

# RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Winter 2013

## *President's Message*

Written on November 1, 2013



Jeffyne with "Jimmi Jax"

I cannot believe that another year has flown by. Guess that is what happens when you are as busy as we have been at RESQCATS this year.

2013 has been one of the most demanding in our 16 year history. We aided in the rescue of over 200 cats and kittens. More than 100 of those were advertised on Craigslist. Most of the ads asked for what is called a "re-homing fee" which is another way of "selling" animals on the internet. The people placing the ads see it as a way to make money and some are under the delusion that if they charge for the kittens that they will get loving homes including all the medical care they need. Others are given away for "free." I can assure you that 100% of them had not received any medical care nor were any of them spayed or neutered.

RESQCATS was often asked to assist other animal organizations within the county for assistance in pulling cats off Craigslist. If we had no space for them at that particular time, the group offered to take them if we could just get them before they ended up in the hands of people who have no idea what it takes to properly care for a cat including worming meds, vaccinations and testing for feline diseases that could infect other cats. In addition, they may never get around to spaying and

neutering. We all know what that means. The kittens of 2013 will be having their own kittens in Spring 2014! Our collaborative efforts have been a great mission and undertaking due to the cooperation of all of us.

Most of the time, we were able to take full responsibility from the time of the actual rescue, through our required medical protocol and all the way to adoption.

As of the writing of this message, RESQCATS has adopted 148 cats and kittens to qualified homes. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox the adoption number for the year will be even higher, making this one of our largest number of adoptions in a single year!

The medical challenges we have faced have been many. Since our intake was much greater than in the past, it follows that there were additional medical issues. RESQCATS spent thousands of dollars for kitties with various conditions. "Pirate," "Ziggy" and "Bruin" continue to battle with herpes eye infections. They are lucky to have found homes with very special people but have remained under RESQCATS's care and we continue to cover any expenses related to the herpes virus. Their treatment includes expensive anti-viral medications, numerous trips to the vet and visits to an ophthalmologist specialist. "Joy" had a parasite that required special and costly PCR tests to determine what was causing her so much digestive distress and diarrhea. Once she was diagnosed, she needed weeks of treatment. Newborns without moms and with severely depressed immune systems were given every chance on Earth to survive through the tender loving care they received AND the medical attention we were able to provide for them. Many survived but others just never had a chance regardless of what we tried. "Stellar" suffered from flea anemia and it was vital that he got emergency care and an expensive blood transfusion to survive. "Sophia," a mom with one day old newborns, was very ill with an upper respiratory and uterine infection. She needed emergency surgery and days of intensive care in the hospital. Sadly, not one of her five newborns survived the toxins they had been exposed to in her uterus or the pneumonia they developed from her upper respiratory infection. Losing all five babies within 24 hours and Sophia three days later has not been something I could write about because it has been so painfully sad.

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“Polka Dot” visited the cardiologist to ensure that the heart murmur that the regular vet heard during her vet exam was not a serious one. Marley and his brother, “Cheez,” were bottle fed because they had no mom. It is not uncommon for bottle fed babies to suckle on objects such as blankets or their siblings. But in the case of Marley, it was almost too late when his foster mom discovered that Cheez had suckled so much on Marley’s penis that he could not urinate. His penis was so swollen that he was in agony. A long weekend of treatment in the emergency clinic resolved his state of affairs! “Madeline” was abandoned by her owner and left on her own while suffering from a broken leg and serious eye injury. “Sunflower,” a tiny eight week old kitten, was rushed to the emergency vet when she failed suddenly and hundreds of dollars in tests could not buy her life on Earth.

In addition to all those special cases, every kitten received a full vet exam, was tested for Felv/FIV, had a fecal exam, was wormed, received a FVRCP vaccination and was spayed/neutered and micro-chipped.

I can honestly say that I gave each and every cat and kitten the very best care and all the love they could possibly have here on Earth. I think they all have happy endings. Most recover and go on to get adopted and live out wonderful lives. But even the ones that journey to the Rainbow Bridge have happy endings. They do not suffer any more. A very close friend and volunteer reminds me of that when I am so sad from loss. She says, “Jeffyne, the sky needs little stars, too. And for every little one that we lose, they make room for us to rescue another one.” Beautiful.

It takes a lot of people to make **RESQCATS** work. The volunteers give the gift of their time and in my mind there is no gift more precious than the compassion, commitment and dedication they show every day. Some clean enclosures in the morning ...seems the kitties party at night and always leave a mess for us! Others arrive to socialize and turn frightened souls into purring machines so that they are the sweet friendly kittens everyone wants. One volunteer is solely responsible for all the repairs and maintenance. Another designs the newsletter. Another photographs the kitties so potential adopters can see them. A different volunteer writes about them and tells their stories in order to inform and attract adopters. It takes the collective dedication of the volunteers to help **RESQCATS** operate and be the best place a stray, abandoned, sold on the internet or just not wanted kitty can be. We need the expertise of veterinarians, their techs, the specialists such as a cardiologist or internal medicine doctor to diagnose and insure that each kitty receives the best medical care available. We could not do so without the dedicated staff of Montecito Pet Shop who aids us in finding purr-fect homes for the cats and kittens.

Let me also add, without you as a **RESQCATS** supporter, there would be no need for volunteers, vets or specialists. Over 200 cats and kittens would have been left out in the streets to fend for themselves or perish. Those given away or sold on the internet may never have been given medical attention. They would not be spayed or neutered making the problem for next year even harder due to numbers reproducing. Just do the math!

