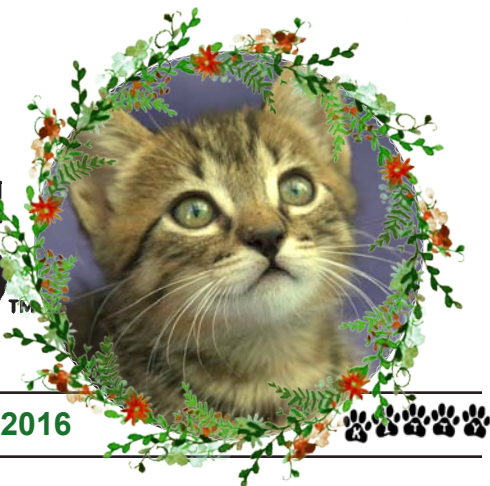


RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Winter 2016



President's Message

Written on November 1, 2016



Jeffyne and "Benson"

I can hardly believe that this year passed so quickly. Perhaps 2016 went by fast because **RESQCATS** has been so busy! There hasn't seemed to be time to even come up for air. My days begin at dawn and don't end until after dark when the last rounds in the cattery are done.

As I write this, we are still caring for moms and their babies. It appears that kitten season is almost a year-round event these days due to the lack of cold weather. Unspayed females go into heat in the warmer climate, so unless there is a change in temperature, kittens will continue to be born. Hope for a frosty December and January!

By the time you receive this newsletter, **RESQCATS** will have helped over 250 cats and kittens in 2016 and more than 200 will have been adopted to qualified homes! The recent Fall newsletter announced a

milestone when we reached 2500 total adoptions in June! But by the end of 2016, the total number of adoptions since we began in 1997 will be approaching 2650!

And we proudly begin our 20th season next Spring! **RESQCATS** does everything in our power to help with over-population by spaying and neutering all the cats and kittens before they are adopted. That is a major consideration in addition to our regular medical protocol that includes a vet exam, fecal exam, Felv/FIV tests, worming medication, FVRCP vaccination and a microchip.

In addition, **RESQCATS** funded spay and neuter surgeries for other organizations including ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program) and Care4Paws. Both organizations take on so much in our community and I feel it is important for us all to work together to solve the problem of pet over-population.

Our community outreach also includes helping people that need financial assistance in having their cats fixed. Most often, they do not realize the importance of spaying and neutering their cats. They don't have a clue about what happens when they give kittens away that are not altered. Without intervention, those "free" kittens could be producing their own litters in the Spring of 2017 if their new owners do not take it upon themselves to get the cats fixed. The same is true of kittens being given away or "re-homed" (which is another way of saying "selling" them) on Craigslist, so we intercede at every opportunity.

RESQCATS also assisted The Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society and The Santa Maria Valley Humane Society with funding to ensure that feral cats followed a set protocol for testing, flea control, worming, vaccinating and spay or neuter surgery. Preventing births among ferals is key in addressing pet over-population.

I will spend time later in the newsletter bringing you up to speed on some of the challenges we have faced with several cats and kittens that needed special medical attention and the enormous expenses that we incurred in order to provide them with whatever they needed. You will read about the new resident cats, other news and of course, the "Mr. Jeffyne" article.

As we close upon the end of the year, I want to take a little time to reflect and remember some very special cats and kittens. While I love them all, there are always

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a few that REALLY tug at my heartstrings.



"Benson"

"Benson" was an adorable tabby and white kitten that had it all once he had a fast-growing polyp removed from inside his nose. He was cute, playful, funny and full of spunk. He was the kind of "instant gratification" kitten that everyone dreams of having...even me. Yes, I was quite tempted to keep him for myself, but I knew that there would be someone that could give him so much more than I ever could.



"Harmony"

"Harmony" was a mother of six kittens and certainly had a mind of her own. She made it perfectly clear when she arrived, "I am done with my babies!" She hissed and swatted at her kittens and proclaimed that from now on, it was "mother's day out!" We had to separate her from them and give her a private enclosure. She had some Bengal genes in her background so she was extremely active and quite acrobatic. It took a long time to find the right home for a cat that wanted to swing from the rafters and rule the cattery. Her escapades kept everyone at RESQCATS on our toes. Harmony is doing great in her new home with Serena Everson.



"Stella" and "Daisy"

And then there was sweet "Stella;" a mother cat who gave birth to two kittens. A few days later, her rescuers found a single newborn kitten alone on the sidewalk. There was no sign of her mother. The kitten was about the same age as Stella's babies so the rescuer decided to see if Stella would nurse and care for the abandoned kitten in addition to her own. Stella became a surrogate mom to the loner and loved "Daisy" as if she was her very own. She was sweet, gentle and kind. Stella had an injury to her lower lip and although it didn't bother or impair her, some potential adopters didn't like the way she looked. But I thought she was exquisite. I loved spending time with Stella and of all the moms this season, I would have chosen her to be my own. Linda Armstrong thought she was pretty special, too, and adopted her.



"Chaucer"

"Chaucer" was a street cat that represented all that goes wrong with cats that are unwanted, abandoned and end up on the street fending for themselves. Fending for themselves? After seeing Chaucer, I am sure that term is an oxymoron. He had been through tough times and it showed. He was a tired, beaten up tom cat with the scars to show that he had probably

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lost several battles. However, he was exceptionally sweet and everyone loved him from the moment they entered his enclosure. Even his veterinarian thought he was extraordinary. He was adopted within a week and believe it or not, he lives in Oregon with Ashley Merritt now! I would love to have a cat like him!



