



President's Message

Another kitten season at RESQCATS has come to an end. We have placed 131 stray and abandoned cats and kittens into perfect homes in 2006! That brings our total number of adoptions in nine years to 1090! WOW! We celebrated our 1000th adoption in July! How did 90 more kitties already come and go? What a whirlwind.

When I take a moment to breathe and think back over this past year, I remember a lot of wonderful kitties and some very special people who have stepped through our doors. The kitties all have their own stories; some stories we love, but many have histories we don't know. Some stories I do not want to know because I can only imagine their suffering before arriving at RESQCATS.

There are also some exceptional people that have been a part of our journey this year and have left quite an impression on my heart. There have been people who found pregnant cats on the streets and cared enough to take the time to get them to RESQCATS where they could deliver their kittens in a safe and healthy environment. "Pumpkin" gave birth to five kittens on August 24, 2006 and I was right by her side to watch and assist if she needed help. It was a wonderful experience! Some found a very young mommy cat, who weighed only five and a half pounds, nursing eight kittens behind an apartment building. Many, if not all of her kittens would have died if left out on the streets. "Twiggy" and her eight babies survived because someone cared enough to get them to RESQCATS. One lady and her daughter found four tiny kittens in their backyard with no mom in sight. A caring young man found a single kitten "thrown away" in a dumpster at his work place. Other people alerted me to kitties living in horrible conditions that desperately needed help. All of these people cared enough to do their own "rescue" and bring them to RESQCATS.

I cannot say enough about the special people that volunteer and foster kittens for RESQCATS. They give so much of their valuable time to help out, not to mention what it takes emotionally to work at RESQCATS. They are the core of our organization and words cannot express my gratitude for all they do.

And then there are those special people who decide to adopt a rescued cat or kitten. They make a conscious decision to not "buy" a kitten. In addition they are not supporting the indiscriminate breeding of cats by breeders!



Pumpkin shows her appreciation by rubbing noses with Jeffyne.

Other people have opened their hearts by donating their hard earned money to RESQCATS which enables us to do our job to help these stray and abandoned kitties.

I thank each and everyone of you that have touched and changed the life of a RESQCATS Kitty.

I hope you will continue to help in your own special way: as a volunteer, a foster, a rescuer, a contributor. You do make a difference in the lives of the cats and the lives of the people who adopt them.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Jeffyne Telson, President
RESQCATS, Inc.

Your donation this Holiday Season is a gift that will make a difference!



**2006
Our 9th
Kitty Season!**
All of you
have made it
an overwhelming
success. Thank You!



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An Angel Among Us

Cats with special needs require angels and Elizabeth Zeller is one of them.

The challenges we face at RESQCATS with the arrival of each new litter vary; and obviously some are easier to tackle than others. Kittens with goopy, runny eyes can be medicated. A healthy diet change and de-worming can take care of diarrhea and a flea bath can get rid of nasty bugs and street dirt. Even the sick cats and kitten begin their road to recovery with a trip to the vet and the proper medical care. Of course, I worry about all of them...it just comes with the territory.

Our biggest challenge, however, is working with the feral kittens. As you know, RESQCATS works with an organization called Catalyst for Cats. Their mission is to trap the ferals, have them spayed or neutered and then return them to their location where someone is responsible for feeding them. The process is called "Trap-Neuter-Return," or TNR. We take in a lot of the young feral kittens so that we can heal their frightened souls, get them accustomed to the human touch and socialize them so that they can find purrfect homes. I more than worry about some of these kittens.

Recently, Catalyst for Cats dropped off a litter of four feral kittens. When I saw them, my heart just sank. Three of them were black and most people will not adopt black cats (I have yet to figure out why). October was quickly approaching and it is not a good idea to adopt out black cats during that month. Halloween is a time when many cults and sick people sacrifice black cats. (Believe me, I get a call or two every year at this time!) The other kitten was a beautiful Siamese mix with luminous blue eyes, but she also had quite an attitude! All four had been in a foster home prior to their arrival and received some socialization. In fact, the three black kittens were quite the purring machines within a few short days. The Siamese, however, had been trapped about a week after her siblings and she was way behind her sisters and brothers when it came to socialization. She hissed, spit, frowned and feared anyone approaching her. At that time I knew that only her beauty would entice someone to adopt her. But her beauty would only take her so far...she needed a lot of socializing! Since she was particularly attached to her brother we eventually put just the two of them, "Lila" and "Huckleberry," together in an enclosure. It was decided that these two should be adopted together.

It took weeks for Lila to begin to blossom. Every volunteer was required to spend time with Lila. They spent hours socializing her and we hoped some of Huckleberry's playful disposition would be contagious. We finally discovered Lila's two weak points where we could begin socialization: every kitten has at least one thing that will help us start the process to bring them out of their shell. Lila loved to be fed baby food off our fingers and to receive foot massages (these sent her into a purring mode)! Lila remained timid even though she progressed each week.

