

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 2014



President's Message

Written on April 1, 2014



Jeffyne with Bojangles and Daytona

Here we go again!

I can hardly believe that RESQCATS is beginning our 17th season in 2014.

I am excited about another year. We were already at work just after the New Year when Spring litters arrived very early. Santa Barbara had no winter weather to speak of, unlike the rest of the country, so cats went into heat in November and December because temperatures were unseasonably warm. Pregnant moms delivered their babies as early as the beginning of February. That is almost two months before the typical time we begin to see all those little kitten faces peeking out from behind bushes, emerging from under houses and appearing in the backyard woodpile.

When I returned from a winter break in Oregon, four litters of kittens along with a pregnant mom were waiting for me. Based on that, I predict that this will be a long kitten season since it has started so prematurely.

Unspayed females can produce as many as three litters without intervention. So spaying and neutering will be more important than ever.

RESQCATS is committed to helping the community through our spay/neuter program. In January and

February alone, we sponsored spay surgery for 36 female cats and neutered 27 males. Just do the math! 36 female cats producing an average of four kittens per litter three times this year! That adds up to 432 kittens! And believe me, there are more than 36 females out there producing kittens!

Quite often, RESQCATS offers families the opportunity to have their mother cat spayed at our expense in return for relinquishing the kittens. It is our goal to make sure that the mom is fixed and that kittens are not given away to friends and family who do not understand that they need to spay and neuter or perhaps cannot afford the procedure. It also gives us the opportunity to inform more people about the importance of spaying and neutering, therefore, greatly reduces the number of kittens in the future.

Believe it or not, kittens born in February can become pregnant this Fall. Yes! Fall of 2014! Education and offering assistance is the key to stopping over-population. RESQCATS will continue to sponsor spay and neuter surgery through our community outreach program. In addition, all the cats and kittens that are adopted from RESQCATS are spayed and neutered before leaving for their new homes.

I am ready to meet the challenges of another year of rescue. But let me remind you of what it takes for some of them to get to the point of being healthy. Many arrive off the streets and others have not been properly cared for by their owners. Mothers are lacking in nutrition themselves and that takes its toll on the babies. The kittens can be underweight, are sometimes infested with fleas and suffer from intestinal parasites that can take a toll on those little tummies. There may be other more serious issues that require intensive medical attention.

Every cat and kitten begins with a physical exam and a fecal exam. Our newest addition to our protocol is to put every one on pro-biotics the day they arrive. Pro-biotics help tremendously with diet change by putting good flora into the digestive tract. In addition, de-worming and prescribed medication based on the fecal results take care of nasty parasites.

A high quality diet can make such a difference in as little as a couple of days. One litter that arrived at RESQCATS in March had been offered nothing but low quality dry kibble. High quality canned food added two ounces to their body weights in just two days!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

And now...

A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne



Mr. Jeffyne with Adonis and Ares

When I was a young boy, my family, like many others in the late 1950's, would gather around the television set on Sunday night to watch *The Ed Sullivan Show*. For those of you not "mature" enough to remember those early days of television, this program was a variety show that featured a whole array of different forms of entertainment from singers and dancers, to jugglers and acrobats, to magicians and comedians. Many great performers got their start on *The Toast of the Town*, as this show was originally called. In fact, *The Ed Sullivan Show* is probably best remembered today as the first program to showcase that young man from Memphis, Elvis Presley and later, "those moppets from England"...the Beatles!

While I usually enjoyed my Sunday *Ed Sullivan* nights with the family, there was almost always a time during the program when I would abruptly excuse myself and leave the room...that was when the animals took the stage.

Whether it was monkeys swinging from a trapeze, seals balancing a beach ball, wild cats roaring in cages or even dogs leaping through rings, it always struck me that there was something terribly wrong with this type of entertainment. Even as a pre-teen, I felt it just wasn't right to force animals to entertain us.

As I've gotten older, my thoughts on this subject have both broadened and become more rigid. I've learned that there are some animals that do like to entertain, and actually appear to get great pleasure

from performing for their people. Agility dogs are an example... but that list is short, very short.

Most animals that are "put on the stage" for the benefit of providing entertainment for the human species are neither enjoying the spotlight nor gaining a better life as a result of their exploits. In fact, it's usually quite the contrary. Animals that are used to entertain people are very often subjected to some of the worst forms of animal abuse.

These entertainment-destined creatures' lives frequently begin by being ripped out of the wild...away from their parents and family societies...out of the plains of African, the jungles of South American or the depths of the Pacific. And it makes little difference if these animals are immense elephants, wild cats, tiny monkeys, or giant mammals from the sea...exploiting animals for profit is just not right!

Some people feel that when God gave man dominion over all the creatures on this planet that He meant that we could use and treat animals any way that we wished.

I, and many other animal-concerned people on Earth, choose to view this divine authority from an entirely different perspective. We opt to see our superior human position as one of duty and responsibility for caring for all living things that share our planet.

As you think about animals as entertainers... in circuses, zoos, aquariums, rodeos, racing and even in the movie and television industries...please consider the following facts from the Animal Protection Institute:

1. The use of animals as "entertainers" removes animals from their natural habitat; deprives them of the ability to freely engage in instinctual behaviors; often involves cruel training methods; desensitizes both children and adults to animal mistreatment; and does not adequately address the real conservation threats that face animals in the wild.
2. There is minimal state and federal protection for animals used in entertainment. Many of the animals used for human amusement are not even covered by the federal Animal Welfare Act.
3. While some zoos and aquariums appear to be educational and conservation-oriented, most are designed with the needs and desires of the visitors in mind, not the needs of the animals. Many animals in zoos and aquariums exhibit abnormal behavior as a result of being deprived of their natural environments and social structures. The CNN film *Blackfish* is an extraordinary example that shows how a seemingly docile animal can

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“snap” from the stress of an unnatural environment.

