

# RESQCATS™

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



## *President's Message*



Jeffyne and "Savia"

***It is that time again!*** Time for me to update you and be specific about what **RESQCATS** is doing this year!

As you know from the last newsletter, I have moved **RESQCATS** in a new direction this year. I am excited about our new mission. And I am confident that **RESQCATS** will continue to make a difference in the community in a bigger and broader way.

For 14 years, **RESQCATS'** mission has been to "rescue, care for and adopt stray and abandoned cats and kittens." 1888 stray and abandoned kitties found their way through **RESQCATS** doors and into homes through the years.

I am still in awe of how the word about **RESQCATS** grew over the years. I started out by myself caring for those first 57 in 1998. As the word spread about **RESQCATS**, the organization grew to meet the needs of the community. I recruited volunteers so that we could take care of all the kitties and our adoptions grew, too. We reached as high as 193 adoptions in a single year.

My job became one of administrator, foster coordinator, adoption counselor, volunteer recruiter, secretary, editor of the newsletter, fundraiser and that does not even begin to tackle the daily tasks of vet appointments, spay and neuter appointments, scheduling volunteers, administering vaccinations, and medication. The list could be endless.

Somehow in all that, I lost track of what I love the most and the single reason that I began **RESQCATS** in the first place. I missed the hands-on time with the cats and caring directly for the cats. Over the years, my job became administrator and manager a non-profit organization. Something was missing, however. I worked 16 hour days all during kitten season; but less of my time was spent doing what is in my heart and soul... nurturing and caring for these beautiful creatures.

Here is our new mission statement:

**RESQCATS is a non-profit animal rescue organization dedicated to the care and welfare of stray and abandoned cats and kittens.**

**Our objectives are to fund spay and neuter programs, sponsor humane education projects, assist other non-profit cat rescue organizations, and, provide hands-on foster care.**

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Our objectives are to fund spay and neuter programs, sponsor humane education projects, assist other non-profit cat rescue organizations, and, provide hands-on foster care.

***Allow me to explain in more detail!***

**RESQCATS** will focus on spay and neuter. I have sponsored almost 300 spays and neuters in the last few months in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted kittens. I know! You think everyone wants kittens, but consider 100 moms out there giving birth to litters of 2 to 8 kittens...it all adds up. In addition, stray and feral cats produce 2-3 litters a year. Try doing the math there! **RESQCATS** was also able to help the community in the purchase of a mobile spay/neuter van for **Care4Paws**. A mobile spay/neuter clinic will increase the capability of reaching more people and their pets. With your help, we can continue to be part of the solution through spay and neuter.

**RESQCATS** is also participating in Humane Education. We recently partnered with **All for Animals** and raised funds so that 120 children could go home with a book that teaches them about compassion for animals. The world has a long way to go when it comes to the treatment of animals so imperative to teach our youth about the importance of animals and the compassionate treatment of them. Humane education will secure the future for animals.

(Continued on page two)

(President's message continued from page one)

In addition, **RESQCATS** will facilitate other organizations by raising awareness of critical situations that require immediate action and funds. (in response to my Valentine's Day appeal, we raised almost \$3500 for **MeowzResQ** when they were faced with rescuing 75 cats from a hoarding situation).

We can always hope there will not be many situations like that one...but when it does happen, **RESQCATS** can help and we will foster cats and kittens for them, as well.

With our new foster program, I can return to what I love and am best at doing and have missed for so long (caring for and nurturing cats and kittens.) **RESQCATS** will foster for other cat organizations that share our same philosophies and values. Through fostering, we will be able to help in several ways: **RESQCATS** will follow the same medical protocol that we always have. Every kitty will receive a medical exam, be tested for Felv/FIV, have a fecal exam, receive worming medication and be vaccinated, and be spayed or neutered. **RESQCATS** will continue to cover all the costs in order to ensure our high standard and to help other organizations. The difference is that none of our costs will be recovered through an adoption fee since the foster kitties will return to their original organization for adoption. That is why I will continue to need your financial support.

And lastly, but most importantly, remember that **RESQCATS** has always been a true "NO KILL" sanctuary for unadoptable kitties. Any kitties that have come through our door that are deemed unadoptable because they are too shy, too feral, too old, too many health issues become a resident cat. My commitment to them has not changed and **RESQCATS** will care for them for their entire lifetime.

There are 16 **RESQCATS** residents and they range in age from one year up to 16 years old.



"Braveheart"

The youngest is "Braveheart" and he has a serious heart murmur that is monitored by a cardiologist in Los Angeles. His visits can cost as much as \$700.



"Yoda"

"Yoda" is also a year old and suffers from chronic upper respiratory issues. He was returned by his adopter when the vet shared his condition is a lifetime one of vet care.



