfelt *thank you* to **Lynne and Buddy Borderre** for your generosity and commitment to saving the lives of so many over the years at RESQCATS. You have helped so many felines and this is a huge thanks!

Thank you does not adequately describe my gratitude when it comes to **Mark and Cindy Reinhardt** who have given so generously for the last eight years. You make such a difference in the cats' lives that you touch and they in turn "pay it forward" by changing the lives of those who adopt them.

"An Angel in Heaven" does not even begin to describe **Patricia Bragg.** Her compassion and generosity earns her the title "Angel on Earth," too. From my heart, *thank you,* Patricia.

Leeann Kaulbaurs, Zak and Kuno! *Thank you* for fostering four little kittens, "Sesame," "Anchovy," "Grizzly" and "Cicero." You made all the difference in the world for them.

Thank you, Angeleen Kildaire for giving "Sheba," a home. She waited six months for her purr-fect person. Her new name is "Cadie!"

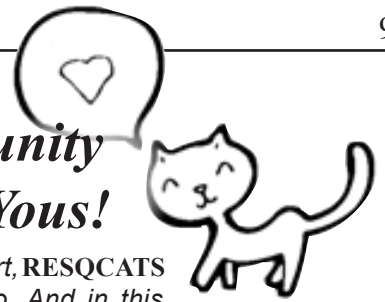
Lois Dunn! You have made all the resident kitties so happy with the new toys you sent. And they promise to share them with some 2013 kittens, too. *Thank you* so much for your thoughtfulness and all the fun you have provided the cats and kittens!

Thank you Mort and Carolyn Sacks for your dedication as board members for 16 years now. And a special thank you for your donation that will change the lives for many kitties in 2013...they will have a chance for the best lives they could ever imagine because of you!

A special *thank you* to **Darcie Barnes, DVM** who is a dedicated board member and supporter of RESQCATS. Her support comes in many ways... emotional support, professional support as a veterinarian and monetary support to help some special needs cats. And did I mention what a wonderful friend she is!

Thank you, Jim Jensvold, for your life's work protecting cruelty to cats...big and domestic... in getting de-clawing made illegal. And a special thank you for your support of RESQCATS ... I am so honored!

Some Community Thank You's!



From my heart ...*thank you* "Tink," "Nash" (you all may remember them as Confetti and Mimosa at RESQCATS) "Zek," (the dog) **Rob, Catherine** and **Virginia** for your love, understanding and support. It means so much for the kitties and truly touches my heart.

Thank you **Jon Little and Sandra Fracchia!** You chose to have donations made to RESQCATS in lieu of "traditional" wedding presents! Your gift is a precious treasure to the kitties...it is the gift of life. I am honored. Thank you.

Thank you, **Janet Dewey,** for coming out again this winter and giving RESQCATS a fresh coat of paint and a new look for 2013! It is beautiful and so are you for doing this!

Thank you, **Nancy Aguirre,** for making all those fleece blankets that are being sold at Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa and at The Cat House Hotel. I know that you have made over 150 now and that brings extra revenue to RESQCATS to help all the 2013 arrivals. The gift of your time is a priceless treasure. There is not a big enough thank you for all you do.

Thank you, **Jim Hurnblad,** for always being there to help with all those things that need to be built and repaired at RESQCATS. You do amazing work and the cats and I are all lucky to have you to help. And thank you for all the emotional support on some of our sad days, too.

Erika Sacks deserves a heartfelt *thank you* as the longest time volunteer. Like RESQCATS, she is beginning her 16th year!

Thank you, **Denny Epperson,** for always being available to bathe kittens coming off the street full of fleas and flea dirt. They get an amazing shampoo and blow-dry from you and that helps them feel so much better. Of course, I always have to have a chai tea and chocolate waiting for you...but hey, it is so worth it!

Susan Boesch! You are amazing...working on all those e-newsletters...I know there are a lot of them lately! You do an awesome job and *thank you* for always being there with some great marketing ideas!

Tricia Krout...how do I say this! You have made life so much easier by taking care of the books! As you know, I am not good at that and sometimes even miss putting a deposit or check into my checkbook. But you always seem to figure it out! *Thank you!*

Without community support, RESQCATS could not do what we do. And in this newsletter, some of those businesses that are committed to RESQCATS deserve a big round of applause!

The Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa handles adoptions for RESQCATS. In addition, they have given RESQCATS a front and center display for the handmade fleece blankets that have become so popular among kitties. They collect the donations for the blankets and pass the full amount on to RESQCATS with a smile. Their commitment to helping rescued kitties is amazing! They are also helping us celebrate our 16th year of operation by setting aside certain days where part of the proceeds of their sales are donated to RESQCATS and allow us to set up a booth in front of their store! In addition, Matt and Michele have fostered kittens for RESQCATS! Awesome job! *Thank you!*

The Cat House Hotel gave RESQCATS a prime spot to display the kitty fleece blankets and they collect the donations for them and pass them on to RESQCATS. In addition, they are sponsoring our "Pedi-Paws Events" whereby they trim cats' nails for \$10 on the 16th of every month (some months they have two days!) in celebration of our 16th year of operation. They are purr-fect! *Thank you!*

Thank you to **Adobe Pet Hospital.** They continue to see RESQCATS cats and kittens year after year for vet exams and anything else we may need. **Dr. Greg Haskell** has helped with some of our most difficult cases. His knowledge and expertise has saved a lot of lives. He is someone I can always count on. His staff gives 110%!

