

Holiday Greetings From RESQCATS

President's Message

It is that time of year again...here is a full report on the 14th season at RESQCATS and all that you helped us to accomplish.

In addition, I have some exciting news to share with you...so be sure to read the whole newsletter.

RESQCATS finished the season with 146 adoptions for 2011 and that brings our total number of adoptions to 1886 cats and kittens since we began in 1997. It has been an amazing ride and we should all feel good about the difference we have made. Thanks to the volunteers, adopters, vets, contributors, fosters and many others...you have all made this another successful year.



Jeffyne with Fiesta and Harlow

Now for some additional current news to bring you up to date.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned a kitty named "Iris," who was very sick when she arrived at RESQCATS with her eight kittens. She was in terrible health and needed a lot of extra help in order to care for her babies. She did not have enough milk to feed all of them so they were supplemental bottle fed several times daily.



Iris

Iris spent 5 months at RESQCATS suffering from intestinal issues. She underwent all kinds of tests, repeated blood work, ultrasounds, x-rays, antibiotics, special worming medications and even exploratory surgery where several biopsies were done in order to determine why her white blood cell count was so high and what was causing her diarrhea. The total costs for her care was \$4000.00. I

am happy to report that she is in perfect health now and was adopted in October after breaking the record for longest stay at RESQCATS and the most expensive, too.



RESQCATS

A non-profit sanctuary dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of abandoned cats and kittens



HOLIDAY ISSUE 2011 Newsletter

Two of Iris' kittens began to fail soon after her arrival and went to foster care with a volunteer, Nancy Aguirre. They both survived because of her around the clock care. Seven of Iris' kittens were adopted out as healthy little miracles. Her eighth kitten, "Rosie" was adopted by Nancy and her husband, Jesus, as a special needs kitten. She is still in the care of RESQCATS with symptoms similar to her mom's...high white blood cell count and occasional diarrhea. We are still working with the veterinarian and internal specialist to resolve Rosie's issues.



Rosie

Thank you to all of you who made a special contribution to help Iris...you made a difference and helped give her the second chance at life she so deserved. And Rosie will also have that chance because of all of you.

In the last newsletter, I also took the opportunity to talk to you about a three month old kitten named "Braveheart." His physi-



Braveheart

cal exam revealed an alarming heart murmur...it rated four on a scale of one to six so it was not something to be taken lightly.

Jim Hurnblad, a volunteer, and I made a trip with Braveheart in July to see a cardiologist in the Los Angeles area with the hopes that something could be done to help this little kitten. Sadly, the results of his heart ultrasound showed that he has a hole between the two ventricles (the lower chambers in the heart) and nothing could be done medically. The cardiologist suggested that he return in three months to repeat the tests and

In memory, honor and celebration of some very special creatures: felines, canines and humans, too!



In Memory of a most loved cat, "**Howie**," whose life was much too short and for his beautiful people,

Kersten Strylund and Jon Hodgkin, who loved him.

In Memory of "**Squeek**" and for **Nancy Kim and Brian Nehring.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Memory of "**Puris**" and for **Debra Dell.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Memory of "**Griffith**" & for **Paul Whitebread & Bernard St. Croix.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Memory of "**Orczy**" and for **Ann Detrick.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Memory of "**Angel**" and for **Cecily Johns.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Memory of "**Cassie**" and for **April Howard.**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Honor of the cats who have passed through and enriched our lives.... "**Yangtze**," "**Muffy I**," "**Muffy II**" and "**Samantha**." And for our beloved "**Callie**" who is still hanging in there.

Merle and Aileen Pautsch

In Memory of "**Boots**" and for **Duncan and Maria Thomas**

Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In Celebration of "**Zuki**" and her 8th birthday on July 17, 2011

Marian Jean

In Memory of "**Orion**"... a sweet slumbering collie who gave us five wonderful years of unconditional love.

Jeffyne and Mitch

In Sweet Memory of "**Baby**" and her short twelve years on Earth.

Jon and Mary Lou Sorrel

In Celebration of **Rebecca Branscome's** 39th? birthday!

Love,

Julie Kaplan!

In Loving Memory of "**Chloe**" and for **Sherry and Nicole Trujillo.**
Sending light and blessings,

Jeffyne

In Celebration of loving "**Guilietta**" for four years now!

Alex and Joyce Carasa

In Loving Memory of a very special man and long time supporter of RESQCATS, **Fred Euler** and for his wife, **Nan.**

- *Eleanor and George Beronius* • *Francis and Margaret Keeler*
- *Jeannine Howden* • *Evelyn Konkol* • *Natalie and Ken Gayner*
- *Mario and Judith Borgatello* • *Dick and Dolores Hepner*
- *Tom Price* • *Adam and Renee Bhatia* • *Lorraine Price*
- *James and Jayne Wickman* • *Dick and Judy Dee*
- *Garland and Brenda Reiter*

In Memory of **Dorris Anna Da Pra**"

Susan Samuel, Jeannine Howden, Nan Euler, Kathryn Briggs

In Memory of "**Casper**" and for his angel, **Susan Leroy**...who saved him!