"Smudge"

The oldest resident is "Smudge." She has been at **RESQCATS** for 14 years.

Some of older residents are at the age when all kinds of medical issues start to surface. As we all know, it takes \$ to care for our cats and the costs only rise as they get older and face conditions like kidney disease and hyperthyroidism. I hope you will consider the 16 lucky resident cats at **RESQCATS** when you consider making your donation.

Thanks to all of you who have helped **RESQCATS** along the way. Our journey together has helped so many cats and kittens. I feel confident our new mission will continue to make a difference in so many ways. Your tax-deductible donation to **RESQCATS** is important ...now more than ever. So stay with me, and together, let's change the world... one kitty at a time.

Sincerely,

Jeffyne Telson



# URGENT!!!

**RESQCATS** needs you to help us make a difference.

That was a plea from **RESQCATS** to all of you in February when I received an e-mail from an organization called **MeowwzResQ**. They were faced with rescuing over 75 cats from a tragic hoarding situation. The cats were everywhere: in the attic, the garage, in the house, under the house and in the yard. There were feral cats, tame cats, kittens, pregnant cats, moms with newborn kittens. Upper respiratory infections were rampant. And sadly, some of the cats and kittens had eye infections so bad that surgery was required to remove their eyes. Others were blind or suffered impaired vision due to the infections.

**RESQCATS** has dealt with hoarding situations before so this plea was very close to my heart and I wanted to help. In fact, I would have loved to foster some of these kitties, but I was out of town and felt the next best thing would be to help with some the cats' enormous medical expenses. I am all too familiar with the costs of getting kitties from cases like this on the road to recovery.

I knew from experience that the road to recovery is a long journey and can cost thousands of dollars. In addition, it takes months of dedication and care to see the cats all the way through to health and then to adoptive homes. The process is a roller coaster of emotions that can be tough for anyone trying to help.

I did my research and found that **MeowwzResQ** shared the same values and philosophies as **RESQCATS**. So, I sent an initial donation to help.

Then I had an idea! Valentine's Day was approaching and I thought I would ask all of you to help by making a donation. I said it would be "valentines" and your help would be the best gift I could receive. Even \$14 would make a difference in honor of February 14!

I set a goal in my mind of \$500 and sent out an e-newsletter. I immediately started receiving donations and reached my goal in the first week. A second e-newsletter went out and this time we added a PayPal link to make it simpler to donate.

I am still in awe of all the donations and the big hearts who gave so generously in order to make a difference for these kitties.

I want to thank each of you for your generosity and compassion and for truly making a difference. You touched my heart in a way you cannot imagine.

**RESQCATS** wrote a check from all of you that amounted to **\$3374.77!**

In addition, I sent the following from all of us:

*Light...so the kitties may see the end of darkness and suffering*

*Love...so they will feel what each and every one of them deserves to experience*

*Hope...for healing and recovery*

*Blessings...to each of you and their rescuers for giving them a chance and...*

*Miracles...I believe in miracles...let there be many of them for these kitties*

**From my heart, thank you to each of you for making a difference.**



Susan Boesch  
Mitch Telson  
Julia Dubiel  
Susan Morgenstein  
Stephen Colley  
Susan Leroy  
Kim Hartson  
Lisa Pozarich  
Heather Macneil  
Kerstun Stryland  
Erika Sacks  
Sarah Pedersen  
Tessa Hill  
Carol Holley  
Ashley Easteadt  
Evelyn Wade  
May O'Mahoney  
Amanda Maffet  
Jean and Dick Clark  
Raad Mobrem  
Bo Sasnett  
Petra Simoncic  
Jamie Heer  
Gretchen Schneider  
Kay Hewitt  
Gretchen Ostergren  
Sandra Biesinger  
Shannon Gilliam  
Lesley Zahara  
Jacques Habra  
Randi Fairbrother  
Renee Rustin  
Irma Singer  
Janet Dewey  
Patricia San Filippo  
Steve Gogul  
Paula Schmitz

Diana Jauchen  
Shannon Crean  
Leanne Knavel  
Shelley Deardorff  
Margarita Sanchez  
Liz Benishin  
David Blatte  
Vasanti Fithian  
Nicole Telson  
Mark and Bonny Goetz  
Bill and Echo Margin  
Nicolle Comella  
Steve Uphoff  
Jan and Michael Acock  
Les and Georgia Beard  
Stephanie and Ryan Givens  
Kay and Howard Segal  
Jim and Jenny McKenna  
Bob and Johanna Huelsbeck  
Mary and Halie Sila  
Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare  
Lori and Michael Manzo  
Dave and Janet Finley  
Fred Dawn and Donna Mancuso  
Adam Lee and "Mr. Jingles"  
Nick and Bernadette Shepherd  
Janice and Robert Hopper  
Nancy, Jesus, "Rose," "Chloe"  
"Daphne," "Aikin Bones,"  
and "Maya" Aguirre  
Floyd Percy, Linda Pearson  
and "Buddy"  
"Cha-Cha," "Grace"  
and "Pumpkin" Kaplan





Hi Jeffyne!