Each of you that receives this newsletter has supported us in the past. I cannot begin to tell you how much it means not only for the cats and kittens but to me on a personal level. Together, we really do make a difference. I count on your support and now more than ever I need your help. This past year has been a wonderful ride and we have helped so many, but there is a huge cost involved. I will share with you that our vet expenses have soared, spay and neuter surgeries have increased in costs as have micro-chips. This may have been a record year of rescues for **RESQCATS** but it has also been a record year of expenses.

I realize that there are many organizations ... both human and animal causes ... that ask for your support. But, I promise you that no one will work harder than I will to live up to your expectations when you send your tax-deductible donation. Your support is appreciated from the bottom of my heart. Together...let’s make a difference for the kitties in 2014.

From my heart as always, thank you.

*Jeffyne*



Jeffyne with “Bruin” and “Ziggy”

And now...

## A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne

### Do you have an Emergency Disaster Preparedness Plan?



In recent years, we have all watched our televisions in horror as an approaching disaster impacts a community. Whether it is a hurricane in the Southeast, a tornado in a Plains state, the surging Atlantic in the East, a rampant flood in the Midwest, a devastating snowstorm in the Pacific or a raging brushfire in the Southwest ... homes are lost, families are displaced, and in many cases, family pets and other animals are lost in the turmoil.

While the explanation for what appears to be an upsurge in natural disasters is hotly debated among politicians, scientists, environmentalists and community leaders, the devastating impact on our lives and the lives of our loved ones, human and animal, is not in dispute. And whether the disaster is due to a quirk of nature or by the hands of careless humans, the outcomes are the same ... home are destroyed and lives are lost.

While there is little we can do to prevent a disaster after it begins, there is much we can do to mitigate its effect on our lives and the lives of our loved ones ... but it takes preparation, in the form of an Emergency Preparedness Plan.

This column is much too short to provide a detailed Emergency Preparedness Plan that will suit each family and every pet situation, but it can certainly be the starting point to get you thinking and planning for, what we hope, will never happen.

Whether you have a single dog or cat or are a multi-pet family or, as in the case of RESQCATS, have a variety of animals in large numbers...dogs, cats, tortoises ... each situation requires a unique plan. Your emergency plan needs to be tailored to your pets' circumstances. And, as the saying goes, "Be prepared ... an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

As you begin to think about and prepare an emergency plan, here are a few excerpts from plans developed by

the ASPCA, The Humane Society of the United States, FEMA, The American Red Cross and the Red Rover Organization, that will help you get started.

#### **Identify your pet.**

- ✦ Make sure your cat or dog is wearing a collar and that identification is up-to-date and visible.
  - ✦ Put your cell phone number on the tag.
  - ✦ Make sure your pet is micro-chipped and that all information is current.
- Post a Rescue Alert Sticker on your window.

#### **Assemble emergency supplies and a travel kit.**

- ✦ Food and water for at least five days.
- ✦ Medications and medical records.
- ✦ Cat litter box, scoop, litter and garbage bags.
- ✦ Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers.
- ✦ Current photos of your pet with written descriptions.
- ✦ Pet beds and toys.
- ✦ Written information about your pets' feeding schedules, medical conditions and behavior issues along with the name and phone number of your vet.
- ✦ A pet first aid kit.

#### **Arrange a safe haven before an emergency occurs.**

- ✦ Locate a number of pet friendly motels.
- ✦ Make prior arrangements with friends or relatives.
- ✦ Consider a kennel or vet's office for boarding.
- ✦ Contact your local animal shelter.
- ✦ Know where your own emergency shelter is located.
- ✦ Before disaster strikes, call your local emergency management office.

#### **Plan for your pet in case you are not home.**

- ✦ Make advance arrangements with a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to take your pets.
- ✦ Consider using a pet-sitting service.

#### **If you do have to evacuate, take your pets with you.**

- ✦ If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.
- ✦ Evacuate early.
- ✦ Arrange for transportation.
- ✦ Remember: the best way to keep your animals safe during an emergency is to keep them with you!



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### If you decide to remain at home, do it safely.

- ✦ Close off/eliminate hazardous nooks and crannies.
- ✦ Move dangerous items like tools and toxic products.
- ✦ Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way.
- ✦ If you have a "safe room," put your emergency supplies there in advance.

### If you cannot get home to your pet.

- ✦ Identify a trusted neighbor, friend or family member and give him the keys to your house.
- ✦ Make sure your back-up care giver knows your pet's whereabouts and habits.
- ✦ Let your care-taker know where you keep your pet's food, water, bowl, medications, carrier, etc.
- ✦ If you have a pet-sitting service, find out in advance if they can help in the event of an emergency.

### Continue caution after the emergency.

- ✦ Do not allow your pet to roam freely.
- ✦ While assessing the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers in the house/vehicle.
- ✦ Be patient with your pets after a disaster ... they are stressed, too.
- ✦ Know where to search for lost animals.
- ✦ If your community had a fire or has been flooded, search your home and yard for wild animals who may have sought refuge.

Please note that these are just some basic ideas. Review the organizations' websites listed below for more comprehensive emergency planning ideas.

**ASPCA:** <http://aspc.org/care/disaster-preparedness>

**The Humane Society of the United States:**  
[http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html)

**FEMA:** <http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

**The American Red Cross:** <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/pets>

**The Red Rover Organization:**  
<http://www.redrover.org/pet-disaster-preparedness>

When disaster strikes, the same rules that apply to people apply to pets: preparation makes all the difference, and if it is not safe for you, it's not safe for them.

Take the time to make a plan and assemble an emergency kit for yourself and your pets.

Start thinking now about the unthinkable and develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan that we hope you will never have to use ... a plan that could, however, save your life and the lives of your loved ones.

