

# President's Message

~ April 19, 2009

I returned from a wonderful winter break and opened RESQCATS, ready to begin our **12th Kitty Season on April 1, 2009**. By Saturday, April 11, RESQCATS had 41 cats and kittens in our care! WHOA! Thank goodness for all the help from the volunteers...or I would not have a minute to write this and keep you up to date. In addition, by the time this newsletter is designed, printed and mailed to you many of these will be in their new adopted homes, other cats and kittens will have arrived, and the litter of six that are only a week old today will just be starting their search for a purrfect home.

I expect this to be a very busy year...it has started out that way. Many people are forced to give their pets to shelters when they lose their homes while others just leave them behind. RESQCATS is dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens so we will most likely see all those left behind and abandoned. Some people will make their situation even worse because they did not spay or neuter their pets...so there will be many kittens coming with those abandoned mothers.

As of today, we are caring for a mom with seven kittens, a mom with four kittens, a young mother and her two sons, a mother cat and her six babies, another mommy cat with three kittens, and a grandmother cat whose two-year-old daughter gave birth to six kittens on

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Jeffyne with Meeka and Zorro

# RESQCATS

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



## June 2009 Newsletter & Spring Fundraiser



### In Search of a Double Rainbow

*If tears could build a castle and memories build a lane,  
I'd walk all the way to Heaven and bring you back again.*

*I think of you in silence and often speak your name,  
But all I have are memories and your picture in a frame.*

*It broke my heart to lose you, but you did not go alone  
For part of me went with you when God called you home.*

– Author unknown

I find that writing about the grief I feel when I lose an animal helps me in the healing process. Losing any one of my animals is never easy, but I realize that I grieve differently for each one. Some losses take much longer to recover from while others take something from my heart and I am never the same. Many of you know that my soulmate collie, "Miejek," died suddenly 4-1/2 years ago. I do not go a day without thinking of her. It took me a very long time to even function after her death. And now, I find myself writing about another very special dog named "Harmony" and her sister, "Joy."

Several years ago my husband Mitch helped with a collie rescue. An elderly man had 66 collies on his property that were housed in unsanitary conditions—food was thrown on the floor for them to fight over at feeding time, and worst of all, not one of the dogs was spayed or neutered. The collies bred indiscriminately and suffered from many health issues because of inbreeding and horrible living conditions. After being cited by animal control in one county, the man had moved to Yolo County in an attempt to avoid further warnings.

He was considered a collector and hoarder of collies. We often hear of people who start out with big hearts and want to help many animals, but often lose sight of the conditions and as they become overwhelmed in their efforts to care for

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Harmony and Joy, the "sistas," were reunited.

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## RESQCATS

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### In Search of a Double Rainbow

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animals they bring home more than they can handle, soon becoming unable to care for them properly or humanely. They claim to love their animals, but loving them and caring for them are entirely different!

Collectors/hoarders are mentally ill. The hoarder mentality often begins with compulsive/obsessive disorder and escalates to a point that causes animal suffering and abuse. These people must be stopped and are in desperate need of counseling.

Despite this explanation of their mental condition, I find it very difficult to have compassion for the person committing such inhumane acts because, as a rescue person, I see what the animals go through. Those who rescue animals are the ones left to clean up the mess made by the collector/hoarder and are heartbroken when they cannot save them all.



Harmony always traveled with Mitch and Jeffyne to Oregon.

It wasn't long before the county of Yolo Animal Control became aware of the man, the collies and the conditions, uncovering one of the worst hoarding and breeding situations in the county. Mitch volunteered to help in any way possible. Once the 66 collies were confiscated, Mitch worked for days bathing dirt and feces from their bodies, combing and shaving collies that had never been brushed. Some of the dogs' faces were scarred from fights that occurred over food just thrown on the floor for a "first come, first serve" basis. Some were blind and deaf due to inbreeding. It was not surprising; however, that the dogs' spirits and gentle dispositions had not succumbed to all their misfortune...that is just how collies are.