Just a quick note to tell you that **Tay Tay and Tatum** are doing great!! We love them so much. Both of the cats are healthy and happy. Tatum has come out of her shell. Tay Tay is fat and happy too. Just a total love bug. Well I hope this finds you happy and healthy all the best and thank you for our two little girls, we will love them forever.

**Kirsten and Dan Lieder**

Dear Jeffyne and **RESQCATS**,

Merry Christsmas!

My caregiver and I love our now completely domesticated, beautiful, furry, gray and white, four and one half year old kitties, "**Lily**" and "**China'Girl**" that we adopted from your sanctuary in May 2011.

China-Girl sleeps on the left side of my bed all night long. The girls are so happy. They love us and we love them.

Thank you for finding them for us,

Sincerely,

**Patricia Kulha**

Hi Jeffyne!

This is **Paris Goodgion**, we adopted **Gatsby** from you a few months ago and I just wanted to send you some news about how



**Monkey and his friend**

he is doing! After we got him we took a very long time to name him. First we named him dash because he loved to dash around the house and away from everyone. But as he got more comfortable he became a little freak, so his new name is Monke which suits him very well! He loves to eat, sleep, cause trouble, and play. The two cats get along very well, their first meeting was a little tense but they were best friends after two days together. Monkey is still gaining weight and the vet gave him a perfect bill of health and he has gotten his shots. Thank you so much for letting us adopt him, he is being well loved here. I'll keep you posted.

Dear Jeffyne,

I can't thank you enough for being the angel that brought me "**Raja**" and me together. He was and is my animal soul mate. He taught me so much about life and to take wonder and appreciation in the small things. He brought countless moments of happiness, peace and laughter into my life. I will never forget him.

**YOU** saved him and because of that you changed many lives...thousands with all your years of rescue. A true miracle woman that I love so much. You continue to motivate and inspire me.

With love, **Huyen**

(in memory of Raja....a leukemia positive kitten adopted in July 2010 by Huyen Nguyen, Ross Fisher and their cat, "Sir Bob." Raja died on December 5th, 2011 due to complications from Leukemia... but left such a lasting impression on so many of us who loved him.)



**Raja**

Dear Jeffyne,

"**Ernie**" (Braveheart's brother) demanded that we send a donation on Braveheart's behalf to help with his follow up vet visits for his heart. And what Ernie wants, he gets because it is easier to give in or he won't stop running circles around me.

"**Ernie**" and "**Gracie**" are two happy playful kitties...once again, thank you!

With much love for all your generosity,

**Mark and Bonny Goetz**

Dear Jeffyne

Thank you so much for bringing "**Hope**" and "**Faith**" into our lives. They are such love bugs and good friends. We couldn't be happier!

**Julia Dubiel**

Dear **RESQCATS** and Jeffyne,

Good luck in your new venture in taking **RESQCATS** in a new direction in 2012. You are doing a fabulous job!

Love,

**Dianne Miles**

Hi Jeffyne,

Enclosed is a donation for the little rescue kitties that need eye operations. Hopefully this will help.

I am so grateful for my little..big...HUGE...bundle of joy that I adopted from RESQCATS in 2007. My polydactyle girl, "Mittens," with the jet black fur and green eyes. We are very happy also with another black male kitty named "Baby." She is so sassy, she thinks she is "queen of the house." We ALL defer to her!

Thanks for all your hard work.  
Meow....**Magarita Sanchez**

Hi! Just a note to let you know that Melanie's name should have been "La Reina"! She totally rules this house - she is such a talker, so playful, loves to race all over the furniture while Macy is chasing her stuffed animals around. They are not exactly friends yet, but are quite compatible is every day life. **Melanie - or MEL** as I actually call her most of the time, would probably play with Macy, but Macy is still not sure how to play with a cat!

Mel, Macy and I all sleep on my bed every night. We are a happy family and I am SO thankful for her in our lives. She adds so much fun and joy.

God blesses us all – **Carolyn F. Howe**



**Mel**

Hi Jeffyne,

I just wanted to say hello and I hope you're doing well. Also, I wanted to send you another photo of **Groucho** since he loves to model for my new camera. He's very big now and extremely affectionate. My boyfriend and I are considering getting a King size bed now because he's just too big to fit in our queen anymore and he loves to cuddle! Anyway, please take care!!