## Chloe's Column



*Hello my friends and fans! Once again, I am back with my warm, witty, and - I am sure - more than welcome bits of cat trivia, news, and just plain wonderful information about our most delightfully (and deservedly) favorite animal: the cat!*

### You Know You're a Cat Lover When:

- You get a pet bird or fish to entertain your cat.
- You choose paper bags at the store so your cat will have a fun play toy when you get home.
- You feel lucky that your cat allows you to share the bed with him/her.
- You sit on the floor or edge of a chair/couch when your cat is sleeping so you won't have to either move them or wake them.
- You don't take vacations because you can't bear to leave your cat home alone or with a sitter.
- You "baby talk" to your cats and have special words made up for them and their antics.
- You spend more on your cat's food than your own.
- You bring pictures of your "babies" to work and regale your friends and coworkers with stories of their milestones & accomplishments.
- You intentionally spread out your fresh laundry so your cats will have a warm place to sleep.
- Your cats only drink bottled water.
- You leave your TV on "Animal Planet" when you're gone so your cat won't get lonely.
- And: You don't find any of these behaviors odd.

### Famous Cat Quotes



"People that hate cats will come back as mice in their next life." - *Faith Resnick*



"Cats are kindly masters, just so long as you remember your place." - *Paul Gray*

*Well, I can see that I have run out of room again ... but do not fret for I will be back again in the next newsletter ... so stay tuned!*

xoxo ... *Chloe*

## In memory of...

In loving memory of "**Maggie**"  
and for my forever friend, **Leanne Knavel**.

In memory of my best friend, "**Moocher**."  
*Roger West*

Never to be forgotten.... For "**Sherpa**"  
and her human, **Liz Kerr**.  
*Shirley Nelson*

In honor of "**Frankie**" and for **Terri Abbott**.  
Love, hope, blessings, light and miracles,  
*Deborah Stafford*

In sweet sweet memory of "**Tibby**" and for my special  
friends, **Jim and Jenny McKenna**.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the passing of a  
long time volunteer at RESQCATS. Her name is **Jane  
Bearing**. She volunteered for many years socializing  
cats and kittens and even adopted a couple. Jane  
especially loved one of my kitties, "**Blackie**," and made  
several trips to RESQCATS to visit when Blackie began  
to slowly decline in health. Jane did this even after she  
left RESQCATS a couple of years ago due to her own  
health problems. Jane had a peaceful and kind heart.

I understand that once she knew her two kitties were  
in a safe place with a friend who will care for them, she  
kissed her finger, pointed to the Rainbow Bridge and  
then joined everyone on that Bridge a few days later.

I hope she and Blackie are reunited now and that  
Blackie will once again have a place in Jane's lap.

Rest in peace, Jane.



In memory of "**Yoda**" and for my dear friend, **Monica  
Gonzalez** who gives her whole heart to saving  
kitties.

A life gone from this Earth much too  
soon. Fly to the Rainbow Bridge little  
"**Sunflower**" where you will forever be  
the happy healthy kitten you deserve to  
be.

So many lives gone too soon....for  
**Deanna Koens** and all the kittens she has  
cared for and given every chance on Earth  
to survive. They were lucky to have her and  
know love and compassion if even for a short time.  
In memory of "**Lil' Man**," "**Blossom**," "**Madeline**,"  
"**Bubba**," "**Bubbles**," "**Ethan**" and "**Kayden**."

In memory of "**Boxer**," a grand old gentle cat, and for  
**Glenda Wyatt**.

*Nancy and Jesus Aguirre*

For "**Miejek**" ... how fortunate I was to have a dog and  
feel such unconditional love.

Even after nine years...I still miss you.

*Love, Jeffyne*

## In celebration and honor of...

In celebration of "**Webster**" and "**Deacon**" ... both  
adopted from RESQCATS!

*Penny Huff*

To honor of the life of "**Ona**" and for **Pam and Rudy  
Perez**. —*Regina Hepp*

Happy Birthday ... number six on September 16<sup>th</sup> to  
"**Pumpkin**." —*Julie Kaplan*

In honor of "**Raspy!**"

*Elaine Wilson*

Happy Birthday "**Charlotte**" ...  
she celebrates her 14<sup>th</sup>  
birthday and was adopted  
by **Tessa Hill**.



In celebration of 16 years of RESQCATS and almost 2100  
cats and kittens that have passed through our doors. In  
addition, RESQCATS has fostered and/or assisted with  
hundreds more through our rescue assistance, foster care  
for other groups and spay/neuter program. Also, in honor  
of each and every one of you who have been a part of  
making my dream of helping animals come true. A candle  
is always lit in my heart for all we do together to make a  
difference ... one kitty at a time!



## *Where do RESQCATS cats and kittens come from?*

I am asked that very question all the time. Honestly, sometimes I am glad I do NOT know the stories behind all the cats and kittens before they are lucky enough to get off the streets as stray or abandoned kitties. Some are relinquished by people for a number of reasons (most of which don't fly with me!).

Some of the cats and kittens arrive in fairly good shape. Others are so sick that emergency care is imperative immediately. 99+% have never had any medical attention at all.

I am grateful for each and every one that comes through the doors at RESQCATS and you know ... I think the cats are grateful, too.

We have aided in the rescue of over 200 cats and kittens in 2013!

Here are just a few of the stories I do know!



**"Heidi"** was put outside by her owners at four months old. She was in danger of being attacked and killed by their dog ... just like the kitten they had before her had been killed.