Once the dogs were removed from the man's property, they were put into foster care pending the case against the man.

There was a litter of puppies that had just been born when the county confiscated the dogs. These were the lucky ones...they were inside the house and had not been exposed to the horrid conditions outside like the other dogs. The litter was split up and each puppy went to a separate foster home.

It took a year for the case against the man to be settled. Only then, could the dogs be adopted to qualified permanent homes. That is when we adopted one of the year-old puppies that had been removed from inside the man's house. We named her "Harmony."

Harmony fit right in with our pack of collies. She loved all the other dogs and played and romped in the yard endlessly with them. She loved her new adopted family—canine, feline and humans—and was a wonderful addition to our family. Her disposition was sweeter than any dog I have ever been privileged to share my life with...she never had a bad day...she was always smiling and loved to sit on my lap. She captured my heart from the first day we adopted her.

A year later, we were contacted about Harmony's sister. She had not found a permanent home and had been passed from one foster

family to another. She was now two years old and Mitch really wanted to add her to our family even though we had been warned that this collie was not outwardly social. I said, "No, we have enough dogs." When Mitch did not speak to me for four days, I gave in (as I always seem to do.) He went to Yolo County to retrieve Harmony's sister from her most recent foster home and to bring her to her final home with us. She also got a new name...it was "Joy."

Joy and Harmony were reunited at age two after being separated as puppies...but one would never know they had ever missed a day with each other. They were inseparable. The "sistas," as I called them, loved to run and play with each other. As they ran across the backyard...every movement, leap and jump they made was a beautiful dance in perfect sync! They reminded me of synchronized swimmers. Mitch and I were in awe of the instantaneous bond between Joy and Harmony...it was beautiful.



Joy became a confident and friendly collie in Yachats.

The sistas also traveled with us to our home in Yachats, Oregon. We spend a lot of time there in the winter months watching the wild Oregon coast rain storms. I also take that time to rest from the physical and emotional demands of RESQCATS. It is a healing place for me. I love to watch the wild waves and visualize them taking all the hurt from my heart over the loss of my animals and wash it out to sea. Many times, rainbows follow the storms. Rainbows are miracles to me and always remind me of the poem, *The Rainbow Bridge*, which speaks of a place where our animals wait for us until we join them in Heaven. When I am lucky enough to see a rainbow, I am always reminded of my animals waiting for me one day on the Rainbow Bridge.

Joy loved Oregon as much as I do. Her personality just blossomed there. She and Harmony loved their walks and runs on the beach. Joy became much more confident and loved people...she never met a stranger...no one could call her "unsocial" anymore. It was if Oregon was home to her.

One Monday in November 2007, just after we arrived in Yachats, Joy seemed to have some trouble with one of her back legs as we took our first walk along the ocean. The local vet felt she may have hurt her back jumping into the back of the Explorer and suggested that she rest and forego the walks for a couple of weeks. Joy never took her favorite walk in Oregon again.

A few days later, I rushed her to the vet school hospital at Oregon State in Corvallis, Oregon. She received emergency care on Friday...she was unable to walk, stand on her own, urinate or defecate without support. She was diagnosed with spinal lymphoma. By Saturday morning, she could hardly breathe...her decline was so rapid and I could see she was suffering...I held her close, told her I loved her, tearfully said my good byes and sadly she was euthanized while I stayed with her. Joy was only 3-1/2 years old. Even Harmony, her "sista," knew that Joy was gone when I returned home to Yachats.

It was such a sad time for Mitch and me. We could not believe that such a young dog could be fine one day then gone five days later. We learned that out of the 66 dogs the collector/hoarder had at the time the county animal control confiscated them, over 20 of them had died. Most of the dogs that died were diagnosed with some form of lymphoma and/or complications from IBD (irritable bowel disease.)

My gosh, that is 1/3 of the dogs... gone...dead...what had this man done! Was there some environmental cause...not with Joy for she never even touched the ground on his property. Was it inbreeding? What? Just give me an answer. I just need to understand why!