~ **Sumi**



**Groucho**

Well, once again I am back with some more absolutely fabulous tidbits of trivia about your favorite household pets – the feline!

And I found something absolutely purr-fect as well as mandatory for any cat owner to abide by.

Please read, memorize and fur-ever follow the instructions of the **10 Cat-mandments**:

**I am Lord of the house.**

**Thou shall have no other pets before me.**

**Thou shall never ignore me.**

**I shall ignore thee whenever I choose.**

**Thou shall be grateful that I give thee the time of day.**

**Thou shall remember my food dish and keep it full.**

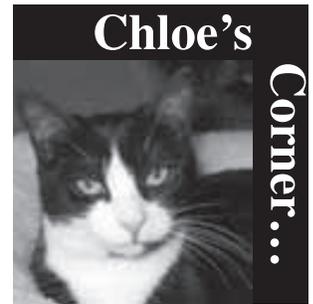
**Thou shall provide abundant toys and treats for me.**

**Thou shall always have a lap ready for me to curl up in.**

**Thou shall shower me with attention.**

**Above all, thou shall do anything it takes to keep me happy.**

(continued around the corner!)



## **A little change went a long way!**

Every year at RESQCATS, I have encouraged the volunteers to dump their loose pocket change into our Christmas Jar. It is my way of sharing with them and all of you that a little change can add up and go a very long way. We began at the beginning of the season and by December we had collected over \$500. The volunteers were then asked to choose several organizations in which to send the money and make a difference (the only rule was that it needed to be an organization other than RESQCATS.) So proudly, they collectively decided on the following organizations and it is our hope that we all helped them in some small way.

***Cat House on the Kings***

***Wildlife Care***

***Gentle Barn***

***Blessed Bonds***

***Blind Cat Sanctuary***

***Catalyst for Cats***



## Chloe's

Corner...

### Pussycat Proverbs

“The cat’s a saint when there are no mice about.”

“A house without either a cat or a dog is the house of a scoundrel.”

“Happy is the home with at least one cat.”

“If stretching were wealth, the cat would be rich.”

“Beware of people who dislike cats.”

“The cat who frightens mice away is as good as the cat who eats them.”

I do not have to ask if you enjoyed my latest offerings to you – how could you not? I only hope that this will tide you over until the next newsletter where I will have much more wonderful things to say about my fellow four-footed, furry friends. Until next time my darlings...

*xoxo,  
Chloe*

## Making a Difference Through Kids

One of RESQCATS’ new objectives is to sponsor humane education projects. It is our responsibility to teach our youth about the compassionate treatment of animals in order to make a difference for them in the future. How can we do that?

Let me tell you about our first project!

RESQCATS recently partnered with **All for Animals**, a Santa Barbara based non-profit organization that is dedicated to creating a compassionate world through humane education. Recently, we had an opportunity to reach out to 120 kindergarteners and first graders. Presentations by **All for Animals** president and founder, Karen Lee Stevens teach kids about animals. Karen is also the author of a new book called, “*Animals Have Feelings, Too.*” The book is targeted for young children. I felt that the message behind the presentations will have an



even greater impact if each child goes home with the book to share with others. Kids talk, you know!

At each presentation, the kids meet **All for Animals** canine ambassador, “Sandy” (a gentle golden lab). And guess what! Sandy is also the main character in the book! I felt certain that the kids would go home to parents, siblings and friends talking about the special dog they met and the book about, written and paw-stamped by “Sandy”.

My challenge was raising \$1200 (\$10 a book) by mid-May so that every child could take home the book and lesson about treating animals with love, respect, nurturing and compassion. I wanted our first humane education project to be successful.

My plea to you was heartfelt. I shared my belief that education is the only way to secure the future for the animals long after I am gone. There is not a day in my life that I do not think about and work on behalf of the animals. I needed your help to reach my \$1200 goal. And there you were.... making donations so that we didn’t leave out a single child! Together, we can make a difference and change the future for animals through our youth.

I think Gandhi said it all... “You can judge the greatness of a nation by the way it treats its animals.”

Thank you so much for your participation and support ...you make it possible for us to be a great nation when it comes to the animals.

Eliane Martin

“Grace, Cha-Cha & Pumpkin” Kaplan

Bruce Wolfe & Mark Henderson

Evelyn Wade

Margie Sherburne

Stephen Colley

Madge Marmor

Patricia San Fillipo

Angela Kroemer

Gerard Coelsch

Nancy Aguirre

Bo Sasnett

Chris Harmon

Gretchen Ostergren

Peter Cohen

Peggy & Gary Anderson

Carol Tousley

Priscilla Santana

Sarah Pederson

Kim Hartson

Sarra Borhanian

Mark Allen

Liz Beninshin

Megan Mowatt

Irma Singer

Linda Sullivan

Adam Lee & Mr. Jingles

Jacques Habra

Sonya Hansen

Leanne Ledbetter

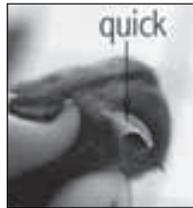
Leanne Knavel

Judy Fay

Georgia Beard

Bonny Goetz





## Ask Aiken!

I hope my answer to this question asked by one of our readers helps save lots of discomfort, anxiety, and even fear for my feline friends out there...