I knew that Lila, like other feral kittens, needed a special home with someone who understood that their job would be to continue our socialization process when the kitty arrived at their

new home. It is a task that requires incredible understanding, patience, persistence and unconditional love. When interviewing perspective guardians for the "Lila's of the world," I paint a picture just the way it is, I don't "pull any punches." It is my job to inform people of the kitty's history and what it will take to continue to help them blossom and become lovable cats.

I cannot help but imagine what the adoptive guardian will be like...compassionate, understanding and willing to commit a lot of time and love. Somehow when I think of all those attributes I get an image in my mind of what the person will look like...agile and able to climb under things to get kittens out of hiding and tough skinned to tolerate being scratched and hissed at. WELL, Lila and Huckleberry's person arrived in a very different package!

We featured the pair of kittens in the local newspaper in the "Pet of the Week" section. I received several phone calls, but most people wanted to adopt Lila and not her black brother. It was her beauty that stimulated the calls. People listened to me as I explained Lila's background and what she needed in her new home...many seemed willing to meet her, but did not want to even consider Huckleberry. Two days of answering phone calls and inquiries ended in disappointment and I was pretty discouraged.

Then, Elizabeth Zelle called and said she had seen the picture in the paper and knew that Lila and Huckleberry were meant for her. She sounded wonderful

during our telephone interview, passed all the requirements...indoors, no declawing, etc....so we set up an appointment time for her to meet them.

When Elizabeth arrived at the door of the RESQCATS cattery... every image I had manufactured in my head of the purrfect guardian for the two kittens went right out the back door! She was a little lady who could not have been five feet tall, petite in everyway and I didn't dare guess her age....let's just say that she is a mature retired woman! She wore a beautiful purple jacket with pants to match, an exquisite white crocheted hat with a brim and a beautiful antique watch pin on her lapel. She was lovely and had a lot of class! I stopped in my tracks when I saw her and I politely introduced myself. It took all my imagination to picture her as the right person for Lila. Would she be able to climb under the bed and couches to get Lila when she hid? Were kittens okay for her at her seemingly mature age? I just didn't know.

Elizabeth entered the enclosure with BJ, one of our long time volunteers, who had spent the most time with Lila. Her eyes instantly lit up and she smiled a great big smile. BJ spent over half an hour sharing Lila's weak points with Elizabeth...giving her baby food to feed Lila from her fingers and showing her how to do those foot massages. They played with her favorite feather toy and Lila responded to everything.

I, however, kept encouraging Elizabeth to look at some of the other more social kitties...especially a sweet mommy cat that would dearly love a lap to curl up on and desperately needed a home. Elizabeth would have nothing to do with it and couldn't take her eyes off Lila and Huckleberry. She truly radiated an energy that Lila received. Perhaps Elizabeth's spunk and sense of humor would be what it took to make this kitten happy.

After numerous attempts of encouraging her to look at some of the others...all of which obviously failed...Elizabeth said, "Where do I sign up?!" I should have known then that she was the right fit for

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Shy Lila sits in front of her favorite brother, Huckleberry.

Some Special Recognition

Seven people whom I consider to be “angels” walked through the doors of RESQCATS in 2006 and recognized the beauty in adopting an adult cat.

This exceptional group of people touch all our hearts. I feel especially grateful to them and would like to thank each one of them.

There is always panic when we receive an adult cat at RESQCATS. I begin to worry immediately about finding homes for adult kitties during the height of kitten season. Then I brace myself for everyone’s excuses for not adopting one.

My experience over the last nine years has been that 99% of people will adopt a kitten before they will consider even a teenage kitten or young adult. As a matter of fact, shy, timid, hissing, hiding kittens get adopted purely because of their size long before the sweet loving moms that just want to sit in your lap find homes.

Recently, a darling black and white mommy cat named “Twiggy” and her EIGHT two-week-old kittens arrived at RESQCATS after being found behind an apartment building in Lompoc. Upon showing this beautiful family to people wanting to adopt I was saddened once again to observe the number of people who never even noticed the proud mom...they only saw her kittens. It is a story that is repeated over and over every single year. It is a very frustrating and often disappointing part of my job.

Out of the 130 kitties that passed through RESQCATS’ doors this year, seven were adults. Many days I just ended my day in tears wondering if I would be left with another adult resident since no one saw the beauty in them because they were “grown.” In reality, six of the seven were moms under a year old—still kittens themselves—who played with their own babies in between caring and nursing them.

These “angels” are the exception to the norm, falling into that small category of those who adopted an adult (or nearly adult) cat. Some of these young mommy cats even got to go home with one (or two) of their kittens!

Jim and Jenny McKenna...

our long-time friends, gave “Tibby” a home after she had been attacked by two dogs and her owner could not pay for surgery. Jenny says it is “a match made in Heaven!”

Stephanie Rounce...

took “Nemris” and her only surviving kitten “Miracle” home together. Nemris, pregnant, was found with several other kitties that were inside a cardboard box, duct-taped closed, in the middle of the street.



Twiggy with most of her eight babies.

Joy Margolis, Alex Stephens & their little boy...

“Twiggy” (now named “Lulu”) and TWO of her daughters went home as a little family with this exceptional family! That has only happened one other time in the history of RESQCATS.