In Honor of **Kay Hewett**...

Nobody loves the kitties like she does...bless your beautiful heart, Kay!

- Nancy Aguirre

Happy 2nd Adoption Birthday, "Maya" (9/7/2011)...

You have added so much laughter, happiness, and love to our lives. We couldn't imagine our home and hearts without you.

Jesus & Nancy Aguirre

In Memory of "**Tango**" (RIP 7/23/2011)...

Angels are never on this earth for a very long time, and you were our littlest angel...our Little Peanut. You will be forever loved and missed.

Loving you, Jesus & Nancy Aguirre

In Memory of "**Champagne**" and for her family here on Earth...

the Sacks Family.

In Honor of "**Orion**"...

You will be missed so much! It was such a pleasure knowing you for the time that we did. Please keep watch over **Mitch & Jeffyne** from your top spot on the *Rainbow Bridge!*

Jesus & Nancy Aguirre

In Honor of **Jeffyne** –

There are no words in this world that enable me to express to you how much you mean to me! In my darkness of losing **Bloo, Maxx & Cassie** I found you and you showed me light, love and true friendship. I now have a new family whom I love more than anything. Thank you for making my life complete again!

Nancy Aguirre

RESQCATS Will Be Taking a New Direction in 2012

I see a world for the animals and how it could be...it is my mission to strive to make that vision come true.

For fourteen years, I have dedicated myself to the rescue, care and adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Almost 1900 have found homes through RESQCATS. I remember when I first began and waited day and night for the phone to ring. I thought it was amazing to find homes for 57 that first year. I never imagined that adoptions in following years would range from that first 57 to over 190 in a single season.

My job evolved over the years from taking care of cats and kittens to one of management, volunteer coordinator, adoption counselor, administrator, secretary, community relations, and more paperwork than one can imagine!

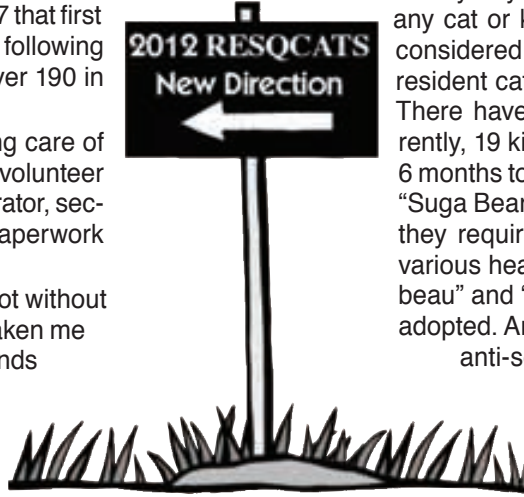
It has been a wonderful experience but not without personal sacrifice. All those tasks have taken me away from what I love to do the most... "hands on time with the kitties." In addition, my family of animals and Mr. Jeffyne have dealt with the long hours that a rescue and adoption sanctuary requires. Many days I don't see any of them unless it is 6 am in the morning when my day begins and again at bedtime. It is time for change and I am so excited to share the news with you!

I believe it is time to embark on a new mission for RESQCATS. Moving forward in a different direction will enable me to make a difference in a much broader way in the community.

RESQCATS will no longer be a volunteer based organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. My vision is one that enables me to make a difference for the animals with less of the everyday tasks that my current position requires.

That brings me to a new vision for RESQCATS. My thoughts about our new mission are still being refined but I would like share some developments so far.

There is a huge opportunity in Santa Barbara County to make a difference through spay and neuter programs. As a pledge to our continued effort, RESQCATS recently provided funding for 200 free spays and neuters to the public. This number is in ad-



dition to the funding of over 150 spay/neuter surgeries provided by the organization to the community in 2010.

I also recognize that community outreach and public education will be part of our new organizational objectives.

In addition, I will continue to help other rescue groups in the area by fostering litters and providing additional important services, all at the expense of RESQCATS. That will be a benefit to the other rescue groups and give me that "hands on time with the kitties" that I have greatly missed.

And as many of you know, RESQCATS has never euthanized any cat or kitten that has entered our doors and were considered un-adoptable for any reason. They become resident cats and I am committed to their lifetime care. There have been many of those over the years. Currently, 19 kitties live at RESQCATS ranging in age from 6 months to 16 years. "Delilah," "Buddah Bear," "Honey" "Suga Bear" and "Braveheart" are special needs in that they require daily medication and monitored care for various health issues. Others such as "Endora," "Rainbeau" and "Houdini" were too shy or feral and were not adopted. And some, like Precious, were just too old and anti-social to be adopted out when they arrived.

