

# 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 2014



## *President's Message*

Written on October 24, 2014



Jeffyne with "Winkin" and "Blinkin"

This time of year is always my time of reflection. I think back over all the stories that accompany the cats and kittens when they are fortunate enough to be rescued. The stories behind them when they enter RESQCATS are usually ones of misfortune. But when they come through RESQCATS' doors, luck changes and the kitties get a brand new start to the rest of their lives.

RESQCATS found homes for over 150 cats and kittens in 2014. We also reached a new milestone by surpassing 2200 total adoptions since we began 17 years ago. And those numbers do not include all the other cats and kittens that have received our help through our spay and neuter community outreach efforts. Our assistance to Catalyst for Cats and their commitment to TNR (trap, neuter and return) at the beginning of 2014 when cats come into heat literally saved hundreds of kittens from being born homeless. In addition, RESQCATS proudly supported other local organizations with their spay and neuter programs. Our help is in the spirit of all of us working together to reduce pet overpopulation. And it is great to be part of the community effort.

This past year was one of many challenges

and obstacles. But in my mind, "obstacles create opportunity." RESQCATS has cared for kitties like "Jacquelyn," who arrived as an abandoned 10 year old cat with multiple medical issues. "Sparrow" was a mother cat who tested positive for Feline Leukemia. Luckily, she showed no signs of the virus and was adopted into a wonderful home. Sparrow would have been euthanized for her positive status in most other shelters. "Dallas" was a tiny kitten born at RESQCATS who was diagnosed with a heart murmur that was quite serious. He was seen by a cardiologist and his report was inconclusive as to whether his condition would improve, deteriorate, or shorten his lifespan. Dallas was adopted by Victoria Stewart and her family knowing his condition. They offered him a home without hesitation. I am happy to report that Dallas returned to the cardiologist for a follow-up appointment in October and the news is that he will have a long normal life! "Winkin" and "Blinkin" had herpes eye infections that were so far out of hand at the time of their rescue that we were left with no option but to surgically remove their eyes. They found a home together and rule Kim Simkins' house like any seeing kittens would...full of fun, curiosity and energy. In addition, upper respiratory infections hit the entire cattery...one litter at a time. It took weeks of supportive care and delayed adoptions to get everyone well so they could find homes. "Pepper" and "Rosemary" came to RESQCATS looking great, however, within a



"Mikey" in his new home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



"Banksy" in his new home

few days, they showed signs of ringworm. They were bathed every other day for three weeks and treated with a topical medication three times a day. Bedding was changed daily, their litter box was dumped every day and all precautions were taken to not spread the fungus spores to other cats. Enclosures on each side had to remain vacant for three weeks to ensure the fungus was contained,

As I look back, I think 2014 was a tougher year than usual because of the number of medical issues. It was also a great opportunity for me to learn more. Rescue is always accompanied by some education!

Our expenses were unusually high. But it has always been my philosophy to provide only the best care to every cat or kitten. And I have never failed to do that regardless of the price tag. All life is precious and worth saving. RESQCATS will never euthanize a cat because it is Leukemia or FIV positive. We do not send kittens to their death because of severe eye infections. And 10 year old unadoptable cats like Jacquelyn stay as a resident cat with lifetime care.

I am proud to state that we tackled every challenge with the help of the veterinarians, eye specialists,



"Pop" in his new home

surgeons, fosters, cardiologists, volunteers, The Montecito Pet Shop and people like you who support our efforts. You exhibit so much effort and dedication.

RESQCATS also announced the Grand Opening of our Etsy Store. It gives people the opportunity to make a difference and have something to show for it in the way of a gift or something special for themselves. In addition, we joined **AmazonSmile** and have asked you to sign up and choose RESQCATS as your charity of choice. We receive a portion of every dollar you spend when you make a purchase. We spent many Saturdays at fundraising booths at The Montecito Pet Shop offering all kinds of unique items by several different artists.



Erika, Nancy, Jeffyne, Rachel, Amy and Adrienne

It would be impossible to cover all the events of this past year in a 16 page update!

I have included a lot in this newsletter for you to enjoy. There are heartwarming stories of love and success, an article about some of our rescues and where all the kitties come from, lots of photos of happy kitties in their new homes, a great article by Mr. Jeffyne and much more.

I hope the stories and information inspire you, make you laugh, make you cry tears of understanding and compassion and encourage you to make a difference in the world.

It goes without saying but I like to remind you that I am appreciative to all of you for your support. The 2014 season is not over and I anticipate another busy year in 2015. With your help in the form of a tax-deductible donation, we can do this together!

If I was asked to choose a single word to describe how I feel about all that has come my way this year through RESQCATS, it would be "grateful."

Most sincerely,

Jeffyne Telson

President and founder of RESQCATS, Inc.

## *Winkin' and Blinkin'*

*"Know that the same spark of life that is within you is within all of our animal friends, the desire to live is the same within all of us...."* — Rae Aren



Each year at RESQCATS we face some serious medical challenges. But I don't think there has ever been a bigger obstacle in our history than with two kittens that were found under the bushes in Santa Maria. They were discovered in mid-May curled around each other dying. A feral mother had given birth to three babies and then abandoned these two, but continued to care for her remaining healthy kitten. The mother cat's instinct told that something was very wrong with the kittens so she left them behind. Nature is often survival of the fittest and this was certainly an example.

It is only because of luck and compassionate human intervention that these little darlings were given a chance for life.

From the moment the tiny and almost lifeless orange tabby boy and his siamese sister arrived in foster care, we knew there was a long road of struggle ahead. They were only a few days old and required bottle-feeding. That was certainly do-able. What was most alarming, however, were their horrendous eye infections. They were the worst we had ever seen. The little boy's eye protruded beyond his socket and that made it impossible for him to close his eye or blink. His other eye was glued shut with crusty infection, as were his sister's. I suspected a herpes virus, which is common in kittens, but this obviously needed more than the usual lysine and eye ointment we usually administer as treatment!