Yvonne can't get enough of Feathers and her calico daughter, Phantom.

Yvonne DeBrazil...

fell in love with a sweet orange tabby mom who gave birth to five kittens at RESQCATS. She took “Feathers” (formerly “Pumpkin”) and her long haired calico daughter, “Phantom,” home. Yvonne has a wonderful energy about her—she instantly connected with this sweet mommy and saw a beauty in Feathers that no one else did.

Shelley and Tim Moore...

gave “Katie” and her son “Ace” a home. A VERY pregnant Katie was found at an apartment building and brought to RESQCATS just in time to give birth to seven kittens. When Katie and Ace were broadcast on television in search of a home...30 calls were received about her kittens. Only one, from Shelley and Tim, was about giving Katie and her kitten a home!

Patti Laut and Mark Smith...

gave “OJEE” (aka “Woof”) the home he deserved after being abandoned and forced to live on the streets for who knows how long. He was shy at first but has made himself right at home.

Carole Wasserman...

“Slinky” has it made with Carole. This poor mommy cat and her three kittens were found living inside a cat carrier in their own feces and urine, without water and eating chicken McNuggets!

A very special thank you to each of you for seeing the beauty in these special adult (or almost adult!) kitties. ♦



An Angel Among Us

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Lila and Huckleberry, but I still had my doubts.

BJ and I thought it might be easier for Elizabeth to get her home set up for the new arrivals prior to taking them. I had an extra litter box and litter, plenty of toys, a soft bed and food to send home. As she filled out the adoption papers, BJ and I got all the supplies together and headed for the driveway to load her car. We both stopped dead in our tracks when we saw this sweet lady’s car. We dropped all the bags and turned to each other and just smiled. I know we thought the same thing simultaneously... she definitely has what it takes for Lila and Huckleberry! Elizabeth drives the brightest yellow sports car I have ever seen...it looked like it just came off the new car lot! It explained a lot about Elizabeth’s radiance, energy, spunk and love of life. I knew in my heart then that it was a match! When I commented to Elizabeth

about her bright sports car and how I loved it, her reply was, “Yeah, I’m just a little old lady from Pasadena who still wears her tennis shoes!”

Lila and Huckleberry are doing wonderfully well in their new home. Elizabeth has called several times to give me updated progress reports. Her messages are full of enthusiasm and love for her new family and I love getting them. I save them and play them over and over again. She recently sent a card and photographs and claims she can actually hear Lila and Huckleberry growing. Elizabeth says she “is a happy camper and just loves them both!”

I think Elizabeth is the “angel” that Lila and Huckleberry needed. I do believe that angels are among us. But now I realize that sometimes, like Elizabeth Zeller, they arrive in their own package and we don’t always get to see their wings! ♦



Dear RESQCATS

Thank you so much, Jeffyne, for letting me nourish my spirit every Friday as a volunteer at RESQCATS. I do so admire what you do for the "MEOW" population.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Kert

Dear RESQCATS,

Everyone (all three kittens we adopted) is VERY happy here, including me! Kitten therapy has been the best thing for me. The kittens have really come out of their shells. We named the orange boy "Rocket", the brown tabby boy is "King Henry" and the girl is "Peach Blossom" (or "Peaches" or "Blossom").

You shared with us that you thought that King Henry was a bit shy and introverted. He is actually very deep in that once he knows and trusts you; he has very trusting genuine "snugglies". He is definitely enjoying being with his two siblings. Peaches is into pouncing on her brothers from a stealth position. She is going to grow up to be a beautiful cat; I can see from her build that she has a gorgeous feline muscular body. When Peaches gets tired she hides in the cave basket we have for her. Rocket is the most adventurous, but sleeps the most. I have a darling photo of him sleeping with his tongue sticking out. For the last week, we have witnessed amazing improvement in this threesome's approachability. They are feeling more like family every day.

My entire living room looks like a kitten nursery! There are cat toys everywhere. BIG and small. I think three was a good number of kittens to adopt. It ups the chances that at any given time at least one will be up to play or snuggle!

Sincerely,
Lisa Greenbaum

Dear Jeffyne,

My cats love all the toys you gave them! I am really glad that I volunteer at RESQCATS. It is amazing there. I really admire you and I hope that all the kitties are doing great! It is always so peaceful at RESQCATS...and I just love being there to help out every Saturday morning. Thank you for everything you have done!

Love,
Courtney
(Volunteer - age 12)

Dear Aunt Jeffyne,

Yesterday was my _ anniversary. The staff (Jeannine & Casey) measured and weighed me. The results: 19 inches nose to hindquarters, 12 inch tail, 11 inch height at the shoulder. Weight: 9 lbs. even!

I am actively growing into my ears and paws. That's the excuse the staff had for not getting me the Nike's I had hoped for. Well, maybe for my one year anniversary...

Love,
All of us
(Casey, Jeannine, and "L. Russell Fuzzy Navel")

Dear Jeffyne,

Congratulations! What an enormous undertaking! 1000 kitties adopted...we commend all of you at RESQCATS! We are grateful to you and all those that help RESQCATS work!