4. Some zoos and aquariums do rescue some animals and work to save endangered species, but most animals in zoos were either captured from the wild or bred in captivity for the purpose of public display, not species protection.
5. The vast majority of captive-bred animals will never be returned to the wild. When a facility breeds too many animals they become “surplus” and often are sold to laboratories, traveling shows, canned hunting facilities, or to private individuals who may not be qualified to care for them.
6. Horses and cattle used in rodeos are abused with electrical prods, sharp spurs, and bucking straps that pinch their sensitive flank area. During bucking events, horses and bulls may suffer broken legs or run into the sides of the arena, causing serious injury and even death.
7. During calf-roping events in rodeos, a calf may reach a running speed of 27 miles per hour before being jerked by the neck to an abrupt stop by a lasso. This event has resulted in numerous punctured lungs, internal hemorrhaging, paralysis, and broken necks.
8. Once greyhounds begin their racing careers, they are kept in cages for more than 20 hours a day. The cages are made of wire and are barely big enough for the dogs to turn around. Dogs that are considered too slow to race are often sold to research facilities or just killed. And sadly, about 20,000 of these magnificent dogs are killed each year; very few are adopted.
9. Horses used in racing are bred for one purpose: to make money. Because of this motive, horses are often forced to run even when injured. More racehorses are bred than can prove profitable on the racetrack. As a result, hundreds or perhaps thousands of racehorses are sent to slaughter every year.
10. During a typical cockfighting tournament, one-third to one-half of the birds are killed. Winners, as well as losers, suffer severe injuries including broken wings, punctured lungs, and gouged eyes.
11. Most elephants used by circuses were captured in the wild. Once removed from their families and natural habitat, their lives consist of little more than chains and intimidation. The circus deprives

these majestic beasts of their basic needs to exercise, roam, socialize, forage, and play. Stereotypic behaviors such as swaying back and forth, head-bobbing, pacing, bar-biting, and self-mutilation are common signs of elephant mental distress.

Millions of animals suffer every year simply for the sake of human entertainment...in zoos, circuses, marine parks, rodeos, horse racing and at road-side animal parks.

However, a growing number of cities are beginning to restrict and even ban the use of animals in entertainment. More progressive circuses have learned to dazzle their audiences without the exploitation of animals, but solely with skilled human performers.

You can do your part to help the animals as well... by not supporting any institution that does not treat animals with dignity and respect...not only because it's the right thing to do, but because the animals deserve it!

Animals are not entertainers!

RESQCATS SPRING FUNDRAISER!

DATE: SATURDAY MAY 10TH, 2014
TIME: 10AM-4PM

Kitten season began very early this year and RESQCATS needs your help. We are having a booth with lots of things for you just in time for Mother's Day!

Come meet Nancy who designs our fleece blankets and RESQCATS cards.

And Amy has designed one of a kind jewelry including bracelets, necklaces and earrings exclusively for RESQCATS.

Adrienne will have her embroidered towels and kitty aprons there for you.

And there will be a raffle, too!

All the kitties need your support and we would love to see you there. So put it on your calendar!

At the...
MONTECITO PET SHOP
2020 CLIFF DRIVE
In the Mesa Shopping Center!






RESQCATS


Chloe's Page


Hello friends, I am back! Did you miss me these past few months? You don't have to answer, I know that you did. Well, here I am once again ready to thrill you with my hugely admirable wit and wisdom of all things cat...read on!

Did You Know...


 A cat's belly has approximately 130,000 hairs per every square inch! (I sure wouldn't want to be the one who had to count them!)

 The ancient Egyptians were the first to tame the cat. Used at first as both hunter and retriever, the cat was later valued as a pet, and finally became an object of worship (and let's keep it that way!)


 Today's cats are divided into three Genera: Acinonyx, the cheetah, which has claws that cannot be fully retracted; Felis, the small cats, including our many domesticated breeds, and Panthera, the great cats, like the lions (no matter which group – cats rule!)


 There are 500 million domestic cats worldwide. In the U.S. alone, there are about 53 million (we love that you love us so much, but please spay and neuter so these numbers don't get any higher!)


 \$2 billion dollars are spent each year in America on cat food (I hope that includes treats!)


 A group of kittens is called a "kindle" and a group of adult cats is called a "clowder" (I think we should just be called Gods!)

Cat Facts...


 Most cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four toes on each back paw. The exception to this is the Polydactyl cat (I am Polydactyl and have 23 toes!)


 Cats have true fur, which means that they have both an undercoat and an outercoat (this makes us extra fancy!)


 Kittens are born with both eyes and ears closed. When their eyes open, they are always blue at first. They change color between six and seven weeks to their final color (we like to keep you guessing!)


 Aspirin is poisonous to cats (so if we complain of a headache, give us catnip!).



 Cat saliva contains a detergent that keeps its' fur clean (we're like mini-washing machines!)

 If you sneeze whenever you are around cats, more than likely it's not the cat hair that affects you, but the saliva that remains on the fur after a cleaning (we do like to keep ourselves clean – would you like us better dirty?)

 Cats beat dogs for the #1 spot as the most popular pet in the United States (as well we should – cats rule!)

 Most cats do not have eyelashes (but we all have pretty eyes!)

Well, have you learned something new from me in this article? I AM pretty smart and do know a lot of very important cat-related facts. I'm more than sure that you have gained some I.Q points from me over the last couple of years that I have added my vast array or knowledgeable input to this newsletter.

If there are any topics you would like me to research and include in my next column, just email: jeffyne@resqcats.org and she will get the message to me!

XOXO, *Chloe*

•••••
 • Enjoy the newsletter!
 • Thanks to **Demi Anter**, I
 • think RESQCATS has one of
 • the best-looking newsletters
 • in rescue. She donates her
 • precious time and talents to
 • design the newsletter in between
 • getting ready to graduate from
 • UCSB and a very
 • busy life as an artist.
 • Thank you
 • just does not
 • express my
 • appreciation!
 •••••



I was a kitten's mid-wife!

By Nancy Aguirre

Persia, a pregnant 10-month old kitten arrived at RESQCATS on February 7, 2014. She had a family who loved her very much but they allowed her to go outside without being spayed and she became pregnant. They brought her to their veterinarian who examined her and estimated that the kittens would be born within the next two weeks. The family was uninformed on how to give Persia and the soon-to-be-born kittens proper care. They agreed to let RESQCATS "keep" her until the kittens were born, weaned, and ready for adoption. They were allowed to visit her during the following weeks as the kittens received the medical attention that is required by RESQCATS protocol. We also informed Persia's family that she would be spayed before returning her to the family so there would be no more kittens in her future.

My husband and I are responsible for everything at RESQCATS for the weeks that Jeffyne and Mitch take their winter vacation. I was in accountable for Persia's care along with the resident cats.

I had never cared for a pregnant cat and I certainly was not experienced in the birthing of kittens if Persia needed help. I was both very excited and a bit trepidatious.

To prepare for the upcoming event, I watched videos on You-Tube of cats giving birth, read articles and asked a lot of questions from people who had knowledge on the subject. After a few days, I was totally book-ready!