So they stay!

There will be many more years of care that will be required for their entire lifetime. RESQCATS will care and provide whatever they need for their life on this Earth.

I hope that each of you understands that my decision to take RESQCATS in a new direction has not come easily, but I am excited as each day brings new ideas for my continued journey to help the cats and kittens. They are so important to my soul and spirit.

I hope you will join me and continue to do what you have always done through your support and contributions. We are still a non-profit 501c-3 and your donations will continue to make such a difference. I will keep you all informed as I always have about our progress in the community and our new direction.

Thank you for trusting me in this new venture and for your continued support.

I wish for each and every one of you...love, light, hope, blessings and miracles. ♦

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In Loving Memory of "Qwee" and for my friends, **Lola & Krista.**
Love,
Jeffyne and RESQCATS

In Memory of "Gracie" and her sixteen years with us.
David and Cindy Schneider

Happy 4th Birthday, "Pumpkin!"
Julie Kaplan

To Honor My Daughter, Suzanne Wells.
Alice Harper

For "Tango" ...such a short life on Earth...and you left such a lasting presence in our lives...and for **Nancy and Jesus Aguirre.**
Jeffyne

In Memory of a legendary cat name "**Kiwi**" and for his beautiful guardian, **Linda Higbee.**
Love,
Jeffyne

For "Miejek" who never leaves my side in spirit.
I still miss you so much.
Jeffyne

Fostering – The Hardest Job You'll Ever LOVE!

By: Nancy L. Aguirre

There is a saying which states that in order to write well, you must write what you feel; write from your heart.

Well, this article comes from my heart and is something that I feel very passionate about. I am talking about being a foster parent.

Ever since I began fostering kittens at ResQcats, I have shed many tears. They have been both tears of sadness and tears of happiness. Those tears are a product of loss, heartbreak, success, joy and pride. And they have left many scars – painful scars that I cherish and would not give up for anything else in the world. I am proud of my scars. I am proud of the tears I have shed over loving and losing the kittens I have fostered – through unexpected death and wonderful adoptions.

I am still fairly new to the fostering life. I have fostered 5 kittens in the last year. My first was Daphne who had terrible anger issues. She lashed out at anyone who tried to befriend her – bit, scratched, hissed - she was a mean little girl. But to me, she was different. We had a connection. I took her home with me for a couple of weeks and she got better. When it was time for her to return to ResQcats it was difficult for me because I had grown attached to her – and she to me. I think we both knew that she had found her forever home, but my husband did not want any more cats, so back she went. It was then that she regressed back to her old ways and became angry again. Because of this behavior, she sat for months with everyone passing her by. People wanted to adopt her, but she made it so hard for them that in the end, they adopted a different kitten. But I loved her and knew she needed to be a part of my family, so after much begging and pleading with my husband, she came to live with us. It has been 1 ½ years, and she is now a sweet and loving girl! She still has trust issues; we actually think that she is bi-polar, but we accept her and love her for all of her amazing personality traits! When she doesn't want to be social, do not even try to say "hi" to her. When she wants love, it is the best feeling in the world! She is a challenge, but I love that about her – she makes life exciting. I would not trade Daphne for any other cat in the world!!!

The second one you may remember from past newsletters. His name was Tango and he was a very sick kitten. I fostered him for a few weeks but had a feeling in my heart that he was not going to live long. I begged both Jeffyne and my husband to allow me to adopt him: give him a home, a family and love before it was his time to go. They both agreed and Tango came to live with us. He died two weeks later on the operating table at 3 ½ months of age. I thought I would die right along with him. But those were two wonderful weeks of giving love that we were able to provide a kitten fighting for his life and I am so thankful for them. And we got so much love right back from him! If you're asking yourself the question of whether or not it was worth it – YES it was and I would do it all over again. Again and again. You see, I made a difference in Tango's life, and he made a difference in mine. His death changed my world and I knew I had to continue fostering. I have to continue to do what I can to help the sick kitties that need something extra: one-on-one special care, love and attention.

My next foster kitten was Pocket. He was a male kitten that had lost two siblings already. They came from a litter of 5 and had been born with neurological issues. They had difficulty walking and balancing. The two bigger brothers gradually they grew out of the condition, but Pocket was not doing as well. He was so tiny and could not walk. When he tried, he would topple forward as his head was bigger than the rest of his body. I taught him to walk by creating a harness out of gauze and tying it under and around his belly. I hand fed him and did basically everything I could think of to



**A foster litter... it would be hard
not to get attached to these!**
(These were fostered in Fall of 2008)

help him thrive and live. And he did. And Pocket is now very much loved by his new family: the Ecks who have two darling children that dote on Pocket – something he totally deserves!