"Felicity"

"Felicity," a calico mom of six found a home before any of her kittens! That is a rare event at **RESQCATS**. I am usually left struggling to find homes for young moms well after all their kittens have been adopted. She was adopted by a sweet lady who was lonely after recently losing her husband. Seeing the two of them leave **RESQCATS** left me with joyful tears and meant new lives for both of them. (Calico cats are my weakness. So yes, the thought of keeping her did go through my mind.)



"Kaden"

If I had to choose the most handsome kitten of the

year, it would be "Kaden!" And oh, was I tempted to keep him! He just had a look that made me melt. And when he tilted his head a certain way, I just swooned. He was adopted quickly which is a good thing in that it didn't give me time to claim him as my own.



"Shayanne" and her babies

The most beautiful cat was "Shayanne," another calico mom. Her markings were gorgeous and I wondered if maybe, just maybe there might be something unadoptable about her, so I could keep her. That is how felines get to stay at **RESQCATS**: they must be unadoptable due to health reasons, age or lack of social skills. Shayanne was sweet, gentle and irresistible by my standards. She was adopted along with two of her kittens!

Yes, of course, I think about keeping some of them. But in my mind I know that adopters can give the cats and kittens homes they deserve. It is not my desire to "flunk fostering!" It is my mission to find adopters that will make **RESQCATS** cats and kittens the center of their lives. My job is to offer love, comfort, safety and medical care until they find their perfect humans. Obviously, it is hard to stay on track with some of the ones that capture my heart!

I also think about each volunteer and what they bring to **RESQCATS**. They are the core of **RESQCATS** and I am grateful for them every day. Fosters give endlessly when around the clock care is required for newborns without moms. Designated volunteers monitor social media in order to rescue pregnant moms, mother cats and unwanted or abandoned kittens. They must act quickly in order to save them. Morning volunteers arrive every day at 8:30 a.m. sharp to clean enclosures. There are litter boxes to change, enclosures to clean and laundry to do. It is early for some of them so I serve hot soy chai lattes for a sugar and caffeine boost. That gets them going! They work tirelessly, but have fun at

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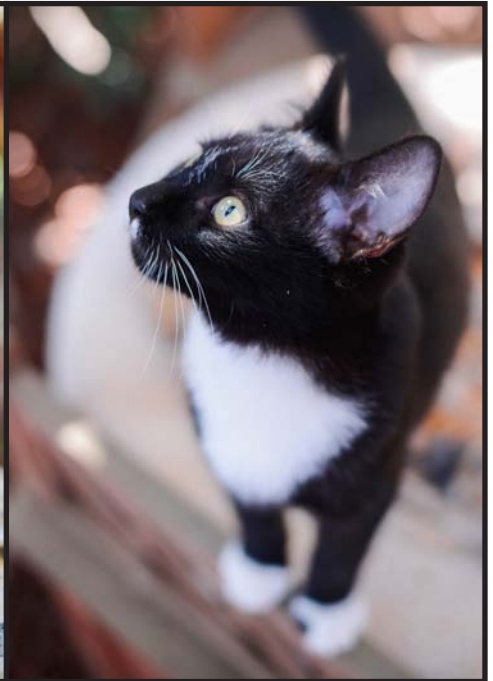
RESQCATS Welcomes Three New Residents



“Katsu”



“Liora”



“Asha”

It has been many years since the feline community has been faced with an outbreak of Feline Leukemia. Feline leukemia virus (Felv) is a retrovirus that infects cats. Felv can be transmitted from infected cats through the transfer of saliva or nasal secretions when the virus is active. If the virus is not defeated by the animal's immune system, it can cause diseases which can be deadly.

Twenty-five years ago, the protocol for shelters across the nation was to euthanize all cats and kittens that tested positive for Feline Leukemia. The intent was to eradicate the virus and prevent the spread to other cats. Sadly, there is no successful treatment for the virus when it becomes active, so euthanasia was the accepted response even though the cat may not exhibit clinical signs of being sick.

The theory behind euthanizing cats that tested positive is to prevent the spread of the virus and to eliminate future suffering. Imagine the virus spreading to cats and kittens in a feral colony followed by declining health, suffering and eventual death without a way to humanely euthanize them because they are wild. The other consideration is about housing infectious cats and the dollars needed to do so. Municipal shelters and humane societies are unable to house positive cats indefinitely due to space. But let's also be honest, resources play a major part in that decision. Most county shelters lack the funding to make such a pledge to a cat that will eventually become sick. Even if they could make the commitment for a limited time, finding people to adopt leukemia positive cats is like “searching for a needle in a haystack.”

I get it. I understand the theory and the circumstances under which most shelters operate, so, I try not to be judgmental.

However, I have never followed the accepted protocol of euthanizing cats that test positive. Even twenty-five years ago when I began rescuing cats and kittens from the jetty in San Diego, well before the days of RESQCATS, I could not bring myself to euthanize the ones that tested positive.

A colony of feral cats and kittens lived in the jetty rocks. After watching kittens die because of their less than desirable circumstances, I decided to trap the moms, toms and kittens and get them spayed and neutered in order to stop the reproduction cycle. That was my first experience with TNR (trap, neuter and return). I hated trapping the cats and witnessing how much stress it caused them. I have since left that frightening ordeal to the expert trappers. They know it is for the best for the cats, as did I, but they seem to thrive on the adrenaline rush of being successful. It just wasn't for me.