As Persia's stomach grew with her babies inside, so did my apprehension. I watched her intently for "nesting" to begin as that is a sure sign that kittens are on the way soon. Usually, Persia enjoyed sitting on the shelf from the safety of her enclosure watching the world outside. When she began to spend more and more time on her comfy "bed" inside the crate I knew kittens would arrive soon.

For 3 consecutive days I checked on her every hour – including throughout the night! I never left RESQCATS for fear that she would give birth while I was gone and



Persia and her four babies.

she might need my assistance. I was nervous and excited at the same time! Fortunately, back-up was just a phone call away. An experienced foster who had helped birth kittens many times before was put on stand by around the clock! Susan had assisted in kitten births before, so I was relieved to have someone with know-how by my side...or better yet...by Persia's side.

On February 20th, I went to check on Persia at about 7am as part of my regular morning duties. She had some discharge which meant the babies were on their way! I called Jeffyne and Susan. Jeffyne was excited about the prospect of the new arrivals, needless to say. She remained calm as we discussed what might need to be done if there were any problems. I felt like an expectant father waiting for his first child to come into this world!

Within minutes, out popped "Lily," a tiny tortoiseshell who looked just like her mom! Susan had not yet arrived so I texted Jeffyne who walked me through the process. She instructed me to see that Persia consumed the placenta as it is full of nutrients. She had me check to make sure Persia severed each umbilical cord, as well as, confirm that the kitten was breathing.

Well, without my assistance, Persia was taking care of it all. I quietly thanked God for that! Next came "Charlie," a bright orange little boy! About that time Susan arrived with her wisdom and experience. We sat together on the floor and watched as a gray boy named "Sammy" made his first appearance into the world. Finally, "Scottie," a buff-colored boy joined his siblings ...last but certainly not least.

We made sure that all the kittens were nursing. Then Susan and I ooh'd and aah'd over these little miracles. Persia was doing a wonderful job of caring for her babies.

I was relieved but in all the anticipation, I can admit that underneath my brightly dyed-red hair, I was sure I had some new gray hairs. But they were well worth it!

At the same time I fell in love with this purr-fect little feline family, I also felt sad. Now there were four more kittens in the world competing with thousands of other cats and kittens needing homes. As darling as these kittens were, I knew they would find homes



Persia and one-day-old Sammy.

A different point of view!

During kitten season, my days are spent doing what I love and feel I have been put on this planet to do...care for stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Once they are healthy and have gone through the required medical protocol, it is time to find homes for them. Fortunately, the Montecito Pet Shop shares in the task of finding homes for many of the kittens so that I have more time to be on the streets rescuing others in need and dedicate my time to caring for them all.

I do, however, handle many phone calls and emails in order to pre-screen potential adopters. It is imperative that future adopters realize the lifetime commitment they are making to a kitty. They must share RESQCATS philosophy about cats being indoors-only and promise to never declaw them. If a landlord is involved, we require written permission for a tenant to be eligible to adopt.

I recognize that most people are interested in adopting kittens. They are irresistible bundles of furry fun. When RESQCATS holds an adoption event, there is always an endless stream of people looking for a kitten. I find the same thing happens when anyone visits RESQCATS in search of a new friend. 99% of the time it is about adopting a kitten. I love to be part of making someone happy when they leave with a new kitten. But so often, I feel sadness, too.

Kittens get adopted, but their moms are left behind because...well, I am not sure why. Is it their size? The moms are most often less than a year old themselves. People do not realize that in just a few months, their two and one half pound kitten will be the same size as the mother cat. Most often, mother cats are sadly unnoticed by most adopters.

I have a point to make! Mother cats need homes, too. Young mommy cats have been deprived of kittenhood in order to raise their babies. I witness them burst into playful, fun-loving kittens in seven pound bodies attempting to make up for all the time they lost by raising a family. They frequently wait weeks or even months for someone to come along willing to give them the home they deserve.

I recognize the fact that I look at rescue from a different point of view than most. To me, it is about **who** needs a home. It is not about adopting the tiniest kitten with the misconception that one can "mold" its personality. In reality, the demeanor of kittens begins even in the womb.

Time and time again I open my email or listen to a phone message from someone stating the exact kitten they are looking for with every detail listed explicitly. People request photos of the kittens so that they can see

if they like the way a kitten looks. They make no mention whatsoever about personality. Looks is what they are after.

I am reminded of a poster I once saw that said "good art doesn't match the sofa!" The color of fur seems to be foremost in their minds. That is followed by what the fur pattern is: It has to be tabby, tuxedo, marble, white, and most definitely not black! I hear you!

I recall several years ago when I handled adoptions exclusively at RESQCATS. A woman wanted to adopt two siblings. It made no difference to her what one of them looked like but the second one had to be just like one that I happened to have. But as she articulated, "with a fluffier tail, and an orange nose and white paws. Oh, and it needs to be very social as I have two children." I was astounded. But I repeated back her "order" and then finished by saying, "And you do understand that this is rescue?!" I was never able to fulfill her fantasy, obviously!

Human nature leads us blindly down that path of what is appealing to our eyes. But, there is so much more to it than that.

And let me just put this out there! I rescue! I go into the streets, strangers' homes and where ever else I need to venture to save cats and kittens. They look the way they do when I get there. The eyes are the most prejudice organ in the human body. I cannot manufacture their appearance in order to fulfill someone's fancy, match their carpet or fill the paws

of one they may have just lost. Adoption is not like ordering a new car! Every single one is different and unique and that is why each kitty is so very extraordinary!

It is true that RESQCATS has several resident cats that were not adoptable or never got adopted. It has never mattered to me what color they are, if they are six months old or 16 years. It is my pleasure to give these kitties a home. I occasionally tease that in my next life I will be like other people and have the opportunity to choose whatever kitty I want. But you know what! I am certain that I would choose the ones that need homes the most!

I don't expect everyone to share my perspective. Perhaps, however, I have given many something to consider. I strongly feel that it is important, at least to me, to know that I have offered a different way of viewing adoption. Education is part of my commitment to the cats.

So, when you consider adoption, go into it with an open heart and mind and without pre-conceived ideas on size, appearance, age and color. Your compassion will open doors to a whole new way of rescuing and adopting. You will make a difference for a rescued kitty and believe me, you will see yourself and the plight of homeless animals in a whole new light.

And I will applaud you out loud!

“I recognize the fact that I look at rescue from a different point of view than most.