The last two fosters have been the most challenging. Topaz & his sister Rose were born to a litter of 8 kittens and their mom, Iris, just could not give them all they needed to grow and stay healthy. These two kittens were the runts and were heading downhill fast. We didn't expect them to live without emergency care. So I took them home with me and they stayed in my bathroom for a couple of weeks. The heater had to be on 24/7 as they were not able to keep their own body temperature up. They needed to be hand fed and given water through a syringe. When they got stronger and were able to stay internally warm on their own, they came out of the bathroom and into a large cage in the living room to get more socialized. But that didn't last long. They wanted out! They wanted to be with my other cats and wouldn't take "no" for an answer. So, pushover that I am, they were released from their confines and soon blended right in with all of us and became very, very special and loved by not only my husband and myself, but by our own cats. Let me just be honest here – they got very spoiled!

When it was time to take Topaz back to ResQcats and put him up for adoption, my heart felt as if it was being ripped from inside of me. Within 2 days, Topaz found his forever home. I felt both great joy and heart-wrenching pain. From the moment I saw his family walk into the shelter, I wanted him to go home with them. They were a purr-fect fit! And as they all left together, I felt pride in helping a family who had recently lost their beloved kitty. I also felt as if one of my limbs had been ripped from my body and would never grow back. You see, in my heart, Topaz was mine. I had brought him back from the brink of death and loved him for 8 ½ weeks, but then I had to let someone else give him his real home. That is what is so difficult about fostering: you get attached; you fall in love. You see these little babies through the most difficult time of their lives; you become their mother and once they are all better, they go home with someone else. Other foster parents have told me that when the time with their foster kittens is completed, they go home and cry for days. But then you pull yourself together and foster again because there are always more kittens that will need you.

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And Now... A Few Words From Mr. Jeffyne...

Change is inevitable.

As Jeffyne shared with you in this Newsletter, 2012 will mark a new beginning for RESQCATS. After more than 14 years and almost 1900 adoptions, the organization will be moving in a new direction.

As she defines and refines the exact course and mission of RESQCATS for the future, I can assure you that the goals and objectives of the organization will still remain critically important to the cats and kittens in our community.

While the specific course is undecided as of this writing, discussions are underway to determine what role the new RESQCATS will play to best help the community. But this is very clear...the organization's new direction will include community outreach and education in areas that will continue to enhance feline welfare and quality of life.

Although these are somewhat uncertain times for Jeffyne, she is also very excited about the future as she does research and begins to explore the many new ways that RESQCATS will be able to help.

Areas that she is beginning to explore include: continued assistance for low-cost spay and neuter programs; broader support for trap, neuter and return programs; greater involvement with community education; and the opportunity to assist other cat rescue groups in the area by fostering litters and providing additional important services, all at the expense of RESQCATS.

There are lots of words that describe how Jeffyne feels as she begins to undertake this journey of developing a new direction... excited, motivated, optimistic, confident, overwhelmed, passionate, hopeful, creative, soulful, inspired...and, of course, a little uncertain!

But regardless of the words used to express how she feels, there is one thing that you can be assured of... just like in the past, RESQCATS of the future will continue to make a difference in the community.

As the organization embarks on this new journey, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank a number of people and groups



who have made the first 14 years of RESQCATS existence possible...people who have supported Jeffyne and the organization as she rescued, cared for and adopted so many cats and kittens:

- our terrific group of volunteers who have steadfastly served the organization since 1997...there have, literally, been hundreds of individuals who did the day-to-day cleaning and socializing of the animals that were housed at the facility;
 - the wonderful foster parents who took untold litters of kittens into their homes and provided them with both nourishment and love;
 - our veterinarians and their dedicated staffs who worked so closely with Jeffyne, from establishing the initial protocol to providing on-going care to so many animals in need;
 - the Santa Barbara Humane Society for providing almost 1900 low-cost spay or neuter surgeries; and,
 - our loyal and very supportive Board of Directors.
- And last, but certainly not least, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you, our devoted contributors, for your incredible financial support over the years. Without your donations, Jeffyne and RESQCATS would not have been able to do the stellar work they have done for the benefit of our feline friends.

These past 14 years have been a wonderful opportunity for Jeffyne to provide for the cats and kittens of the Santa Barbara area...it is now time for her to enhance the mission as RESQCATS moves on to the next important phase.

And while there is some uncertainty of exactly how RESQCATS will be benefitting the lives of our feline friends in the coming years, it is very clear that the organization will still need your financial help and support to accomplish its goals.

As a faithful backer of the RESQCATS, I hope you will stay on board with us as the organization moves into its next phase of feline welfare, and continue to provide your tax-deductable financial support.

Thank you so much for all you've done for RESQCATS in the past and, hopefully, your continued support into the future. ♦

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Rosie had more difficulties and needed more care for a longer period of time. My husband had fallen deeply in love with her and could not bear to let her go, so she is now a member of our growing feline family!