The siblings went to the vet immediately and were referred as an emergency to a specialist in ophthalmology the same day. Fortunately, we have

an eye specialist in our area. The ophthalmologist prescribed pain relievers right away, as well as nine other medications. The meds were to be dispersed at certain times and repeated several times a day. The vet had little hope that the little boy's eyes could be saved but we needed to give it our best effort.

"Winkin" and "Blinkin" were the names chosen for the special pair. Deanna Koens fostered them and quickly found that dispensing medication for them was a 24/7 job. But Deanna always gives it her all and followed the doctor's instructions explicitly. The kittens were driven back and forth to the ophthalmologist several times in the following days and weeks. Sadly, the news was the same every time. Blinkin was not improving. The vet recommended that the kindest thing to do for him to relieve his pain and suffering was to surgically remove both of his eyes. He was only a few weeks old. We feared that putting such a tiny kitten under anesthesia was risky but there was no choice. So Blinkin had both eyes removed. Would you believe that he purred all the way home after surgery because he did not hurt anymore! That just goes to prove how much pain he had suffered. Seeing his eyes gone and only sutures replacing them was tough at first...but



"Blinkin"

it didn't appear to cause Blinkin any problem! He was thankful to not be in pain and was as happy as any other kitten with eyes.

Winkin's eyes were not as severe as her brother's and the vet felt that she may need more time and treatment to see if there was improvement. The vet felt there was a slight possibility that Winkin could keep one of her eyes for she appeared to see light and shadow out of it. Our goal was to do our best to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



"Winkin"

save that one. Her treatment continued for weeks, but by the end of July, hope was lost and Winkin's eyes were removed, too. The light and shadow that she had known was now pure darkness. Her adjustment to that was one of hesitancy and caution. She relied on Blinkin to show her the way...and he sure did.

By this time, Blinkin had become quite accustomed to not having his sight. He was confident, running, jumping, climbing and playing like any other kitten with eyes according to Deanna. And soon, Winkin followed Blinkin's lead and counted on him to show her the ropes.

I had only met Blinkin and Winkin briefly after they went into foster care, but Deanna and I talked almost daily. I was elated that they were finally doing so well. I do have to admit that the impossibility of being able to find a home for two blind kittens weighed heavily in the back of my mind. I tried to remain optimistic. Deanna and I agreed that this bonded pair must be adopted together. No exceptions!

Finally, it was time for Winkin and Blinkin to come to RESQCATS from foster care and the reality of searching for an adopter moved to the forefront of my thoughts. In addition, I confess that I was incredibly nervous about their arrival and feared for their safety in an enclosure. Deanna assured me that they were able maneuver up and down the driftwood ramps and jump off condos like any kitten with eyes! I didn't believe it until I saw it.

As a precaution, however, we stretched a large blanket to act as a hammock across the entire enclosure so that if they happened to fall off the upper shelf, it would catch them. Did they ever fall? NO! But they did walk up the driftwood ramp wrapped in sisal rope and find their way into the make-believe hammock to nap! And they romped and played just like any other kittens.

Through all my tears and worry, I began to see things in a new perspective. Blinkin and Winkin did

see...just in a different way....through touch, smell and some magical power they possessed. Their lesson was quickly obvious to me. I could see it with my eyes and my heart. I now understand that "beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder." As humans, we judge people by how they look; we are attracted to each other, at least at first, by appearance. Everything we hold as beautiful is through our vision...but there is beauty in everyone we meet that goes well beyond what we see externally. Inner beauty comes from within and is much more important than being handsome or pretty. It is so clear to me now because of these two precious kittens.

I hoped that someone would see Blinkin and Winkin as I did.

I was asked by several following their story on Facebook if they would be adopted together. Even one of the vet techs who met them wanted to adopt Blinkin. Just Blinkin. How could anyone not see that this was a bonded pair and needed to be together, I thought. I was NEVER going to budge on that one; together was a requirement.

Then reality hit. RESQCATS had two kittens with no eyes. Who would ever consider them when so many "perfect" ones were available? I saw a long road ahead educating people about blind kittens. Would anyone see their beauty....no, not in their appearance...that is NOT what I mean. But in their spirit and in the lessons they had to teach.

Their medical care was over \$3400. I am grateful to so many who sent support in the form of donations to help cover some of the expenses. And I thank others who shared such kind words of love and understanding. When kittens like Blinkin and Winkin come to RESQCATS I welcome them as I know their fate could have been immediate euthanasia if they



"Winkin" and "Blinkin" at RESQCATS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Chloe's Column

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ended up somewhere else.

I suspect that Kim Simkins had been following my posts on Facebook about Winkin and Blinkin for months. I had just posted about their arrival and within a day, she called. Kim adopted from RESQCATS last year so I knew who she was when I answered the phone. "Jeffyne, this is Kim," she said. "I am calling because I recently lost two of my senior cats and I feel like I have the heart and the home to give to Winkin and Blinkin."

I was silent...I was trying to find my voice. Had I heard that correctly? Finally, the lump in my throat released, but my heart started to pound and my head was spinning with cautious anticipation.

Kim and I planned a time for her to visit them later that week. I was careful to leave an "out" for her and made sure that in my words she understood that I was not assuming she would take them and understood she needed to meet them first.

But Kim had made up her mind before she even made that phone call. How do I know? She showed up with a carrier and she had new collars and new names for them! Blinkin became "Boz" and Winkin is now "Iris."