To me, it is about *who* needs a home . . . Human nature leads us blindly down that path of what is appealing to our eyes. But, there is so much more to it than that.”

I am a Black Cat

This much is true.
The kind of life I live
depends solely on you.
Bad luck myths on me
that are told are nothing
but lies
and centuries old.
I am only a cat with eyes
of pure gold,
created for you to love
and to hold.

taken from the internet



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

immediately. But there were kittens on the streets who desperately needed to be rescued and placed. It was odd feeling both happiness and sadness within the same breath. I thought of all the other cats giving birth outside, with no place to call home and no families to care for them. Kittens are born in the cold with hungry predators waiting for them, cars to run over them, cruel people to harm them and others who just don't care. So many thoughts went through my head. Mostly, I just wanted to protect them all.

I asked myself, "What about the kittens who manage to survive outside? In six months they could become pregnant and give birth to their own kittens 63 days later! When does it end? How many kittens and cats are out there giving birth multiple times during the year and not receiving the medical help, love and care that these blessed four - including their mom - were going to receive? How can I feel pure happiness when I know that for this one little family, there are hundreds more in Santa Barbara County alone not receiving the same thing? And it could have all been prevented if Persia had been spayed."

I know that we can only accomplish as much as we can. It is up to each individual pet owner to do the right thing for their animal. We need to educate people about spaying and neutering, providing medical care, and share the dangers the outdoors present to cats like Persia. Every animal deserves love, safety and veterinary care.

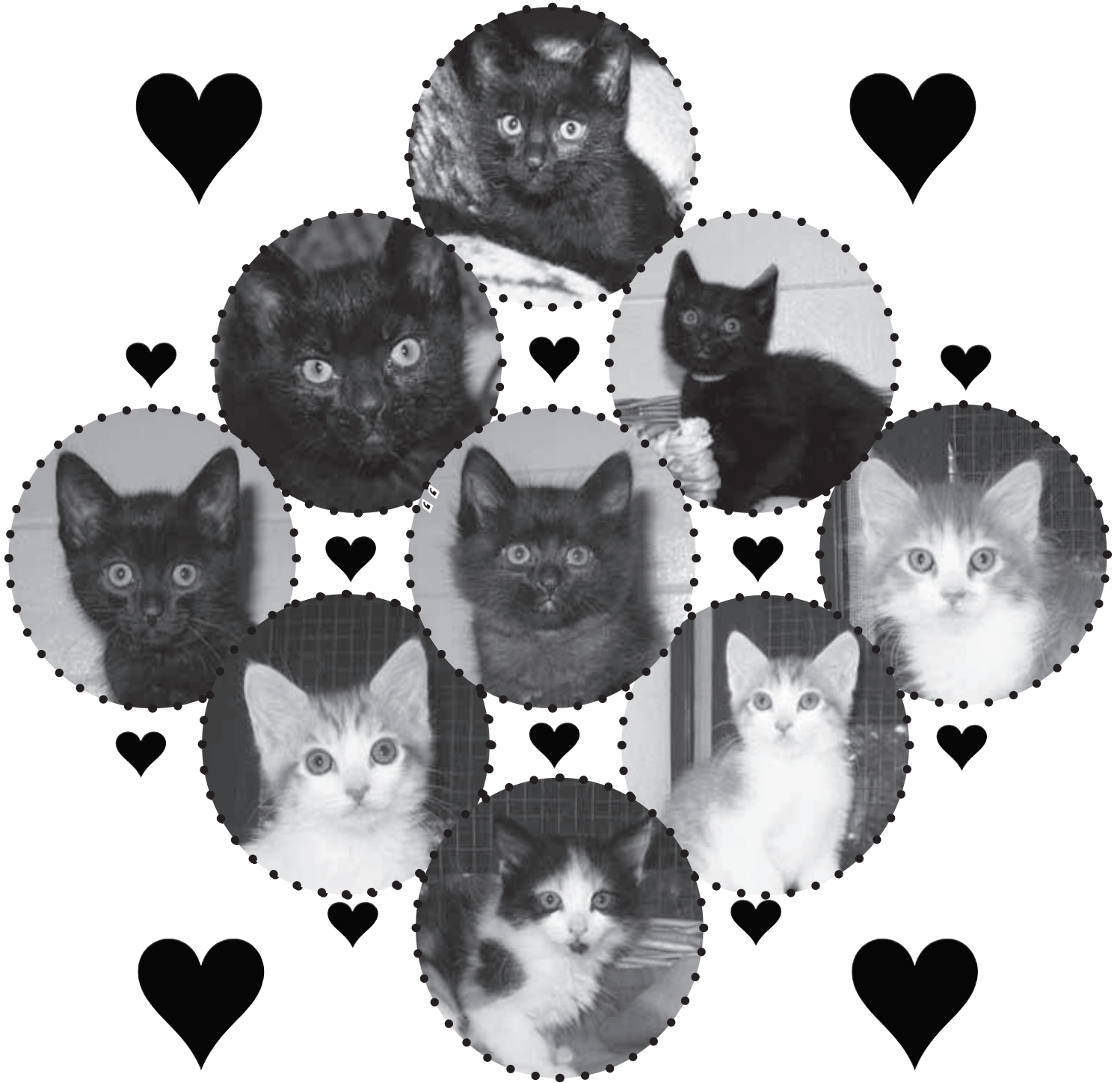
If I can be part of teaching people about properly caring for animals and give them guidelines to follow, then I am doing my share. I can set an example of compassion, kindness and love in this world to make it a better - safer - place for everyone.

Persia, her kittens and her human family have taught me about devotion and family values. I will always be grateful for their gifts for the rest of my life. And now, I have the chance to pay all of that forward to others, which I will gladly do.



