

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 2022



President's Message

Written on November 1, 2022



Jeffyne and "LadyBug"

As RESQCATS winds down our 25th season, I have some breathing room to look back and reflect on what has truly been the most challenging year in our history. The number of cats and kittens needing help has been overwhelming for all rescues and at RESQCATS it was no different.

I believe that the large number of cats and kittens is the result of two things. One, with the rising temperatures and less cold weather, cats go into heat more often so kitten season is all year long. Two, spay and neuter surgeries were not considered "essential" during the first few months of the pandemic. Therefore, now we are experiencing many more generations of cats having kittens. Females can get pregnant as early as six months and produce up to three litters a year. Then their kittens have babies and so on and so on! Just do the math!

Yes, it was a difficult year but I am proud to announce that we have broken all previous records by adopting 209 cats and kittens to qualified homes. RESQCATS also helped feed feral cat colonies, offered free spay surgeries to individuals who could not afford it and contributed food to needy families during continued hard times. Our projected total adoptions will be 3769 by years end.

But help for the felines doesn't stop at our doors. RESQCATS reached out into the community by giving

a \$10,000 grant to Santa Barbara Humane and \$5,000 to Care4Paws in order to spay and neuter an additional 176 cats and kittens in Santa Barbara County.

Covid remained a major issue even as much time has passed. In some ways, it was harder for RESQCATS in 2022 than when it all began in 2020. Back then, only a handful of volunteers continued to help. The few of us masked up and made the best of it. We remained diligently cautious during the second year as vaccines rolled out. More volunteers returned and others joined us for the first time. It was only a question of being vaccinated and do we wear masks or don't we? Even though restrictions continued to loosen and more people were vaccinated, it became more complicated to keep volunteers on a regular schedule. It seemed at least one, sometimes two or more were out either because they had been exposed to Covid or actually got it. There were many days that I filled in at the last minute so that the cats were taken care of while my volunteers took care of themselves. They returned as soon as they could and thankfully, none of them have long term side effects. I really do give them a lot of well-deserved credit for their dedication. None of what RESQCATS does would be possible without the volunteers!

It would take more than the sixteen pages of this newsletter to share all the stories behind the cats and kittens. And it was difficult to choose which ones to dedicate an entire article but I think you will enjoy the two I chose. However, let me tell you briefly about some of the others.

"Solar", "Pluto" and "Mirage" were three of EIGHT kittens stuffed inside a toilet paper box with holes punched in the sides and left in a cart behind a Walmart store in Bakersfield. The kittens came from at least two litters. A young man heard rustling inside the box and when he realized what was inside, he couldn't leave them in a hundred plus degree weather!

A week later, his sister reached out to RESQCATS for help. We took all eight. Five in the litter went through our medical protocol and were adopted out fairly soon. However, another named "Starz" had an injury to her back leg, probably from being crammed into that box, and needed to see the orthopedic surgeon. She also required two follow-up appointments. Fortunately, the issue resolved itself with pain meds, anti-inflammatory drugs, time and rest. However, soon afterwards, she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



“Pluto” and “Mirage”

came down with a nasty upper respiratory infection and gave it to her sister, “Moonlight”. Then, their sister, “Treasure” showed signs of a fungus called ringworm and gave that to Starz and Moonlight. It took many weeks of medical care to get them healthy. Then add the increase of food and litter (20-25%); as well as supplements. Even after adoption fees; the cost to RESQCATS to provide for them was \$3493.63!

A young mother cat was found by a young girl when she gave birth to six kittens under her house. Originally we considered leaving them there for a few days. That would give us the chance to determine whether or not the mom was feral. By moving them too soon, I could run the risk that she would not feed them. Then I would need to find two fosters to bottle feed the litter (it’s too much for one person to care for six!) The other concern for this young mother and her litter was the dog that lived in the yard. The girl was able to secure the area under the house that would make it impossible for the dog to penetrate. However, when rain and cold were forecast, we took the chance and moved the family to RESQCATS. The mother cat turned out to be one of the sweetest moms of the season, so she was named “Sweetie.” The family was with us for weeks as the



“Sweetie” and her six babies

kittens were only two weeks old when they arrived. The total cost of Sweetie and her six after adoption donations was \$1155.58!

A young man living in an apartment in Lompoc was leaving for work one morning when he discovered four two and a half week old kittens in a fire pit! “Ember,” “Ashley,” “Striker” and “Breeze” were taken to Deanna Koens, one of our foster moms. She bottle fed them, weaned them onto canned kitten food and eventually to kitten kibble. I hate to think of what would’ve happened if it hadn’t been for that caring individual who reached out on their behalf!



“Striker”

“Snow White,” “Tundra” and “Panther” were being given away at Hendry’s Beach on July 4th. A vet tech from La Cumbre Animal Hospital happened to be there and saw what was going on. She was able to reach me on my cell phone. One kitten had already been given a way, but she said she might be able to rescue the other three if I had room. I said, “YES! Go for it! Bring them today!” Within an hour, she brought three adorable kittens to RESQCATS along with the contact of the man giving them away. Apparently he was also taking donations so that he could get the mother cat spayed. I offered to do that for him. We



“Snow White,” “Tundra” and “Panther”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

connected a few days later and the mom was spayed at RESQCATS' cost. I am always happy to provide that service to people so that there is not another litter in the making!



"Tortellini" and her many toes!