**Q** - My kitten hates it when I have to clip his claws. But when I let them grow too long his scratches during playtime really hurt. How can I make nail trimming easier on both of us?

**A** - First of all you have to make this a pleasant experience for your kitten. Once you have that part of it under your control, it will need to be done every 2-4 weeks in order for the claws to not grow too long and sharp and also for your kitten to stay comfortable with having it done.

A great way to begin this process is to get your kitten (or older cat) used to having his paws touched. Every day, spend a little time massaging all the feet and gently squeeze the footpads until the nails are exposed, so having his feet touched is as common a feeling to him as his daily petting or brushing.

You will need the following supplies for this task: nail scissors designed for cats (these are the best kind to use), a thick towel, styptic powder (in case you clip the nail too short and it bleeds – you can purchase this at any Pet Store), and a few kitty treats.

Ok, now you are ready to begin: the first thing you need to do is take your kitten into a small room, like the bathroom, where he will not have a place to escape and hide. Sit on the floor with your cats back to you so you can hold a paw in one hand and the scissors trimmers in the other. Be calm and speak gently and quietly to your kitty giving praise, love and reassurances. If your kitty struggles too much while in this position, wrap him in the towel with only his head and one paw exposed. Hold the paw in one hand, placing your thumb on the top of his paw and your fingers underneath. Press gently the pads to push the nails outward. Snip off

the tip of each nail including the declaw on the side of the foot. Remember to only snip off the white part of the claw, being careful to avoid the vein (called the “quick”) that runs through each one.

Pay attention to your cat’s reaction while you are doing this. If he makes a fuss or seems to be getting stressed out, only do one paw at a time over the course of four days. You do not want to make this task a negative time for your kitty. Remember – patience on your part will be the best thing for the both of you when nail trimming time comes!

Try giving a yummy treat after each paw has been clipped as a reward for his good behavior. This will help him understand that it is meant to be a positive experience for him and he may not give you any trouble after his snacks.

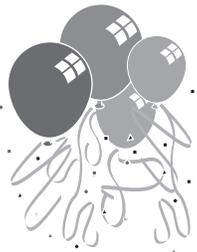
If you accidentally clip the nail too deeply and cut into the “quick”, it will bleed and hurt your kitty. Do not be surprised at your kitty’s negative reaction if this happens. Apologize gently and be calm. Apply a small dab of the styptic powder on the nail for a few seconds, applying gentle pressure until the bleeding stops. A treat after this would be much appreciated by your kitty! Try to continue with the rest of the nails, but if your kitty begins to get upset, stop immediately and try again the next day.

When you are finished, open the bathroom door and allow your kitty to walk or run out on his own. Wait 10-seconds before you leave the room so your cat does not feel like he is being followed. All will be forgiven within a few minutes and your kitty will once again be a happy cat and you won’t receive anymore painful scratches on your body!

I hope this helps make nail trimming time easier for both you and your kitty. Good luck!

- Aikin “Bones” Aguirre





*In celebration and honor  
of some very special  
friends and family...*

**Happy Birthday, Julie Kaplan**

Your friend, Liz Benishin

**In honor of** some special friends and family love from  
**Penny Huff.**

**Courtenay Huff and Perry Rothenfeld,  
Wynne Huff, Emily Hightower Lynbrook  
Brenda Mitchell and Jamie Curtis**

—With love, Penny Huff

**In honor of Julie Kaplan...**...the best daughter anyone  
could ask for! —Becki and Jay Eaton

**Happy Birthday to** a “terrific friend,” **Liz Benishin!**

—Love, Julie Kaplan

**In honor of** my friends:

**Kristina and Clay Lai, Millie and Floyd Swafford,  
Jamie Tassano, Harah Hefzi, May and Nelson German,  
Lateefah and Dav Pinney, and Carisa and Kevin Hall.**

—Tami Fitzsimmons

**Merry Christmas, Jay and Becki Eaton...**to the best Mom  
and Dad ever. I love you.

—Julie Kaplan, Grace, Cha-Cha and Pumpkin

**Merry Christmas Liz Benishin...**to one of the best friends  
a cat could ask for. You’re a great human friend, too!

---Julie Kaplan, Grace, Cha-Cha and Pumpkin

**Merry Christmas** to my kitty sitter and her husband, **Mel  
and Hal Kyle.** I’d never leave town if not for you and the  
great care you give my fur kids.