Several dedicated neighborhood “cat ladies” (of which I also became one) fit feeding into our busy morning schedules. Cats peeked out from under the jetty rocks every morning at nine a.m. sharp as we placed paper bowls of dry food, canned tuna and fresh water in places that were hidden from public view. The cats knew the designated crooks and crannies that were regular feeding spots.

Every once in a while, new cats showed up to join the ranks, but they were different. They were not feral. It didn't take long to figure out that someone had dumped them. That is how “Twilight” and “Squint” became part



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of my family. They were young adults; not more than a couple of years old. It was easy to pick them up and put into carriers for the trip to the vet for surgery. And because they were tame, it made it simple to test them for Feline Leukemia. Unfortunately, two consecutive tests confirmed their positive Felv status.

Squint was a beautiful lynx point Siamese mix with eyes as blue as the ocean he lived by. The protective film covering his eyes as a kitten never quite dissolved so he always squinted, thus his name! He followed my husband, Mitch, home from the jetty every time he took our collie, "Traveller," for his morning and evening walks. At least that is what Mitch claimed! Having been married to him for many years now, I suspect that he may have actually carried Squint home from the jetty with the intent of keeping him. I may have been a bit naïve back then, but today, I know his antics all too well! Twilight was as black as an unlit sky when there are no stars to pave the way. He had big green eyes that reflected in the dark like emerald headlights when stars or the moon appeared. I actually witnessed him following Mitch and Traveller home from the jetty.

Neither Squint nor Twilight showed clinical signs of the virus, but they could certainly spread it through contact with any other neighborhood cats if the virus became active. So I vaccinated my own cats for protection and Squint and Twilight became part of our feline family. They moved from San Diego to Phoenix with us.

Squint was only three years old when he became ill and sadly, I had to let him go. Twilight made another move with us to Santa Barbara and lived to be six before the virus kicked in. Six years is actually longer than expected for most positive cats. I named the burial area in my back yard, "Twilight Park," in his honor, although he is not buried there. His ashes remain in a pretty wooden box on a shelf while his spirit for life and exploring are still vivid images in my mind.

Although I think it is heartrending that the adopted solution nationwide was to euthanize cats that tested positive, the approach seemed to work and the incidences of Feline Leukemia positive cats almost disappeared. I do understand the limitations of county shelters and many humane societies.

It is only in the last two or three years that we have begun to see the virus re-emerge in our county, mostly in the Santa Maria area.

That brings us to the present.

Several mother cats giving birth to kittens in a family's yard in Santa Maria were reported by neighbors who complained about the numbers of cats and fact that they continued to reproduce. Rescue groups, TNR trappers and an organization that is dedicated to spaying and neutering cats in areas where the cost is prohibitive to owners came together to offer help.

That is how three adorable little black and white kittens came to **RESQCATS**.

The usual medical protocol was followed which

included testing each kitten for Feline Leukemia. All three tested positive. A positive test meant one of two things: 1) the kittens were truly positive for the virus or 2) they had been exposed to the virus and their immune system would reject it and a follow-up test would result in a negative outcome.

The vet advised that I wait for thirty days and retest. I had hopes that the conclusion of the later tests would be negative and that **RESQCATS** could proceed with finding homes for them. Unfortunately, that was not the case. The color indicator on each test came up a very strong blue well before the timed analysis ran their course demonstrating that they were definitely carrying the Felv virus.

What was I to do?

What I always do! Find a solution for them to stay at **RESQCATS** and provide them with a great life for as long as they might have.

I was already quite smitten with the single boy and his two sisters. They were some of the friendliest, fun-loving kittens of the season. And death to what are now healthy, happy kittens would never be my consideration.

So, **RESQCATS** has dedicated an indoor enclosure to them and we had a tunnel built that leads to a private outside enclosure with shelves and ramps; as well as places to run, climb and play. The siblings make everything in sight fun. They chase each other at full speed through the tunnel and leap from ramp to shelf. They hunt leaves that have fallen within reach of the chicken wire enclosure and bring them inside to show their success at catching prey! I cannot clean the litter box that they are not perched on my back. They jump onto the volunteers' laps while they attempt their cleaning duties. The kittens don't miss an opportunity to ask and receive affection.

I find myself smiling every morning as I approach the cattery and see them running through the tunnel; each wanting to be the first to say, "Meow, it is a purr-fect day." How could I not love them...and how could I ever euthanize such active, fun-loving kittens who have not yet succumbed to the virus they carry inside their bodies.

After so much loss this season and the death of four of my resident cats, "Buckey," "Buddha," "Krystal" and "Braveheart," I think that these kittens have come along for a reason. They lift my spirits, remind me that healing can follow grief, and that happiness is a path we choose. They help me to appreciate every single day that we have our pets.

I took a lot of time searching for names that would symbolize all they have given to me.

With the help of volunteers, I think we have found perfect ones. The short-haired girl is called "Asha," which means "life" in Hindu. Her long-haired sister is "Liora," and it translates as "my light" in Hebrew. And my boy is called "Katsu;" it means "enlightened one" in Japanese.

I am glad that **RESQCATS** is a place where we don't follow the norm...it's part of what makes it special.

And now... A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne

Why Animals?



Mitch with "Whisper," "River," and "Fantasy"

Over the years Jeffyne and I have been asked many times, "Why do you spend so much time and effort on animals when there are so many other worthwhile human endeavors that could use your help?"