The following summer of 2008, Harmony was diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Disease. We knew that the disease could be controlled with diet, medication and immune support supplements. We got her on a program and she appeared stable so in November 2008 she went to Oregon with us. Harmony suddenly got very ill one Sunday. She was declining rapidly so Mitch and I decided to rush her back to California after talking with her vet who was the specialist that had cared for Harmony since her diagnosis. We left on Monday morning and arrived at the hospital by Tuesday afternoon. Harmony was rushed into emergency but within 15 minutes she had to be resuscitated. During the next two hours she received blood transfusions, blood tests and values were done, all came back with reports of failing organs and she continued to decline no matter what the doctors did. She received the best medical care in the world at this hospital. But it was out of our hands. We asked the vet if we were too late...should

we have gone back to Oregon State where Joy died, but she assured us that nothing could have saved Harmony...not time, not medicine, not love, not anything. Harmony was 4-1/2 years old.

I don't remember much about the next days and weeks. The feeling of loss of Joy and now Harmony came rushing forward and just about blew out any flicker of light I had left in my soul. I was overwhelmed with sadness, anger, depression and desperation. I know I blamed the hoarder for all the pain he created for the dogs while they were with him, but now I realized that he had also hurt all the people who had adopted the collies and lost them to death because of his negligence and ignorance. By now over half of the collies had died; two of them were mine.

In January 2009, I returned to Oregon in search of a double rainbow after each winter storm. I knew if I saw it...I would know that the "sistas" were reunited and that they were on the Rainbow Bridge together. I searched the skies after every storm. But no double rainbows...there were single ones, of course...but I needed to see two...together!

One day I was walking along the ocean and noticed glimmers of rainbows dancing on the waves as the clouds and sun hit them in just the right combination. I stopped almost breathless. Imagine that, rainbows dancing across the tops of the waves...in perfect form and rhythm as the waves rolled in. Time turned to slow motion as I watched...It was Joy and Harmony running and dancing together again across the waves...just as they had in our backyard. ♦



### President's Message

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April 11...both grandmother and mother are caring for them! In addition, two orphans are in foster care and four more babies are being bottle fed by one of the volunteers. I must say...with all these single moms and their babies...it looks like I am running a home for unwed mothers!

As usual, we are all hard at work caring for the cats and kittens and it is a full time job. All the cats and kittens will receive the normal RESQCATS medical protocol—vet exams, Feline Leukemia and FIV tests, worming medication, distemper vaccination and most importantly...will be spayed or neutered before they go to their new home.

Others require much more than the normal—two of the litters that arrived two weeks ago were very sick with a virus that, if left untreated, could cost them their lives. We have been able to determine what the virus is and how to treat it. The kittens and one of the mommy cats required sub-q fluids on a daily basis (imagine sticking a needle under the skin of a tiny kitten to give it fluids), as well as eye-medication, nose drops, immune support supplements and an antibiotic that had to be made especially for the kittens to insure the proper dose. The cost of the treatment is about \$50 per day and will continue until they are well. I am happy to report that they are on the road to recovery.

I feel fortunate that RESQCATS is able to provide and save kitties with such misfortune. It is because of all the support that you as contributors donate and the endless hours the volunteers spend in caring for them.

I know it is a very tough time economically in the world now...but I think these times offer us the opportunity to make a difference in the world. I try to do something every day for someone...it may be smiling at a stranger, waving to someone to go ahead of me in traffic, letting someone in front of me in line at the grocery store, buying the homeless man on the mall corner a piece of chicken and some potato salad, or even...saving a litter of kittens from euthanasia at a shelter Orange County because of overcrowding. I like to think that some of those kind gestures are appreciated—and even “paid forward” to someone else. If everyone does something nice each day and it is passed on...“What a beautiful world this would be!”



Juel snuggles with her family of seven.

