

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 2023



President's Message

Written on October 15, 2023



Jeffyne and "Brandt"

It is always this time of year when kitten season begins to slow down that I have some time to reflect on all that has happened in the last several months. I feel many emotions as I write this message and share some of this year's stories. In my mind, I relive the joy of watching kittens grow and romp and play as I look over the list of adoptions. I wipe my eyes of tears as I remember those that we lost to a terrible virus and to others who just failed to survive. I feel grateful for all the people who helped along the way. The volunteers and fosters are the core of the organization. Taking time away from their own lives to help is a precious gift. Thank you all!

It was a challenging year in that there seemed to be so many needing help. I often thought my cell number must be displayed on billboards in several places as I received calls from the Los Angeles area, Barstow, Bakersfield, Fresno, San Bernadino and more! How do so many

know about RESQCATS!? There must be more than one billboard! Or perhaps word about the organization has spread over during our **TWENTY-SIX** years of operation! RESQCATS is not limited to just helping in Santa Barbara area. I assist wherever I can.

I've chosen a few special stories to write about, but there are many more that just won't fit into this newsletter. I will share the short version of some here.

"Miles" was found by a UPS driver in Ventura! He was "miles" away from anywhere; therefore his name became "Miles!"

"Freeway" was found on the highway by college students traveling from San Francisco to Santa Barbara. There were no buildings or homes nearby, so our best guess is that someone dumped him. It took the girls half an hour to coax the frightened kitten to come to them. By the time they reached Santa Barbara, a foster was in place to take him in.

He never left the foster; she adopted him!

"Almond," "Coconut," "Peanut," "Pistachio," "Hazelnut" and "Cashew" were found in a young man's backyard in the heat of summer in Bakersfield...not a place that kittens can survive.

"Mischief" was rescued from a gopher hawk trap. His right foot was stuck in the trap and crushing his paw. Someone heard his crying and it took four people to get his foot out. Fortunately, it was only sprained and he required just two weeks of limited activity.

"Timber" and "Forest" were found in a shed in Lompoc as newborns. They went to foster care and were raised there by Deanna Koens from just a few days old. Then they spent time with a second foster, Dana Fritzler, and were eventually adopted together!

Adele gave birth to **SEVEN** kittens on a lady's apartment porch. It was her second litter this year!

"Midge" was turned into the local emergency hospital at just a day old. The staff reached out to RESQCATS knowing that they couldn't bottle feed her every two hours. Midge went to Athena Foley, a foster who has



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Pistachio and Hazelnut



Pistachio and Cashew



Almond

experience caring for newborns.

Each cat and kitten has a story! While I don't know all their stories when they arrive, perhaps it is better that I don't. Many are sick, underweight, and need immediate medical attention.

Having the funds to treat them is crucial and I have many of you to thank for that and what you make possible for RESQCATS to provide. Others are frightened and helping them overcome their fears becomes our main focus. Taking the time to gain their trust is a vital part of their well-being. I am grateful to the volunteers for the hours and hours they spend healing their souls.

In addition to what we care for under our roof at RESQCATS, I felt an urgent need to help the community in some way. The numbers of cats and kittens are overwhelming and I attribute that fact partially to the halt on spaying and neutering at the beginning of Covid. Those particular surgeries were not considered "essential." Trap, neuter and return of feral cats came to an end. People were unable to get their own cats fixed. I recall driving sixty miles as much as twice a week to a vet who continued this important aspect of rescue. As a result of that lapse in spaying and neutering, we are seeing generations of cats reproducing. But what could RESQCATS do to curb the number of cats multiplying?

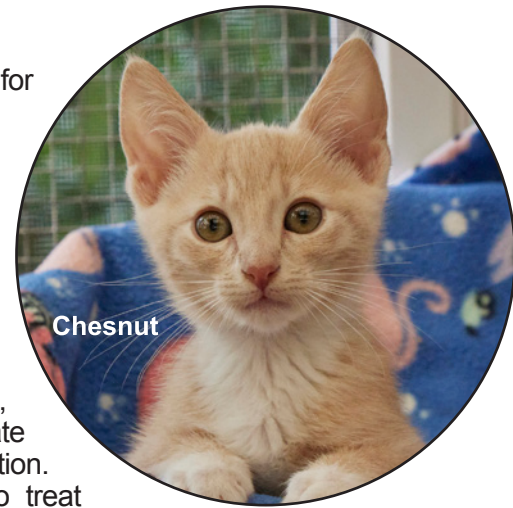
RESQCATS partnered with three other non-profit organizations that could perform spay and neuter surgeries. They had the manpower, but needed funding. The events were offered to the public as free so that we could help many in need and provide the incentive to get the cats fixed! The response to each event was more than I could have imagined!