Without a doubt, that's a valid question. There are certainly many, outstanding human causes that could benefit from our limited time and resources. So why do we focus on animals?

Well, to paraphrase a quote of Mahatma Gandhi, the towering five-foot five-inch leader of the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India, *"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."*

During this special time of the year, when caring and giving are hallmarks of the season, many of us take stock of what we have accomplished during the past twelve months. We reflect on what's important in our lives as we begin to appreciate the fact that we have more years behind us than we have in front of us. It's at times like these that Jeffyne and I ask ourselves, "Is the work we do important? Are we really making a difference?"

In Jeffyne's case, "Does working 16 hours a day, 7 days a week during kitten season really change the world?" And for me I ask, "Did traveling across the United States to rescue and adopt two collies really alter the planet? Or by taking in a discarded, non-native tortoise from a certain death in the mountains, have I actually impacted mankind in any way?"

As we ponder these questions, we ask ourselves, "Can any of these deeds possibly be equated to discovering a cure for cancer, or helping the world reach peace, or finding a solution to feed the hungry?" Of course not!

In reality, we recognize that none of what we do with animals actually makes an indelible mark on mankind. But as I reflect on our animal activities over the years, I'm reminded of the story of The Little Boy and the Sand Dollars:

A man was strolling along a deserted beach at sunset. As he walked he could see a young boy in the distance. When he came closer the man noticed that the boy would bend down, pick something up and throw it into the water.

Time and again the boy kept hurling things into the ocean. As the man approached, he was able to see that the boy was picking up sand dollars that had washed up on the beach and, one at a time, the boy was throwing them back into the water. The man asked the boy what he was doing, and the boy replied, "I'm throwing these washed up sand dollars back into the ocean so they don't die."

"But," said the man, "You can't save all those sand dollars, there are thousands of them on this beach. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy looked away, frowning for a moment; then bent over to pick up another sand dollar, and smiled as he threw it back into the sea. "I made a difference to that one!"

So I ask myself again, "Does the work we do with animals REALLY make a difference?"

I'd like to think it does...not only for the creatures than we are able to rescue and care for, but also for the people who adopt them.

It is said that God gave man dominion over the animals. That idea has been interpreted by many to suit their own needs and ambitions. Some see it as their "right" to do whatever they want with animals. Others think that animals have no feelings and are here merely to serve the whims of man.

I see it differently. I think dominion over the animals means that man was given the responsibility for animals, as we have been given the responsibility for our planet. We are the stewards...we have been charged with their care and well-being...not just for today, but for all future generations of both men and beasts.

For us, and for so many other "animal people," this feeling is compassion.



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If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.

– Francis of Assisi

Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.

– Albert Einstein

Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures.

– His Holiness the Dalai Lama

I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.

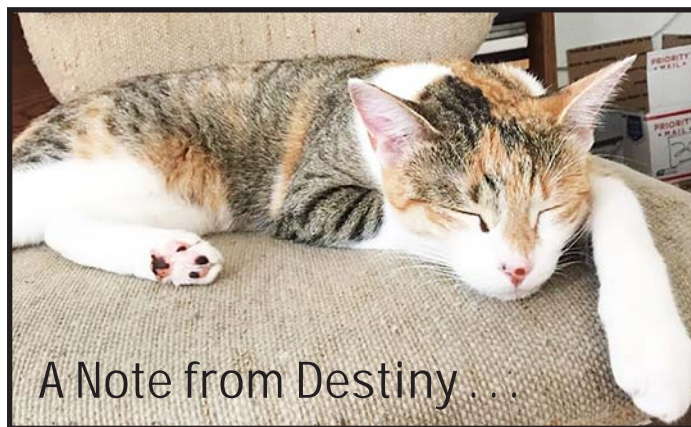
– Abraham Lincoln

So, during this very busy time of the year when the message on the airwaves and on so many of the holiday cards that we send and receive asks for peace on earth and goodwill to men, let us not forget those less privileged among us, not only the people, but also those who cannot speak for themselves...the animals.

As the New Year approaches and you contemplate your plans for the coming 12 months, may I suggest that you take a few extra moments to consider those less fortunate among us. Think about what you can do to make a difference in the world...whether it is for the people or the animals.

Consider what you can do to help...with your time, your resources or simply your love; whether it's something as noble as sharing the plight of the highly endangered elephants in Africa, or something as simple as volunteering at your local animal shelter.

Nothing you decide to do is too small. Just like the boy and the sand dollars, it will make a difference...for the animals...and for the world.



Hi all! Destiny here, well, now I'm "Hayley" (I'll explain that in a bit). I just wanted to let you all know how things are going. I had quite an adventure yesterday. I was excited all day and couldn't WAIT for my new mom to come and get me! First I had to get in a carrier, and since you never know where that's going to go, I wasn't real thrilled about that! Jeffyne and Mom had to both convince me that the carrier was a good idea. (Mostly, I didn't want them to think that I was too eager! That's not a very cat thing to do!)

When we got home, Mom carried me into my new room, which I will share with her to use as an office. She let me out of the carrier, finally! And I took some time looking around. There are a lot of new smells and interesting things to investigate.

Mom and I both have some empty spots in our hearts that need some filling so we decided we'd start on filling those up and healing the hurts right away. I know I wasn't real good about showing Mom how purrfect we'd be together when she first came to see me at RESQCATS but I could tell that she got it.