Eight kittens, including "Tortellini," "Pinto" and "Beans" were brought to RESQCATS by a woman named Sarah who discovered a colony of cats living with several homeless families dwelling by the Santa Maria river bed. It took Sarah some time to convince the homeless that she was there to help and could be trusted. The cats were cared for, but they were giving birth to litter after litter. Finally, she convinced them to relinquish the kittens and promised to spay and neuter the adults at no charge and then return the adults. When the kittens arrived, it was easy to see how much they had been loved...they were healthy and extremely friendly. But the most amazing thing was the number of toes on some of them! They were polydactyl but in all my years of rescue, I had never seen a kitten with as many toes on one paw, two paws or all four!

tenants. Several feral cats lived in the area, but Penny was different...she was friendly and tame! The family fed her, allowed her in the house and she even slept on their bed. But when they moved, they, too, left her behind! They claimed she was not their cat! Poor Penny...abandoned not once, but TWICE! Although they had not provided her any vet care, it seems to me that if you have fed a cat and let her sleep in your home for five years then she is YOUR cat! When the family learned that Penny had been rescued because she was a friendly cat and taken to RESQCATS, all of a sudden they were upset. They had been vacated for weeks and claimed they had a relative who would take her. I didn't buy their story and neither did her rescuer, Maria. Penny deserved better. I wanted to make sure she was healthy and spayed. I had a full blood panel done that included a special test to determine if she was spayed since there were no visible scar or tattoo that indicated she was. I just couldn't see opening up a cat unnecessarily if there was another way to know for sure. She also needed a dental so RESQCATS provided that a few weeks after she went home with one of our volunteers, Dianne Kragebuhl. Dianne had just lost her seventeen year old best friend, "Panther", and she felt that it was meant to be that Penny showed up at RESQCATS when she did. She says, "Penny is my new best friend!" I believe it was a match made in heaven. After all was done for her medically, the total cost to RESQCATS was \$1334.32!



"Penny"

"Penny" was abandoned by a family who had taken care of her for several years when they moved into an apartment. She had been left behind by the previous



"Gracie"

"Gracie" was pulled from a high-kill shelter in San Bernadino. She was scheduled for euthanasia along with her unborn babies. A few days after she arrived, she became so ill with an upper respiratory infection that I wasn't sure she would make it. I provided supportive care such as sub-q fluids, lysine, immune boosters and probiotics. The vet recommended an appetite stimulant (she couldn't smell so she wouldn't eat) and anti-viral medication. The clinic loaned me a nebulizer along with saline and meds to use in it twice a daily. Gracie was a real trooper in the nebulizer. A nebulizer is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

small compartment that changes medication from a liquid to a mist so it can be inhaled into the lungs. I was instructed to do this twice daily. Each day she showed improvement. I hoped that she wouldn't give birth while she was so sick. Newborns infected with upper respiratory infections are always a challenge and not usually a good outcome. By the time Gracie had her five kittens; she was in good shape and was able to care for them. Not one of the babies ever showed signs of being immune compromised. I think we all got lucky there! I am grateful to have been able to provide all that was needed for this sweet mom. Because of the extra care Gracie needed and having her kittens there for nine weeks (food and litter for the kittens for several weeks as they weaned) the cost to RESQCATS after adoption fees was \$1245.48!



"Houdini"

coming to RESQCATS...and perhaps that's a good thing. What I do know is that with a few Temptation treats he blossomed from a frightened soul into a sweet boy that was easily adopted.

While there are so many more stories to tell, I would have to write another book to share them all. (That's not out of the question one day down the road.) For now, I must focus on rescuing and saving stray and abandoned cats and kittens... just like I have for the last twenty-five years.

Asking for your support is no easier for me today than it was all those years ago... but it is necessary and I've learned that people really DO want to help.

So now is the time to donate so that we can plan for 2023! All your donations are so appreciated and there are several ways to help. You can make a tax-deductible donation directly to RESQCATS. Or purchase one of my books: *Cat Tails.... More Cat Tails*. Or buy the **2023 Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS Calendar**. The proceeds of the books and calendar go to RESQCATS. (See inside the newsletter on how to purchase.)

You receive this newsletter because you have helped in some way in the past. I am grateful to each and every one of you for your support. And I hope you will continue to help me make a difference. I believe that when we are kind to animals, we are kinder to each other.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,



Jeffyne Telson
President of RESQCATS, Inc.



"Cookie," "Peek-a-Boo" and "Oscar"

"Cookie," "Oscar" and "Peek-a-Boo" were found in Lompoc with their umbilical cords not only attached but the siblings were tangled in them. Their mom was nowhere to be found. I am guessing that she was a young mom and just didn't know what to do. Instinctively, they usually detach the cords by chewing them and then ingesting the nourishing placenta. Thankfully the babies were found in time to get them into foster care.

"Houdini" was discovered on a ranch in Carpinteria. He was only about seven weeks old. There was no sign of any siblings. The area is not safe from coyotes and hawks so he was lucky to have survived as long as he had. He's one that we will never know his story prior to

Kittens in precarious places!