I am proud to announce that by the end of 2023, we will have provided spay and neuter surgery for over **300** cats and kittens beyond the almost **200** that came through our doors. That's over **500** spays and neuters and believe me, that will have a huge impact in the cat community.

In June, we celebrated 3800 total adoptions and we have surpassed 3900 now. By the end of 2023, the estimated number of adoptions since we began in 1997 is **3960** plus! 4000 isn't too far in the future!

As we come to the close of 2023, many of you will be considering making donations to non-profit organizations that are close to your heart. Donors are the core of our existence.

While I realize there are many to choose from, keep in mind that every dollar of your donation to RESQCATS goes to the cats and kittens in our care. We are all



Chesnut

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



Mischief

volunteers here and your contribution goes a long way to help us continue our work. You make so much possible at RESQCATS!

But whatever organization you choose, you are making a difference in the world for someone or something else. Giving to a cause is an act of kindness. I think we can all agree that the world needs more compassion, acceptance, generosity AND acts of kindness.

From RESQCATS and me to you, your friends and family...enjoy your holidays.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the difference you make for the cats and kittens...and know it is paid forward when they are adopted by providing joy, healing and unconditional love.



Dumpling

Jeffyne Telson
President of RESQCATS, Inc.



Lulu



Sashimi



Mac-Mac



Keena



Tipper

Believe in Miracles



Mufasa's first day

It's been a long time since I wrote a **"Believe in Miracles"** story, but this one certainly fits into the category of miracles!

There are many stories of rescue in the twenty-six years of RESQCATS, but none quite as gut-wrenching as the story of Jimmi.

A minuscule buff kitten was found in a garbage can in Santa Maria. The caring man who discovered him immediately notified someone he knew who also happens to be a RESQCATS foster. Her name is Deanna Koens. She has cared for hundreds of kittens over the years.

Deanna described the kitten as literally on death's door. He was about three months old and should have weighed a healthy three pounds plus. But the emaciated, dehydrated boy barely registered at the one pound five ounce mark on the scale. He was infested with fleas and suffered from a serious upper respiratory infection. He was so weak he could barely hold up his head.

How on earth he landed in that garbage can is anyone's guess. I assume he was put there by someone. Whatever on earth would make anyone discard such a little life is beyond me. I choose to not attempt to understand as there is nothing in my being that would enable me to sympathize with anybody who does such horrific acts.

Deanna knew he had a long road ahead and went to work literally around the clock. She bathed him in warm sudsy water to rid him of the fleas and smell of garbage. She gave him sub-q fluids to help with the severe dehydration. Then she began feeding him very small amounts every couple of hours to stimulate his digestive system to work properly. We have no idea how long he had been without food and water so both had to be introduced gradually. Jimmi rested for several days and Deanna tended to him knowing that it was touch and go as to whether he would make it.

Sometimes we can provide everything that is needed to help; medication and supportive care, but there has to

be a will to live and we just weren't sure that still existed in Jimmi.

However, each day brought new hope as Jimmi started to respond. He was able to hold his head up and stand on his own. He struggled but it was obvious he was not going to give up without a good fight. The vet saw him and he was tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV. We were relieved that both tests were negative. His path forward seemed tentative but promising.

With Deanna's compassion and care, and Jimmi's determination, he reached three pounds in just a couple of weeks! That's 2-1/2 times in weight gain in a very short time! Finally, it was time for Jimmi to come to RESQCATS, get neutered and micro-chipped and find his very own home.

Rarely do I share stories about the kittens and where they come from with Mitch. Knowing him, he would want to keep them all. But I couldn't help but tell him about Jimmi. I even shared photos of this poor kitten with him...against my better judgment!

The photos are tough to see, but it's important to inform others about what it takes to save some of those who come into RESQCATS. By the time Jimmi arrived at RESQCATS, he looked like a completely different kitty.

It took a tremendous amount of TLC and the will of a tiny mistreated kitten to live...but I believe there was a miracle at work somewhere in his survival.