Mom talked to me about my name, we both felt that I had lived up to my Destiny name and even though we both liked it, it didn't seem to fit anymore and I needed a new one for a new chapter in my life. We both know that it was Destiny that we were brought together, but I prefer to be called Hayley.

I really want to thank everyone who's contributed to RESQCATS: without your support, kitties like me wouldn't have wonderful homes. Thank you Jeffyne for all the love you give to all the kitties that come through your doors! (Mom says your heart is about a thousand times bigger than you are.) Amanda, thank you so much for your love and care. I know I wouldn't be here to bless Mom's heart without you. Mom says that you did so much to prepare me for her and she's overjoyed with appreciation. We both love you.

I have taken over the desk chair for my naps. Mom thinks it's her chair, but ALL things belong to cats; we just loan them out occasionally!

Much love,
Hayley and Mary Jane Nirenberg.

(read more about Destiny in "Summing it up at RESQCATS" — pg. 10)



Mitch with one of his 15 rescued tortoises



SOME FACES FROM 2016

And what would the RESQCATS newsletter be without the centerfold. We would need an entire magazine to showcase all the cats and kittens that came into our care in 2016. Here a just a few for you to enjoy thanks to our photographers, Cata Esteves and Daryl Metzger. They did an outstanding job in capturing some great photos!

Page 8 (left to right): Marilyn and Jocelyn, Peridot, Ember, Chrysanthemum, Azita and Zanta, Bradley, Ashton, Skye, Orchid, Olive and Pippa **Page 9 (left to right):** Sky, Markus, Little Bean, Camelia, Sundance, Arlo, Maddy, Dalton, Buttercup, Kiara, Charlie, Catalina



Summing it up at RESQCATS

In the RESQCATS Fall 2016 newsletter, I wrote an article called “Behind the Scenes at RESQCATS.” I shared some of what it takes to get so many of the kittens and their moms ready for adoption.

By the time kittens are available for adoption, the only thing adopters see are cute, healthy, active thriving kittens. Mothers have had a chance to recover from weeks of nursing; they put on just the right amount of weight to regain their girlish figure and go back to acting like kittens; a behavior that was put on hold due to their teen-age pregnancy.

It is also noteworthy to educate everyone that the \$100 donation with each adoption only helps with some of our costs. Every cat and kitten follows a basic medical protocol that includes a vet exam, fecal exam, Feline Leukemia and FIV test, worming medication, FVRCP vaccination, spay or neuter surgery and a microchip. But even in the simplest of cases, the adoption donation does not cover all of those expenses.

Much depends on the length of time a cat or kitten is in our care. For example, kittens like “Ace,” “Gilbert” and “Farley” that arrive at six weeks of age stay an average of three weeks. Food and litter costs for them are much less than for a mom such as “McKinley” that gave birth to a litter of five in foster care. RESQCATS is responsible for moms like McKinley and her babies for nine to ten weeks. Others like “Malibu,” “Avalon,” “Topanga” and “Catalina” are orphaned when they are newborns and must be bottle fed and weaned. The time commitment required to care for kittens that are only a few days old can be nine weeks or longer. It takes planning and fundraising to ensure that funds are available to make up the difference in the adoption fee and the real expenditure.

What you don’t see is what some of the cats and kittens need in the way of medical care to get healthy and ready for adoption. In past years, I have not shared a lot about expenses in such special cases, but I feel it is important to let supporters and adopters recognize some of the challenges we face. You will have a better understanding about what RESQCATS does for the cats and kittens that have major health issues.

In 2016, RESQCATS spent over **\$20,000** just for extraordinary, beyond the normal medical protocol in order to save their lives.

In the Fall newsletter, I introduced you to “Teena,” a mother of six that suffered from chronic



“Teena”

pancreatitis. She required x-rays, treatment and finally, exploratory surgery. Her medical expenses alone were \$1100.

“Asher” developed labored breathing quite suddenly and was rushed to the emergency hospital where x-rays revealed he had pneumonia. He was on antibiotics for two weeks and his condition added \$528.92 to his routine care. That does not include the fact that he was born at RESQCATS and was in our care for almost three months. His mom was an owned cat that gave birth, raised her kittens for the next nine



“Asher”

weeks and was returned to her owner after she was spayed ...at NO expense to them. Food and litter costs alone amounted to over \$200 just for Asher’s mother.



“Maliki”

“Maliki” was diagnosed with pyometra and needed critical emergency surgery to remove her infected uterus. If one more day had passed without attention, she would have become septic and died. Her medical care was \$4490 when you add up surgery, her hospital stay, fluids, x-rays, antibiotics and around the clock monitoring. Maliki’s condition was unique, but she deserved to have her life saved. She recovered

completely and was adopted for the \$100 adoption donation. Fortunately, some of her expenses were offset by several compassionate donors who gave from their pockets when I posted a plea for help on her behalf on Facebook. I am still grateful to this day for such an outpouring of generosity.

“Tatum,” “Brett” and “Tessa” arrived with serious upper respiratory infections. The usual treatment of eye meds and antibiotics was not successful. A comprehensive test called a PCR was required to specify the appropriate antibiotic needed to treat the specific bacteria. That added an additional \$355 above the normal medical protocol we follow at RESQCATS.

In this newsletter, I want to share some additional stories of some very special felines that have been



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"Tatum"

"Brett"

"Tessa"

given a second chance through **RESQCATS**.