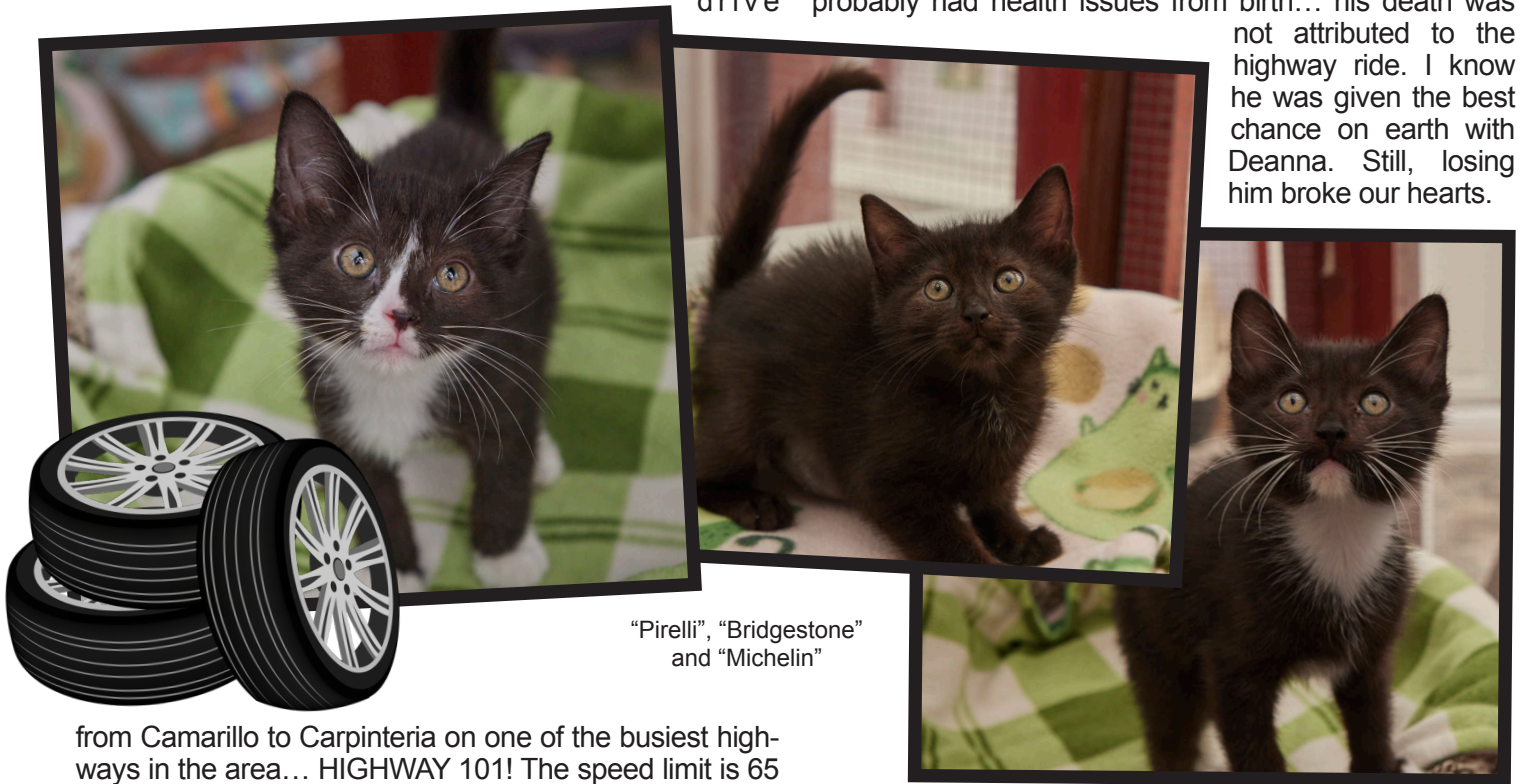
Sometimes I prefer NOT to know the stories behind some of the cats and kittens that arrive at RESQCATS. Many are unhealthy, frightened and who knows what they've been through... I think knowing would break my heart. Others have incredible tales of survival and luck!

Imagine getting to work one morning and hearing something strange under your car. It's not the usual engine problem sound. No, it's much different than the rattle of a loose gasket or a broken belt. Could it possibly be an animal? And how could it be alive? You just made the thirty mile drive

for safe-keeping, but instead they had quite an unexpected journey and fate.

RESQCATS received a call asking for help as the litter of four was much too young to be eating on their own. They would require an experienced bottle feeder. Luckily, I was able to contact an available foster, Dana Fitzler, who immediately made the trip to get them.

The four were transferred to Deanna Koens, a few days later. She has bottle fed too many newborns to count. Sadly, the smallest one did not survive. Being the runt, he probably had health issues from birth... his death was not attributed to the highway ride. I know he was given the best chance on earth with Deanna. Still, losing him broke our hearts.



"Pirelli", "Bridgestone"
and "Michelin"

from Camarillo to Carpinteria on one of the busiest highways in the area... HIGHWAY 101! The speed limit is 65 miles per hour, but no one does less than 75 if there is no traffic. And if there is traffic, there's a lot of stop and go... and stop again for who knows what reason.

The lady who made the trip was determined to get to the bottom of the noise. After a brief inspection, she asked a coworker for help in order to remove the bumper. The sound came from that area.

First it was quiet, and then they heard a tiny mew, then two cries in unison. "Oh my goodness! Could there be kittens in the engine? I hope not! They could be injured! Can we check there? Nope, they aren't in the engine. Quiet! Listen! Oh please make another sound. There! I hear it again! Check the wheels!" Sure enough, four ten-day-old kittens were nestled together in the wheel well of the lady's tire. They had been jostled for sure, but they were tiny and not yet mobile. They were wedged in tightly together so no harm had come to them. But what a ride they must have had!