Foster parents have the toughest, most difficult, and wonderful job there is. It has its rare losses and its many rewards. It is a 24/7 job, many times with feedings every 2 hours and doctor appointments to go to, medicines to give, and inconveniences as well as neglect to your own home and family. But I have to very emphatically say that it is so worth it! When you bring a life back from the edge of death and make it strong – strong enough to live and thrive and grow, you have accomplished something huge. And with that, you will help either create or complete a family. Being a foster parent is not always easy, but it is always worth it!

I have to add a very important point to this article: the cats/kittens we take in at ResQcats are not the healthy, born under your

bed, family cats. We get the homeless, stray and abandoned cats off of the streets who are unhealthy, semi-feral, sick, underfed, malnourished, and need our support to help them overcome all of the challenges that were forced upon them due to owners not taking proper care of them, or not spaying/neutering them, leaving them behind when they move, etc. We do everything we can to help them get healthy, social and become loving and adoptable kitties. It takes time, commitment, love, compassion and patience. But we are all willing to give that to these special creatures and many of the cats/kittens you adopt from us have come a very long way – have won the battle was forced upon them.

I wonder what the next kitten season will bring to us fosters: challenges? Sure. Success? Absolutely! Heartbreak? Possibly. But whatever happens, we will continue on with our duties and know that no matter what happens, we will have made a difference to so many lives – big and little. And what could be better than that?



Carlos adopted by **Kim & Griffith Fitch**



Brewster adopted by **Rebecca Adams**



Fiona got a new name of **Nola** and adopted by **Linda & Ke**



Fur-guson, now **Ernie** adopted by **Mark & Bonny Goetz**



Braveheart is a new RESQCATS resident cat



F
Family



Stewart adopted by **Nan Mills**



Gracie adopted by **Bonne & Mark Goetz**



Fortune, now **Phineus** adopted by **Peggy Rogers**



Slate adopted by **Tamarind Harmon** who also adopted **Perla**



Mia adopted by **Heather Mattoon**

Thank you credits

Thanks to all of you who send in your photos of your kitties. They're wonderful! You make it possible for us to create a great photo album in each newsletter.

I would like to recognize **Nancy Aguirre** for the beautiful job she does photographing the kittens for all of our postings on *Petfinder*, *Craigslist*, *the Santa Barbara News-Press* and the website. Many of her photos are included in this album!



Tasha adopted by *Amy Jamieson*



Traffic adopted by *Sean McCaman*



Asia was adopted by *Beth Clements*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS From
RESQCATS'
FAMILY ALBUM
by Members & Some Familiar Faces



Ziggy was adopted by *Jill Thornton*



Cimeron was adopted by
Heather Hudson



Manrico adopted by
Simon & Euzetta Williams



QT-Pie adopted by *Shennie Smith & Rogan Allen* also



Chardonney was adopted by *Lois Werner*



Tippy was adopted by *Francisco Cruz*



Topaz adopted by *Gail Linkenhelt*



Zula was adopted by *Lavonne Theriault*

Thank You For Staying In Touch!



Hi Jeffyne and all the wonderful people at RESQCATS,

Just a note to say hello and to celebrate the 8th anniversary of **Zuki's** adoption from RESQCATS. She is a gem of a kitty and a joy to "Tailor," the tailless terror and to me.

Thanks again, Jeffyne, for "finding" her for us.
Love,
Jean



Hello again Jeffyne!

It's Trista Facey, I just wanted to let you know that Marley, a.k.a. Cat-alina has adjusted well to her new home. It's wonderful to come home from work and have her come running around the corner to greet me! She has been a true delight! I would just like to thank you again for the kindness you had shown me and I'm sure many other cat owners. When I got home I called my sister to tell her I went to adopt a kitten, after speaking with we realized that the kitten she adopted years ago also came from you at RESQCATS. My sister Mindy Facey adopted **Fleasha**, who we all call **Flea**. She as well is still with my sister and doing wonderful. We both thank you!



Hi Jeffyne, From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for doing what you do. You give so many cats that never would have had the chance a happy and healthy life. I am so in love with Ashton and Samson (Ace and Maverick) and I don't know how I ever lived without them! They are so sweet and so funny! My boyfriend and I just adore them. Thanks again and i'm looking forward to helping you, your cats, and your cause!

Marisa Ericson



Ashton & Samson with Marisa Ericson



Hello Jeffyne!

I was so delighted to hear that my friends, Geoff and Sondra Aggeler, had adopted a kitty from RESQCATS! I believe they call him "Puck." I have yet to meet the kitty but hope to soon.

Anyway, I was happy to hear another RESQCATS success story.

"Chloe" and "Bella" say hi!
Love,
Laurie Pfeiffer



Dearest "Auntie Jeffyne,"

It's me... "wee Yoda"...well not so "wee" anymore...I am nearly three pounds!