They have thrived in Kim's house...she just has an energy and spirit about her that works for the cats. And "Levon," the kitten that Kim adopted from RESQCATS last year, has taken these two special kittens on as his personal duty.

I am humbly grateful to Kim for having a beautiful heart of kindness and compassion.

Kim, may Boz and Iris bless you with as many gifts as they have me along their journey.



"Levon" with "Winkin" and "Blinkin"

**"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." — Mark Twain**



*Well, it's time again for me to educate you on all things purr-fect... CATS!*

### Did You Know...?

- 🐾 Cats who live outdoors have a lifespan of 5.6 years while a strictly indoor cat averages 16.9 years.
- 🐾 The thick fur that frames the faces of Persians and Maine Coons is called the "ruff."
- 🐾 When cats rub their faces against you it's called bunting.
- 🐾 The formal name of true cat lovers is Ailurophile. It derives from the Greek word ailur-os, meaning "house cat," and phil-os, meaning "friendly."

### Cat Facts!

- 🐾 A cat can travel at a top speed of approximately 31 mph over a short distance.
- 🐾 Cats can jump up to five times their own height in a single leap.
- 🐾 A cat has 230 bones in its body. A human has 206. A cat has no collarbone, so it can fit through any opening the size of its head.

### Famous Cat Lovers...

- ♥ Freddy Mercury (from the rock band: Queen) loved his cat, Delilah, so much that he wrote a song about her!
- ♥ George Burns called his cat "Willie," reportedly because "when you tell the cat what to do, there's always a question of will-he or won't he."
- ♥ T.S. Eliot, was a cat lover and wrote an entire book of poems about cats. His *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* was set to music by Andrew Lloyd Weber and became the long-running musical, *Cats*.
- ♥ John Lennon loved cats. As a young boy he rode his bicycle to the fishmonger's to buy hake for his cat. He named his first cat Mimi after his cat-loving aunt. He and his first wife Cynthia were the proud owners of up to ten cats at one time.

*I hope you found my humble offerings both interesting and informative – I know I did! Thanks for being so supportive of my writings and for encouraging me to continue my research for new facts, trivia, and general knowledge about our favorite pet – CATS!*

xoxo, *Chloe*

And now...

## A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne

Oh no, not another hoarding situation!!



Mitch and his collies "Echo," "Whisper," "MisJef" and "Jewel"

For the third time since 2005, we have become involved in a terribly abusive, dog hoarding occurrence involving the same female health-care professional in Houston, Texas.

Nine years ago, this woman was accused, but not charged, with the mistreatment of more than 30 collies, one of the most intelligent, gentle and sensitive of all the dog breeds...think Lassie.

Then, in 2007 this same person was again accused of hoarding and abusing another 56 dogs...again, all collies!

And now, just seven years later, this same woman, a professional person in the health care field, has been involved with, what was first thought to be 33 dogs, but has ultimately turned into a staggering 139 neglected and abused collies!

How did this happen, again in the same area and with the same person...and more importantly, could it have been prevented?

This most recent incident was brought to the attention of authorities as a result of the accused trying to "game" the justice system. The hoarder had purchased three collies from another individual under an assumed name and refused to pay for the animals. Not having been compensated for her dogs, the seller instituted a lawsuit for payment or the recovery of her collies. The abuser/hoarder, thinking she could skirt the legal system entirely, elected to file bankruptcy to avoid either returning the dogs or paying her debt. Fortunately for the dogs involved, the bankruptcy judge assigned to the case was an animal-lover who, while doing his background research, discovered that the abuser had entered into the collie purchase contract using a

fictitious name to disguise the fact that she was the subject of an ongoing animal cruelty investigation...an investigation which had resulted in her relinquishing 56 abused and neglected collies to authorities in 2007 in lieu of prosecution!

So incensed was this judge with the individual's previously unpunished animal cruelty behavior that he threatened to have her arrested if she continued to lie under oath. She finally relented and admitted to having "just" 33 collies at her home. Given this new information, the judge requested that Houston Collie Rescue immediately take possession of all the dogs.



However, when the collie rescue volunteers arrived at the woman's residence to take control of the animals, the number of collies quickly escalated from 33 to 93, and before the night was over, to 97 dogs! By the time the last collie was finally removed from the property and re-located to a clean, safe environment, the actual number of adult, juvenile and collie puppies born that weekend, had sky-rocketed to an astounding 139 animals!



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

How can someone accumulate so many lovable animals and keep them in such deplorably filthy conditions? And when is this highly abusive animal hoarding behavior going to be recognized by the general public as a serious mental issue and brought under control? These are but a few of the questions we ask every time the news reports on a large number of dogs or cats, or any other animal, being kept by what usually appears to be an otherwise, intelligent, responsible individual.

According to Karen L. Cassiday, PhD, *Clinical Director and Owner, The Anxiety Treatment Center of Deerfield & Chicago, Illinois*: the term “animal hoarding” refers to the compulsive need to collect and own animals for the sake of caring for them that results in...neglect or abuse. Most hoarders of animals fall victim to their initial good intentions and end up emotionally overwhelmed, socially isolated, and ultimately alienated from family and friends. The problem causes immense suffering for both animals and people. It also creates great expense for local animal shelters and may require regional and national efforts to find homes for large numbers of animals. No one really knows the exact number of animal hoarders, but reports in the media and to animal control and law enforcement agencies have increased five-fold in the past decade. Hundreds of thousands of animals are affected each year. Sadly, this problem is underreported and hidden because animal hoarders tend to come to the attention of mental health professionals and animal control authorities only when others complain. Thousands of animals suffer and many die in squalid surroundings, devoid of adequate food and water, yet, the owners insist nothing is wrong. Standing in three inches of feces, breathing acrid ammonia in the air, and in plain view of dead and dying dogs, one woman said, “I never hurt any dogs, I love my babies.” Conditions often become extreme before law enforcement officials can glean enough evidence for a search warrant.