—Julie Kaplan, Grace, Cha-Cha and Pumpkin.

**Merry Christmas to Rebecca Branscome...**our resident  
Mrs. Dr. Doolittle. Thank you for all you’ve taught me  
about fostering kittens.

—Julie Kaplan, Grace, Cha-Cha and Pumpkin.

**In honor of** our daughter, **Ariel!**

—Marlene and Jay Beckerman

**In honor of** our kitty sitter, **Linda Higbee!**

—Cindy and Mark Reinhardt

**Happy Birthday to Evelyn Kert!**

—Your friend, Jamell O’Toole

**In honor of our “kids”** and for all you do!

—Love, Lisa Givan and Brenda Lee

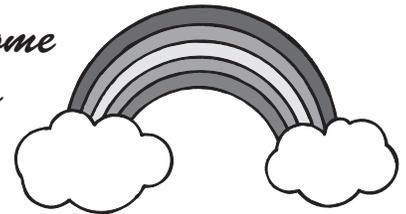
**For my Valentine, Julie Kaplan!** —Liz Benishin

**Happy Birthday to Stacey Wilson...**we made a difference  
in the lives the cats and kittens at RESQCATS because you  
chose to give the gift of life through us. Donations were  
made in celebration of you to help with kitties in need!

Laura Roby, Mary Michael O’Brien, Margaret Chambers,  
Kathy Neches and Lisa Daniel.

**In honor of “Buddah”** and in celebration of RESQCATS  
new mission! —With love, kisses and purrs of joy, Mama  
“Halie” and Grandma “Zinnie “

*In memory of some  
very special pets  
and people...*



**In memory of “Macgregor”** and for **Gretchen  
Schneider**....may sweet memories live in your  
heart forever. —Love, Jeffyne

**In memory of “LuLu”** and for **Cathia Mahaffey...**  
—Jeffyne

**In memory of “Kitty”**...a straggly little cat that appeared  
on my porch and grew into a beautiful Maine Coon.  
She was a “diva,” perfectly mannered and kind to the  
other cats that needed a friend. She was my friend, too...  
and I miss her.

—Paula Schmitz

**In loving memory of Dorris Anna Da Pra** and for her  
beloved **Zoeie.** —Love, Grace Kyle

**In memory of “Kiwi”** and for **Linda Higbee.**  
—Cindy and Mark Reinhardt

**In memory of “Tommy”** (17 years old), **“Lacey”** (20  
years) and **“Cleo”** (17 years)

—Love, Stephanie Welch

**Never can say good-bye...**for **“Miejek.”**

—Love, Jeffyne



## *Some Very Special Thank You's...*

*Thank you* from the bottom of my heart to **Donald and Christine Anderson** for being two “angels in heaven.” Your generosity is a treasured gift and so very much appreciated. Know that you truly...truly make a difference for so many.

*Thank you* **Lynne and Buddy Borderre** for your compassion and continued support. Your gift to the “Polar Bear Fund” will help “Rose” with her continued medical treatment and “Braveheart” with his next trip to his cardiologist in Los Angeles this Spring.

*A special thank you* to **Nancy Aguirre** for her continued dedication to **RESQCATS** up to the end of 2011 and continuing into 2012 as we have developed our new direction. I know she will always be there to help for many years to come.

*Thank you, Jim Hurnblad*, for always being there to help with the kitties, rescue, maintenance and all those chores you do. The cats are lucky to have you and so am I.

**Cindy and Mark Reinhardt** have made such a difference for so many kitties over the years...just think of the lives you have touched with your support for the felines...and they bring joy to the humans who adopt them...it gets paid forward over and over again.  
*Thank you!*

*Thank you, Christine Wong*, for being there to help with “Soho” and for your contribution to make the lives better for the animals in 2012.

I have a *special thank you* to **John and Judy O’Steen** for their years of support from afar...all the way from Florida. Thank you for believing in **RESQCATS** and for the difference you have made in so many lives.

I have a special place in my heart for **Tony and Allyssa Mader** who started out as volunteers at **RESQCATS** many years ago. Then they became adopters. And now,

they have become on-going supporters and never miss a single year with a beautiful contribution. You are an awesome couple and make the world a better place through your generosity and compassion. *Thank you!*

*A special thanks* to **Paul Stevenson** who has helped countless kitties over the years through his support.

**Lisa and John Antioco**, *thank you* is not big enough to say how much you are appreciated for all you have done since **RESQCATS** began 15 years ago. Awesome!