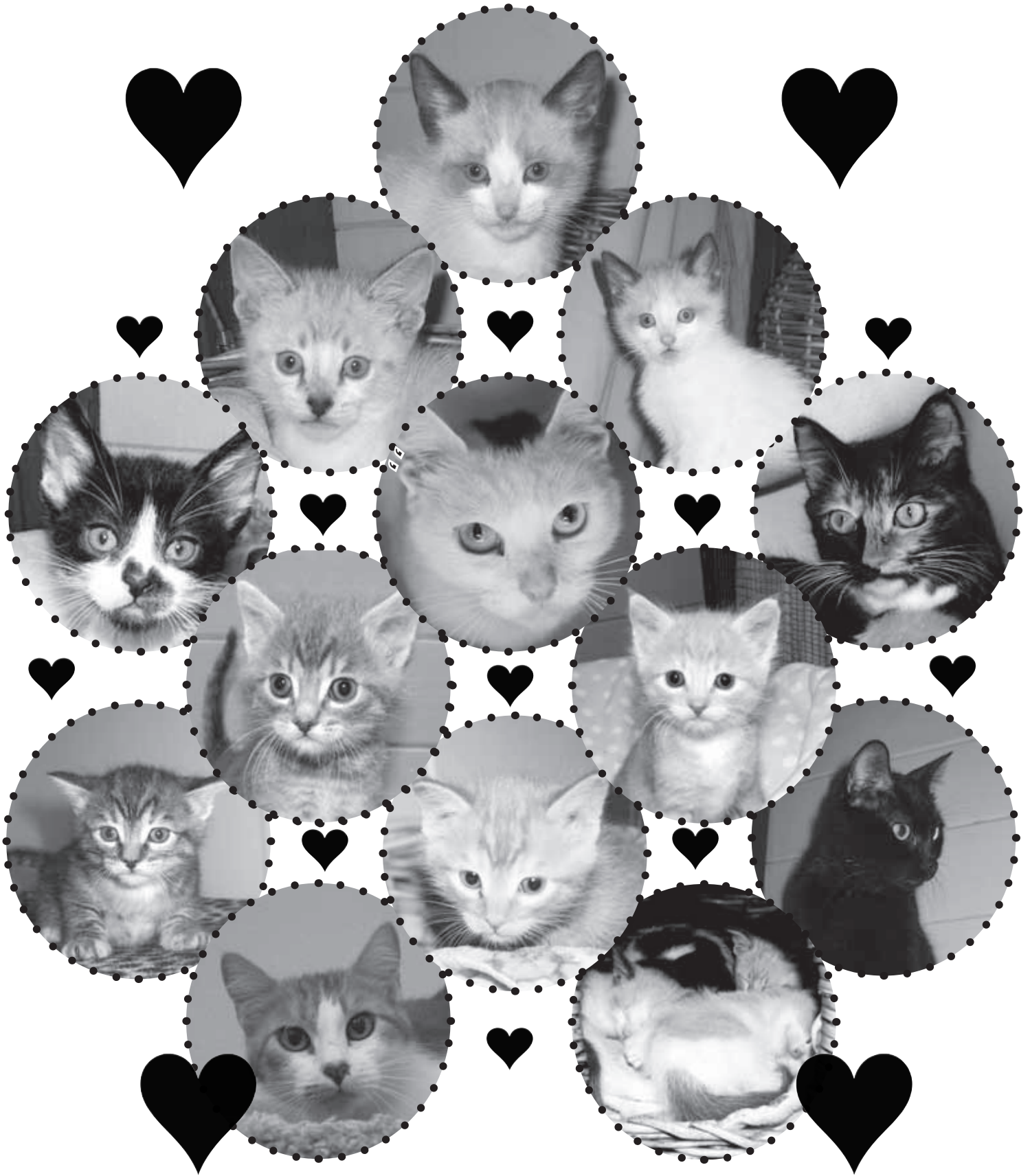
Lily, Charlie and Sammy.

RESQCATS Faces of Spring 2014



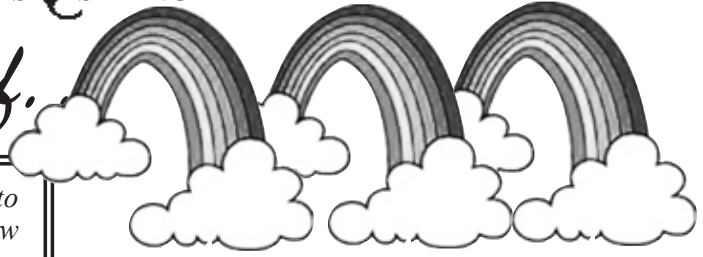
Photography by Nancy Aguirre, Rachel Ross and Amy Dobson

*From top to bottom, left to right: Prince, Romeo, Talula, Juliet, Baby,
Bojangles, Bristol, Daytona and Strudel*



From top to bottom, left to right: Cooper, Newman, Redford, Taye, Mina, Persia, Sammy, Scottie, Lily, Charlie, Angel, Sparrow and sleeping kittens.

In memory of.



Several wonderful people who gave homes to **RESQCATS** have contacted me in just the last few months to let me know of the passing of some of the first **RESQCATS** to be adopted in our first years of operation. I thank them not only for fulfilling the lifetime commitment they made to their kitties, but for the life they gave to them.

In very special memory of:

“**Silver**” and “**Cleo**” who lived to be sixteen years old. And for **Todd Bebb and his family**.



In memory of “**Chloe**” who was almost 12 years old and for the best Earthly parents she could have ever asked for...**Joyce and Alex Carasa**.



In memory of “**John Denver**” who was adopted from **RESQCATS** in in 1998 and lived to be 15 years old! And for his human mom, **Dorinda Beaumont**.



In loving memory of “**Isabel**,” adopted from **RESQCATS** in 2002! Isabel suffered from the worst hernia the vet had ever seen. It was touch and go for her as a kitten as she needed to be twelve weeks old before it was safe for her to have surgery. The operation was successful and she was adopted by **Kay Hewitt**, a **RESQCATS** volunteer who gave her a beautiful home for 12 years. I miss her, too, Kay!



In memory of “**Mr. Bojangles**” who spent 14 purr-fect years with **Victoria Stewart**.

“It came to me that every time I lose a pet they take a piece of my heart with them, and every new pet that comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough all the components of my heart will be pet, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.”

Anonymous

In memory of “**Einstein**,” and for all those animals who suffer his fate.



In memory of my beloved cats and dogs...”**Itzik**,” “**Moishe**,” “**Felix**,” “**Fanny**,” and “**Blackie**.”
Betty Oberacker



In loving memory of “**Ona**” and for some special animal guardians, **Pam and Rudy Perez**.



In loving memory of my ever so faithful family member, “**Larmar ‘Marmar’ Myers**.”

Love,
Eileen Myers



For “**Java**,”...a special kitty I visit at my favorite art gallery kitty in Yachats, Oregon. And for **Jacquee Christnot**, her human guardian. Java spent 19 years with Jacquee and losing her has been a difficult journey because so many of us love them both.

Love,
Jeffyne



In memory of our dear friend, **Yvonne Debrune** and her beloved, kitty, “**Chanel**.” They will be in our hearts forever.