I want to offer you a way to “pay it forward” by helping RESQCATS with your tax-deductible donation. It will be used to help save a cat or kitten by providing any medical care it may need. I will find a home for the kitty and it will be the purrfect one with a person who promises to keep it indoors, never declaw it and provide veterinary care for the lifetime of the kitty. As many of you know, a new cat or kitten in the house brings such joy to people. RESQCATS has adopted to people going through some physical challenges in their lives and I often hear from that person months later who tells me that their kitty from RESQCATS helped in their recovery. You become part of touching someone's life and help bring them happiness, joy and healing with your donation. Every donation makes a difference...no matter the amount.

Remember, these are tough times not only for people but also for the animals and all the non-profit organizations dedicated to them.

Thank you so much for your compassion and your support.

Sincerely,



This is a wonderful story about one of the Tea Fire kitties that found his way back home thanks to someone who really cared! Hal had called me in hopes that I could help but he solved the problem himself before any organizations could respond. His compassion saved a life and I think you will enjoy the story he wrote about...

## "Fiddler on the Roof"

By Hal Saunders

It was late last Tuesday evening (just after the Tea Fire) when we first heard the meowing coming from our back patio. My wife Chris went out and found a small gray and white tabby with no collar or tag and assumed that it was a neighborhood cat out roaming. Our cat P.D. spotted it from inside the family room, let out a blood curdling howl, and sent it scurrying away, presumably to its owners.

The next morning we let P.D. out as usual and he immediately began following a scent. Shortly thereafter we heard the familiar sound of a cat fight and got there just in time to see the tabby running away once again. Must be a new family in the neighborhood, we thought.

Late Thursday afternoon we spotted the tabby again, this time up on our roof, and we began to wonder. The Tea Fire, now fully contained, had broken out exactly one week previously. We live on Hot Springs near Olive Mill, not too far from the nearest evacuation area, but several miles from the nearest flames. Could Fiddler, as we now dubbed him, have come all that way?

I tried in vain to coax him down and finally climbed a ladder to the edge of the roof and held out a plate of food. He practically inhaled it. I returned with another full plate—same result. After he devoured his fourth plate of food and washed it down with about a pint of milk, we began making phone calls. It was after hours for the Humane Society and the Tea Fire Animal Hotline, but a nice lady at the Montecito Fire Department got us in touch with County Animal Control. They agreed to come out the next day to trap the kitty and take it to ASAP, the organization that was coordinating the Tea Fire lost and found.



The next morning we found Fiddler sunning himself near the chimney and fed him from the ladder, as P.D., who has never figured out how to get up on the roof, looked on enviously. Although it had stupidity written all over it, I decided to try and avoid the trapping later on by going up on the roof, cat carrier in hand, to catch Fiddler myself. Luckily, he recognized me as the food guy, and he came close enough for me to grab him and force him into the carrier. The County

Animal trapper was very grateful and took him away.

Carla Berkowitz from County Animal Control had promised to keep us informed, and the next day she called with the happy news that they had quickly found Fiddler's owners. Rich and Karen Applebaum had been in New York when the fire broke out and returned to Santa Barbara to discover that their Conejo Road home had been destroyed and their cat Pablo, a neighborhood favorite, was missing. Well Fiddler turned out to be Pablo, the Applebaums were overjoyed, and so were we. At the same time, we were all amazed that this incredible cat had traveled approximately 4 miles over a period of 5 days to escape the flames...until he found a family with a nice warm roof and a hearty supply of cat food. ❖

## Hoping For Another ResQCats Miracle...

### "Mini's" Saga

~ May 4, 2009

"Mini," who is about two years old, arrived at RESQCATS on April 9, 2009.

She was living outside at a school along with her mom, "Cali," who is about four. Cali had been spayed, thank goodness, but Mini had not and she was just as pregnant as she could be. In fact, she gave birth to six kittens on April 11...just two days after her arrival.

It was wonderful to see both mom (Mini) and grandmother (Cali) tend to the babies. All was going well until Mini collapsed on April 29...her babies were just two and a half weeks old.