Mitch's comment was that his new name should be Marborg...after the trash company. I emphatically said, "OH NO! I'm not naming him after the trash truck! He needs a new name that is one of strength and survival!" Once I had a name, which eventually became "Mufasa." I planned to put him up for adoption.

HOWEVER, there is more to this story...a lot more! And I invite you to read *"And Now a Few Words from Mr Jeffyne!"*



Mufasa's now

And now...
A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne...
Yes, I'm the Classic Foster Failure!

Any of you who have been followers of RESQCATS for more than a few years know that Mr. Jeffyne is NOT the cat person in this family. Oh yah, he cares about cats as well as all animals. But you know that his real passion is dogs...specifically rough coated collies.

So, what happened to Mr. Jeffyne when he was told about a tiny kitty who had been dumped in a garbage can? (See Jeffyne's Believe in Miracles story.) Did he stay out of the cattery and avoid meeting that tiny buff boy? Of course not, he went inside. And when he was in, could he simply walk by the enclosure and ignore that little guy? Absolutely not, he felt compelled to go see him! And when he got to the enclosure, could he just stand on the outside looking in? Certainly, he could have...but did he? No way!!

And when he overheard Jeffyne talking with potential adopters about this sweet little kitty, was he able to mind his own business? Well, he should have, but he didn't! Instead, he felt obliged to advise Jeffyne to hold off adopting that kitten saying, "Well, maybe the people who are coming over to meet him should adopt a pair of bonded cats!"

Of course, Mr. Jeffyne is capable of saying and doing all of this because he has a condition that's well known in the world of animal rescue. Mr. Jeffyne is a classic, "FOSTER FAILURE!"

This behavior has been known to Jeffyne since early in their relationship.

Years ago, a dog rescue organization called and told Mr. Jeffyne they had just taken in a 1-year-old male collie. Mr. Jeffyne contacted his foster parents who live in the area and scheduled to meet them to pick up the dog. However, upon arriving at the rescue, Mr. Jeffyne waved off the foster parent saying, "This looks like a really nice boy, I'll just take him home for the night to see what Jeffyne thinks." Needless to say, that collie never left our home. That's when Jeffyne made new rescue instructions for Mr. Jeffyne. "No dog is allowed to 'spend the night.' There will be no OVERNIGHT COLLIES! If you rescue a collie, pick him up and just keep driving. Pass this property and DO NOT bring him inside the gate!!" Without question, I always followed those rules. (Wink, wink!!) That's why on two different occasions we had 11 collies...of our own!



Mitch and Mufasa

Jeffyne has always teasingly (I thought) introduced Mr. Jeffyne to RESQCATS volunteers and potential adopters as the interloper who's not allowed in the cattery during kitty season, or he'd adopt every kitten in the place! Well, while that may be a little bit of an exaggeration, she's probably not too far off. That's why during the height of kitten season, I generally never go into the cattery alone, except in the mornings to say hello to the volunteers and thank them for all they do for the organization.

I've managed to follow Jeffyne's guidance for most of RESQCATS' 26 years of operation. Oh, naturally, there've been a few missteps. But for the most part, I've honored Jeffyne's rule, "Stay out of the cattery when there are little kittens present!!"

So, when I heard about the "garbage can kitten" I immediately flashed on Jeffyne's rule, "Stay out of the cattery..." and equally as quickly put it of my mind and headed for the kitten enclosures.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

FINDING MY HEART LIGHT

There is usually much more going on behind the scenes in rescue than I share. You typically only see the happy ending, or shall I say beginnings, as the moms and kittens come up for adoption. Social media is flooded with irresistible photos that are meant to encourage people to adopt. But it is important to educate people about the challenges we face as a rescue. Sometimes the road to getting some of the cats and kittens healthy is not always an easy one...or a happy journey for me.

This kitten season was especially difficult with far too many losses. Several kittens failed to thrive regardless of what we tried. Unfortunately medication and love just don't always have the outcome we hope for. It's just that part of nature that is hard to comprehend.