So many little lives you have helped to save. Still I cannot wish in my heart that there was no need for a shelter of any kind, that there was no such thing as a homeless pet or unwanted animal. I wish that everyone could realize the importance of each and animal and the positive impact they make on our lives each day. Then we would all be living in Heaven, wouldn't we!

Paula and I (Melodie) wish RESQCATS many years of the same continued success...one cat at a time. It adds up to only one thing.....LOVE!

Bravo!
From the Polar Bear Angels
Melodie and Paula Haines

Hi Jeffyne,

The two kittens I adopted from RESQCATS are doing just great! They are so cute I can hardly stand it! Each has such a distinct personality. "Miss Purrrty" is very outgoing, wants attention and is not afraid to ask for it, purrs constantly and is a ball of fire. "Jaspurr" is shy but loves to play with his sis. She is definitely the one in charge.

They both have voracious appetites; they remind me of my new grandson, eating, sleeping and pooping...although the kitties play a lot more than the baby does!

Miss Purrrty, Jaspurr and I hung out all day today...playing, napping, and playing again.

I cannot thank you enough; you truly are a kitty angel! I am so glad I brought two kittens home so they will have each other when I go back to work.

Hugs,
Connie Stone

Hi Jeffyne,

I am not sure you remember me, but I adopted a kitten from you about a year ago. Her name was "Sweet Georgia Brown", but I renamed her "MOCHE". She was a little grey kitten with a white mask on her



face. (Of course, I remember you and the kitten!)

I am so thankful for Moche. .it is great having her and my other older cat, Falooda, greeting me everyday when I get home or snuggling with me on my pillow. Moche has become quite the lap kitty...as my dad says...she is a lover! She can, however, be quite sassy at times. I am proud of her for putting up with our Golden Retrievers when I visit home in San Luis Obispo. She shows them who is boss, but loves the dogs at the same time. It's people like you who put a smile on our face with the work that you do. So thank you again!

Love,
Sonia Nasta

P.S. I've included a few pictures to show you how much she has grown!

Hi Jeffyne and all the kitties,

Thank you for including us on your newsletter mailing list - it's always a joy reading the great stories of your good works. I have enclosed a photo of "Romeo" that we adopted from RESQCATS almost a year ago and his roommate, "Juliet." He has grown a little since you delivered him to us in Cambria. He is a real joy--always in a good humor, still loves water from the filter tap and he usually has a daily episode of insanity in which he chases

absolutely nothing but does it with incredible enthusiasm! *Juliet* is a sweet, gentle girl that loves her food. She likes a lap in the evening (*Romeo* doesn't do lap time yet but we're trying to train him) and she is just very mellow.

Thank you again for bringing such love into our life—we appreciate it and we appreciate you and your fabulous volunteers.

Hope to see you in Cambria soon!
Love and purrs,
Steve, Kay & "Romeo & Juliet" Franz

Jeffyne,

Dave and I are so happy with little "*Ghinghis Khan*" and we wanted to write and thank you. Your kindness is inspirational and beautiful. You are truly making the world a better place. Thanks again!

Love,
Megan Mowatt

Dear Godmother Jeffyne...

Here are some photos of me taken at my new house with Lupe Richards. She and Irene really really love me and let me own them.



Rosie

Here is a little basket of special gifts (beautiful baby blankets for the kitties to take home) for you and RESQCATS. And the basket can be refilled at any time you need more cozy "blankies"...I made them myself with a little help from Irene.

Love to my godmother from precious loveable "*Rosie*." I'll come visit you very soon.

I love you,
Rosie (the cat)

Dear Jeffyne,

Our two kitties are the perfect additions to our family. They are fun, cuddly and have discovered every nook and cranny in the house. "*Lapis & Nile*" do not have new names yet. We're still working on it and they definitely have their own personalities. We love having two kittens at one time. It is precious to watch the brothers play, romp and snuggle with each other.

We feel very fortunate that these kitties found us thanks to you. You are indeed a special person and thank you so much for doing what you do!

Take care,
Lesley, Kevin, Madison & Logan Hall

"We would like to Thank You for writing your letters. It is a wonderful way to stay in touch with our new and previous adopting parents and the special members of your family."

I will always remember the olive-eyed cat who taught me that not all relationships are meant to last a lifetime. Sometimes just an hour is enough to touch your heart.

- Barbara L. Diamond

The "POLAR BEAR FUND"

Created to take care of the special-needs kitties.

Many of you are aware to the fact that every kitty that passes through RESQCATS follows a particular medical protocol—this includes a vet exam, testing for Feline Leukemia and/or FIV, worming medication, and a Distemper vaccination, plus all are spayed or neutered before going to a new home. All the cats and kittens from the 2006 season are home with their new guardians; however, some remain under RESQCATS care for medical challenges that have appeared after their arrival home.