Mark and Cindy Reinhardt



In memory of **Angela Nims** and for all those who love her.

Amy Dooha



In honor of my mom, **Peg Baron**.

Love always from your daughter,
Margie Baron Sherburne



In loving memory of my mother, **Peg Baron**.

Love from your daughter,
Eileen Myers



In memory of my friend...who has her own rainbow now...**Sue Bowie**. And for her husband, **John**.

Love,
Jeffyne

I dedicate this newsletter to the memory of my dear friend, Sue Bowie for her love of animals and her grand spirit. The animals on the Rainbow Bridge bowed when she arrived.

In celebration and honor of...

Happy Happy Happy Birthday, **Julie Kaplan!**
Liz Benishin



In honor of "my most amazing mom and dad," **Becki and Jay Eaton.**
Julie Kaplan



To honor our friend, **Julie Kaplan!**
Mel and Hal Kyle



In honor of our friends, **Chris Lavino and Del Britschgi** for their love and commitment to their cat family.

From your cat friends,
Brenda Lee and Lisa Givan



In honor of my mom, **Rosi.**
Demi Anter



For **Mel and Hal Kyle**... "great neighbors, great friends and super great kitty sitters!"
Julie Kaplan



In celebration of "**Deacon**" and "**Web!**" (two RESQCATS kitties.)
Penny Huff



For **Brenda Lee and Lisa Givan!**
Dodi Gauthier



To celebrate **Liz Benishin**... "my friend, my teammate and fellow feline lover. The critter world and the human world are both better places because of her."

Julie Kaplan



Happy 1st Birthday, "**Turbo!**" Fostered by **Michelle Wickman**...and never returned!



Turbo

In celebration of their marriage! **Tiffany and Bradford Hughes!**

Linda and Andy Wright



For my friend...a very special one, **Julie Kaplan!**
Liz Benishin



In honor of "**Willy**" and **Karen Wilson!** Willy was adopted 16 years ago and is now 18 and "still going strong but with a few less teeth!" according to his lifetime guardian, Karen. My goodness, this just makes my heart smile!



In honor of "**Zoe**" and "**Bella**" **Tipper!** (and for their humans, **Geoff and Jackie**, too!)

Joan Wright



To recognize **Janet Dewey** for all her volunteer efforts!
Marion Schremp



Happy 8th Birthday, "**Nefret!**" – adopted from RESQCATS as a kitten in 2006!



Nefret

Happy Birthday, "**Basho!**" Celebrating his first birthday with **Molly Hahn.**



Molly and Basho: One year later.

Advanced Veterinary Specialist has kindly offered to write for the *RESQCATS* newsletter! It is our hope that it gives all us the opportunity to learn about cats and the challenges we all face in caring for them.

Thank you, Dr McPeters for sharing your valuable time and knowledge with us!

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

By Dr. Matie McPeters, DVM

FIV is one of the most common infectious diseases of cats. It is a disease that is often misunderstood and can, unfortunately, motivate owners to elect for euthanasia upon diagnosis. It is important to understand the meaning of a diagnosis, recognition of symptoms, and prognosis of the disease. Many feline companions can live healthy lives after diagnosis for some time – so it is critical to know a few facts before making a decision.

Transmission: FIV is transmitted through bite wounds- commonly seen in fighting outdoor tomcats. Gentle social grooming is not a high risk activity for transmission. On rare occasions, a mother cat will transfer FIV to her kittens during birth, or through infected milk.

Diagnosis: A common screening test for FIV looks for antibodies to the disease in the blood (ELISA blood test). A positive FIV screening test does not automatically mean your companion is FIV positive. For example, kittens nursed by a FIV positive mother cat will be FIV positive. Also, a FIV vaccinated cat will test positive for antibodies. A second test (PCR) may help differentiate between a vaccinated cat and a FIV positive cat- but the results can be difficult to interpret. If the cat is FIV positive, the disease is species specific- which means that owners can NOT get the disease from their cats, and owners can not

give FIV to their companions.

Symptoms: After initial infection, there is a 4-6 week grace period and then a drop in the immune system. At this time, some cats can have signs such as diarrhea, fever, or anemia. These signs are often subtle and go unnoticed. The immune system will respond and keep replication at a low rate- but not eliminate the virus. This leads to a period of prolonged health for some cats.

The virus will replicate again in some infected cats after 2-5 years (years!). These cats may then go on to show signs of disease depending on the strain of virus, replication, the cat's own immune system and the presence of other infectious agents.

The signs of FIV are not specific, but are a reflection of weakened protection against infection. Common signs seen in FIV cats include: weight loss, recurrent fever, enlarged lymph nodes, inflammation of gums and mouth, chronic or recurrent respiratory, eye, and Gastro-intestinal disease, or in some cats can show neurological disease

Any patient that has a compromised immune system needs to be given opportunities to reduce their exposure to disease. This means that FIV cats should live an indoor lifestyle. This will also limit their contact with other cats, reducing the potential for transmission of disease.

Prognosis: A FIV positive cat can be healthy for years (years!) after diagnosis. Allowing your companion an indoor lifestyle with reduced contact to infectious agents and other cats can provide them the best chance at a good quality of life. Their guarded prognosis can be balanced by a healthy environment and educated households.

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Sparrow

Searching for Sparrow's miracle.

I certainly believe in miracles and RESQCATS has had many. Miracles come in many forms. Some are as clear as a bright sunny day. Others seem buried behind the storm. It is during those unsettled times that I have to remind myself that there is always a rainbow after the storm.

"Sparrow" is a mother cat that arrived at RESQCATS in mid-March with four darling kittens. I offered to take Sparrow and have her vet exam, fecal exam, test for Feline Leukemia and FIV, worming, FVRCP vaccination, micro-chip and spay surgery. The plan was to cover all those costs and return her if her owner would relinquish the kittens to RESQCATS so that we could follow through with the same protocol for the kittens and find them homes.

I arrived to pick up the family and was informed that Sparrow's owner didn't want her back! Also, one of the female kittens in the litter had already been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

given away. Two other cats live at the house and she was “upset that Sparrow kept having babies.” Thank goodness this decision was communicated to me by a caring person who had reached out for help in order to do the right thing. Otherwise, I think I would have jumped out of my skin and down the lady’s throat. After you have done rescue a while... you feel like that quite often! Honestly, I stopped trying to reason with such people years ago as it gets nowhere and is a waste of positive energy that can be better bestowed upon the unwanted cat, Sparrow!