We assumed that the mother cat put her kittens there

The other three thrived. The most difficult issue we faced was naming them! Do you realize the numbers of makes of tires that exist? I knew of Goodyear, but that was about the extent of my knowledge about tires. But Deanna and her husband, Scott, were clever and gave them appropriate names! "Pirelli" and "Bridgestone" were brothers and their sister was named "Michelin."

It took weeks of nurturing around the clock to get the litter to the point of eating on their own. After several weeks they were finally ready to come to RESQCATS and once they had been vaccinated, tested for Felv/FIV, spayed or neutered and micro-chipped, they were ready for homes.

Bridgestone was adopted by the Erving family of four and they report that he has captured their hearts. Pirelli and Michelin got to stay together with the Collins family and their two kids. I hear that those two kittens have them pretty darn smitten!

And now... A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne... *It Was a VERY Long Year!*

By the time you receive this Holiday Newsletter, it will be the end of **RESQCATS** 25th year of serving the Santa Barbara community...and a record-breaking year for the organization. In addition to the 209 cats and kittens that found forever homes, **RESQCATS** was also involved with the spaying and neutering of an additional 176 cats and kittens... an incredible number for Jeffyne and her handful of dedicated volunteers.

For Mr. Jeffyne, it was also a very long year... but for entirely different reasons.

As many of you know, aside from a few administrative tasks, Mr. Jeffyne doesn't have many responsibilities with **RESQCATS**. Oh sure, he likes to act important as he walks through the cattery in the mornings saying "hi" to the volunteers, (and when Jeffyne's not looking, play with some of the tiny kittens), but for most of his day, Mr. Jeffyne is a collie person and a giant tortoise keeper.

Not unlike a lot of people approaching his ninth decade, Mr. Jeffyne has had his share of aches and pains. At the end of last year, it was his back... this year he had a heart scare and then got a brand new titanium shoulder (to match his knee!). While these episodes slowed this animal lover down a bit, nothing stopped him when he learned of a huge number of collies that were in trouble in the Midwest.

Some of you are aware that Mr. Jeffyne, and his younger brother, affectionately known as Uncle Bob, have taken a number of road trips around the country over the past six years. Our trips have taken us to Michigan, North Carolina, North Texas, South Texas; and to dozens of our country's national parks and animal sanctuaries throughout the south and southwest. We even had an adventure to Israel in 2017. (No, we didn't adopt any collies in the holy lands... but it was an amazing journey!)

On our first trip in 2016, we visited Utah and Colorado's national parks while on our way to pick up two homeless collies in western Michigan. On the



Mitch with Adonis and Serenity

way back to California, we stopped at all the tourist traps and junky souvenir locations along old Route 66!

Our previous travels had brought Mr. Jeffyne a total of six senior collies and afforded the brothers the opportunity to transport two others for a friend.

But the adventure that these two embarked on this summer was much more serious. What started out as a relatively short trip to Houston to adopt a dog from my friend Vicky Willard, the President of Houston Collie Rescue, turned into a coast-to-coast 6,200 mile journey to help 198 collies that were confiscated from a breeder gone amuck in western Illinois. It's was a incredible three-week journey that Mr. Jeffyne reported as a daily blog on his personal Facebook page.

The brothers' original plan was for a leisurely drive to Houston and then back to California with, perhaps, a short detour to the Grand Canyon since we had never visited this national treasure together. Then a friend messaged me and asked if I knew of a dog transporter in the Florida area. She had been contacted by a terribly irresponsible breeder who was going to euthanize a nine-year-old male collie because "he had a low sperm count!" Following a

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

quick consult with Uncle Bob, we decided, "What the heck's another 1,000 miles added to our road trip... lets do it!"

So we had a new plan. We would drive straight to Ocala, Florida, pick up "Sarge," drop him off with my friend in Hot Springs, Arkansas and then continue on to Houston to pick up Mr. Jeffyne's new family member, Serenity.

But then things REALLY got wild!

The entire collie rescue community, more than 30 unaffiliated groups from across the country, was abuzz with a puppy mill arrest in western Illinois. It was reported that 198 collies... males, females, young and old, rough coats and smooths... had been confiscated from a horrendous breeding facility. All the collies, and a few Great Pyrenees, were being taken care of by the Mercer County Animal Control Department... a department staffed totally by one incredible woman!

Following another quick chat with my brother, we made the decision to add Illinois to our road trip adventure. During all of our cross country trips, we had discussed the possibility of helping at a major dog rescue. How could we not make ourselves available for this collie rescue? After all, it would only add another 2,500 miles to our adventure!

So just before the Labor Day weekend, Mr. Jeffyne and Uncle Bob began their longest and most important road adventure yet. The first leg of their journey took them from Southern California directly to the Mercer County Animal Control facility in western Illinois where we were able to assist a small group of volunteers that had been assembled. In addition to feeding, cleaning up after and loving on the affection-starved dogs, the brothers also helped make arrangements to transport 12 of the collies back to the collie rescue group in Southern California. And since we were heading to central Florida anyway, the brothers decided to personally transport four other collies to the collie rescue organization in that area. After delivering those four, Mr. Jeffyne and Uncle Bob picked up Sarge and a second collie (Sarge's daughter, that the breeder had also threatened with euthanasia) and began our westward journey.

The rest of our cross country trip included bringing Sarge to Mr. Jeffyne's friend who met us in Baton Rouge, a one-day trip to Houston to pick up Serenity... and then home to Southern California.

By the time the trip was over, excluding our help with the initial 198 confiscated Illinois collies, Uncle Bob and Mr. Jeffyne were able to help a total of 18 collies to a better life.