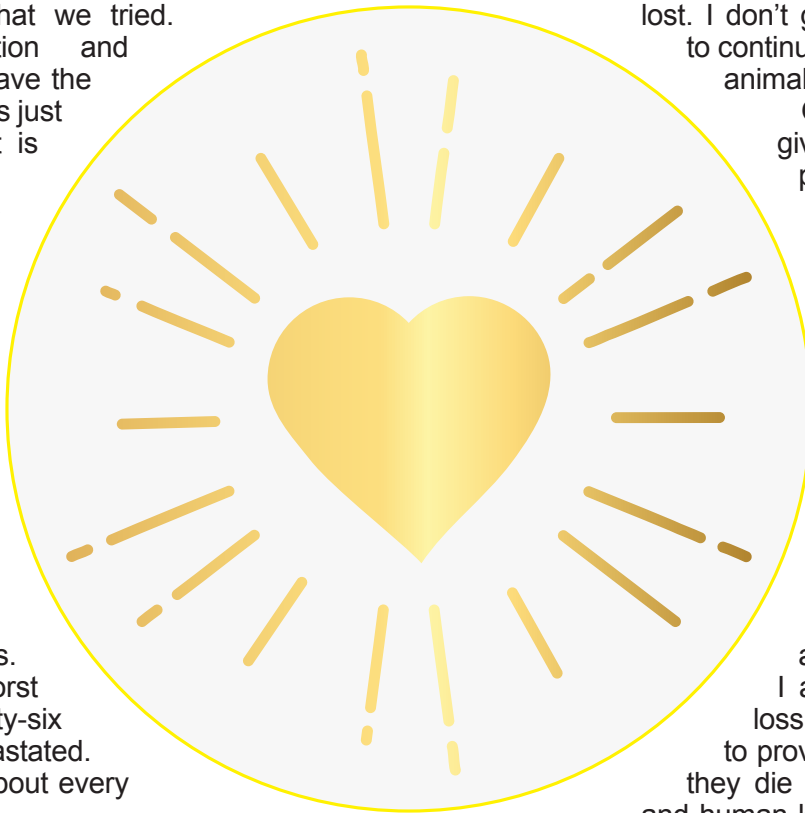
But what was most unusual this season was when a horrific virus called Panleukopenia hit RESQCATS. The virus has a 90% mortality rate and regardless of treatment and thousands of dollars spent to try and save them, three litters were lost...a total of fourteen kittens in two weeks. Losing them was the worst two weeks in our twenty-six year history. I was devastated. It is something I think about every single day...still.

I believe the key to life is to find

something to feel grateful for every day and discover reasons to keep my "glass half full," not "half empty." During that time of profound loss, there were many days that I felt very empty and sad. Somehow, I always realize that I have the strength buried somewhere inside to fill that glass back up. I keep going and rescuing as there are so many cats and kittens that need help. Some may ask, "How does she do it?" Well let me assure you that just because I continue to function on a daily basis does not mean that I am not hurting inside. Somehow

I move on as a way to honor those I have lost. I don't give up and I find a way to continue to open my heart to the animals.

Over the years, I have given homes to leukemia positive cats, Katsu, Asya, Liora, Talulah, The Captain and Tennille, knowing that their time on earth was short. I welcomed Giselle, a sixteen-year-old with lymphoma and I loved her for her remaining seven months. Most recently, I adopted two TWENTY-YEAR-OLD sisters, Samantha and Sabrina, whose owner died. With each of those adoptions I realize that I am setting myself up for loss, but it is important to me to provide a place so that when they die they leave knowing love and human kindness. I can somehow prepare myself for their limited time with me.



THE MIDNIGHT UBER!

The night was expected to be cold and rainy when a litter of four newborn kittens was found in Buellton, a community between Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, CA. The mother cat was nowhere to be found. When a caring person found them, she picked up the kittens and brought them to a lady in the area who takes in wildlife.

Perhaps it would have been wiser to wait and see if the mother cat returned, but it is usually people's inclination to get what may appear to be abandoned kittens to safety. It would be better to have a plan! But I understand emotions get the best of us, believe me! The babies are swooped up with no plan!

The wildlife lady reached out on social media desperate for help as she had no experience with bottle feeding newborn kittens. The umbilical cords were still attached so they could not have been than just a few days old.

It was about 8 p.m. at night, my usual bedtime as I am a very early riser...well before the sun comes up...when the calls started coming in asking for help! I contacted several fosters to let them know what was going on and connected everyone I could think of to help the kittens. I hoped everyone would somehow rally as there was nothing I could do at that moment. The kittens were at a facility in Buellton, a 45-minute drive if you put the "pedal to the metal!" With so many working on a solution, I went to bed and hoped for a good report in the morning.