“The biggest problem is we are never allowed access to the house until it becomes so severe that something tragic happens,” says an undersheriff in Oregon. Communities are left to cover the cost of rescuing, treating, housing, feeding, and in some cases euthanizing the animals. Additional financial costs for incarceration and public defenders add to the burden.

So how do we stop this kind of abusive animal behavior? How can we, as concerned animal people, prevent this kind of animal cruelty from continuing to occur?

Well, as I shared in a previous Mr. Jeffyne article, if we truly want to stem the tide of this kind of abusive animal hoarding behavior, we need to personally get involved and take action:

Get educated on animal hoarding...learn all you can about this compulsive behavior so you can properly recognize the symptoms.

When you see an animal hoarding situation, report it to the proper authorities. Don't assume someone else will take care of it. Remember, there are animal lives at stake.

Insist that the authorities resolve the situation. We all know that our city and county agencies are working hard but animal hoarders are real problems that often need immediate intervention from properly trained personnel.

Keep in mind that animal hoarding is a mental condition. For the sake of the animals and to prevent this type of abusive situation from continuing, insist that the hoarder gets immediate and on-going help.

Whether we are talking about cats or dogs or rabbits or guinea pigs or horses or any other creature...animals are animals. Animal hoarding is nothing short of animal cruelty!

If you care about animals, and I am sure you do... step up, step in and get involved! It takes countless people to clean up one person's hoarding disaster!



Sign up on **AmazonSmile** and choose **RESQCATS** as your charity of choice. We will receive a percentage of everything you purchase. It all adds up to make a difference!



## ***Where do you find all those cats and kittens!***

In the world of rescue, you hear just about every thing you can imagine. There are stories of how animals are treated (and mistreated) by humans. Cats and kittens are dumped under bushes, behind dumpsters, in trash barrels and even worse. Others have uneducated owners who know nothing about the importance of spaying and neutering so they allow their cats to have litter after litter. Then those kittens will breed before they are a year old. And to top it all off, there are those who sell them on Craigslist seeing kittens as a way to make money. The work for rescuers is endless.

I am especially grateful that I do not know all the stories behind every cat and kitten that is fortunate enough to enter the doors at RESQCATS. If I am aware of their circumstances before coming to us, I don't have the luxury of time to dwell on the sadness because there is so much to do to care for them. Many need immediate veterinary care and others need nourishment, safety from all they have endured and gentle unconditional love.

People often ask me "where do you find all those cats and kittens?" So here are a few scenarios from some of those RESQCATS helped this year!

*(To all who adopted the following cats and kittens, I have used their names while at RESQCATS. Please forgive me for not using the new names you have given them as I am not sure what they all are!)*

"Angel" was an owned cat. However, the person who was believed to be caring for her felt his drug habit was more important than Angel. He provided no medical care, very little food and she continued to get pregnant over and over again. She was rescued by a caring neighbor and gave birth to five kittens in the comfort of foster care.

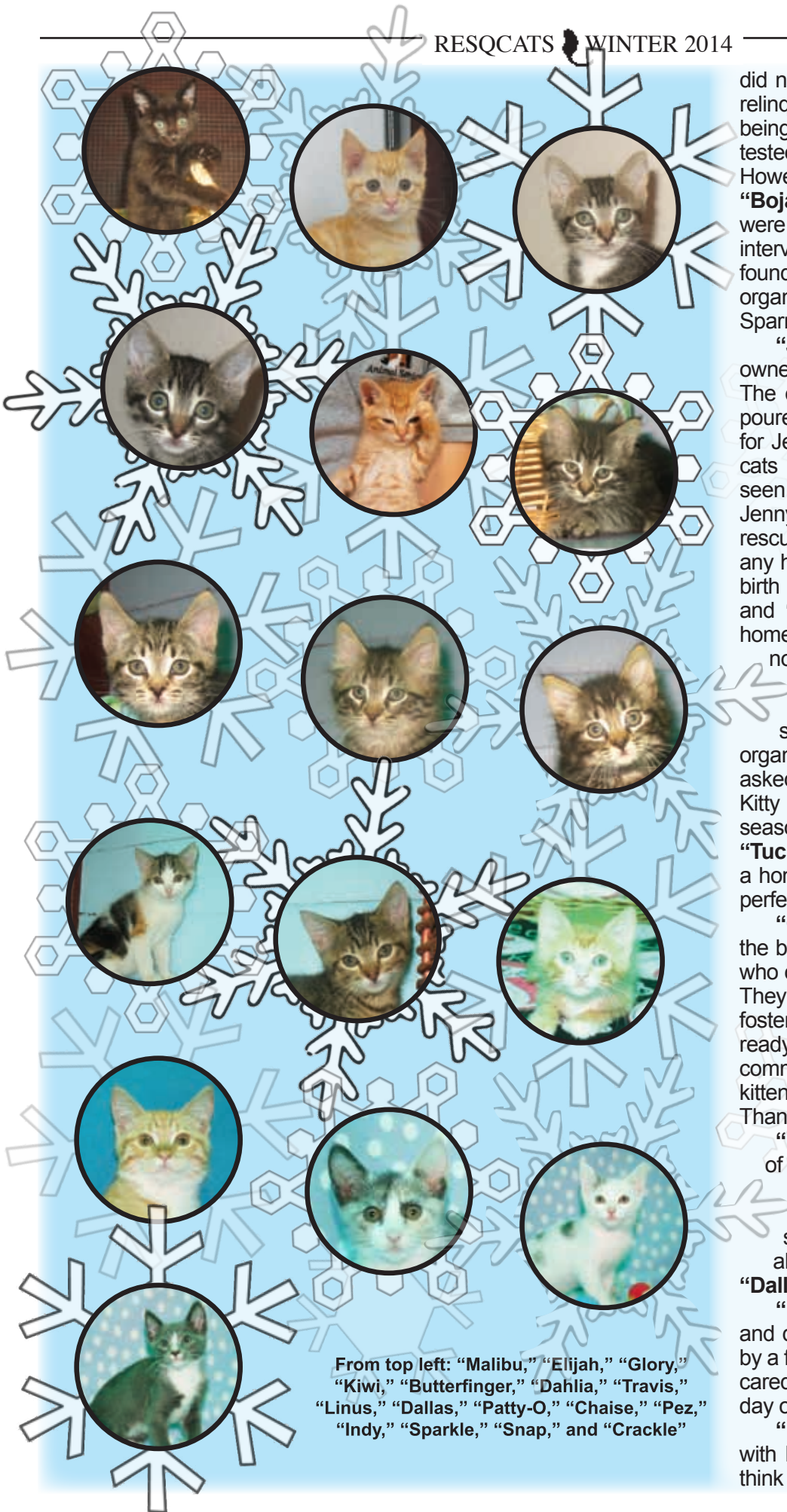
"Redford," "Newman" and "Cooper" were born to an owned cat. The mother cats' owner agreed to relinquish the kittens to RESQCATS since we could take care of all their medical needs and find homes for them. In return, RESQCATS covered all the medical expenses for their mom, including spay surgery!