For example; the new guardians for "*Sayge*" noticed blood in her urine about two weeks after adopting her and her sister "*Rayven*." Deborah and her husband have been wonderful about getting Sayge to her doctor's appointments for blood work, urinalysis, x-rays and most recently, an ultrasound. Sayge, who is about four months old, has no idea that anything is wrong...she romps and plays like a normal kitten and gets into all sorts of kitten antics with Rayven. Her ultrasound, however, reveals a birth anomaly that can be corrected with surgery if the anti-inflammatory medication she is taking does not help.

The philosophy at RESQCATS is to take care of these expenses until doctors have released her as a perfectly healthy kitten. We would cover those costs if she was still at RESQCATS and her condition had been discovered while she was here. The difference is that no one would want to adopt her until it was resolved.

So far, Sayge's expenses are over \$1000 and if surgery is required they will be even higher.

The POLAR BEAR FUND was created to take care of the special-needs kitties. The fund was named after a special-needs cat named "Polar Bear" who was adopted several years ago by Dick Haines and his daughters, Paula and Melodie. Polar Bear had a lot of medical expenses during his lifetime due to his life on the streets before RESQCATS. His "angels" took care of everything he needed until his last breath. When Polar Bear died, we wanted to remember and honor him forever by starting this fund to help other kitties like him. The Polar Bear Fund is the kind of fund you hope you never need to use because it means that there are extraordinary medical circumstances that require above-the-normal protocols and attention.

I am grateful for a lot of things, but two are especially important when it comes to Sayge. First, she has wonderful guardians that love her and are willing to ride the roller coaster of emotional ups and downs during this time of diagnosing Sayge's condition and determining the treatment to correct it. Many people would have just said, "I don't want the cat so I am bringing her back." And secondly, I am grateful for all of you who donate to RESQCATS and designate your donation to the Polar Bear Fund. You are why RESQCATS can do what we do for all the special needs kitties.

"Sayge" and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

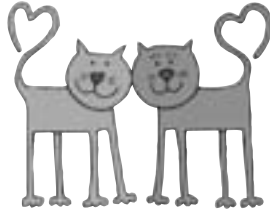
P.S. Unfortunately, the anti-inflammatory medication was not successful and "*Sayge*" is scheduled for her surgery before the end of the year. I will keep you posted on her recovery.



FOR PET'S SAKE

A Tail of Two Kitties

By Karen Lee Stevens



So often, when you are involved in animal rescue work, it is impossible to go anywhere without noticing the sad plight of animals everywhere. I find myself searching for kittens when I see a stray cat that is obviously nursing babies somewhere in some bushes or god-forsaken place. It may be a lost dog or hurt bird that captures my attention. I spent the whole day with my friend during a cruise in Kusadasi, Turkey buying roasted chickens from the street vendors to feed all the stray dogs. I once applied flea treatment to some poor flea-infested kitty in Rome with the help of an English woman who had Advantage in her purse! She was from London and shared that she carries it with her on all her vacations. Many times, I have asked my husband to go into a local deli in the Caribbean to buy a sandwich for a dog. I always stop in Gold's Beach, Oregon on vacation trips to feed and donate to the jetty kitties. It never ends but it helps me realize that the strays that are in shelters waiting for homes are fortunate compared to the others.

I was glad to know that I am not the only one out there who spends time worrying about those same things. I think you will enjoy the following story by Karen Lee Stevens.

So there I was standing in the gorgeous gardens at the El Encanto Hotel on a recent Sunday afternoon. I had been invited to an intimate gathering of local singer/songwriters, including Barry DeVorzon and Kenny Loggins, who had generously given their time to perform a concert to benefit the Unity Shoppe. As I dipped my hand into a tray of decadent desserts and sipped iced-tea, all I could think of was: What about the hotel's two cats?

If you have ever visited the El Encanto Hotel, chances are good that you've bumped into one or both of the hotel's furry felines—Simba (14) and Gherkin (13)—the resident "House Cats," according to their business cards. I learned that the nearly 100-year-old hotel was scheduled



Karen

to close the next day for major renovations and I fretted about the fate of the two tabbies. I wasn't alone. When I questioned Clive O'Donoghue, the hotel's general manager, he smiled and told me that several guests had asked about them. He also disclosed a little about their history: the mother and son had simply showed up one day more than a decade ago, both sporting "ear tips."

Ahh, hearing about the ear tips is what, well, tipped me off that Simba and Gherkin had once been wild before they were trapped, spayed and neutered, and released back into a colony of cats to live out their natural lives—without reproducing. Dozens of organizations across the country "ear tip" feral felines as part of a humane program called Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR). TNR has proven to be an effective way to humanely deal with the feline over-population problem by spaying and neutering feral and abandoned cats and socializing and finding homes for rescued kittens.

Santa Barbara is fortunate to have such an organization and it's called Catalyst for Cats (CFC). For 16 years, Randi Fairbrother, CFC's founder, and a team of dedicated volunteers, have rescued thousands of feral and abandoned cats and kittens, who would otherwise have lived short, miserable lives on the streets.