All things considered... while it WAS a very long year for both RESQCATS and Mr. Jeffyne... it ended up being a VERY good year for Mr. Jeffyne... one of his best ever!

A Rescuer:

I couldn't have said this better myself!

To love a rescuer you must love all of her. You must love the scars covering her body from panicked and hurt animals she was trying to help. You must love her fractured heart that has been broken so many times she no longer even takes the time to mend the pieces.

To love a rescuer you must embrace her grit and determination, and know that although she fights a war she can never win, she can and does win a few battles. You must love the tears she will shed over those she lost. You must give her comfort that she refuses to accept, as she blames herself for things she could have never foreseen.

To love a rescuer you must acknowledge the rage she feels towards the world at times, and know that anger is driven by a love of life too few have. You must give her space and room to cry and mourn for the losses that others have caused out of carelessness or cruelty.

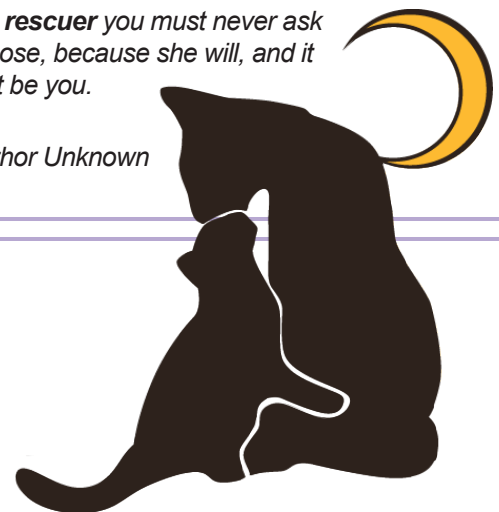
To love a rescuer you must understand that her passion to heal and save is a calling, not a choice. You must accept that to save animals is part of her soul and without that she could never be happy.

To love a rescuer you must be patient. You must accept her work comes first. She will forgo sleep, forgo food and forgo her life for animals in need. She will work tirelessly until her body and mind fail her completely and she cannot go on.

To love a rescuer you must be strong. You must not be threatened by her focus and love of animals. You must accept that the things you love about her, the strength and convictions and loyalty are also what drives her sense of duty to animals in need; you cannot have one without the other.

To love a rescuer you must never ask her to choose, because she will, and it will not be you.

—Author Unknown



A Different Perspective



As a rescuer, I sometimes feel the need to put a message out there, but I do so without expectations that it will make a difference or change the minds of most people.

I have learned that when you have expectations of getting something in return, you will certainly be disappointed more often than not. Still, I feel it is my duty as a rescuer to share my perspective and know in my heart that I have done what I need to do; that is, say something and hope that it leads some to really think about an issue.

So here goes:

Adopting an animal is a lifetime consideration and it is important to take it seriously. Cats can live up to twenty years and that's a long-term commitment. I always do my best to make sure that adopters understand that.

My view on the reasons on what cats or kittens people should consider is sometimes quite different than their viewpoint... and at times that makes it difficult, disappointing and frustrating for me. But it also gives me opportunity to educate people with a true heart and good intentions.

For example, what do I say when a couple in their late eighties insists on adopting a kitten instead of an older cat? Kittens are a lot of work and are extremely active! I worry about an elderly person tripping or falling. With this particular couple, I suggested that a senior cat would be content to just sit in their lap and have a home instead of being at a shelter. I explained that there also needs to be a plan! Who is going to take responsibility for the kitty when something happens to one or the other and they can no longer care for it? Unless they live well into their hundreds, the kitten will most likely survive them. So, in the three discussions and several emails we exchanged, I requested a letter and phone conversation with a family

member or friend that could commit to taking the kitty if something should happen...

and in this particular case, a back up person. But they persistently visited RESQCATS kittens at The Montecito Pet Shop and asked me about meeting other available kittens at the sanctuary. Each time I explained my concerns and requirements, my words seemed to fall on deaf ears. I refused to put a kitten in that position. The elderly couple then went to another organization and adopted a three-month-old kitten. I can only hope there is a plan in place or that the organization will rehome the cat when the time comes... and it WILL come.

Then there are those who want only a certain color, "It must be an orange female," or "I only want a calico," or "I am open to anything but black!" One lady actually said to me, "I want a cat to match the color palette in my house." Apparently she has orange and white tabby cats so she has decorated her house in orange tones. Yes, hard to believe she said that, but it true! I swear!

It is usually impossible to fulfill someone's idea of their perfect cat.

Kittens look the way they do when I rescue them from high-kill shelters, wheel wells of cars, haystacks, hoarding situations, backyards, and other precarious places. Adopting a cat or kitten is not like ordering a car with all the preferred features. I wonder if people do the same thing when adopting a child?!

A lady recently visited two four-month-old kittens at The Montecito Pet Shop. She wanted a "deal" if she adopted both. I realize other organizations offer "two for one kittens" and "name your own adoption fee" for adults over a certain age, but it is not and never will be my philosophy to do that. It was explained to the lady in the shop that these are "living beings" and there are no discounts on precious lives. RESQCATS had saved this particular litter from being euthanized at a high-kill shelter and spent over \$800 on three kittens in order to get them healthy and adoptable. When someone feels entitled to a "deal" on two or goes to the shelter because they can name their own price, I question what happens when the cat(s) need follow-up vaccines or vet visits? Will she ask for a deal there, too? Is it a matter of dollars or are they are not worth the adoption fee to her? Even after explaining all that we do and the incurred expenses, the lady still felt she was entitled to a bargain. She also wanted to know if we had any kittens younger than the four-months old. She left the shop...without kittens!