"Sparrow" belonged to a family who



From top left: "Angel," "Redford,"  
"Newman," "Cooper," "Sparrow,"  
"Strudel," "Bojangles," "Daytona,"  
"Bristol," "Jenny," "Ares,"  
"Pegasus," "Adonis," "Margo,"  
"Tucker," and "Tanner"





From top left: "Malibu," "Elijah," "Glory,"  
 "Kiwi," "Butterfinger," "Dahlia," "Travis,"  
 "Linus," "Dallas," "Patty-O," "Chaise," "Pez,"  
 "Indy," "Sparkle," "Snap," and "Crackle"

did not want her or her kittens. She was relinquished along with her kittens after being advertised on Craigslist. Sparrow tested positive for Feline Leukemia. However, her babies, "**Strudel**," "**Bojangles**," "**Daytona**" and "**Bristol**" were tested twice at the recommended interval and all were negative. Everyone found homes...even Sparrow! Most organizations would have euthanized Sparrow due to her positive status.

"**Jenny**" was left behind when her owners moved. And she was pregnant! The owners drove by once a week and poured hot water over top ramen noodles for Jenny to eat along with the two other cats they abandoned. A neighbor was seen teaching his son how to shoot at Jenny with a BB gun! She was immediately rescued by a foster, Debbie Merry, before any harm could come to her. Jenny gave birth to three boys, "**Ares**," "**Pegasus**" and "**Adonis**" in the safety of a foster home. And she was given more than noodles to eat!!!

"**Margo**" was turned into the San Bernardino Shelter and scheduled for euthanasia when an organization, Kitty Devore, saved her. They asked RESQCATS to help. We assist Kitty Devore with at least a litter every season. Margo was adopted with her son, "**Tucker**!" "**Tanner**" and "**Malibu**" found a home together. And "**Elijah**" found the perfect family, too!

"**Glory**" and "**Kiwi**" were found under the bushes and taken in by a caring lady who contacted RESQCATS immediately. They were only two days old. They were fostered by Deanna Koens until they were ready to be adopted. It takes weeks of commitment to bottle-feeding and weaning kittens to solid food. It is truly a 24/7 job. Thank you, Deanna!

"**Butterfinger**" was found on the side of the road all by himself when he was just five weeks old.

"**Dahlia**" was delivered by a stray mom, "**Misa**," at RESQCATS along with "**Travis**," "**Linus**" and "**Dallas**."

"**Patty-O**" and "**Chaise**" were born and dropped onto a lady's patio furniture by a feral mom...who then left. They were cared for and bottle-fed from their very first day on Earth!

"**Pez**" was discovered on the sidewalk with his umbilical cord still attached. We think his mom may have been moving him

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Welcome "Jacqueline" ... a new RESQCATS resident

Sometimes, it is just meant to be. And that is just how it was when Jacquelyn arrived at RESQCATS last May, which also happens to be the beginning of kitten season.

Jacquelyn was brought to RESQCATS by a sweet lady who had been feeding her since her owners moved and left her behind at an apartment building. When the lady needed to move, her number one concern was how the cat could survive on her own. To add insult to injury, the apartment's landlord threatened to have the abandoned cat removed and euthanized.

RESQCATS agreed to take Jacquelyn. She was petite in stature so the young woman estimated Jacquelyn to be about six months old.

She was described to me as sweet and the kind of kitty that would curl around your legs looking for affection. I surmised that I could certainly find a home for a sweet six month old kitten.

However, the moment the woman arrived with the cat I could see that things were very different! One glance at her and I said, "This cat is not six months old, she is more like six years!" She looked like a frail senior cat that had certainly seen better days. She had no fur on her ears, a huge bump above one of her eyes and her dull black fur covered a small undernourished skeleton. In addition, she limped, was unable to jump onto anything above 2 feet and was unstable in her back legs. I guessed that she may have suffered from a broken hip or leg. But here she was! What was I to do! Say no?! I guess I knew from that first moment that I was in for a challenge!

Jacquelyn immediately went to the vet. The doctor estimated her to be 12 years old based on her teeth and her poor condition. X-rays revealed that she had no broken bones in her hind end and that the instability in her back legs was probably neurological. She desperately needed to have a dental. One tooth was especially inflamed and needed to come out. There was the possibility of other extractions, too. Before we could risk putting her under anesthesia, the doctor recommended a full blood panel.