I rushed her to St. Francis Pet Hospital where four veterinarians immediately went to work to stabilize her. Because her blood work and x-rays were all in the normal range her diagnosis was unclear...she may have suffered an allergic reaction to something. The conclusion by the end of the day was inconclusive. The important thing was that Mini appeared to be feeling much better.

I did, however, worry about her being somewhere overnight without a doctor monitoring her. So Dr. Kelley Harmon and I decided it would be best if she had overnight care at Ventura Medical and Surgical Group (VMSG), a hospital that is staffed by emergency doctors. She could be monitored carefully throughout the night. So off I went to deliver her!

I had decided that Mini's kittens could be with their grandmother Cali for warmth and comfort and that I would bottle feed them. Cali did her job beautifully—she even stimulated all six babies to go to the bathroom—keeping them all clean...and warm...and loved...just like grandmothers do!

After suffering another seizure her first night at VMSG, Mini spent two days there. She had more x-rays, an ultrasound, additional blood work and anything she needed to determine just what was going on. Her diagnosis is still unclear but the doctors suspect that she has heart disease, although it is rare to see heart disease in a cat...especially one that is only two years old. Finally, the doctors decided that Mini could return to RESQCATS but she could not be put with her babies...too stressful for her, and the medication she is on could be secreted in her milk and that would not be safe for the kittens.

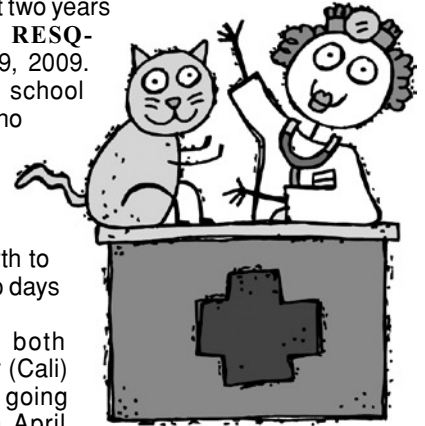
We all felt it would be best for Mini to be reunited with Cali because the mother and daughter are so bonded. It is just a beautiful sight to see them together...and I have promised to never separate them.

Mini's six babies are bottle fed 5 to 6 times a day...around the clock! It is a full time job just taking care of them. Luckily, a RESQCATS volunteer and foster, Rebecca Branscome, has offered to take them home and care for them until they can eat on their own. Julie Kaplan and Mel Kyle will be their foster "aunties" and between the three of them, the kittens will have excellent care.

Mini is scheduled for follow-up care and blood work, another ultrasound and x-rays this week. The medical costs for her so far have passed \$2200.

#### ~ May 24, 2009 Update

Mini has been diagnosed with "unclassified restricted cardiomyopathy" which means that her heart is, in so many words, not functioning normally. She is on a small dose of aspirin, a diuretic for her heart and will be re-checked in about four months. The



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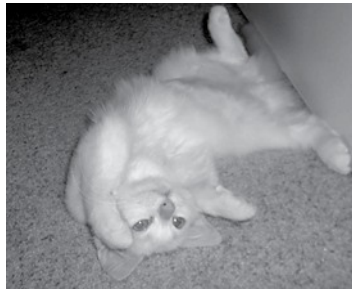


# ResQCats Family Album

## Some New & Some Familiar Faces



**"What did you call me?" Ton Toe**  
He is available (not for long!)



**Sweet Hailey**  
- owner, Christina Zumstein



**Priscella** - one year old, looking for a home since her owner died



**Butch & Sundance** - adopted by Barbara Auhill



**Delilah** nurses two of her six kittens



Bottle fed and fostered by Rebecca Branscome



**Oh, Salem**



**Hailey and friend** - owner, Christina Zumstein



**Haiku**  
adopted by Carol and Larry Nordgaarden



**Triumph** loves kittens!



**Raja and her new brother Chaplain**  
-Raja adopted by Jeffrey and Nancy Marroquin



**Albama**



**Blue**



**Hailey** - adopted by Christina Zumstein



**Denny** poses for a beauty shot



**Raja "life is good,"** adopted by Jeffrey and Nancy Marroquin



**Fat and healthy bottle-fed baby** fostered by Rebecca Branscome



It doesn't get better than this!