**"Hannah"** was kicked out to be on her own at three months old when her owner had a baby.

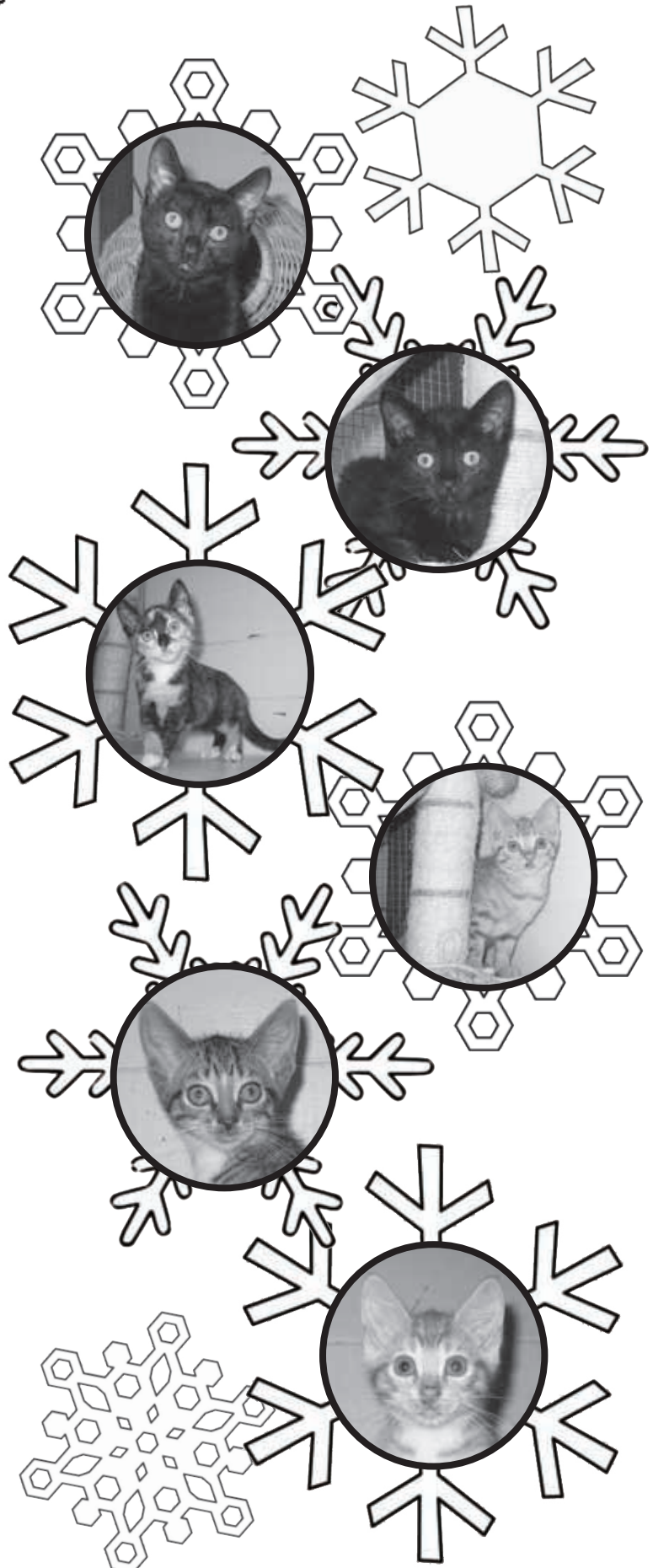
**"Calvin," "Wendy," "Sierra," "Tatum"** and **"Tilly"** (the kittens in the upper right circle on pg. 1) were stuffed into a beer carton and were being stuffed down the street gutter by a grocery store in Santa Maria when a worker at the store saw what was happening and dug them out.

**"Pluto," "Misty," "Paprika," "Jupiter"** and **"Cosmo"** were young kittens advertised on Craigslist for money after their mom went missing. The lady did not want to spend the time or money to feed them. At the last minute, **"Joy,"** their mom was located so the lady sent her along, too, for an additional \$20 "re-homing" fee!

**"Stellar"** and **"Starz"** were two of several kittens rescued from a hoarding situation. Both suffered from flea anemia and only by a miracle or two did they survive. Stellar received a blood transfusion within hours of his arrival. One more day without proper medical care and he would have died.

**"Madeline"** was abandoned by her owner and left behind when she moved. Madeline arrived at RESQCATS with a broken leg and punctured cornea that had already healed. That meant she suffered out there on her own in pain and in danger.

**"Butch Cassidy"** and his brother **"Sundance"** were advertised on Craigslist. The owner claimed, "I got them for my kids when they were kittens and