A fluid sample from the large cyst above her eye was also sent into the lab to test.

I waited impatiently for all the results. Her blood work was perfect! No kidney issues. FIV and Feline Leukemia tests were negative. So we were good to go with a dental! GREAT!

NO! STOP! The results of the cyst above her eye revealed that it was a mass cell tumor. While those are usually benign in cats, we needed to determine if the tumor was isolated to that single location or had developed as a secondary site from somewhere else inside her body. More tumors could exist in her abdomen. The only way to know conclusively was to have an abdominal ultra-sound.

That required a specialist!

So off to the specialist Jacquelyn and I went. An ultrasound indicated that the tumor was isolated to the solitary site and there was no sign of any other tumors inside her abdomen! Whew! Good news. However, due to the proximity of the tumor, surgery would be difficult and the regular vet suggested a surgeon specialist. So Jacquelyn and I met with the surgeon to come up with a plan. Our goal was to shrink the tumor as much as possible enabling the vet to get clean margins... "to get it all" as they say!

I have neglected to share that Jacquelyn does have attitude! So pilling her with any medicine proved very quickly to be dangerous for me and miserable for her. In fact, it was impossible. Fortunately, she loved to have her ears massaged so all her medicines could be compounded by a pharmacy that specialized in dermal medications so I was able to apply her prescribed meds directly onto her ear flaps.

The chemotherapy drugs shrunk the tumor as much as expected. Surgery was done and deemed successful because the surgeon "got it all!" When she returned to RESQCATS, Jacquelyn looked awful. Her fur was shaved from her forehead, eye area, nose and most of her face! But hey, the veterinarian got clean margins so I needed to be grateful for that. I remember seeing her just after surgery and the shock at her barren face. The doctor reassured me that it would "grow back!" And it did. Jacquelyn



Jeffyne and Jacquelyn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

sports a beautiful sleek black coat with only a few wisps of white on her chest.

Several weeks passed and Jacquelyn recovered beautifully. She ate like there was no tomorrow. Her fur glistened and a little weight on her petite body made her appear much healthier. Her eyes were clear and bright. Her attitude remained, well, sketchy and certainly on her terms. It was time to proceed with her dental surgery. Surprisingly, there was only one major extraction and all her other pearly whites cleaned up nicely! At this point, the vet decided that Jacquelyn was only ten years old...not twelve! And once that bad tooth was removed, Jacquelyn blossomed. She must have suffered from the pain of it more than any of us could have realized. She enjoyed time spent petting more and truly seemed to enjoy my visits with her more often.

Jacquelyn's vet expenses exceeded **\$4700** making her one of the most expensive cats to care for in the history of RESQCATS...and that does not include food and litter! But I stand true to what I say...they all deserve the best that I can provide for them. And while I may not be able to care for as many because she occupied an enclosure for so long and due to her on-going medical costs...I do it the right way! I wouldn't change a single thing in my caring for her.

Jacquelyn and I developed a special relationship of understanding...the understanding was mostly on my part as she still decided when she wanted to be pet and when she didn't. I have been swatted, bitten and warned countless times. Regardless, I moved forward at full speed determined to find a home for her. I posted her on Facebook with no replies of interest in adoption. There was someone who came to visit her and showed interest in her, that is until she whacked at him. I suppose Jacquelyn's mind was made up from the day she arrived that I was her forever person.

As we got to know and trust each other, some of the batting, hissing and bites have been replaced with head butts and signs of wanting more affection. She lowers her head in my hand to be pet, rumbling purrs, and once, she even placed her paw on my lap. I have hopes she will find her way into my lap one day.

I felt that I owed it to Jacquelyn to find a home for her where she could live out her years on the couch or at end of someone's bed. Honestly, I think that was just my idea of a perfect place for her. But she chose me and whatever I had to offer was good enough for her, and more importantly ...what she wanted from her first day at +.

So a new enclosure was built for Jacquelyn. That added another **\$600** to her care and provisions! She moved from her isolated room where she had remained for almost five months to a brand new

enclosure in the main cattery. She has a window, a handicap ramp to allow her easy access due to her unstable legs and stairs that allow her to climb up to her perch easily. To my surprise, she adjusted to her new surroundings and seeing all the other residents within a couple of days. She has even made friends with some of the volunteers.



And lastly and most important of all, Jacquelyn has my heart. I tell her first thing every morning when I enter her enclosure for a head butt that I love Jacquelyn. Did I need to say that...or had you figured that one out!

Welcome Jacquelyn!

“ When I look into the eyes of an animal I do not see an animal. I see a living being. I see a friend. I feel a soul. ”

— A.D. Williams



Another happy RESQCATS kitty: “Harley” in his new home

*Advanced Veterinary Specialist has kindly offered to write another article for the RESQCATS newsletter. Thank you, Dr. Carley for taking the time to research and help us understand hyperthyroidism in cats!*

## Hyperthyroidism in Cats

By Shannon Carley, DVM, DACVIM

Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrine disease in cats over 10 years old. The average age at diagnosis is 13 years old, and it is unusual to see this condition in a younger cat. It is due to a tumor of the thyroid gland, which, in at least 98% of cases, is benign.

The most common sign of hyperthyroidism is weight loss despite a ravenous appetite. The weight loss can sometimes be severe with a sudden onset. Other common signs and symptoms include increased water consumption and urination, restless behavior, attention seeking, and intermittent vomiting or diarrhea. If your cat begins to show any of these signs at home, regardless of age, it is a good idea to have him/her seen by a veterinarian. Other systemic effects secondary to hyperthyroidism include high blood pressure and heart disease.