"Destiny," a beautiful calico mom, passed a fatal upper respiratory infection onto her four newborns. Sadly, their immune systems had no way to fight the infection and they all died. Destiny became so ill that she had to be hospitalized for three days at the emergency hospital so that she could be monitored around the clock. Her foster, Amanda Weston, refused to have her euthanized when the vet suggested it as a viable option, and nursed her back to health. Destiny found a home with Mary Jane Nirenburg and is thriving. (Be sure to read Destiny's letter to **RESQCATS** on pg. 7) Her hospital stay was over \$1814.65.



"Destiny"



"Joselyn"

"Joselyn" suffered from a traumatic knee injury to the growth plates in her back leg. She was in the care of an orthopedic surgeon for weeks. She required three different casts, several weekly vet exams, follow up x-rays and time to rehabilitate followed by progress checks. Her prognosis is good, but there is always a chance that the growth plates will not come together properly. If that is the case, she might need

orthopedic surgery in the future. Aaron and Brenda Freeman adopted Joselyn and her mother "Marilyn," with the understanding that **RESQCATS** will cover the expense of surgery if it should become necessary. The medical expenses for her injured leg topped \$2100. And keep in mind that she was born in **RESQCATS** foster care and by the time she was able to be adopted, she was 4-1/2 months old.

"Benson" was found in a cardboard box by the dumpster along with his brother, "Bradley," at the Nipomo Swap Meet. He was only a few weeks old, so Deanna Koens, one of our foster moms, bottle fed and weaned the boys. Benson was put on several different antibiotics for what was believed to be an upper respiratory infection. The vet was suspicious that something else might be going on with Benson since his brother showed no signs of an upper respiratory infection and most of these illnesses are contagious. Benson snorted and snorkled constantly. His breathing capacity seemed limited and it sounded as if he had something lodged in his nose. Sure enough, he did! In fact, Benson had a rapidly growing polyp between his trachea and esophagus. The veterinarian did surgery, but realized that he could not remove the entire obstruction due to the polyp's size and location. He recommended a specialist. The certified surgeon removed a polyp that was the size of the end of my pinky finger! No wonder he couldn't breathe. Luckily, the biopsy was negative. The final costs for both surgeries were over \$2300. Through it all, Benson remained active, playful and I have to admit that the thought did cross my mind that I would have loved to have him for my very own. But that would not have been fair to him. He needed a home where he could be the center of attention and there was nothing un-adoptable about him such as in the case of the cats that become **RESQCATS** residents. Benson went to his new home on October 21 with Jocelyn Kuzminski as a birthday gift for her five year old daughter. I would love to have seen the surprise on her daughter's face.



"Benson"

"Abigail" was an orphaned kitten along with her seven brothers and sisters. She was only a few days old when she and her siblings were rescued and placed in foster care with volunteers that bottle fed them every two to three hours. Once the litter was weaned, they came to **RESQCATS** to get vaccinated, spayed or neutered and adopted. All seemed perfectly fine with Abigail until she began throwing up her food immediately after eating. I took her to the vet thinking that she was just nauseous and needed something to help her get through whatever was upsetting her tummy. The prescribed anti-nausea medication didn't help. She was not interested in food at all. I supplemented her with sub-q fluids and tried to entice her with variety of canned foods I had on hand. I even offered her chicken and gravy baby food. It was like a roller coaster...sometimes she ate and food stayed down and other times she threw up at once. She declined from one pound and fourteen ounces to a pound and six

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ounces within three days. I checked her into the vet clinic for observation. The veterinarian was baffled at first. Then, he diagnosed Abigail with a condition called intussusception, which occurs when the intestines telescope or folding over, making it impossible for anything to pass to her stomach. Surgery was scheduled immediately. The hands of a skilled veterinarian, Dr. Rick Morgan, worked for one hour and forty-five minutes to open Abigail's abdomen, (remember she weighed less than 1-1/2 pounds) dissect her intestines, remove an inch of them and sew her back together. Abigail survived the surgery and thrived. She was adopted by Lauren Hughes. Abigail's surgery and extra care was almost \$1500.



"Abigail"

"Tiger" was born at RESQCATS to one of three owned moms who all became pregnant at the same time and to their owner's surprise! Yes, we took care of getting the young mothers spayed after they raised their babies at RESQCATS. They were returned at no cost to the owners. Tiger had diarrhea for several weeks, so three fecals were done at several intervals to determine if parasites were the cause. All three fecal exams were negative. A general antibiotic seemed to help him improve and I felt he was fine to be adopted. However, once he was in his new home and off the antibiotics, the diarrhea returned and it was worse than ever. A comprehensive PCR test revealed that an overgrowth of bacteria, ten times greater than normal, in his gut was causing the problem. He started a new medication with the hopes it would cure him. The second PCR test was done and has come back negative. RESQCATS stays in touch with Tiger's adopter, Jenelle Mullick. He is still not 100%, but, Jenelle has been infinitely patient in giving Tiger his medication and making numerous trips to the veterinarian. Her family loves him and is willing to do whatever is needed to get him better.



"Tiger"

RESQCATS continues to cover expenses for his special food, pro-biotics, vet visits and medications... as well we should. So far, his extra care has amounted to over \$732.34. (Note: Tiger is also in the RESQCATS 2017 Cat-Men-Do calendar with Jacques Habra.)