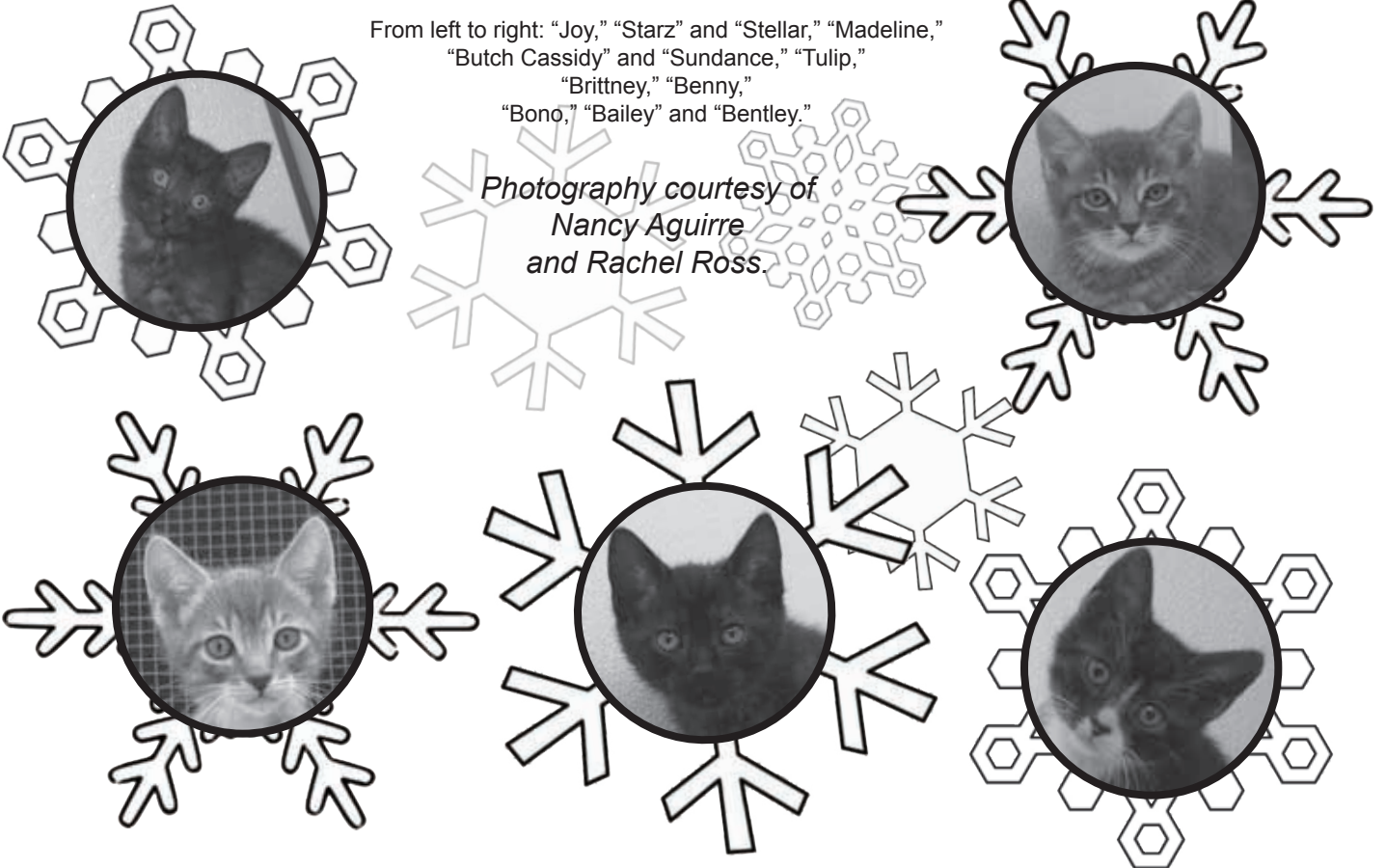
From top: "Hannah," "Pluto," "Misty,"  
"Paprika," "Jupiter" and "Cosmo."



# RESQCATS Faces of 2013

From left to right: "Joy," "Starz" and "Stellar," "Madeline,"  
"Butch Cassidy" and "Sundance," "Tulip,"  
"Brittney," "Benny,"  
"Bono," "Bailey" and "Bentley."