What are possible causes of hyperthyroidism? There are some underlying factors that have been identified in some previous studies. These include: frequent ingestion of canned food from metal pop-top containers when the cat was younger, indoors only lifestyle, and possibly genetic factors. There appears to be a decreased incidence of this condition in Siamese and Himalayan cats.

### Diagnosis

Hyperthyroidism is most commonly diagnosed via bloodwork, though a thorough physical exam may reveal strong evidence. Most cats with hyperthyroidism will have an elevated T4 level, which is the primary thyroid hormone in the blood. Upon physical examination, oftentimes one or both of the lobes of the thyroid gland will be enlarged. Other bloodwork changes that can be associated with hyperthyroidism include mildly elevated liver enzymes. If the T4 is borderline, than further testing may be performed including a free T4, which is not as affected by other factors as the T4 is. In addition, nuclear scintigraphy may be performed, in which case the affected gland(s) will light up.

### Treatment

Once your kitty is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism, it is important to start treatment both from a quality

of life perspective for your cat (and possibly for you), as well as to prevent further worsening of the secondary cardiac disease and high blood pressure, if they occur. Treatment options include the following:



- **Medical:** The most common medication used for hyperthyroid cats is methimazole, which works by blocking the production of T4 and T3. Potential side effects of this treatment are vomiting and/or diarrhea, lethargy, decreased appetite and facial itching. More rare, serious side effects include liver failure and decrease in bone marrow production. It is generally recommended to treat with methimazole prior to pursuing a more permanent treatment. This is because if there are some unacceptable changes to the cat's functioning (i.e., sometimes kidney failure can be uncovered once the hyperthyroidism is treated), it can be tapered as needed.
- **Surgical:** This is not very commonly performed now due to other, less invasive options that are just as effective. However, in some cases it may be recommended.
- **Nuclear medicine:** Radioactive iodine, or I-131, is a very effective treatment for hyperthyroidism. This is given via an injection of the agent under the skin. It is ideal for cats who do not take pills very well, or for those who the owner does not want to medicate for the rest of their lives. It is a permanent treatment, only requiring one treatment in 96-98% of patients, and most cats do well following this procedure. Unfortunately, it does require a hospital stay while the radiation is cleared from the cat's body, usually 3-4 days. In addition, there are multiple strict rules that need to be followed after the cat returns home in order to avoid radiation exposure to his/her caretakers. Other downsides are that it is relatively expensive and, in less than 4% of cases, may result in HYPOTHYROIDISM, which generally requires that the cat be treated with thyroid supplementation medication.
- **Diet:** There is a relatively new veterinary prescription diet that is produced by Hills called Y/D, and it is marketed for treatment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

of hyperthyroidism. The diet is very low in iodine, which is an important component of thyroid hormone. This is a newer treatment, and there are still questions as to how effective it is as a sole agent. However, many cats seem to respond well to this diet, and it brings their thyroid levels into a normal range. It usually takes at least 3-4, and sometimes up to 12 weeks to be fully effective. This diet should not be given to cats that are not hyperthyroid.

The overall prognosis for cats with hyperthyroidism is good for long term survival as long as they are treated and monitored appropriately. If you have any further questions about this disease or management, please contact your veterinarian.

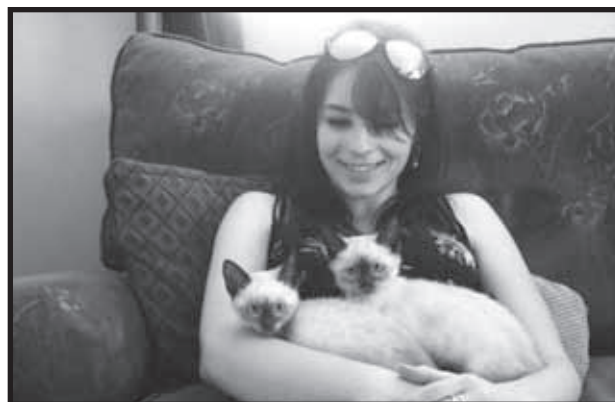
*Dr. Carley is board-certified in Internal Medicine and works at Advanced Veterinary Specialists, a 24/7 emergency and specialty animal hospital located at 414 E. Carrillo St, S.B. CA 930103. Visit [www.avs4pets.com](http://www.avs4pets.com) or call 805-729-4460.*



"Franklin" in his new home

**You never soar so high as when you stoop down to help a child or an animal.**

— Mark Twain



"Millie" and "Sophie" in their new home



"Chaise" and "Cowboy" in their new home



"Packer" with her new buddy, Brewer, in her new home

## In memory of...



In memory of **Fred Hunt**...whose compassion touched the lives of so many animals!  
Theresa Holden



In loving memory of my husband, **Fred Hunt**. "We were married for 40 years and four-legged fur kids were always welcome at our house!"  
Carol Hunt



In loving memory of "**Moocher**" - my best friend for 15 years!  
Always, Roger West



In memory of "**Avery**" - angels are never on this Earth for very long....and for Deanna Koens, her foster mom.



In memory of **Linda Hagedorn** and for all those she left behind. May your journeys be full of light to help you find peace with such loss.



In loving memory of "**Belle**" and for her human mom, Cleo Holden.  
Love from your daughter,  
Deborah Stafford

In memory of "**Daisy, the best dog in the world!**" and for Mary and Halie Sila who gave her a home for 17 years!



In memory of "**Asta**," who touched more lives with her beauty and grace than she could have ever realized. She is missed by so many. And for our best friends, Sharon and Arden.



In loving memory of "**Winston**," who touched more hearts than he knew... a hero in spirit.  
And for **Craig and Erika**.