I often contemplate the grim fate of the homeless cats struggling for survival, especially the moms with newborn kittens. I can't begin to fathom the desperation they surely feel on a daily basis. After all, they must keep their kittens—and themselves—warm, well-fed, and out of danger. From time to time, I foster feral kittens for Catalyst for Cats as well as the Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP) and find it a hugely rewarding experience. It can be for you too. If you are interested in providing a responsible, loving home to a litter of foster kittens, please call Randi at (805) 685-1563.

As for Simba and Gherkin? O'Donoghue assured me that the pair will continue to live on the grounds of the El Encanto Hotel while the renovations take place.

"They're old now," he professes. "But we hope they'll be with us for a few more years."

As the sun sank below the horizon and I swayed to the tunes of "Bless the Beasts and the Children" and "Nadia's Theme," I, too, was hoping that the two old cats will be around to enjoy the renovated hotel when it reopens as part of the renowned collection of Orient-Express Hotels in early 2008.

When she's not attending concerts, Karen can be found fostering kittens for Catalyst for Cats and ASAP. She is also the founder of ALL FOR ANIMALS, INC., a pro-animal educational organization dedicated to raising awareness about cruelty-free living and the importance of compassion to ALL animals. To learn more, visit www.allforanimals.com.

For all their fabled aloofness, our cats turn out to be quite warm and friendly. Selective, yes, always selective, but that does not preclude affection. And it makes all the more meaningful when they do choose to spend some precious time with us.

- Vicki Croke



Mini Marvin doesn't seem to be too concerned about any "heat in the kitchen!"

RESQCATS

Photo Contest Winners



Most Photogenic

Abbe & Zabba - Guardian: Barbara Weisblott



Most Inseparable

Dusk & Wilbur - Guardians: Joshua Burdine & Jamie Lange



Most Darling

Ferbie - Guardians: Jeremy Grey & Jamie Fleming



Cutest

Fuzzy Navel - Guardians: Casey & Jeanine Mahoney



Best Couple

Tank & Mini Marvin - Guardian: Michael Kew

How To Enter The Photo Contest!



RESQCATS has a "Photo Contest" for each Newsletter. To be eligible, just mail or email us your cutest and/or funniest and/or sweetest kitty pictures along with your letters. (If you mail, be sure to write your name and your kitty's name on the back of the photo(s)). There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit.

Our volunteers and staff will choose the winners of each category. The winners receive a RESQCATS prize and will be featured in the Photo Contest space. Because of the huge response to Photo Contest, we are having to expand the categories for entries: there will always be one for CUTEST, one for FUNNIEST, and one for the SWEETEST, but to include more of these adorable photos, we will pick a few more appropriate categories for the other great photos. So have your digital cameras ready for the action. We look forward to the fun of picking the winners! Thank you for your tremendous response! Keep up the GOOD work!

(Please note: We prefer to receive digital photos that have not been adjusted.
Send to: RESQCATS@aol.com)





There is Nothing Stronger Than the Heart of a Volunteer.

Thank you for the love, dedication and time that each one of you has given this year. You are each a blessing.

Linda Higbee
Denny Epperson
Bonnie Epperson
BJ Hawley
Susan Leroy
Barbara Edwards
Walt Chezum
Evelynne Chezum
Emma Ward
Olivia Ward
Sheryl Fierro
Hanna Ono
Jeannette
Iwatzuki
Sandy Simmons
Patty Farmer
Linda Turner

Kay Hewitt
Emily McLaughlin
Erika Sacks
Susan Boesh
Meghan Pedersen
Jonathan Dean
Joanna Haynes
Jennifer O'Neill
Luna Robledo
Courtney Hazard
Vikki Taylor
Jessie Presley-Grusin
Amanda Peterson
Tricia Krout
Chris Flannery
Keith Flannery
Phoebe Alexiades
Rebecca Branscome
Lorraine Cestone
Sandra Christenson
Kristen Grinnell
Lora Werek
Ale Sanchez
Kelsie Telson
Hayden Telson
Rebecca Branscome



Alethea, a technician from ??? demonstrates how to hand feed Sugarbear.



BJ Hawley & Simba (see their story in our previous newsletter).



Hayden Telson with Roxy, Nefrit & Ace.

More RESQCATS Photos



Wilbur's guardians are Joshua Burd & Jamie Lange



Proud new guardians Jeremy & Jamie with Ferbie



Nothing will come between Merlin & Tank!



Simon's guardian is Luna Robledo.



In Remembrance, Honor and Celebration Of some Very Special Friends...

The following is an editorial from the "Letters" section of the *Press Telegram*, Long Beach, CA. It touched my heart and I think it is worth sharing with you as we remember our special fur friends.

Animal Lover

I'm a 58 year-old single guy, never married or had kids. Four years ago, I adopted two female kittens. They stole my heart and became the two little girls I never had.

Unfortunately, both were born with bad hearts. One lived to the age of 3, and the other died just recently at the age of 4. It broke my heart, but I will always cherish those years with them.

I was crying my eyes out last week when a good buddy of mine said something that really touched me: "It feels like I have been left out of this one," he said.

I asked what he meant, and he said, "I don't have this deep love for animals, as you do. What you and others have is a gift. You're very lucky!"