*Photography courtesy of  
Nancy Aguirre  
and Rachel Ross.*

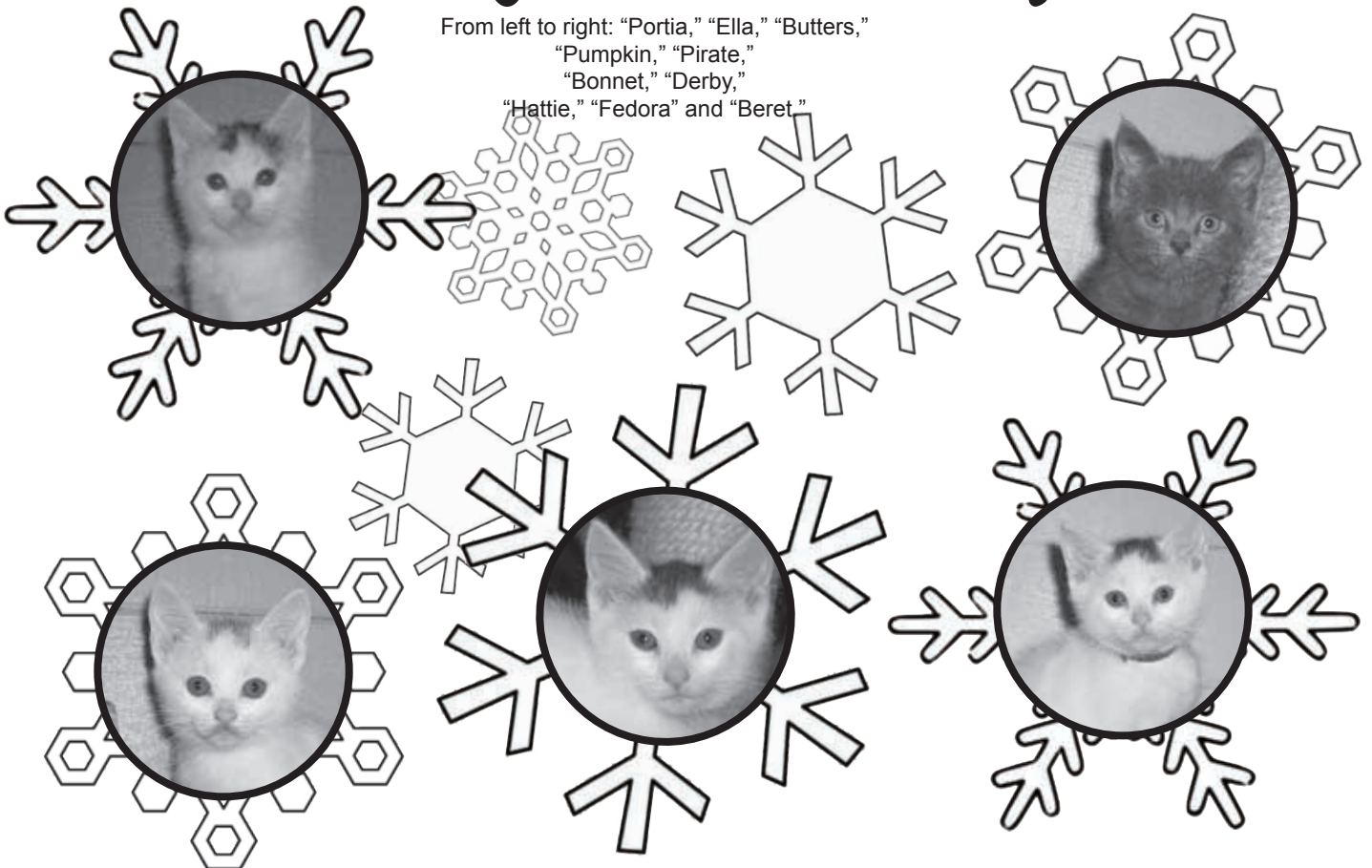






# More RESQCATS Faces of 2013

From left to right: "Portia," "Ella," "Butters,"  
"Pumpkin," "Pirate,"  
"Bonnet," "Derby,"  
"Hattie," "Fedora" and "Beret."





WHERE DO RESQCATS CATS AND KITTENS COME FROM?  
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never planned on keeping them. They are just not as cute now that they are not kittens." They were a year old.

"Tulip" was pregnant and due to be euthanized at Devore Shelter. RESQCATS partnered with Kitty Devore to save her. She gave birth the day after she was rescued to five darling little babies: "Brittney," "Benny," "Bono," "Bailey" and "Bentley."

"Portia" and "Ella" were two moms found in a lady's backyard. Between the two of them they had five babies and were each helping to raise each others kittens: "Butters," "Pumpkin," "Pirate," "Ziggy" and "Bruin."

"Jubilee" was found pregnant and a foster for RESQCATS was notified. She gave birth to seven babies the very next day. "Bonnet," "Derby," "Hattie," "Gatsby," "Fedora," "Beret" and "Topper."

"Mila" was found under the bushes by Petco in a bad neighborhood. She was spotted by a RESQCATS foster, picked up, taken home and set up in her bathroom. Four hours later when the foster went in to check on her, Mila had given birth to four babies: "Magic," "Katy," "Dakota" and "Cody."

Those are just a few of the stories of some of the RESQCATS kitties in 2013.

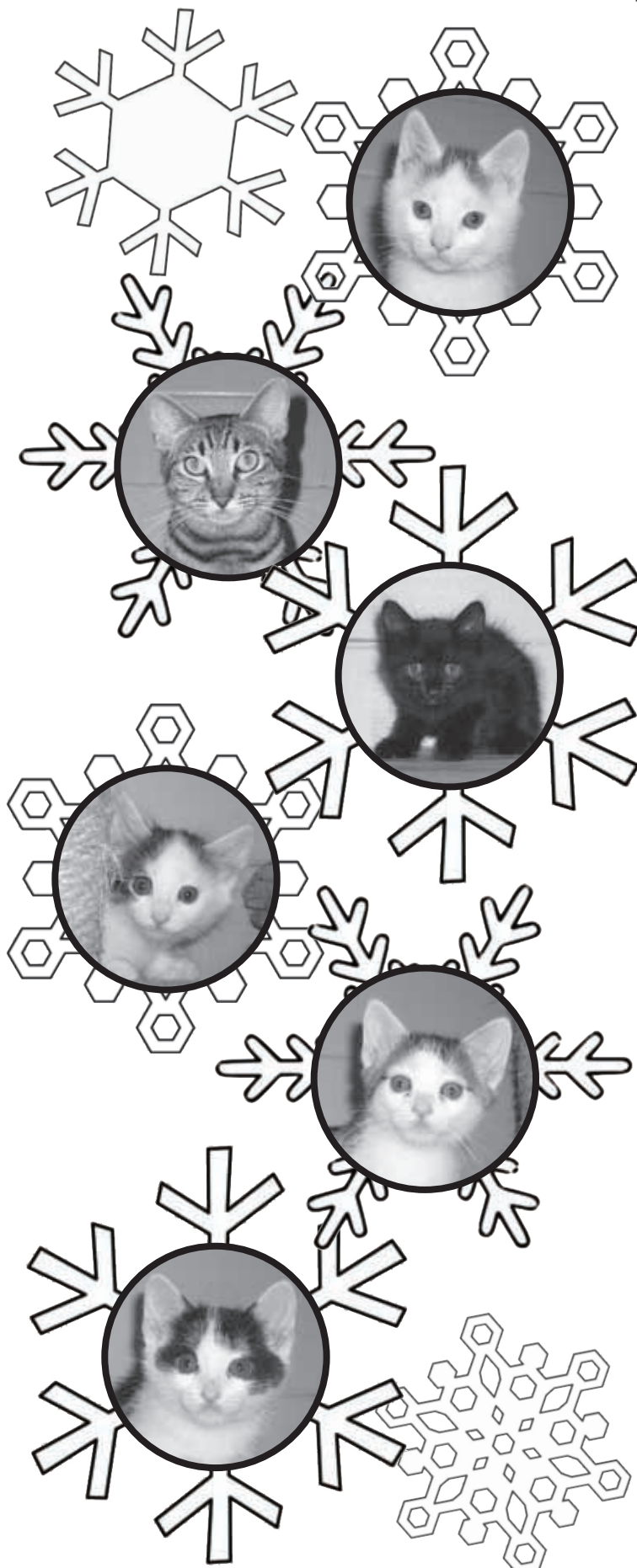
Over 100 were rescued from Craigslist ads. Many required "re-homing" fees (which is another way of SELLING cats and kittens). None of the Craigslist kitties had received any vet care prior to arriving at RESQCATS.