## In celebration of...

In celebration of the birthdays of  
**Denny and Bonnie Epperson!**  
Nancy Foley



In memory of a lovely husband and kitty dad, **Bob Miles**. And for his wife, **Dianne Miles** and "**Romeo**." I will never forget Bob bringing over his long page of questions and a pen to fill in all my answers on how to take care of Romeo...it was so cute and they were a rescuer's dream come true. I am glad that Dianne has Romeo now.

## *So many things to be thankful for...*

I hardly know where to start. I have written words of gratitude in the countless notes I send out after each adoption and every donation. And I make it a point to thank every volunteer when they leave each day after giving the gift of time. If I had to choose a single word for how I feel at the end of each day at RESQCATS, the word would be GRATEFUL!

I am grateful to each adopter who has chosen to rescue a kitty through RESQCATS rather than purchase from a breeder.

I am especially thankful to the adopters who found it in their hearts to give homes to mother cats that are often overlooked when so many kittens are available. And some human hearts were so compassionate that mother cats escorted one (or two!) of their kittens to their forever homes!

I am eternally obliged to those adopters who gave homes to "special" kitties such as "Winkin" and "Blinkin," two kittens who had to have their eyes surgically removed due to horrific herpes eye infections. To the couple who gave "Sparrow," a leukemia positive mother cat a home, there are no words to truly express what is in my heart. I am in awe of you. And I am so appreciative to the family who loves "Eli" to no end and did not hesitate for a moment to

give this tiny kitten a home even with his heart condition.

I am indebted to all of you who donate your hard earned money in order to help RESQCATS do what we do for stray and abandoned cats and kittens. In addition, there are those of you who think of the cats when you donate condos, food, 100 pillows and countless crocheted toys for the cats' entertainment.

I feel fortunate to work with the veterinarians and specialists that I call on constantly for medical help, advice and moral support.

I am honored to work with such a great local business in town, The Montecito Pet Shop. The employees are dedicated to screening many potential adopters and found homes for over 150 cats and kittens this year.

In addition, it does not go without saying that all your "likes," comments and words of support on Facebook mean so much to me especially when I face some of the tough challenges in rescue.

To adequately express how much I appreciate the volunteers and all that they give so selfishly would take a book! Each volunteer brings so much to the table and every one possesses unique talents and abilities. Put it all together and it just all seems to work.

So yes, in a single word, I am ....GRATEFUL....to all of you.

## **RESQCATS Etsy store Grand Opening!**

You can now make a difference for the cats and kittens that RESQCATS helps everyday AND have something to show for your donation.

We just opened the RESQCATS Etsy Store and it has some unique gifts for your cats, dogs, friends and maybe even treat yourself to something special and know you made a difference, too.

The fleece cat and dog blankets come in two different sizes and are proven by the local cats and dogs that have one to be a big hit! The designs are adorable and constantly change as we discover new fabrics. AND they wash and dry so easily!

RESQCATS' one-of-a-kind earrings, bracelets and necklaces have been designed just for us by a jewelry artist who donates her time to create each piece.

Embroidered tea towels are designed for cat lovers, dog lovers and even some designs with cat and dog for both lovers! No two are alike!

The same embroidery artist also created cat and dog aprons. The half aprons are one-sided but the full size aprons are reversible. So check them out!

Welcome RESQCATS Etsy Shop! Every donation helps the lives of stray and abandoned cats and kittens! Enjoy shopping!

[www.etsy.com/  
shop/RESQCATS](http://www.etsy.com/shop/RESQCATS)

Visit Our Store On



## **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)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



Or email [jeffyne@resqcats.org](mailto:jeffyne@resqcats.org)  
and we will add you to our list!

CONTINUED FROM PAGES 8 & 9

and got spooked and dropped him!

"Indy" was found running up and down the street and in between moving cars in Santa Maria!

"Sparkle," "Snap," "Crackle" and "Pop" were being sold on Craigslist, infested with fleas, malnourished, grossly underweight for their age and anemic from the fleas.

"Charlotte" gave birth to three kittens, "Emily," "Dickens" and "Jayne," on the same day that her owner's house burned down in Orcutt. They had no idea she was even pregnant! They happily allowed RESQCATS to take her and her kittens into our sanctuary!

"Franklin" was found stuck in a piece of machinery covered in oil and grease in a shop in Santa Maria. He was advertised on Craigslist when a RESQCATS volunteer spotted the ad and offered to take him in and give him proper medical care.

"Jessie" was being sold to the highest bidder on Craigslist!

"Casey" was found as the only kitten at a feral cat colony. He may have been the sole survivor in his litter due to all the dangers out there!

"Celine," "Adele" and "Cher" were found in a cardboard carrier in the middle of the road adjacent to the Santa Maria County Animal Shelter! A man spotted the box, stopped traffic and rescued the girls! What an angel that man is!

"Kayla" was dumped either while pregnant or just after giving birth at a feral cat colony. She and her babies, "Fantasia," "Dynasty," "Jingo" and "Brinkley" were under the bushes when they were discovered. Kayla's kittens were no more than a day old.

They all have a story. And it doesn't end when they are rescued. That is only the beginning. Every one receives any and all the medical care they require, regardless of the expense.

I love every single one and each becomes part of my soul. I think I can say the same about the volunteers who give from their hearts. But that is still not "the happy ending."

There comes the day when a cat or kitten captures the heart of an adopter and finds a home. And I call that "a happy beginning."



Photography  
courtesy of  
Nancy Aguirre

From top left: "Pop," "Charlotte," "Emily,"  
"Dickens," "Jayne," "Franklin," "Jessie,"  
"Casey," "Celine," "Adele," "Cher,"  
"Kayla," "Dynasty," "Jingo,"  
and "Brinkley"