"McKinley" belonged to a lady who decided to give away all her cats on social media. A rescue group rushed in to help and fortunately, the owner was cooperative. When I received a call from the rescue asking for help, I readily agreed to take the two pregnant cats, "McKinley" and "Marilyn." McKinley gave birth to five kittens in foster care. All seemed perfectly normal at first, then Deanna, the foster, noticed that Angelica's head seemed particularly large compared to her siblings. Angelica was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, or commonly known as water on the brain. According to the neurologist, the prognosis is not good, but Angelica seems to be beating the odds with the help of medication. However, most recently, her bigger problem has been constant eye infections. The usual treatment of eye meds and lysine had not been successful. And no wonder: she had entropion, a genetic condition in which a portion of the eyelid is inverted or folded inward against the eyeball allowing her eyelashes to scratch her



"Angelica"

cornea and cause irritation. If left untreated, it can lead to corneal ulceration, or corneal perforation. Surgery can correct it by turning the lids slightly so that her eyelashes point outward, thus avoiding the irritation. It's like a little "nip and tuck!" She has recovered completely and no more eye infections. The charge of her surgery was \$732.

So, rescue work is not always what it seems on the surface when you visit The Montecito Pet Shop to adopt a healthy, cute bundle of fur. It may have taken much more for that kitten or his or her mom to reach the point where adoption can be considered due to medical reasons.

I feel fortunate that RESQCATS is able to provide emergency care, complex surgeries and comprehensive tests to get to the bottom of a medical condition. Often, we call upon specialized veterinarians in order to save lives.

Because of the tremendous support from people like you, I do not have to make decisions on life-saving efforts based on the cost of treatment.

While this article may not be about all the cute fuzzy topics of rescue, I felt it was important to educate you about what goes on "behind the scenes" at RESQCATS.

It is essential to understand what it takes to deliver that kitten or mom to you.

For those of you who have adopted, your adoption donation certainly helps, but your future support will enable RESQCATS to continue to provide for others as we have for your cat or kitten.

And for that wonderful group of donors, not a day goes by that I don't realize that none of what we do at RESQCATS would be possible without the support of people like you.

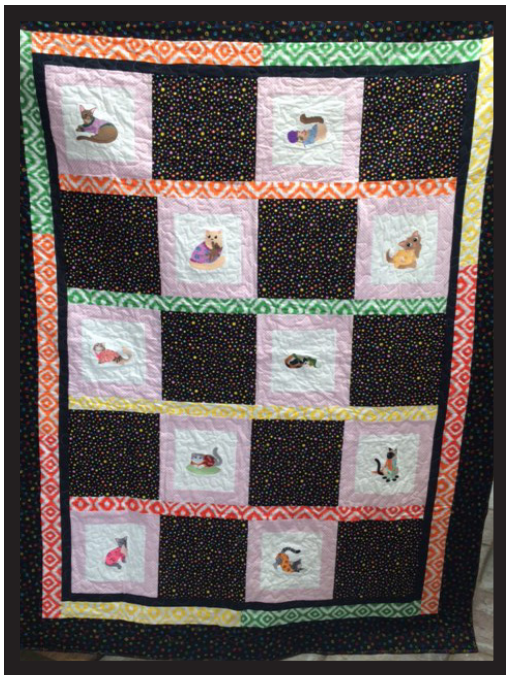


Some special thank yous...

Thank you Animal Adoption Solutions for your wonderful donation. You helped "Jocelyn" with orthopedic procedures due to the major trauma to the growth plates in her leg. In addition, your generous donation was used towards surgery for "Benson," a tiny kitten with a polyp between his trachea and esophagus that blocked his breathing. And, you also facilitated "Abigail" with life-saving surgery to remove a portion of her intestines so that her food could be digested.

Thank you, Pam Vincent, for who you are, for all that you do for all animals and for being a wonderful supporter of RESQCATS. You make so much possible. And you are truly an awesome inspiration and friend.

Thank you Julie Kaplan and Liz Benishin for the magnificent quilt you made for RESQCATS to auction. And **Kate Meehan,** *thank you* for your most generous bid! I hope you are enjoying the quilt!



The beautiful quilt, created and donated by Julie Kaplan and Liz Benishin

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, **Diane Palumbo,** for the beautiful donation. You touched the lives of some of the kittens that had some extraordinary medical expenses. So "Abigail," "Benson" and "Joselyn" thank you, too!

A very special *thank you* to **Girl Scout Troop 50143;** Alba, Alexandra, Allison, Chlow, Georgia, Fionna, Lexie, Lily, McKenzie, Monique and Yolanda for your hard work and bighearted donation to RESQCATS. You blew me away!

Thank you, Barbara Nail, for you time and patience in helping RESQCATS on the Cat-Men-Do calendar project. You did an amazing job and without you, it would never have come together!

Thank you to my husband, Mitch, for all that he does during kitten season when I am so busy. He hardly sees me due to my schedule but, he is busy behind the scenes. He takes care of the checkbook and balancing it. (I am only allowed to enter the amounts of the checks I write as I am a total flop at reconciling the account!) Mitch works on grant writing and all the tedious reports that must accompany them. He is always happy to write his "Mr. Jeffyne" article and I know personally from writing the newsletter that composing an article takes a tremendous amount of time. And from the emotional side, he takes care of me, too. Mitch is there through all the losses, not only of kittens that never had a chance due to circumstances, but also from loss of several of our personal animals. It must be heart wrenching for him to see my sorrow, but there is no better place for me than next to him shedding my tears on his shoulder and sharing how helpless I feel during those times. He is also there with the "high fives" as I bolt through the door enthusiastically making the announcement that a mom or kitten has found a home! My breakfast waits for me every morning along side the vitamins I am supposed to take. A glass of wine is sitting on the counter on most nights when I return from the day's work while he prepares dinner. He gives from his heart with purity and unconditional love. I am grateful for Mitch every day!