These were some of the lucky ones that have happy endings ... or shall I say beginnings ... because they were rescued, received all the medical attention they needed ... and found homes.

Just think about this:

It takes a lot of people to make up for a single person's lack of compassion for each kitty. It begins with the rescuer. Then there are the vets and technicians that provide vet exams and diagnoses for the kitties. Lab technicians perform all the tests such as those for Feline Leukemia and fecal exams. The pharmacist fills needed prescriptions. Volunteers help care for and socialize the kittens when they arrive at RESQCATS. A whole new set of vets and technicians oversee spay and neuter surgery. Donors give generously to provide funds so that we can do what we do. The staff at the Montecito Pet Shop oversees the majority of adoptions. Finally, qualified adopters give these deserving creatures a forever home.

All this for one kitty ... and what a difference we all make ... together.



From top: "Topper," "Mila," "Magic,"  
"Katy," "Dakota" and "Cody."

## Some special thank yous...

*Thank you Cathia Mahaffey* for rescuing "Madeline" and then adopting her. I am grateful for your generosity towards her vet expenses. Cathia! You are a gift to the animals.



*Thank you Diane Ledbetter* ... for your generosity and support right in the middle of kitten season ... that is the time when we think we are just about done and then moms start giving birth to second litters. Your help was so appreciated!



A special *thank you* to **Kathleen and Mark Wardman** for their generosity and for making such a difference at RESQCATS for all those newborns that arrived in September making for a very long and expensive kitten season. You left me speechless!



A very special *thank you* to **Jill Chase** for adopting "Pirate," a special needs kitty. Jill continues to give him her all. Not many people come to RESQCATS and adopt a kitten that requires on-going care like Pirate ... she is a rare and special gift to him and to me.



You touched my heart and *thank you* is not grand enough for **Colin Calle and Meghan Peters**. You gave "Ziggy" and "Bruin" (now James and Dave) a home without a second thought. Knowing they had medical issues is what prompted you to do something beyond what most people would do by adopting them. You will be teachers to all the young people your age that surround you by setting an example of what giving from the heart is truly about. I think the world of both of you!



Words cannot be found to *thank* **Mary Lou Sorrell** for her rescue work, compassionate heart and generous support. An "amazing lady" describes you!



A very special *thank you* to **Deanna Koens**, a RESQCATS volunteer and foster. She welcomes newborns who need to be bottle-fed around the clock. She cares for the sickest of kittens and gives them every chance on Earth to survive. She is hope. She is a blessing to all she cares for. She is love in its purest form.

**Monica Gonzalez** is the kind of person that the world needs more of. She rescues kittens from Craigslist, boxes in fields, swap meets ... you name it. I cannot begin to count the number of lives that Monica has rescued and saved from horrible fates. *Thank you* so much, Monica, for who you are and what you do.



RESQCATS could not operate without the help of many veterinarians and their staff. We are fortunate enough to work with the best of the best. A most sincere *thank you* for your compassion, expertise and support of RESQCATS!: **St. Francis Pet Clinic, Adobe Pet Hospital, La Cumbre Animal Hospital, Advanced Veterinary Specialist and Animal Clinic of Santa Maria.**



*Thank you* to the **Santa Barbara Humane Society** and to **Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society** for being so available to help with spay and neuter surgeries.



*Thank you, Heather and Art Tibbens* for your patience, understanding and gifts to "Ti" and "Zia" in those first days of trauma after their adoption.



*Thank you, Pamela Vincent* for everything you do for the animals. Your generosity humbles me and your great spirit is inspiring. I am so lucky for all the wonderful experiences you have given me.



A very special *thank you* to **The Montecito Pet Shop** for all of your hard work this past year in handling the majority of adoptions for RESQCATS. Your time and effort have given me the opportunity to rescue more kitties off the streets. Your entire staff deserves a standing ovation!



And a special *thank you* to my volunteers who have made 2013 an amazing year of success. For all you do... **Nancy Aguirre, Jim Hurnblad, Rachel Ross, Marguerite Williams, Kim Hartson, Janet Dewey, Demi Anter, Sarah Fishbein, Liz Mitchell, Susan Leroy, Denny Epperson, Erika Sacks, Deanna Koens, Monica Gonzalez and LeeAnn Kaulbaurs.**





## *A Dedication to "Paisley"*

Sometimes "special" kitties are put into our life with a bigger job on Earth than we ever imagine when we adopt them. Such is the story of my kitty, "Paisley."

Paisley is one of four kittens born in my bathroom three and a half years ago to a very temperamental mom who also turned out to be quite hormonal! I was unsuspecting when mom lashed out with sharp nails and teeth in order to protect her babies when I entered the room. She left me with a long bleeding gash in my leg. Extreme caution followed each time I entered after that. I wrapped thick towels around my legs and secured them in place with rubber bands as my armor before entering her domain! And antibiotics cleared my injured leg!

The kittens grew and started to emerge from the safety of their large carrier, where she nursed them, to explore. Mom and her hormones calmed down somewhat, but I was always leery of her. Thank goodness, mom had a home to return to and that left me with just the four kittens to place into qualified homes.