I truly never thought of it that way. I always wondered what was wrong with people who didn't love animals. But the truth is there is nothing wrong with them. Some of us are blessed with this gift and some aren't.

**Roger L. Gilliam
Seal Beach**

In memory of "Mollie"

From Kathie Organ



Alexander the Great



Thelonious

In loving memory of our beloved "Murdall Girl" (1989-2006) And in celebration and gratitude of "Alexander the Great" (adopted from RESQCATS in 2003) and "Thelonious" aka "Theo" (adopted from RESQCATS in April of 2006)

from Monica Weisblott and Jessie Dowler

In memory of "Bombi" and for Elaine and Bob Toledo

from Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In memory of "Rico" and thinking of Kathy and RJ Carnahan

from Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In honor of Chanelle Battistone and her 15th birthday!

from Gene and Jean Marasco

In honor of Suzanne Wells and her love for all animals.

Love, your mother. Alice Harper

In memory of "Sammy," whose spirit filled the earth and now the heavens

John, Margie and Madison Sherburne

In memory of "Connor" and thinking of Jeannie and Sean Mason
from Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

Remembering and missing "Elmo"

Bob and Johanna Huelsbeck

In memory of "Felicia" and thinking of Danielle and Andrew Spitz
from Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

In remembrance, honor and celebration of "Ghiradelli" who was adopted from RESQCATS by Walt and Evelyne Chezum (volunteers for the last seven years).

Ghiradelli's mom was hauled away and abandoned at the Santa Ynez River by a woman because she was eating her cat's food. The woman then discovered that the dumped cat had six kittens she was trying to feed. Ghiradelli was bottle fed by a foster and adopted along with "Squirt" just three months ago. He died very suddenly of juvenile diabetes and left all of us devastated. Evelyne and Walt say their little "Delli-Cat" gave them three of the best months of their lives. We will always remember him and celebrate his kitten "antics."

Jeffyne, this donation is in memory of our beloved little "Ghiradelli" whose time on this Earth was cut way too short. Thank you and everyone whose love and prayers went to him during this sad time.

Love, Walt and Evelyne

For "Sami" ...Arrived April 1991 / Kitty Heaven October 2006 He purred until his last breath. Such a little man! 16 years he has been with me. I am really going to miss him. He has been my little rock through a lot of things in my life.

Love, Susan Leroy

In memory of "Bella"...may your soul fly just as your spirit in life always did. I miss so much about you.

Love, Jeffyne

We would like to make this donation in honor of three kitties:

In loving memory of our precious kitty, "Alfalfa," who filled our home with pure love and a sonorous meow for 18 years! His absolutely disarming adorableness and his very sweet soul will be in our hearts forever.

In loving memory of "Harmony," who brought so much joy into my dad's life, and whose sweetness could only be matched by his. We'll miss her gentle soul.

In loving memory of "Tiger," who filled Linda and Brian's lives with many lifetimes of love.

Mark and Cindy Reinhardt

In honor and remembrance of Chris Sitton, who gave his life as a medic saving lives in Afghanistan. For his mom, dad and sister: Judy, Steve and Laura.

Love, Jeffyne

For "Miejek" ...who never leaves me.

Love, Jeffyne

November 21, 2006—"Moonbeam" died today. He has left me with such a saddened heart. However, this is the time of year that we can be thankful and count all our blessings... so, thank you, Moonbeam, for all the joy you brought to all of us. You awed us with your beauty on the outside and made us smile and chuckle with your sweet disposition and sense of humor. So many admired and loved you and will miss you. Me, most of all.

Love, Jeffyne





The Journey

"This is a beautiful legacy to all those who have ever shared their life with a pet."

The author is unknown

When you bring a pet into your life, you begin a journey. A journey that will bring you more love and devotion than you have ever known, yet will also test your strength and courage. If you allow, the journey will teach you many things about life, about yourself, and most of all, about love. You will become changed forever, for one soul cannot touch another without leaving its mark.

Along the way, you will learn much about savoring life's simple pleasures—jumping in leaves, snoozing in the sun, the joys of puddles, and even the satisfaction of a good scratch behind the ears. If you spend much time outside, you will be taught how to truly experience every element, for no rock, leaf or log will go unexamined, no rustling bush will be overlooked, and even the very air will be inhaled, pondered and noted as being full of valuable information.

Your pace may be slower, except when heading home to the food dish, but you will become a better naturalist, having been taught by an expert in the field. Too many times we hike on automatic pilot, our goal being to complete the trail rather than enjoy the journey. We miss details, colorful mushrooms on the rotting log, the honeycomb in the old maple snag, the hawk feather caught on a twig.

Once we walk as a dog does, we discover a whole new world. We stop; we browse the landscape, we kick over leaves, peek in tree holes, look up, down, all around. And we learn what any dog knows that nature has created a marvelously complex world that is full of surprises, that each cycle of the seasons bring ever changing wonders, each day an essence all its own.