When I woke up the next morning, I reached out starting at 6 a.m.! I wondered, "Where is everyone? I mean doesn't everybody get up before the sun like me? Why aren't they answering my calls and texts?" I forgot I was the one who went to bed early and some of the fosters are night owls!

About an hour later, texts and phone calls started being returned and I got the full story. It goes like this:

Athena is an experienced foster who had bottle fed and cared for many newborns and young kittens for RESQCATS. She and a friend, Susan, somehow coupled and went to work on how to get the kittens to Athena in Santa Barbara. The wildlife lady was not comfortable driving to Santa Barbara at night, or meeting Athena halfway. So leave it to my friend Susan to come up with an idea...crazy as it may sound!

Susan called UBER and explained the situation to the

driver and asked if he would pick up the litter in Buellton and transport them to Athena in Santa Barbara. By this time it was 10 p.m.! The young man was baffled as this request was not quite in his job description! He wasn't opposed to taking on such an assignment but he thought he better ask his boss! A few minutes later, he returned the call to Susan and said he would drive the kittens to Santa Barbara. But first, he asked about any liability if a kitten or kittens should die on the way. Susan assured him, "Hey, we are all just trying to save this litter and we completely understand if they don't make it to rescue alive. But we have to try!"

With that comment, the Uber driver was on board. He picked up his passengers and drove them to Santa Barbara. We will never know if they sat seat-belted in the back seat or got preferential treatment in the front!

The kittens arrived safe and sound at midnight. The driver was paid and I can bet he is still telling this story to his friends.

Because the desperate plea for help had been all over social media, everyone wanted to know the fate of the litter. Sure enough, the mom did return, but by then it was much too risky to reunite her with the litter. She was a feral mom and the babies smelled different after being in human care and I feared she would reject or harm them. So she was eventually trapped and returned.

Athena raised "Nacho," "Biscuit," "CocoPuff" and "Paisley" for the next two months. She bottle fed them every two hours for weeks.

Then she weaned them onto canned food and finally to kibble. The dedication it takes to undertake fostering newborns is a challenge, but Athena met it head on as she always does!

We kept everyone up to date on the kittens' status as they had become quite famous! Nacho and Biscuit were adopted together. Paisley went to a previous adopter, has become best friends with the lady's dog and they go everywhere together. CocoPuff found a home with dear friends who have a cat and three collies and they eventually got a playmate for her!

Sometimes it takes several caring individuals to make something like this come together. We all felt a sense of urgency when it came to saving lives. I am so proud of all those who went to the rescue...I just wish they all got up as early as I do so I wasn't left in the dark wondering what became of this special litter overnight!





THE CATS AND KITTENS OF 2023

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

Page 8 (left to right): Blotch, Bonnie, Chester and Tipper, Confetti, Cookie, Denny, Chip, Lil Peanut, Sampson, Mal **Page 9 (left to right):** Hastings, Hershey, Jewel, Kahlua, Spud, Wasabi, Zorra, Slate, Truffles, Kat, Oreo, Tumble



FINDING MY HEART LIGHT: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

But what I am never prepared for is the loss of such young kittens...and especially so many in such a short period of time.

Not soon after the panluek epidemic, I lost a friend... the human kind. While her passing was expected after being in hospice for three years, the reality of her being gone hit hard. Another loss...and more sadness. My glass felt half empty but my desire to fill it back up was strong. I just needed a little extra help.

Because I am so out of control when death is around me, I need to feel in charge of something. One may often find me on a cleaning spree for days after a loss as a way to have a project with a controlled outcome!

Around this same period of time, a litter of eight arrived at RESQCATS after being left on someone's front porch. One in particular had some problems. I named her Brandi. She was diagnosed with glaucoma in one of her eyes. That is quite unusual for a kitten, but I have seen a lot of things in rescue in my day!

According to the vet, the kindest thing to do for her to alleviate her pain and future suffering was to have the afflicted eye removed. It absolutely broke my heart to have to make such a drastic, but needed, decision. Brandi returned from surgery with protruding purple sutures in place of her eye along with antibiotics to prevent infection and pain medication. I was instructed to use a warm compress on the remaining sunken socket to soothe the area for ten minutes, twice a day for two weeks. Each time I sat down with Brandi to apply the compress she purred the entire time. The lukewarm moisture must have been soothing to her, but there was also something healing for me during those ten minutes. I pulled her close to my body and she seemed to just melt in my arms. She looked up at me with that other big soulful eye and I melted right back into her little body. Doing this for her gave me the opportunity to do something and have a positive outcome...not another tragic loss. She gave me purpose and a positive focus...a chance to fill the glass.