St. Francis Pet Clinic has helped so many animal rescue organizations and RESQCATS is lucky to be one of them. I especially *thank* **Rick Morgan, DVM** and **Kellye Harmon, DVM** for their dedication and compassion for each and every RESQCATS kitty they see. They are always ready to help not only during regularly scheduled appointments but also in emergency situations...ready, willing and able. Their staff is amazing....they are all like an extended family.

Thank you to **La Cumbre Animal Hospital** for joining the team and helping RESQCATS with exams and any other vet care that may be required. Working with **Beverly Holmes, DVM** and **Eve Kuessis, DVM** is a privilege. And I think having kittens there for exams has really made the staff happy, too!



Letters to RESQCATS

Dear Jeffyne,

You did an outstanding job of preparing "Punkin" to join our family! From her first day with us, she demonstrated all the training and loving care you provided at RESQCATS. She is so loved and has brought real joy into our hearts.

Sincerely,
Jeanne LaBerge



"Punkin"

Dear Jeffyne,

I cannot fully express the amount of joy "Rusty" and "Spencer" have added to my life.

Thank you for taking care of all those cats and kittens — without you there would have been no Rusty and Spencer, both of whom I adopted through San Rogue Pet Hospital in June 2012.

Thanks again,
Marlene Debue

Jeffyne,

Merry Christmas and thank you for all you do. Please accept this gift as a token of gratitude for all you do ...you are an angel. And in loving memory of my sweet angel kitty, Isabella.

Donna Abboud

Jeffyne,

I am so happy that I want to help other kitties, too. Please accept my donation!

"Riley" (the cat) Foster

Dear Jeffyne,

We appreciate all you do for these precious, playful little beings.

Love,
Mortie, Carolyn and the Sacks crew.

Dear Jeffyne,

Another year has come and gone. It has been almost nine years since I adopted "Snow and Shadow" from RESQCATS! The girls are happy and healthy and SPOILED! They are loving and beautiful. They want to be beside me all the time!

Thank you for giving me so much love.
Pat McCloskey

Dear Jeffyne,

We loved your December newsletter.

I know how much work goes into it as I was a writer for medical organizations.

Each issue teaches me something (for example: Craigslist ads for free kittens) and touches my heart (like the story about Sheba and her kittens....and Houdini's tale.)

It has been four years since my "Tucker" disappeared. I will never forget the compassion you showed to me. You are an angel!

We have three kitties and two dogs now. The cats are 21, 11 and 3...all rescued in one sense or another.

Oh, I also loved "Mr. Jeffyne's" column, too. Know that you are much appreciated.