Remembering some RESQCATS residents...

In memory of "**Braveheart**," a RESQCATS resident cat who passed peacefully at only 5-1/2 years from a heart murmur he had since he was a kitten. He was very shy and never allowed anyone to approach him. However, in his last minutes, he knew the soft touch of Violet Coto and passed peacefully.



In memory of...

My donation is to help "Joselyn" and in memory of my sweet "**Beckett**, who was only here a short time, but he will have a place in my heart for eternity.



In memory of **Chandler Bing**.
Marla Wondra



In memory of **Aunt Sally**, who named all her cats, "Purdy!" (that's Texas slang for pretty!)
Leslie and Larry Godec



In loving memory of "**Moocher**," my feline companion that I will always miss.
Roger West



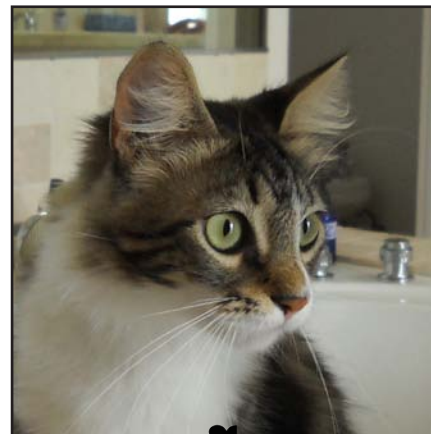
In memory of a cat named, "**Niko**" whose stay on this Earth was much too short in years. The joy he gave to his brother, "**Pacino**" and his human dad, **Ryan Roberson** will always be remembered. And hopefully, as time goes by, Pacino will not miss his sibling as much and Ryan will find peace in his heart once again.



In memory of "**Krystal**," a long-time resident at RESQCATS. She was a cat who always did it her way! She had a huge presence in a beautiful, petite snow white body and she is missed very much.



In memory of "**Buddha**," one of my toughest losses in life.



RESQCATS' CAT-MEN-DO™ CALENDAR



IS NOW AVAILABLE!

RESQCATS found some of the best looking guys in Santa Barbara that also just happen to love cats. Then, we picked some of the cutest kittens in our care to pose with the guys to create the first "RESQCATS Cat-Men-Do™ 2017 Calendar."

Here's a peek at just some of what is inside. Read below for how to order one for yourself and several more for those cat-loving friends. They make great gifts for the holidays and 100% of the proceeds go to RESQCATS so you will be making a difference for the cats and kittens in our care.



HOW TO ORDER:

Just go to: www.cafepress.com/RESQCATS

A few tips to remember when ordering:

- 1) Be sure to indicate what month you want the calendar to start. You will see a place to specify that you want the calendar to begin in January 2017, if that is what you prefer.
- 2) Calendars are also available locally at The Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa at 2020 Cliff Drive, St. Francis Pet Clinic located at 138 W. Ortega, The Cat House Hotel at 1922 De La Vina Street and Healthy Pets at 3018 State Street!



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the same time. Some develop friendships with each other and we have, in a way, become family. Of course, part of the enticement for morning volunteers is that they get to stay and play with kittens as long as they want after the chores are complete. Other volunteers work on strict time schedules to photograph cats and kittens, design newsletters, send e-newsletters, assist with fundraisers and monitor social media for felines that need help. The list of everything the volunteers do is endless and so is my appreciation for them.

I also cannot help but remember all the kittens that journeyed to the Rainbow Bridge because there was not anything I could offer in love or medical care to save them. They remind me that life is a precious gift that should not be taken for granted. I do find comfort knowing that they left this Earth at least knowing the touch and love of caring people.

There are many to thank for making so much possible at RESQCATS. Where would we be without the expertise of the veterinarians that are always eager to help us?

And then there is The Montecito Pet Shop that handles most of the adoptions. The responsibility of screening potential adopters takes a tremendous amount of time and energy, but the staff's dedication allows me to rescue and care for many more than I would be able to if I were spending the hours required to handle adoptions.

And you, there are all of you. Adopters make a conscious choice to give homes to stray and abandoned cats and kittens rather than buy from breeders. Supporters guarantee that I never have to make a life-saving decision because of the cost.

I have so much to be grateful for. I hope you can feel in your hearts how appreciated you are.

I will continue to do my best every day to help stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Together, we can meet the challenges in 2017 and celebrate twenty years of saving felines. Remember, your tax-deductible donation not only makes a difference for the cats: they in turn touch the lives of people. It is called paying it forward. Your buck doesn't just stop here!

I would also like to wish each of you a happy holiday. And may 2017 be a year of compassion and peace Find something you believe in and be passionate in making a difference. The world will be a better place.

Most sincerely,

Jeffyne Telson,

President and founder of RESQCATS



There are other ways to give and make a difference at RESQCATS!

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

You can also check out RESQCATS Wish List on AmazonSmile if you want to give directly. The list includes many of the things we need during the year such as KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement), kitty toys, baby wipes, Bach Rescue Remedy, Pro-biotics, Lysine and much more!

Thank you for choosing 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!