I want to thank you for giving me a chance at life. Auntie Eliane helped a lot but you were the one who took me in and spent a ton of money making sure I would thrive.

Please accept this donation so that you can continue to helping frail little guys like me who would not stand a chance without you.

I love you and thank you more than I can tell.
"Yoda"
(the kitten)

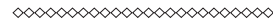


Dear Jeffyne,

It was our pleasure to have the opportunity to work with you and RESQCATS! The girls learned so much and gained some very valuable skills with this project. We wanted to thank you again for allowing us this privilege!!

The girls budgeted some funds for donations at the end of the Girl Scout year and would like to provide this gift to RESQCATS. Enclosed is a check for \$100. We know it will provide much needed help for the kittens and older cats that you care for permanently.

Warm Regards,
Beth Fairfield
Leader, Girl Scout Troop 50277



Dear Aunt Jeffyne,

Mom said we have been way to lazy (as you can see from a recent photograph she took of us on the sofa) and we should drop you a line and let you know that we are doing quite well! Life is great and Mom takes excellent care of us! A neighbor friend is designing some clever shelves to attach to the side of Mom's armoire that we will be able to climb on up to the top and have a wonderful perch...it's quite a large space so we'll be able to have a soft cushion to lay on and see out a window! We are anxiously awaiting them! We had a terrific summer and glad you are finding forever homes for some lucky kitties!



Sharon & Cecilia

More later!
Love,
Sharon & Cecilia MEOW



ResQCats' "Very Special"

Thank You



Thank You from the bottom of my heart, Lois Werner, for your generosity and support....not to mention you adopted two kittens...one of them black!

Thank You for your generosity and for making such a difference for some kitties with some special medical needs...you gave them a chance for life....**Sue Grafton and Steve Humphrey**

Kelley Boggs adopted a kitten that most people overlooked because he was a black kitten....his name is "**Ajax**" and he was the oldest kitten at RESQCATS at the time and we think she is an angel for giving him a home.

An "*Angel in Heaven*" and kindred spirit is what you are to me and to RESQCATS, **Diane Ledbetter**....thank you for making such a difference.

I want to extend a special thank you to **Girl Scout Troop 50277** for all their hard work this summer. The young ladies spent hours knitting toys and making blankets to send home with kitties when they are adopted. In addition, they designed and distributed flyers in the surrounding area to promote RESQCATS and just let people know that we exist.

It is hard for me to be on the receiving end of things. I am usually the one doing the giving...caring for cats and kittens, providing medical care, listening to needs of volunteers and adopters, and just trying to make everyone happy. But as difficult as that may be...I felt honored that the girls wanted to give so much and all I could do is say a simple thank you.

Several weeks later, I received \$100 donation in the mail from Troop 50277 asking me to help some of the kitties they met on their visits to RESQCATS.

It is these young women who will be the answer for the animals in years to come...it will not all be made right for the animals in my lifetime, but there is hope in future generations because of the kindness, understanding and compassion of young women like these.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

A very special thank you to **Gisella and Greg Resin**, who sponsored a tennis tournament for 32 people on October 23 and raised \$450 for RESQCATS. Amazing... I am awe of your commitment of precious time to put the tournament together and so grateful for the beautiful donation that will go to help our new resident cat, "**Braveheart**" who has a heart condition.

Thank you **Carolyn Howe**, for seeing the beauty in "**Iris**" and for giving her a new home and darling new name of "**Melanie**."



Darling Iris!

Lorene Distefano gave "**Sosuke**" a home even knowing that he may always have some upper respiratory problems. It is not often that someone sees the perfection in a kitty who has fought for life and won the chance to stay on this Earth. Runny nose and eyes did not stop her and her family from giving him the home and care he so deserved.



Handsome Sosuke

Mike Gray visited RESQCATS in August looking for a black kitten because he knew how difficult it can be to find homes for them. He came to meet "**Jolene**," one he had seen on our website. I took the opportunity to also introduce him to "**Tonka**," because he was black, too. But Tonka had a special story...he had been attacked by a dog and had to have his eye removed. So here sat a black, one-eyed kitty that most would never consider giving the time of day. Mike, however, fell in love with Tonka and Jolene. He asked, "Will it be harder to adopt Tonka to someone because he has only one eye? I replied, "Yes, sadly it will." He asked if the two would get along even though they were from different litters. I told him I was sure they would and could arrange to do that prior to them going home. I heard him call his wife and when he returned, Mike said, "We would like to take both of the kittens. I think it will be a great lesson for my kids.... I can teach them that just because something or someone is different doesn't make them less!" Jolene and Tonka went home together with Mike and his family!

Stephanie Boydston and Reed Olmstead gave "**Yoda**" a home. He was a miracle kitten who survived because of the wonderful care he received in foster care, but still has some upper respiratory issues even when he was adopted. Stephanie and Reed saw past the occasional snotty nose and runny eyes and adopted one of the cutest kittens to ever pass through our doors.