*Thank you* to the Petco Foundation for realizing the struggles that rescue organizations face emotionally and financially and for reaching out to them. Your donation to **RESQCATS** will gift a chance for life to the cats and kittens...it is a gift beyond a simple thank you.

It is with such gratitude that *I thank Nancy Aguirre* for her creativity, support, compassion and help in all the jobs she has taken on at **RESQCATS**. You bring such energy and laughter to the everyday chores at **RESQCATS**. Our 2012 mission is counting on you to continue to make the difference that you do.

**Janey Dewey**...how do *I thank you* for the wonderful job you did once again this winter with those painting skills of yours. Every year the floors take such a beating with all those feet and paws going back and forth all day...but you spend all countless hours making them look brand new. It is beautiful...I love it and the cats do, too.

*A very special thank you* to **Susan Boesch** for your input on our new mission, your ideas on how to communicate our direction to people and for the amazing job you do on all the e-newsletters. Thank you...well, it is just not a big enough word.

With love and gratitude to **Evelyn Wade and Savio**...  
*thank you* for making such a difference at **RESQCATS!**

## The hidden costs of that “free” kitten

By Marci Kladnik

“Free” is such an enticing word, especially when accompanied by an adorable little kitten face. The truth of the matter is that a responsible pet-owner may be signing up for a very large vet bill.

Any animal that is given away free by a private party is unwanted and will most likely never have seen a veterinarian, nor the mother either.

These kittens nearly all come with fleas and worms, and often URI, the kitty “cold.” Spay or neuter, a most important thing, will not have been done. The kitten may also have been pulled from its mother too soon to get the nutrients and antibodies needed for proper growth and protection. Vaccinations? Highly unlikely.

One more thing to consider is that with her kittens given away, the queen will go into heat again and become pregnant within a couple of weeks. More free kittens we don’t need! Every cat should be a wanted cat and not discarded with a price tag of \$0.

Here is an example of what that free female kitten might cost in the first month alone:

\$119	spay with pain injection
\$ 49	wellness exam
\$ 52	FIV/FeLV testing
\$ 30	fecal test
\$ 25	de-worming
\$ 18	flea treatment
\$ 21	FVRCP vaccination
\$ 49	micro chipping (opt)

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\$363 first visit cost (males cost about \$20 less)

The kitten will need another FVRCP vaccination in a month, and one for Rabies at four months of age. If it is ill with URI, antibiotics and eye ointment may be required. Remember that these “colds” are very contagious between cats, so any other feline at home will be at risk if you bring a sick animal in.

Adopting from a rescue group or shelter is better than free as all the animals come ready-to-go, having had all of the above. With this in mind, how can anyone think an adoption fee of \$65-\$90 high? Do the math, it actually saves you



hundreds of dollars! Sometimes there’s an added discount if you take two. The fact that you may be saving a life makes it an even sweeter deal. Adopt a senior (over six years) cat at the Santa Barbara Humane Society for only \$30.

There are lots of free toys you can make for that rescue kitty, ones that your new cat may like even better than those expensive ones at the pet store. Even young children can make the following...

- tape bottomless paper bags together to make a tunnel
- cut treat-size holes in an empty, dry water bottle for a treat dispenser
- wad up a piece of paper into a ball and toss on the floor or into a dry bathtub
- offer the plastic ring beneath the milk jug cap
- put a bell or a few beads into an old film container
- tie a strip of cloth or feather to a string and attach to a “fishing rod”
- an empty large box will be good for several days if you...
- add peek-a-boo and door holes
- toss in a favorite toy
- move to different locations
- flip over and “hide” catnip under it

As with all cat toys, be sure small items are securely sealed so as not to cause harm to your new pet should they come loose. And remember that string, if ingested, can require an emergency trip to the vet, so put any wand-type toys away after play.

So you see, a new pet can be very affordable if you adopt wisely and are creative. I just sold myself! I think I might have room for one more cat in my home, how about you?

*Marci Kladnik is a board member of Catalyst for Cats, a Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization dedicated to the welfare of feral cats.*





## *I'm scared...*

**I**n fact, I'm terrified. Where am I? I can't figure out what's going on. I feel my body shivering from fright.

Maybe if I just bury my head under this blanket, it will all go away. But this blanket is sooo warm and soft...I think it might even have a heating pad underneath it!

The vet said I looked really good... a little thin and I have fleas and earmites, but nothing that a little tender loving care won't take care of.

Some lady who calls herself a foster mom gave me a flea bath, a blow dry and a massage to calm me. She seemed very forgiving when I bit her and held on for dear life. I think she knew I was just scared. Now, I really feel so much better... no more street dirt or itchy fleas.

My bed is soft and the food here is wonderful! My bowl stays full of tasty morsels AND canned food, too!