Not Michael's best end!



*In Memory, Celebration and Honor  
of some very special friends  
of the fur purrsuasion and humans, too!*



- ❖ In honor of my daughter, **Suzanne Wells**, and her love for cats.  
*Alice Harper*
- 
- ❖ Happy First Birthday to **"Romeo!"**  
*Dianne and Bob Miles*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell** and their infinite love of cats!  
*Dan and Nancy George*
- 
- ❖ In memory of a beautiful kitty named **"Tommy"** and for **Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo Dall'Armi**  
*John and Jane Matsui and Howard*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Olena"** and for **Nancy Foley** and **Denny** and **Bonnie Epperson**. Olena touched so many lives with her love of "just being a dog!" Oh, how we all miss her.  
*From all of us who loved Olena*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Dr. Ryan Sharma**.  
*Cheryl Smith*
- 
- ❖ In honor and celebration of **"Lila."**  
*Elizabeth Zeller*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Tess Rafferty** and her love of cats. Tess chose to have donations made to rescue organizations instead of Christmas gifts!  
Love,  
*Timothy and Rosemary Rafferty*
- 
- ❖ In sweet memory of **"Harmony"** and for **Mitch** and **Jeffyne Telson**  
Love always,  
*Walt and Evelyne Chezum*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Anne** and **Bob Fisher** and their beloved, **"SweetPea,"** a darling geriatric cat.  
From your friends,  
*Barbara Hill and Bill Vollero*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Fanny," "Felix"** and **"Blackie."**  
*Betty Oberacker*
- 
- ❖ In celebration of **"Moses," "Noah," Sydney," "Pinot,"** and **"Sassy."**  
And for **Brenda Lee** and **Lisa Givan** who adopted them!  
Your friend,  
*Dodi Gauthier*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Pinky"** and for **Patti Brennan**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Tucker."**  
Love,  
*Barbara and Bill Vollero*
- 
- ❖ For **"Rosebud"**  
Love,  
*Jeffyne and all of us at RESQCATS*

- ❖ In celebration and "meow" from our two kitties, **"Lily"** and **"Zoe."**  
*Bruce and Peggy Humphrey*
- 
- ❖ In celebration of **"Chloe!"**  
*Joyce and Alex Carasa*
- 
- ❖ In sweet memory of **"Tammy,"** the **"best Westie"** ever. And for **Jeannette** and **Shun Iwatsuki**.  
From all of us that work with you at RESQCATS and Love You,  
*Jeannette*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Don and Betty Richardson!**  
From your friend,  
*Jim Steiner*
- 
- ❖ In loving memory of our kitty, **"Tessa"**...you will always have a place in our hearts.  
*Jeannette and Shun Iwatsuki*
- 
- ❖ Honoring you....**Kathleen Gilligan and Tommy Angelo!**  
Your friend,  
*Jim Steiner*
- 
- ❖ In honor of **Rob and Debbie Llewellyn!**  
From  
*Mel Kyle*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Wizard,"** whose sweetness so often lifted our spirits.  
*Alex and Joyce Carasa*
- 
- ❖ For **Wizard**...a wonderful cat who decided many years ago to live with me and all those at RESQCATS... you are so missed already.  
I will always smile when I think of you here and feel sadness when I no longer see you in the cattery.  
Love,  
*Jeffyne*



- ❖ In loving memory of **"Moocher"** who will always have that special place in my heart.  
*Roger West*
- 
- ❖ Honoring **Steve and Barbara Llewellyn!**  
From  
*Mel Kyle*
- 
- ❖ In loving memory of **"Harmony"**  
Love from your friend,  
*Sara Kvaas*
- 
- ❖ For **"Rikki!"**  
From  
*Mel Kyle*
- 
- ❖ In memory of **"Princess"** and for **David and Claudia Chapman**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