Thank you **Nancy Aguirre and Eliane Martin** who opened their homes to fostering kittens who needed special care 24/7 because they were so sick. You made all the difference in the world for them...you gave them the gift of life.

Thank you **Nancy and Jesus Aguirre**...for giving a special needs kitty, "**Rosie**", a forever home. Your love for her will continue to heal her little body. ♦



Sweet Rosie!



Well, it is time again to grant you one of your most desired wishes...to have a new article to read...by me!!! As you know, I search far and wide to bring you all the special treats you find most interesting about us cats, and this newest offering is no disappointment! I mean, how could I ever disappoint??? I am a cat after all and that makes everything I do purr-fect! Read on...

Famous Cat Quotes -

☉ "Dogs believe they are human. Cats believe they are God."

Unknown

☉ "Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."

Anonymous

☉ "In the beginning, God created man, but seeing him so feeble, He gave him the cat."

Warren Eckstein

☉ "God made the cat in order that humankind might have the pleasure of caressing the tiger."

Fernand Mery

Famous Cat Lovers -

☉ Sir Winston Churchill loved eating his meals with his cat Jock so much that he sent his servants to bring Jock to the table so they could eat together. And if Jock was nowhere to be found??? Mealtime would wait.

☉ Albert Schweitzer was left-handed, but very often had to write prescriptions with his right hand because his cat Sizi liked to sleep on his left arm and could not be disturbed.

☉ Sir Isaac Newton, most famously known for being the first person to describe the principle of gravity also invented the swinging cat door so his many cats could come in and out of his home at their convenience.

Curious Cat Behaviors -

If you see me laying down with my eyes closed but my tail flicking slightly at the tip, I am really awake and am secretly spying on you. I can keep it up all day – but will never tell your secrets!

Cat Trivia -

Q - What phrase first described ideas or people that were "too cool for words?"

A - The phrase "the cat's meow" originated in the 1920's to describe super cool ideas or people.

Well, I see once again that I have run out of room, but please don't fret! I will be back again very soon with more fabulous bits of kitty information for you. Until then my dears...

xoxo Chloe Aguirre

ASK AIKIN -

This great question came in from one of you wonderful ResQcats newsletter readers and as sad as I am to write against my favorite yummy food, the truth must be told...

Q - I recently heard that it is bad to give your cat or kitten tuna. Is that true??? Most of the cat foods available in stores are made with tuna or some other kind of fish.

A – What you heard is true...fish is absolutely NOT good for cats of any age.

There is no question that cats love tuna. Most of us go bonkers for it. But if you were to feed a cat a diet exclusively of tuna, you'd have one very ill and malnourished cat. Tuna has several problems:

- #1 - It's very low in vitamin E which is essential to cats.
- #2 - Commercially canned tuna has been know to contain trace quantities of mercury which is at safe enough levels for humans, but not cats.
- #3 - A diet of tuna alone will cause Taurine deficiencies in cats. Taurine is an essential nutrient for cats.
- #4 - The lack of vitamin E in the diet from feeding tuna exclusively can lead to Steatitis a painful inflammatory condition in cats, which causes muscles to atrophy, sensitivity and pain when touched, and other symptoms such as fever and poor appetite.
- #5 - Fish can cause crystal formations in a cats urine which can lead to bladder infections and, eventually, to urinary stones. If that occurs in a male cat, a stone blockage can be life-threatening as their urethra is longer and more narrow that a females.

To sum it up, tuna is fine when you want to give your cat a special, rare treat. It is most important to feed your cat the food that has been commercially developed and tested to meet the nutritional requirements for their health and safety.

I hope that clears up any questions about feeding your cat fish. Although we love it more than any other food in the world, it is just not worth it to feed us it as it will make us sick. And I know that none of you want your kitties to get sick. So, please continue to be responsible and feed us only what is the most healthiest of foods...chicken, turkey and lamb. And remember to check the order of ingredients! The meat should always be the very first ingredient on the can. Have a healthy and happy day!

Aikin "Bones" Aguirre



A Letter From Your Pet in Heaven

(author unknown)



To my dearest family,
some things I'd like to say.
But first of all, to let you know,
that I arrived okay.

I'm writing this from the Bridge.
Here I dwell with God above.
Here there's no more tears of sadness.
Here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy
just because I'm out of sight.
Remember I am with you
every morning, noon and night.

That day I had to leave you
when my life on Earth was through
God picked me up and hugged me
and He said, "I welcome you.

It's good to have you back again,
you were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest family,
They'll be here later on."

God gave me a list of things,
that he wished for me to do.
And foremost on the list
was to watch and care for you.