Love,
Barbara Hill

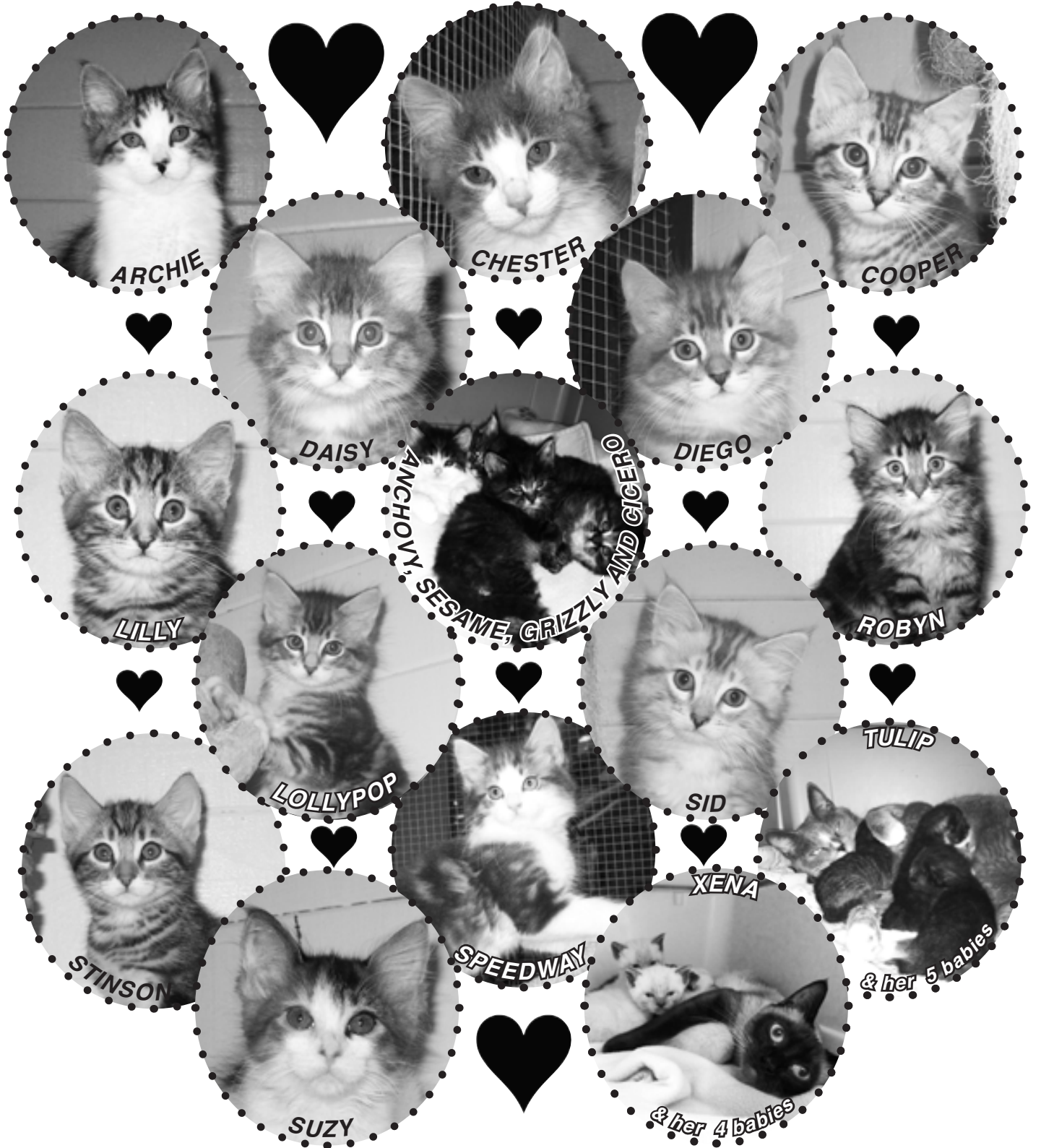
A special dedication in memory of "BlackJack"...

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to the memory of "BlackJack" who was adopted by Dede Georgen after he spent months at the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society. Dede gave him a new name, "Beckett," and a home at last.

He was one of "Sheba's" babies...found last summer under the bushes at a business in Goleta.

BlackJack (Beckett) died suddenly on April 10, 2013, at less than a year old and only 4 months after Dede adopted him.

He is a reminder that "angels are never on this Earth very long." He is an angel... and so is Dede for adopting him. I wish her light, healing and peace in her heart.



Some 2013 RESQCATS Arrivals

Photography by Nancy Aguirre

A FEW WORDS FROM MR. JEFFYNE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

after noon...without Viagra!!

Did I mention prolific producers!

A female sulcata will lay between 12-25 eggs, 2 to 3 times a year, and if the eggs were incubated, (it's a little too cold for them to hatch on their own in Santa Barbara), about 50% of them would hatch into walnut-sized baby tortoises. So do the math... we have 5 females...12-25 eggs, 2 to 3 clutches per year...YIKES, that could be between 60-200 baby sulcatas EVERY year...talk about pet over-population! Is there no wonder why this tortoise is NOT endangered? In fact, you probably wonder why the world isn't over-run with these animals. Well, sadly, it is...that's why I've rescued 14, but I could easily have saved 1000!

Speaking from Mr. Jeffyne's point-of-view, (these opinions are not jointly held by the other human member of the household), while I would love to continue to rescue these beautiful creatures, they are not for everyone...unless of course you have 1/2 acre of land for each animal AND you plan to live to be 100...I don't have either so 14 giant tortoises is quite enough...thank you very much!!

THE TRUTH BEHIND NO-KILL SHELTERS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

home... if it finds one at all. Asking a shelter to care for a 12 year old cat with kidney disease is just not right. It can cost an organization hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Most organizations, especially county facilities, do not have those kinds of funds. So if a true no-kill place is found be prepared to make a responsible donation.

Rescue organizations have evolved to help shelters with the sheer numbers of animals turned in every day in this country. But rescues are also overflowing. And they have the option of saying "We are full and cannot take anymore."

It seems all too easy for pet owners to say, "Well, that is why shelters are there." What they are really saying is that shelters exist to finish the job and commitment they made to their animal and then short-changed! What a shame that shelters have to deal with society's irresponsibility. Believe me, there are enough strays out there to keep county shelters and rescues busy.

To put it bluntly... shelters need to be upfront about their policies and what the definition of NO-KILL really means. Secondly, it is long overdue for people to be responsible and understand that having a pet is a lifetime commitment.



Be sure to check out RESQCATS' fleece kitty blankets at the Montecito Pet Shop and The Cat House Hotel...the proceeds go directly to the cats and obviously they are kitty approved!

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!