My foster mom shows up several times a day to visit me. She cuddles me in her arms and rubs my ears, feet, and head. It feels so good! She's even given me a name... "**Lucky**". My foster mom says that she will be successful when I purr... that means I am happy.

As the days pass, I feel more and more comfortable in my wonderful surroundings. I look forward to my foster mom coming to see me. We play with balls and feathers and toys, and of course, there is always lap and cuddle time.

Today, I just can't hold back anymore! My need to let out a contented purr is uncontrollable!

There it goes...and goes...and goes! My foster mom seems so excited! She burst out and said, "Lucky, we are successful! And now, Lucky, it is time for you to pick your own special person to adopt you and take you to a permanent home."

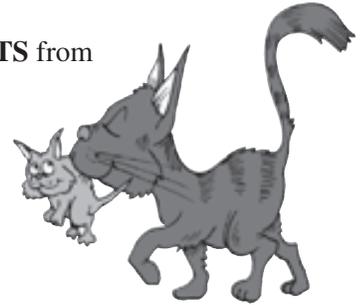
You know, some people actually think THEY choose their furry companions, but it's not that way at all. I want a special family who will take me home and let me BE part of the family. I'd love to snuggle and sleep under the covers with them.

They must promise to keep me safe, provide me with the proper vet care for my lifetime, and to NEVER EVER declaw me.

And I promise to entertain my people, to provide endless joy and laughter... and most important of all, I will love them unconditionally.

And who knows, if I am really "lucky," maybe they'll adopt my little brother, too.

That's the story of RESQCATS from  
A cat's point of view.



# 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 Make .....	\$250
Caring Spirit .....	\$100
Supporter .....	\$50
Helper .....	\$

( ) Please designate my donation towards special needs kitties and the Polar Bear Fund.

*Make your check payable to:*

**RESQCATS**, PO Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130  
Or visit our website and PayPal at [www.RESQCATS.org](http://www.RESQCATS.org)

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

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

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

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

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



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

*A tail to read:*  
**Meet our new Resident Kitty**  
**His name is “Yoda”**

In the December 2011 newsletter, I mentioned a special little kitten named “Yoda.” He arrived at **RESQCATS** in June 2011 and suffered from severe upper respiratory issues. In fact, he was so sick that I wasn’t sure he would make it through the night.

I knew Yoda would require a lot of medical attention and I could certainly take care of those needs. But what he really needed was 24 hour around the clock care!

It was the middle of kitten season and I was stretched to the maximum with so many kittens. I called my good friend, Eliane Martin.

She has nursed many kittens from death’s bed back to life. And that is just what she did for this little fella.

Yoda was at the vet countless times. He was constantly on antibiotics. We ran special tests to determine why antibiotics did not seem to work. Eliane was there to cart him to and from his appointments, hand feed him when he didn’t feel like eating and put up with all his kitten antics on the days he did feel good. I don’t know what would have happened to Yoda if it had not been for Elaine. And I don’t know what I would do without her!

Yoda returned to **RESQCATS** after four months and he was about 90% better. In fact, he was doing so well that he was adopted to a young couple with the understanding that **RESQCATS** would take full responsibility for anything medical that was related to his chronic upper respiratory issues until we got him to 100% if that was even possible.

And that is just what **RESQCATS** did! We covered antibiotics over the next several months. It was suggested by Yoda’s veterinarian back in February that he see a specialist due to the fact that he could not be off antibiotics for more than a short period of time without symptoms.

So off to Ventura Medical and Surgical Group (VMSG),



a referral hospital with the doctors specializing in all areas of veterinary medicine, he went. Almost \$700 worth of tests were done to make sure we had not missed some nasty bacteria that was not responsive to his current antibiotics.

Nothing showed up. So he continued on antibiotics periodically.

In April, Yoda’s adoptive parents took him to VMSG for a follow-up appointment and to discuss possibly putting him on antiviral medication. **RESQCATS** was there as promised to take care of the expenses.

The veterinarian determined that Yoda would have a lifetime of ups and downs with his chronic problems and would require antibiotics periodically on depending on the severity of his symptoms. Fortunately, Yoda did not show signs of any of the more serious problems that one might suspect such as a congenital problem, obstruction in the nasal passage or polyps. That was good news in my mind.

It was, however, just too much for his adoptive parents and they felt it was best that Yoda return to **RESQCATS**. And he did.

I must say, I understood their reasons, supported them 100% and I am thrilled to have him here as the newest resident cat!

Yoda is playful, gets along with everybody and even Eliane gets to visit him.

**RESQCATS** is committed to caring for all the unadoptable cats and all 16 of them now will taken care of for their entire lifetime.

I have the easy job....loving and caring for the resident cats....and I could not do that without your support...so, thank you to all the **RESQCATS** supporters.

And welcome, Yoda!