And when you lie in bed at night
the day's chores put to the fight,
God and I are closet to you...
in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on Earth,
and all those loving years,
Because you are only human,
they are bound to bring you tears.

But do not be afraid to cry,
it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers
unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you
all that God has planned.
If I were to tell you,
you wouldn't understand.

But one thing is for certain,
though my life on Earth is o'er.
I'm closer to you now,
than I ever was before.

There are rocky roads ahead of you
and many hills to climb;

But together we can do it
by taking one day at a time.

It was always my philosophy
and I'd like it for you, too;
That as give unto the world,
the world will give to you.

If you can help somebody
who's on sorrow and pain;
Then you can say to God at night.
"My day was not in vain."

And now I am contented...
that my life was worthwhile.
Knowing as I passed along
I made somebody smile.

God says: "If you meet somebody
who is sad and feeling low;
Just lend a hand to pick him up,
As on your way you go.

When you're walking down the street
with me on your mind;
I'm walking in your footsteps
only half a step behind."

"And when it time for you to go...
From the body to be free
Remember you're not going...
You're coming home to me."

In this Season of Miracles, Please Consider What a Difference Your Gift Will Make!



A non-profit sanctuary dedicated to the rescue,
care and adoption of abandoned cats and kittens

I am enclosing my tax deductible donation : _____

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Magic Maker.....\$250 | Helper.....\$25 |

Please designate my donation to the Polar Bear Fund to help kitties with special medical needs.

Make your check payable to:

RESQCATS
P.O. Box 3852
Santa Barbara, CA 93130
(805) 563-9424

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

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Presidents Message
continued from page 1

see if his heart had worsened. It seemed like a long three months in limbo to me. Finally it was time to go back to Los Angeles at the end of October for his three month check..

I have great news to report! Braveheart's heart is no worse.... that may mean that his condition is not progressive! I was elated. Again, the cardiologist suggested that he be checked again when he is about a year old and fully grown. That is in April 2012.

Braveheart has also taken months to socialize...he was semi-feral when he arrived. But he has slowly progressed into a timid but great little kitty who loves to play and let the volunteers pet him since his arrival in June. Finding a home for a shy six month old kitten with a heart murmur and no guarantees that is would not get worse over time is a pretty good sign that he would not find a home. So meet, Braveheart...the newest RESQCATS resident. I have a special bond with this littly guy...I adore him and he seems to feel the same about me.

This year was full of many challenges in addition to Iris, Rosie, and Braveheart. Elaine Martin fostered "Yoda" for three long months giving him 24 hour care for the first month in an effort to save his life. He suffered severe upper respiratory issues and would have died if she had not dedicated her time and life to save him. Her experience with fostering gave him the best chance for life any little kitten could hope for...and he made it. He is about 90% better than the day he arrived. Yoda did find a home even though his condition may be chronic and RESQCATS will be there to help him get to 100% if that is possible for him.



Yoda

"Pocket" suffered from severe neurological problems. His mother was in the worst shape of any mother cat I have ever seen when she arrived with her five kittens. One little one passed to the Rainbow Bridge just one day after the little family arrived. The other four displayed balance and neurological issues, but

Pocket was the absolute worst. Over time, his brothers issues resolved, but Pocket remained behind in progress and in growth. Nancy Aguirre took him home with her...nursed him, made a little sling to hold his mid body up so that his muscles could get strong enough for him to walk without toppling over. She gave weeks of love and care to him...she gave him a second chance and made a difference for him. And yes, he found a home with a family that adores him!

I share these special stories with you because I think it is important for you to be able put names and faces with just a few of the ones you have helped. Many of you designate your donations to the "Polar Bear Fund" for kitties just like these. So it is my job to let you know of the lives you have saved and the difference you have made.

Those are just a few of the challenges that RESQCATS faced this year. Obviously, it would be impossible to share all the kitty's stories...they all have one, you know. My point in sharing some with you is to let you know just what a difference each of you has made. Whether you have adopted from RESQCATS, volunteered, fostered, or contributed financially...you DO make a difference. I want to recognize each of you for that.

I leave you with a last thought and then I ask that you continue to read the exciting news about RESQCATS in the pages to follow.

If you want to make a difference in the world, start by being the example and walking the path towards that vision....and others will follow.

Sincerely, 

Jeffyne Telson
President and founder, RESQCATS, Inc.



Pocket "Wishes everyone a Happy Holiday!"

WE ARE PROUD TO DONATE OUR TIME & DESIGN SKILLS TO SUCH A WORTHY CAUSE!



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Dedication:

This newsletter is dedicated to all the animals....for the lessons they teach us, the blessing they bestow upon us and the endless and unconditional love they give everyday.

Visit our beautiful ResQCats website
www.RESQCATS.org

You can read past issues...
the heart-warming stories or
see the entertaining photos.

Nathaniel & Laura Courtens
are the designers.

Thank you for all your hard work.