Brandi was passed over several times when it came to adopting. Maybe people saw her as less than perfect...or perhaps, I thought, we were meant for each other. It could be that I didn't push that hard to convince an adopter to give her a home.

What I do know is that I helped her body heal and she became my "heart light." She is life...living and breathing in a tiny perfect body...with one eye!

And now Brandi has a forever home with me.

"A cat purring on your lap is more healing than any drug in the world, as the vibrations you are receiving are pure love and contentment"

— *St. Francis of Assisi*



MR. JEFFYNE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Unfortunately, I was caught by the "Simon Legree of RESQCATS rules," and with a broom in one hand and a bag of kitty poop in the other. Mr. Jeffyne was told, in no uncertain terms, "Out young man...OUT!" Now, without fail, since I always follow my wife's directions, I instantly spun an about face, and just as swiftly another 180, dashed under the outstretched broom, past the front enclosures...all the way to the back to meet little Jimmi, "the garbage can kitty!"

It was love at first purr. This sweet little guy was by himself at the very back of the cattery. If no one made a special effort to visit him, Jimmi's only daily entertainment was watching the giant tortoises meander around their yards.

How could I pass on his sweet face? When I entered his enclosure, he immediately "nosed" me and pawed me as if to ask, "Bend lower so I can get on your shoulders." And naturally when I did get closer, that's precisely where this little boy perched.

He affectionately rubbed against my face and beard as he crawled to my chest to gaze into my glasses. I couldn't tell if he was looking at my eyes, staring at his reflection or peering deep into my soul asking me to love him.

But by then it was too late to answer those questions, he had me! I had failed again. It was usually with a dog that I would sheepishly say, "Well, he followed me home, can I keep him to?" or a tortoise that I discovered on the internet that needed a home.

But this time, it wasn't any outside influence...it was just me. Good ol' Mr. Jeffyne deciding I'd like to adopt one of the more than 3,900 RESQCATS kittens. Only in the case of little Jimmi, it wasn't an adoption...it can now be posted on the world wide web and flashed in blinking lights on Broadway...Mr. Jeffyne is a CLASSIC FOSTER FAILURE!

And I love it!

Oh...and by the way...that little Jimmi who started his life in a refuse container has risen to the top of the mountain, He even has a new name to match his new life...Mufasa...The Lion King!!

Vows to our rescues

You'll never starve again.

You'll never hurt again.

You'll never feel lonely and unloved again.

You'll never feel scared and unwanted again.

We'll never betray you.

We'll always protect you.

***And when the time comes
we'll be right there next to you***

***to hold you and
make you feel loved.***

From Birth to a Forever Home

It began with an urgent phone call from Advanced Veterinary Specialist (AVS), a 24-hour emergency hospital that also operates as a referral clinic for those animals that need a cardiologist, orthopedist, oncologist or other specialized veterinarian. I am known quite well at AVS on a personal level as many of own animals have required their care. RESQCATS has also been a client for years as we have dealt with broken legs, heart murmurs, intensive care cats and more. In fact, I have often teased that I should have a designated parking space in front of the hospital!

A caring person had found a newborn kitten and brought it to the hospital hoping that someone could save it. The staff contacted me immediately, as they have many times in the past, desperate for help. It would be impossible for personnel to bottle feed this tiny girl every two hours for several weeks. Emergencies arrive all day and night and require urgent treatment. In addition, critical patients involve a lot of intensive care so time is of the essence.

I immediately called Athena Foley, one of our foster volunteers. She has cared for many of the newborn kittens that come our way without moms and has a tremendous amount of experience. She understood the dedication of the many weeks it would take to care for the kitten as she was no more than a couple of days old. I wasn't surprised when Athena didn't hesitate for a moment and said, "Yes! Where is she? I will go and get her right now!" That's just how Athena is when it comes to fostering.

Athena named the kitten "Midge."

Her commitment meant getting up every two hours around the clock to feed the kitten. She would need to stimulate Midge to do her waste disposal duties as kittens that young are unable to pee and poop on their own. At four to five weeks, Midge would start weaning onto canned food mixed with kitten milk replacement. In



Little Midge

the following couple of weeks she could have dry food. The usual protocol was that she would be wormed and vaccinated and when she reached 8-9 weeks of age, she could be spayed and be put up for adoption. Sounds like a plan, doesn't it? But things don't always go according to plan.