Now I admit that I do pretty well when kittens get adopted directly from the cattery ... but these had been in my office bathroom ... in my house! Honestly, there is a different connection when they are so close to home so to speak. I had fallen in love with all the kittens ... two calico girls, a Siamese snowshoe boy and a tortoiseshell girl.

As time crept by and the kittens got old enough to adopt out, I realized what a tough time I was having emotionally any time I thought of parting with the kittens. I had nurtured and cared for them for over eight weeks, for Heaven's sake! Now, I found myself tempted by the thought of keeping one ... or TWO! However, I felt guilty even thinking of such a thing. It had always been my job to keep only the cats or kittens that arrived at RESQCATS that would be considered un-adoptable based on health, age, attitude or any other reason.

My friends and volunteers convinced me that I should be like everyone else sometimes ... not just keep the un-adoptable kitties that enter RESQCATS ... but pick and adopt a normal kitten with no health issues, behavior quirks or anything that would deem it un-adoptable.

And many of you know, I definitely have a weakness for calicos and torties.

That is how "Pebbles" and "Paisley" came to be my kitties.

Last summer, two kittens came to RESQCATS and

were in danger. Both were flea infested and one needed a blood transfusion immediately. "Stellar" was literally dying. He was lucky because the hospital had a frozen supply of blood that could be transfused into his tiny anemic body. The blood saved his life!

A day later, we realized that his brother "Starz" red blood cell count was dangerously low even though he showed no signs of distress. It appeared that a blood transfusion was needed for him, too! The problem was that there was none available. The blood that had saved Stellar was no longer viable because it was over 24 hours old. The usual blood donor cat had just gone through surgery, therefore she was not eligible to give.

The vet asked if I had a kitty that could possibly donate. I immediately thought of Pebbles and Paisley. Both were young, fat, healthy girls and just needed to be the right blood type according to the vet.

When I left the clinic minutes later, I "put the peddle to the metal" and drove home as fast as I could. Paisley was the first kitty I spotted lying comfortably on the back of the couch in her usual mid-day snooze. I snatched her up and said, "Paisley, let's go save a life!"

All the required tests were completed on her blood. Paisley qualified to be a donor and was ready to give her blood to save Starz. The vet decided to run one more red blood cell count on Starz before putting Paisley under anesthesia in order to draw the life-saving red blood cells and then transfuse them to Starz. As miracles would have it, Starz'

count was heading in a good direction. He was producing enough red blood cells on his own so he did not need Paisley's life saving gift. He was lucky, too. Paisley and I returned home to tell the happy ending.

But that is not the end of the story. The vet has called twice since that day in desperate need of blood to save patients at the Emergency Clinic. Both times, I scooped my Paisley off the back of the couch in the middle of her cat-nap and said to her, "Time to go save another life, Paisley."

Paisley is a hero at the clinic. She is a gift to the other cats that have needed her when it was life versus death. She helped them remain on this Earth. She makes a difference.

I must admit, I am so proud of her. She has a job ... and it not just the one of lying on the back of the couch looking adorable and making me happy.

For this reason, I dedicate this newsletter to "Paisley" ... she is the gift of life in more ways than one!



## On a personal note...

The holidays are a time of year that get filled up with activities and planning for those big dinners with family and friends. It is a busy time of year trying to fulfill all that is expected of us. For most people, the holidays are filled with fun, laughter and joy. I truly wish that for each and every one of you.

For me, although I love the holiday spirit, my thoughts always wander back to how to make a better world for the animals. I know it sounds strange to be thinking about that all the time ... but I do. It is who I am ... always wanting to make a difference 24/7, 365 days a year! Crazy Cat Lady!

It is a time that I count the many blessings over the past year. I am surrounded by wonderful people and volunteers who have become my friends. My husband is well on his way to recovery after major heart surgery in May. RESQCATS has experienced a very successful year with rescues and adoptions surpassing our greatest expectations. I live in a beautiful place with my animals.

I also think of the holidays as a time of giving. While I do admit that my personal donations go to other animal organizations, I believe it is important for all of us to find something close to our own hearts and give to that

cause. Of course, I would love it to be to RESQCATS (isn't that the purpose of this newsletter!). If we all give to something we are passionate about, and not just during the holiday season, it could be a better and more compassionate Earth. That is my wish for the world.

Then comes the New Year and a time to set our goals for 2014. And I sure have goals!

Many of you know that I take several weeks off at that time because it is not kitten season. Honestly, I need the time to reflect, re-energize and fulfill that creative right brain of mine. It is during that down time, so to speak, that my mind flows with ideas on how to help the stray and abandoned cats and kittens in 2014. My goal is to finish my book by kitten season next Spring. The book shares stories of some very special kitties that have been through RESQCATS in the last 16 years. My hope is that the stories will inspire you, make you laugh, bring you joy, enable you to reflect on your own experiences, appreciate life and of course, make a difference for the cats and kittens as all the proceeds from the sale of books will go directly to RESQCATS.

So, no worries if you do not hear from me until Spring ... I will still be at work trying to make a difference ... one kitty at a time.



## A gift that gives in more ways than one!

Meet "Lilly!" Lilly was rescued this past summer by Wayne Pacelle and his lovely new wife, Lisa! Wayne is the President of The Humane Society of the United States.

Lilly definitely approves of her new fleece doggie blanket.



We have new designs to choose from and they are available at: The Montecito Pet Shop, The Cat House Hotel (both in Santa Barbara) and Valley Pets in Buellton.

Fleece blankets are a great way to support RESQCATS and give a gift that your kitties — and doggies — love! Yes, the proceeds go directly to the cats but I don't think the dogs mind!

## 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](http://www.RESQCATS.org)

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and we will add you to our list!