I hear that a lot. "I only want the smallest one so that we can bond." And then there is the disappointment when the kitten gets older and is more independent than imagined and isn't the lap cat they wanted it to be. You actually know a little more about what the kittens are like when



"Theona"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

they are older.

When it comes to adopting young mother cats, they are often overlooked for weeks or even months. They eventually find homes long after all their kittens have been adopted but it usually a arduous process.

Yes, I suppose that twenty-five years of rescue has altered my perspective on adoption. To me, it doesn't matter what they look like...black, white, calico, orange tabby, one-eye, three legs, young or old.

In November, 2021, I adopted Gisselle, a sixteen year old cat that had been in and out of foster care for two years with another cat organization in Santa Barbara called ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program.) I met her in the lobby when I was picking up a carrier and I never made it home without calling my friend who works there. I told Becky that I had a space and would love to give Gisselle a home for her remaining days. I had her seven months and although that was not very long, I loved her from the depths of my soul. And I would adopt her all over again.

Most recently, two six month old leukemia positive kittens became RESQCATS residents. They needed a place to live out their lives and be loved for as long as they have on this earth.

Understand, I'm not saying that is what all adopters need to do. But can it just be more about the cats...and less about some fantasy that they have dreamed up?

Let me suggest something to really think about.

As you consider adopting, perhaps it can be more about saving a life and less about the color, "deals" or age... after all, they all need homes.

And one last thought, I bet if cats could talk and you asked them what they would want in a human, they would say, "someone to love me, treat me kindly and give me a home for my entire life."



"SweetPea"

Meet "The Captain and Tennille": New RESQCATS residents



Jeffyne with "The Captain and Tennille"

Many of you may remember that in November of 2021, I happened across a cat named "Gisselle" while visiting another cat organization, ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program.) to pick up a carrier. Gisselle was in the lobby and put on her best show for me...curling around my legs and asking to be held. She had been in and out of foster care for two years. When I met her, I realized that I had just the place for her. She was sixteen years old and I was told that she probably had cancer, but I wasn't deterred by that. My heart immediately went out to her. For me, giving her a home was the right thing to do.

I took her back to RESQCATS and retro-fitted one of the enclosures and outside spaces for an old senior girl with arthritis. I overlooked the fact that she rarely used her litter box. All that mattered was that I loved her and she loved me, too. We had morning and afternoon time when all the volunteers were gone. I looked forward to my alone time with her. I picked her up and she laid across my shoulder and we slowly danced to peaceful background music playing in the cattery. She loved being held and most often, she gave me a kiss on the nose or a good face cleaning with her tongue!

Gisselle was with me for only seven months but she gave a lifetime of love.

I thought that sooner or later I would adopt another senior cat, but it happened that two leukemia posi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Kittens in precarious places!

Janalyn Simpson owns a winery in the scenic rolling hills of Paso Robles, California. I have known her for years as she is the aunt of one of my best friends, Erika Sacks. She and her family also have a ranch with several acres where they have horses. And horses need hay... right?

While I'm not clear as to why she had bales of hay delivered from the Bakersfield area which is over 100 miles away and at least a two hour drive by car, and more by truck, but they were. It was a scorching day in mid-June with temperatures well over a hundred degrees. Janalyn and her helpers were expecting the delivery and were ready to unload the minute the driver arrived.

Now I did a little research and even small hay bales can weigh 40-75 pounds. Slingshotting them on a truck and pulling them off is not something that is delicate work! I'm sure that heaving and hurling them is a more accurate description of loading the heavy bundles. Heaven forbid the bales were bigger as according to my investigation, they come in all sizes... up to hundreds of pounds! A serious piece of equipment would be required to stack them.

While unloading, Janalyn discovered two tiny kittens nestled in between two of the bales. Fortunately, they had survived the long trip and heat. They were active and she could see that they were in good shape, but she was puzzled as to how they got there. Janalyn immediately called the hay company. She told them she had found kittens in the delivery. The employee replied, "Yes, we found a couple of kittens here, too. We also found their mom so we put them back with her." Jan's reply was, "Well hey! You missed a couple!" It wasn't practical to send them back to Bakersfield. The hay had been unloaded and the truck was gone. Besides, who knows where the mom would be by the time the truck returned. More importantly, these babies needed milk!

Their eyes were open but their ears were still slightly folded so we estimated them to be about two weeks old. Oh dear! That meant they would need bottle feeding as kittens that young are still several weeks away from eating food on their own. Janalyn needed help, but I didn't have a foster available and while I have bottle fed kittens before, RESQCATS was totally full and I couldn't add one more thing to my plate... especially midnight, two and four a.m. feedings.

I apologized to Janalyn, but told her if she could do this, I could send her everything she needed and put her in touch with one of my foster bottle feeders for instructions and support. Thankfully, Janalyn was open to the challenge and said she would do whatever it took. I didn't give her much choice and honestly, I don't know what I would have done if she had said no. She made a quick trip to the pet supply store and purchased enough kitten formula and a bottle to get her through the night.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Erika volunteered to deliver supplies the next day. We loaded the trunk of her car with bottles, kitten milk replacement, and canned food and kibble for later. We added a litter box, several twenty-five pound bags of litter, baby wipes, bed, blankets and enough toys to fill the trunk.