I brought Sparrow and the four remaining kittens to RESQCATS and within a couple of days they were all into the vet for exams and to test Sparrow for Feline Leukemia and FIV. That is the normal protocol and the babies are usually tested at the time of spay and neuter surgery as it is easier to draw blood from their tiny veins while they are under anesthesia.

I was stunned and tearfully distraught when Sparrow’s leukemia test results were positive for the virus. I have not seen a Feline Leukemia positive kitty in several years. Many years ago, the virus was dealt with by euthanizing cats and kittens that tested positive. Rest assured, that is not something I have ever done in my personal life and certainly would not consider at RESQCATS.

I returned to the vet with Sparrow and her kittens for a more comprehensive and expensive analysis of her blood to determine if the virus was contained in her blood stream. If so, testing again in 30 days could possibly show a negative result. All the while, I hoped for a false positive since that does happen occasionally. In addition, each kitten was tested.

The kittens came back negative, but it took several days of sitting on pins and needles for Sparrow’s test to finally return. Sadly, it is definitely positive. It means that the virus is in her bone marrow and there is no hope of it being refused by her body.

So what is there to do?

A lot!

Sparrow is taking immune support supplements, eating a healthy diet and is thriving at RESQCATS. She has gained weight and is enjoying her leisurely days away from her kittens. The vet suggested separating her to eliminate continued exposure of the babies until they are retested. Sparrow will be spayed by the time you receive this newsletter and then my search for a home for her will begin.

Many who follow RESQCATS on Facebook have offered so much support and compassion as we have waited for her diagnosis. Your prayers, lighting of candles and words of compassion have been my strength. For those of you who are not Facebook followers, I ask for your support, as well, in the search for Sparrow’s miracle.

It is true that her lifespan may be shorter than

many cats, but that in no way means that she will not enjoy her weeks, months or even years of health and happiness. It is my goal that her time is spent in the comfort of a loving home.

It is possible for her to live with other Leukemia positive kitties or to be the only cat in the household. She should be an indoors-only (as required by RESQCATS anyway) so that she does not infect other unvaccinated cats.

Of all the kitties at RESQCATS, I think she deserves to be in a house where she can be the center of attention and feel love and compassion. She is bursting with personality. Her large gold eyes have captured my heart. It is often said that the eyes of a cat are windows to their souls. And hers certainly are. And speaking of hearts...she has one on the tip of her orange and white nose!

I know that Sparrow has come into my life to remind me of a quote that I have written on my bulletin board. I refer to especially when meeting the most difficult challenges of rescue. It says, “Obstacles create opportunity.”

I am convinced that there is someone out there who feels the same way I do about adoption. “Sometimes it is about **who needs a home.**”

So I ask each of you to search into the depths of your own hearts and help RESQCATS in searching for Sparrow’s miracle. A home.



Some special thank yous...

Thank you, Heather MacNeil, for your compassion, understanding, support and generosity. You are an inspiration and blessing to me and to RESQCATS!



A very special *thank you* to **Betty Oberacker** for all that sweetness as a little girl rescuing animals to your compassion and generosity as a grown up girl!



A heartfelt *thank you* to **Nicki Hetzel**...a friend from the past who reached forward into time with a beautiful gift for "Sparrow!"



Words are not enough to *thank you, Whitney Alessandri*, for fostering "Friskees," in November 2013. He was one sick little kitten and Whitney spent weeks caring for and monitoring him for RESQCATS. What a huge heart she has!



A special *thank you* to **Waverly Bagley**, a young lady who sent a donation out of her own allowance to help with the cats and kittens at RESQCATS. She told me she loves cats and hopes to be a vet one day...so now I know the animals will be cared for in future generations! Thank you Waverly!



Thank you, Cat Pollon! The difference you make at RESQCATS is immeasurable and my appreciation for that is also infinite!



I am not sure where to begin to thank **Gennelle Linville** for your compassion, understanding, appreciation of what RESQCATS does and for your generous support. Not a day goes by that I do not realize that I could not do what we do at RESQCATS without people like you...*thank you* so much.



Thank you Mark and Cindy Reinhardt...for years and years of making such a difference! Your compassion is something beyond Earthly...know you are loved and appreciated and all the RESQCATS kitties are blessed to have your support.



Thank you, Denny and Bonnie Epperson, for sticking with me all these years...for your faith, trust, understanding and generous support...not to mention being wonderful friends.



Not a day goes by that you do not make a difference at RESQCATS with such generosity and support. I cannot begin to *thank you* enough for all you do to give a most precious gift to many kitties...the gift of life. Thank you so much, **Donald and Christine Anderson!**



Thank you, Patricia Bragg, on behalf of the **Bragg**

Health Institute for your beautiful contribution to RESQCATS. As a cat lover, I know you realize how special they are and I am honored and so very appreciative of your understanding, support and generosity!



Angela Kroemer, you are an angel. You touched the lives of so many in 2013 and helped save the sickest ones with your donations. And now, you will be part of saving lives in 2014 with your wonderful donation. I am not sure there are words big enough to express my humble gratitude. You have taught me to be a better person through your thoughtfulness. *Thank you!*



A special *thank you* to **Lynne and Buddy Borderre** for years of support and giving so many a precious gift...the gift of life!



Shirley Otto has been a supporter of RESQCATS from the beginning and changed the lives of countless felines through her donations...Shirley, *thank you!*



Diane Ledbetter, thank you seems so inadequate when expressing my gratitude to you for years of support. The difference you have made cannot be measured. Know you are very much appreciated.



Thank you Lois Dunn at Charlie's Cat Toys who donates toys every Christmas for kittens to play with during their time here at RESQCATS. We appreciate so much her generosity, kindness and her love of animals. Lois cares for the strays that she can in her own KY neighborhood. Her Ebay site is <http://stores.ebay.com/Charlies-Cat-Toys>. You can order toys for your own favorite four-legged friend or have a gift donated to RESQCATS.



Thank you, Susan Leroy, for being there as a "mid-wife" to help the young moms who are still kittens themselves give birth to their kittens. Your compassion and knowledge are immeasurable. And the difference you have made is unsurpassed.