Even from indoors you will find yourself more attuned to the world around you. You will find yourself watching: summer insects collecting on a screen; how bizarre they are; how many kinds there are or noting the flick and flash of fireflies through the dark. You will stop to observe the swirling dance of windblown leaves, or sniff the air after a rain. It does not matter that there is no objective in this; the point is in the doing, not in letting life's most important details slip by.

You will find yourself doing silly things that your pet-less friends might not understand: spending thirty minutes in the grocery aisle looking for the cat food brand your feline must have, buying dog birthday treats, or driving around the block an extra time because your pet enjoys the ride. You will roll in the snow, wrestle with chewie toys, bounce little rubber balls till your eyes cross, and

even run around the house trailing your bathrobe tie with a cat in hot pursuit, all in the name of love.

Your house will become muddier and hairier. You will wear less dark clothing and buy more lint rollers. You may find dog biscuits in your pocket or purse, and feel the need to explain that an old plastic shopping bag adorns your living room rug because your cat loves the crinkly sound. You will learn the true measure of love. The steadfast, undying kind that says, "It doesn't matter where we are or what we do, or how life treats us as long as we are together."

Respect this always. It is the most precious gift any living soul can give another. You will not find it often among the human race. And you will learn humility. The look in my dog's eyes often made me feel ashamed. Such joy and love at my presence. She saw not some flawed human who could be cross and stubborn, moody or rude, but only her wonderful companion. Or maybe she saw those things and dismissed them as mere human foibles, not worth considering and so chose to love me anyway.

If you pay attention and learn well, when the journey is done, you will be not just a better person, but the person your companion animal always knew you to be.

The one they were proud to call beloved friend. I must caution you that this journey is not without pain. Like all paths of true, the pain is the part of loving. For as surely as the sun sets, one day your dear animal companion will follow a trail you cannot yet go down. And you will have to find the strength and love to let them go.

An animal companions time earth is far too short, especially for those that love them. We borrow them, really, just for a while, and during these brief years they are generous enough to give us all their love, every inch of their spirit and heart, until one day there is nothing left. The cat that only yesterday was a kitten is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun. The young pup of boundless energy now wakes up stiff and lame, the muzzle gone to gray.

Deep down we somehow always knew that this journey would end. We knew that if we gave our hearts they would be broken. But give them we must for it is all they ask in return. When the time comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead, young and whole once more. "God speed, good friend," we say, until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again. ♦

Matching Gifts Program

Many of RESQCATS' wonderful supporters are employees of large, successful companies such as Starbucks Coffee, Blockbuster Video and Cisco Systems.

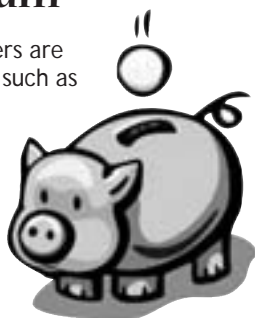
Did you know that these companies will match your cash donation to any IRS approved nonprofit organization such as RESQCATS? Well they will!

Companies such as these and many others, will match your personal donation to a qualified 501 © (3), nonprofit organization on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

So if you'd like to double your support to RESQCATS without having to increase your own donation, contact your company's benefits department and ask about their Matching Gifts program.

If you'll send your company's Matching Gifts forms to RESQCATS along with your personal donation, we'll take care of all the paperwork.

As always, we at RESQCATS (especially the kitties) really appreciate your support!



Wabi & Sab



Give a book to a friend and help RESQCATS at the same time!

When you purchase a copy of *The Well-Lettered Cat*, an adult alphabet book for the literary or artistic cat lover, between now and December 31st, one quarter of the \$19.95 list price will be donated directly to RESQCATS.

Written and designed by longtime RESQCATS supporters Porter Evans and Ed Fierro, this hardbound, full-color gift book is "a sophisticated look into the unique characters of cats," says Mary Anne Miller of catreviews.com.

To order: By phone at 805-687-7926

Online at www.linesrampantpress.com

AWARDED THE 2006 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN GIFT BOOKS FROM THE CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please mention RESQCATS when you call, or place "Resqcats" in the Order Comments section online. If you would like the book inscribed by the author and artist, kindly call in your order.

Please note that you can only help RESQCATS by ordering the book directly from Lines Rampant Press.



"Find me inside
The Well-Lettered Cat!"
Sophie, RESQCATS Class of 2001



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

I am enclosing my tax deductible donation :

Angel in Heaven	\$1000	Caring Spirit	\$100
Miracle Worker	\$500	Supporter	\$50
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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Dedication

This newsletter is dedicated to my husband, Mitch, who has shared me with all of you and every stray cat that passes through RESOCATS!

He has made more sacrifices so that I might follow my life's passion than anyone can imagine. He is truly the hero!



Jeffyne with her husband Mitch

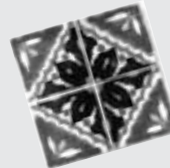
Wish List

- ~ *Peace and harmony of the earth.*
- ~ *Homes for all the stray animals so none will be left to survive and die on the streets without food, warmth, medical care and love.*



This Buds for Mini Marvin!

This Newsletter Designed & Donated by
Keith & Christine Flannery



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