Midge had many health issues along the way. She suffered from horrible diarrhea and none of the usual de-worming or parasitic medications seemed to help. Test after test was done to determine what we could do. Several other treatments were given and we experimented with a bland diet, but there was no clear answer to her problem. It was time and allowing her digestive system to develop that eventually worked. She also exhibited some breathing issues that were never quite diagnosed and that was concerning. Radiographs revealed nothing out of the ordinary and her blood work was normal.

The vet expenses were enormous...\$2435.11 to be exact. Thankfully, RESQCATS can provide any and all that cats and kittens need here.

By the time Midge was healthy enough to be spayed, she was four months old. Athena and I thought it was best to have her surgery at a regular vet hospital where she could be closely monitored with special equipment and staff could be on stand-by if anything should happen during the procedure due to her breathing issues.

When a foster has given so much time and love to a little one who is on the brink of surviving, there is just something that tugs at the heart. I know! I feel that way when I have given my all to save a cat or kitten. I experience so many different emotions when they find an adopter. I try to see myself as a stepping stone in the kitty's path to finding their forever person. But sometimes the path ends sooner and a foster wants to keep the kitten they have so lovingly cared for. I wasn't surprised

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Bottle-feeding Midge

FROM BIRTH TO A FOREVER HOME: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

when Athena called and wanted to keep Midge. After all the two had been through they were just meant for each other.

I like to believe that when this happens, there is a need on both sides. The kitten knows so much love and becomes an integral part of the family and sending it to another home is not always in their best interest. At least that is what I tell myself. More likely is the fact that these special ones, like Midge, fulfill some need we have in our hearts at the time they come to us. They offer healing for our bodies and souls, joy where sadness has been and love when we feel alone.



Midge today

*A very special thank you to the
RESQCATS fosters for your
dedication to saving lives. The gift of
your time is the precious gift of life!*

*Deanna Koens,
Athena Foley, Audrey Busby,
Dana Fritzler, Pat Carter,
Matt Bailey and Whitney O'Malley &
Kat Foote*



Volunteer Appreciation

Many of you may not know this, but RESQCATS is an all-volunteer organization. That means there are no one gets paid and every dollar that you donate goes to the cats and kittens in our care.

Finding people who are willing to work without pay isn't as hard as one might think. There are some beautiful souls out there that want to make a difference. That is what volunteers do...give a most precious gift of time. I appreciate every one of them!

RESQCATS is fortunate in that several volunteers have been here for many years! We must be doing something right as our longest time helpers have been coming as long as 10-21 years!

There are volunteers who work full-time jobs and still commit to a weekend morning and show up to clean enclosures, scrub floors, empty litter boxes, do laundry and whatever else needs to be done. I am in awe of them giving up a weekend morning when they could be sleeping in after a tough week at work.

Each season I select a few young students that want to help and earn community service hours. I take time in interviewing as there are only a few positions and I look for those who understand that RESQCATS is more than just a place to pet kittens. They are required to do all the chores and then, and only then, do they get to spend time with all the cats and kittens.

The rewards of volunteering are many. It gives us purpose and a way to serve others. It allows us the opportunity to be compassionate and discover the small things in life that are actually grand acts of kindness.

In a world of chaos and discrimination and war and hate, we all need to find something we can feel good about....something that touches lives... something that makes a difference. And while a small feline may seem like a tiny thing in this world they can have the power of healing and taking us away from every day problems. They bring us joy, laughter and unconditional love.

And who shall I thank for molding these kitties into loving bundles of joy and love? The volunteers! There are too many to name, but you know who you are. I appreciate you more than words can say.

I'd also like to thank my Board of Directors, Santa Barbara Humane, Adobe Pet Hospital, La Cumbre Animal Hospital, St. Francis Pet Clinic and The Montecito Pet Shop for your support and for always being there to help.

And a special thank you to my husband, Mitch, (Mr. Jeffyne to many of you) for your love, support and just for being you!



In memory of...