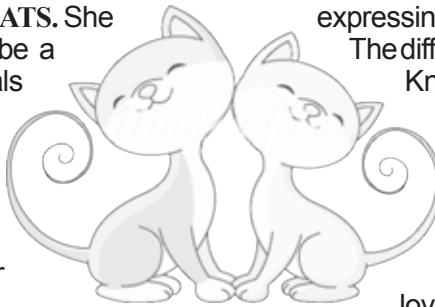
Janet Dewey! *Thank you* for all the painting you did again this year to make sure RESQCATS has the best looking sanctuary on the planet! I don't know how you do it year after year! It is amazingly beautiful at RESQCATS because of you.



Thank you Nancy Aguirre for taking care of everything at RESQCATS while I was away, for helping to birth kittens of a young mom and for all the countless tasks you tackle head-on to make RESQCATS successful.



A most humbling *thank you* to the "**Lucky Fund**" for such compassion and generosity. The difference you make will give so many a chance for life, for you have given: love, light, hope, blessings and miracles.



A Rescuer's Perspective

I want to share a piece that says in such eloquent words what so many of us who rescue animals experience.

It was posted on the Wildcat Sanctuary Facebook page and the author is unknown.

“ *For animal lovers like me,*
rescue is the most incredible, rewarding job... in the history of forever.
At the same time... it's also the most heartbreaking...
The truth is... You see a lot of things... you never thought you'd see.
You witness a level of cruelty... you didn't think was possible.
You feel a degree of helplessness... you never thought you'd know.
You stare at painful images... soon burned into your memory...
...that will haunt your thoughts forever.
You try to pick up the pieces... so many pieces... of the damage you didn't do.
You do everything in your power... but even still... you'll never reach them all.
You'll try to stay strong... but you'll mostly feel weak.
You'll build walls to protect your heart... but they'll never keep you safe.
You'll place barriers around your soul... but the pain will always reach you.
And no matter how hard you try to fight it... over time... here's the truth about what happens in animal rescue...
The neglect changes you.
The abuse hardens you.
The suffering breaks you.
The ignorance angers you.
The indifference disturbs you.
The injustice destroys you.
On a daily basis... your faith will be tested...
Your heart will be wounded...
Your soul will be altered.
On a weekly basis... you'll question yourself...
You'll question your strength...
You'll question the world.
On a monthly basis... you'll fall down...
You'll get up...
You'll go on.
On a yearly basis... you'll look back...
You'll see faces...
You couldn't save them.
You'll learn to mourn. To grieve. To sob.
You'll learn to trust a little less. To do a little more. To

fight a little harder.
You'll learn to try. To hope. To pray.
You'll learn to fail. To succeed. To accept.
You'll learn when to hold on. When to give up. When to let go.
You'll learn who you are. What you stand for. Why that matters.
Then... at times... you'll forget why you matter.
You'll question what you're doing.
You'll wonder if it's worth it.

But... here's the good news...

When you forget...
When you question...
When you wonder...
All you have to do... Is take a look around... And you'll see them.
You'll see their faces.
You'll see their smiles.
You'll feel their love.
In their eyes, you'll see their journeys...
You'll remember their beginnings...
You'll know how far they've come...
You'll remember when they didn't know you
When they didn't trust you...
When they'd given up.
You'll remember how you healed them...
How you loved them...
How they loved you, too.
And as you look back... You'll want to move forward...
For them... and because of them.
In your darkest hours, you'll look around...
To find the differences made... the hope given... and the lives saved...
Because you existed.
In those moments, when you look into their eyes... every doubt will be erased.
Every question will be answered.
Every worry will subside.
Because in that instant... in each of your hearts...
You both share the very same thought: "Every bit of pain was worth it... for this moment here with you."
And honestly... no matter what else happens
Those moments hold all the strength you need... To keep going.
Rescue is pain.
Rescue is joy.
Rescue is worth it... because they are worth it.
And that's the honest truth. ”

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Each kitty has a Feline Leukemia/FIV test. They also receive their first FVRCP vaccination and if for any reason they are still here when the second one is due, well, they get that one, too! And RESQCATS has them micro-chipped at the time of spay or neuter surgery.

Cardiologists, ophthalmologists, orthopedic surgeons, internal medicine doctors or any other veterinarian specialist that may need to be considered for the health of the kitty is consulted. Many of you may recall that 2013 was an especially critical year with a multitude of medical issues that required a specialist. These veterinarians study additional years in order to become experts in their fields. It gives us the opportunity to save so many more lives. I must admit, that after consulting so many of them last year and some of them several times in our efforts to provide optimum care for the cats, many of the vets and I are on a first name basis!

I am proud that we can give every kitty that enters our doors the finest medical care and a chance for life. I have all of you who support RESQCATS to thank for that.

RESQCATS will continue to be committed to rescuing kittens posted on Craigslist. So often, those "free" kittens that are given away and will never make a trip to the vet. They will be not spayed or neutered and will be producing more litters in just a few months. We also make every effort to ensure the moms and dads are fixed.

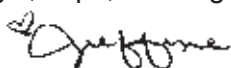
Supplies are stocked in the medicine cabinets, the shelves hold bags and cases of food, 100 bags of litter take up an entire corner in the garage and we are moving forward with the first litters of the year. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already found homes for the litters of kittens and their moms that are here today. The pregnant mom in foster will have had her babies. I predict that RESQCATS will be overflowing with kittens.

So I am sending you this newsletter a little earlier in the season than usual. Since kitten season has started two months earlier this year, I know that we will need your support more than ever to provide for all those who are fortunate enough to enter through RESQCATS doors. Secondly, I can already see that I am not going to have any time to sit down and write a newsletter in the next couple of months.

Many of you know that this is the part of my job that I find most difficult. Asking for your support is not something I do frivolously. Your donations are appreciated more than you can imagine. The contribution you give is a gift of life for these kitties.

Not a day goes by that I do not realize that what we do at RESQCATS would not be possible without you and your tax-deductible donation.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart and send back to you what you bestow with your support: love, light, hope, blessings and miracles.



Jeffyne Telson
President, RESQCATS, Inc.



The San Diego jetty....
the first place I ever
rescued kitties dating
back 28 years ago! That
was just the beginning. I
had the chance to visit a
few weeks ago and it sure
brought back memories!

"Zoe" is Wayne and Lisa Pacelle's newest rescue to their family. (Wayne is President of the Humane Society of the United States). He brought Zoe home when he found her on his morning run.

Looks like Zoe approves of the RESQCATS fleece blankets! We have new designs to choose from and they are available at: The Montecito Pet Shop, The CatHouse Hotel (both in Santa Barbara) and Valley Pets in Buellton.

All the proceeds go directly to the cats!



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!