The two kittens were discovered on a Thursday. Janalyn quickly got the hang of bottle feeding and fortunately the siblings took to the bottle easily. But something didn't feel right when Janalyn woke up on Saturday morning. That something just kept gnawing at her. She had a gut feeling that there may be another kitten. Following her instincts, she hurriedly dressed and went to the barn to inspect the neatly stacked hay bales. Sure enough, there was another one. She had been without nourishment for at least 48 hours. She seemed fine except for being a little dehydrated. The kitten milk replacement quickly took care of that. So now there were three! Three adorable little girls!

If the "hay kitties" had been newborns, they would never have survived that long without their mother and milk... so they were lucky.

Janalyn took care of the threesome for over four weeks. She even cared for them as she battled Covid and was home alone. She is one of the most determined, compassionate women I know and I cannot thank her enough for what she took on so unexpectedly. And she did a fabulous job!

When they came to RESQCATS, they were accustomed to being held and loved so it took no time to adjust to new surroundings. They inspected their new habitat and felt comfortable immediately. To them it was just a new place with lots of things to explore and do.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Erika had taken it upon herself to name the sisters. She is a clever lady and decided on “Bale-ee,” “Hay-ley” and “Alfalfa!” That certainly fit the “hay” theme perfectly!

The girls remained at RESQCATS for a few weeks. They were small for their age as many bottle babies tend to be. So everyone at RESQCATS had time to enjoy them.

When it was time for them to be adopted, Hay-ley went home with an enthusiastic young woman who is a single mom. She couldn’t wait to surprise her kids. Bale-ee and Alfalfa found their way into the hearts of a couple that were only looking for one... but ended up adopting both!

Another happy ending... or shall I say... beginning!



Top to bottom: “Alfalfa,” “Bale-ee” and “Hay-lee”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Two tiny kittens popped up on my Facebook feed. They were about six months old and Santa Barbara Humane needed a home for them. Once I saw the post, I told myself that I would think about it; however, by the next morning I had committed to adopting them. But I wasn’t quite ready emotionally, so I didn’t give them an exact date.

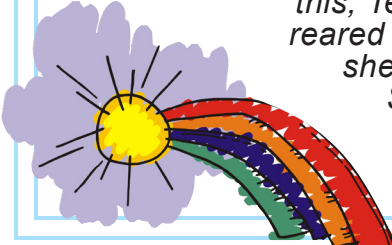
There was some unfinished business I had with Gisselle. I had not yet resolved her loss in my heart. A few days later, I was sitting on the bench on our property that overlooks the ocean and thinking about Gisselle. Suddenly, I sensed her presence. I felt that familiar weight on my shoulder and then a lick on my face. Was this real? Or was I so desperate to have her approval about adopting two more so soon after her passing that I imagined it? I believe it was as real as it is for me to write about her. Gisselle was there to say good-bye and help me move on.

The following day, I picked up the brother-sister pair that I had never met. I didn’t need to meet them ahead of time. In my heart, I knew I was doing the best thing for them and it is always about the cats with me! I would get to know them in time. Adopting leukemia positive kittens can be asking for heart-break, but I see it like this: they need a home and to be happy and cared for as long as they have on this earth. The average lifespan is less than three years, but whatever time I have with this adorable pair is a gift.

My husband, Mitch, named them. He suddenly appeared in the cattery just hours after I got them to RESQCATS. He was singing (not a good thing I might add!) He was out of tune as he sang “Love... love will keep us together...” but I recognized the song! He said, ‘I have names for them. You can call them “The Captain and Tennille.”’

These two have are truly the friendliest, funniest, happiest and best kittens I can ever remember. They love attention just as much as they do the two outdoor enclosures they frequent. They never meet a stranger and are such a nice break to the day in and day out chores at RESQCATS during our busy times. There is always time to spend with these two... and they never fail to make me smile!

October 26, 2022.
*Just a few days after I wrote
 this, Tennille’s leukemia
 reared its ugly head and
 she became quite ill.
 She left this earth
 peacefully...
 but not my heart.*





THE CATS AND KITTENS OF 2022

With over 200 cats and kittens coming through RESQCATS this year and thousand of photos to choose from...here are just a few! Thank you, Daryl Metzger, for the photos for all of us to enjoy!

Page 12 (left to right): Barnaby and Bartholomew, BlueBerry and LoganBerry, Blackbeard, Chin-Chin and Half-Stache, Cinders, Bolter, Digit and Anna, Sunrise, Prince, Hobbs, Levi, Mama Mia and Trixie, Flurrye and Napoleon

In memory of...

In loving memory of **“Samar”**... thank you for helping me through some tough times in life.

—**Rachel Ross**

In memory of **“Chester”** and for my long-time friend, Colleen Root. —**Barbara Loveless**

In memory of **“Samar.”**—**Judy and Jessica Ross**

In memory of **Penny Huff**... and in honor of her beautiful sister, Courtenay. —**Jean Early**

In memory of **Bev.** —**Steven Dorfman**

In memory of **“Malaya.”** —**Kerin Friden**

Sometimes they are taken too soon. And we never know why. In memory of **“Tic-Tak.”** —**Jeffyne**



“Tic-Tak”

In loving memory of **“Paul”** and for **the Navarros.**

In memory of **“Zuki,”** who was adopted from RESQCATS in July of 2003 and lived to be 18 years and three months. She was a calico cat with too many toes to count and had “calcatude” that served her well.—**Marian Jean**

In memory of “little panther” **“Mystique”** and in honor of a kitten at RESQCATS named Mystique. —**Arleen Talley**

In sweet memory of **“Tut,”** adopted from RESQCATS in 2005! And for the human he left behind.—**May O’Mahoney**

In memory of **“Dickie” Ohl** and for his loving human mom! —**Colleen Robles**

In loving memory of **“Gisselle”** who I adopted at sixteen years old in November 2021 — and for the seven wonderful months we shared. —**Jeffyne**



“Gisselle”

In honor and celebration of...