In memory of “**Noah**,” “**Jonah**” and “**Calvin**.”
—*Sue Brazell*

In memory of “**Zuki**” and with heartfelt appreciation for you choosing her for me and “**Tailor**.” The donation I am sending her memory reflects the 18 years and three months that Zuki spent with me!
—*Marian Jean*

In memory of “**Bonnie Epperson**.”
—*Jim and Donna Bischoff*

In memory of “**Fuzzy Navel**” and for Casey and Jeanine and the 17 wonderful years they gave him.

In memory of **Penny Huff**...she is never forgotten!
—*Jeff Oien*

In memory of “**Basil**.”
—*Debra Philip*

In memory of **Penny Huff**...my beloved sister.
—*Courtenay Huff*

In memory of my beautiful cat, “**Stella**.”
—*Mimi Navarro*

In memory of “**Adonis**” and your journey with him.
—*Ron and Leslie Riskin*

In memory of **Artie Maltby-Krout**.
—*Melvin and Patti Bangle*

In memory of “**Liza**.”
—*Adrienne Kaplan and Stuart Kart*

In memory **Bonnie Epperson**...my kind sister-in-law and friend.
—*Nancy Foley*

In memory of **all the kittens** lost to Panleuk...never forgotten.
—*Elizabeth Ortlip (a fellow rescuer)*

In celebration and honor of...

In honor of “**Avie**” and “**Tuscy**”...my beloveds!
—*Dede Georgen*

In memory of our crazy kitty “**Mario**”...paying the love forward.
—*Arden and Sharon Kysely*

Happy Birthday to my friend, **Mel Kyle**!
—*Julie Kaplan*

Happy Birthday, **Susie Browne**!
—*Sue Browne*

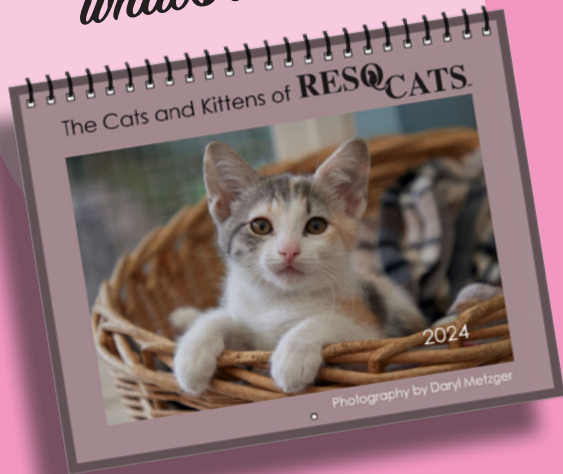
Happy Birthday **Brandt Foster**!
—*Rosemary Meszaros*

Happy Birthday with much love to **Shannon Kennedy**.
—*Betty and Patrick Aileo*



THE CATS AND KITTENS OF RESQCATS 2024 CALENDAR IS HERE!

Here's a peek at
what's inside!



We did something a little different this year and I think you are going to love it! We found a new designer, **Barbara Nail**, who has worked tirelessly to put together the best **RESQCATS** calendar ever! **Daryl Metzger** takes thousands of photos each year and narrowing down to just a dozen was becoming impossible so there are many more cats and kittens featured this year!

Calendars are available through the following link: www.tinyurl.com/resqcats2024

You may order as many as you like through createphotocalendars.com and shipping is greatly reduced when you order multiples, so stock up for friends and family! And if you are in town, calendars are available exclusively at **The Montecito Pet Shop** on the Mesa at 2020 Cliff Drive in Santa Barbara, CA 93109. They are \$25 each plus tax.

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: \$ _____

RESCATS Wish List

Some donors prefer to send supplies, food and other goods to help take care of the cats and kittens. **We love that, too!**

Items listed can be purchased at Chewy.com or on Amazon. Or you can send a gift card and we will purchase the items listed below.

Send to:

Jeffyne Telson
c/o RESQCATS
3263 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

- Under the Weather lysine powder
- Under the Weather Ready Cal Kitten
- Viralys Lysine Powder
- Imuquin for cats
- Bach Rescue Remedy
- Provable probiotics
- Forti-Flora probiotics
- VetriScience Probiotics
- Rescue Disinfectant concentrate (1 gallon size)
- Cat carriers
- Churus
- Wellness Kitten canned
- Wellness Kitten kibble
- Royal Canin Mom & BabyCat canned
- Royal Canin Mom and BabyCat kibble
- Gift certificate to JoAnn's for fleece to make blankets
- All kinds of cat toys!
- Feather teasers on sticks

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!