In birthday celebration of **Liz Benishin’s** and twenty-five years of friendship! —**Julie Kaplan**

Happy 15th birthday **“Cha-Cha!”** —**Julie Kaplan**

In honor of **“Mama Rita”** and her kittens and for my friend, **Carol Crego.** —**Christine Green**

In celebration of **Mel Kyle.** —**Julie Kaplan**

Happy Birthday to **Susie Browne!** —**Susan Browne**

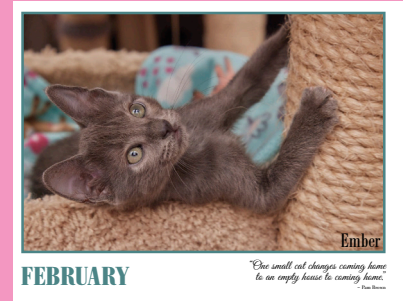
On behalf of **“Star”** and **“Max”** — adopted in June 2021! —**Katie Lee and Brian Finck**

In honor of **“Lexi,”** who came home with us on June 30, 2011... the last day of “Adopt-a-Cat-month!” She will be 12 in June of 2022 and I tell her every day how glad I am that she lives with me! —**Lanette Perry**

In honor of the amazing **vets, techs and staff at AVS** for their care and love of our wonderful cat, **“Prince Rupert.”** —**Jeffrey Light and Christine Wong**

THE CATS AND KITTENS OF RESQCATS 2023 CALENDAR IS HERE!

Here's a peek at what's inside!



If ordering online, go to the RESQCATS website www.RESQCATS.org where there is a donate button that leads you directly to PayPal. Be sure to follow up with an email to Jeffyne to let her know you want a 2023 calendar. Or you can fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and send along with a check. Each calendar is \$25 (including tax) and an additional \$3 for each calendar and mailing. Or calendars are available exclusively at The Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa at 2020 Cliff Drive in Santa Barbara, CA 93109.

(photos are courtesy of Daryl Metzger)

Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS

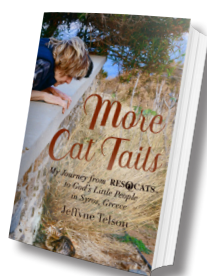
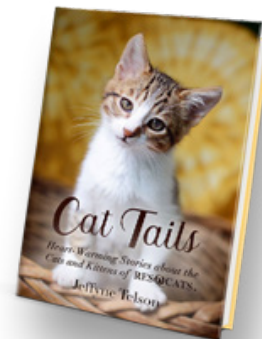
Awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Cat Writer's Association

- ❁ RESQCATS founder, Jeffyne Telson, launched her first book in late 2017 and it has sold hundreds of copies.

In 1997, she founded RESQCATS, Inc., as a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. In the ensuing years, with the

- ❁ help of a small group of dedicated volunteers, Jeffyne has grown RESQCATS well beyond her dreams into a highly respected organization that has placed over 3000 cats and kittens with qualified families and individuals.

“Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS” is about Jeffyne’s journey of creating a cat rescue, the challenges and opportunities she has faced, and most important of all, the valuable life lessons the cats and kittens have taught her.



More Cat Tails: My Journey from RESQCATS to God's Little People Cat Rescue in Syros, Greece

Awarded a Certificate of Excellence AND a Muse Award from The Cat Writer's Association



In 2018, Jeffyne Telson was selected from over 35,000 applicants to go to the tiny Greek island in Syros, Greece to help care for over 60 cats and God’s Little People Cat Rescue and aid in a local rescue project.

“My four months on Syros was a life-changing experience that I will never forget. The book is a heart-warming read about the cats I met, fostered and came to love. You’ll find a lot of humor throughout the book as I share my experiences in a foreign country: parallel parking, traffic signs to observe and ignore, my attempts at cooking and how I survived on a vegan diet. You’ll also read about some of the delightful people I met on this incredible island. You’ll learn about the lives of cats in Greece, the challenges I faced and the life lessons I learned from the once in a lifetime experience.”

It is her second book and was released in 2020...another you won’t want to miss.

The books are not just books about cat stories; they are about pursuing your dreams and making a difference in the world. If you have a heart or a funny bone, you will enjoy them.

*To get your signed copy, visit the website www.RESQCATS.org. Click on the “BOOK” tab and order.
Or, see the order form in this newsletter on page 16*

Mail-in Order Form: **CAT TAILS** and **MORE CAT TAILS**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____
Email address: _____

CAT TAILS: Price per book: \$35 per book including shipping.

of books: _____
Total amount CAT TAILS: \$ _____
How would you like the book to be signed by the author? _____



MORE CAT TAILS: Price per book: \$25 per book including shipping.

of books: _____
Total amount MORE CAT TAILS: \$ _____
How would you like the book to be signed by the author? _____



GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail-in Order Form: **CATS AND KITTENS CALENDAR 2023**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____
Email address: _____

Price per calendar: \$25 including tax and shipping.

of calendars: _____
GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____



You can also make a difference by choosing RESQCATS as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile.



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!