❖ In memory of **"Ashes"** and for **Margaret and Ed Donahue**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

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❖ For my friend, **Julie Kaplan** and all her gifts to me.  
Love,  
*Mel Kyle*

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❖ Thinking of you and your loss of **"Harmony."**  
From someone who understands.  
Love,  
*Nancy Karlin*

---

❖ In celebration of our beautiful friendship and for **Rebecca Branscome!**  
Love,  
*Mel Kyle*

---

❖ In honor of my mom, **June Stoner**. You are the best mom EVER!  
Love,  
*Janice Contons*

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❖ In honor of **Jeffyne** and **RESQCATS** and all the their tireless work over the years of rescuing, fixing, loving and finding forever homes for the kitties that cross their doorstep. I am one of them!  
Love,  
*"Pumpkin" and Julie Kaplan*

---

❖ Celebrating my daughter, **Janice Contons!**  
Love,  
*Your mom, June Stoner*

---

❖ In sweet memory of **"Pip"** and **"Shadow"**...both of whom enriched our lives beyond measure.  
Love,  
*Murray Berman and Este Blood*

---

❖ In honor of **Chris Wong and Jeffrey Light**  
From,  
*Aikido of Santa Barbara*

---

❖ In memory of **"Cleo" Gault**.  
Hearts,  
*Andrew and Konnie Gault*

---

❖ In memory of **"Spike"** and for **Canda and Bruce Emmeluth**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

---

❖ In celebration of **"Little Dipper's"** fourth birthday!  
*Todd Ward and Laura Hoffman*

---

❖ For **"Sweetpea"**.... "one of a kind!"  
Love,  
*Lynne and Buddy Borderre*

---

❖ In memory of the **"best Westie ever!"**...missing **"Tammie."**  
Love,  
*Jeanette and Shun Iwatsuki*

---

❖ **Happy Birthday, Evelyn Kert!** Wishing you happiness on your special day and hoping the year ahead brings good your way.  
From all your friends at RSVP!  
*Jamie O'Toole*

---

❖ A donation made in the name of **"Toby"** and for **Kathy Bresslin** who is very happy to have him become part of the family!  
*Casey Bemis*

---

❖ For my daughter, **Julie Kaplan**...a gift for Christmas to help the kitties!  
*Becki Eaton*

---

❖ In honor of **Robin Rogers** and her husband who are cat lovers and have rescued cats themselves!  
*Jeff and Laura Rogers*

---

❖ In memory of **"Lola"** and for **Suzanna and Tom Raftican**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

---

❖ Always remembering **"Sam."**  
Love,  
*Mary Rosenfeld*

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❖ In memory of **"Nick"** and **"Blackie"** who went to the **"Rainbow Bridge"** in 2008 and to **Becki and Jay** who gave them the best possible life a critter could have here on Earth. And, to **Becki and Jay Eaton**, the BEST parents a gal could ask for.  
Love,  
*Julie Kaplan*

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❖ In memory of **"Sparky"** and for **Suzie Guimond**  
*From Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

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❖ In loving memory of **"Olena"**...a tough act to follow.  
With heartfelt love,  
*Nancy Foley*

---

❖ In memory of **"Ida"**—my very best friend.  
Love,  
*Dave Moore*

---

❖ April 20, 2009—**HAPPY #1 BIRTHDAY** to **"Elle!"**  
Love,  
*Heather Gibb*

---

❖ In loving memory of **"Snowy."** He will not be quickly forgotten for his charm and character will live on in our thoughts. What a guy! That haunting, heart-rending yowl of his! His great big head that begged to be petted and scratched. He was a good and grateful friend. We shall miss him but remember him fondly.  
*Alex and Joyce Carasa*

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❖ In memory of "talkative" sweet **"Snowy."**  
With love,  
*Nancy Karlin*

---

❖ In memory of **"Snowy"**— a wonderful **RESQCATS** resident who came to us at 15 years of age when his owner wanted to have him euthanized because of kidney issues. He had a wonderful year and a half at **RESQCATS** and had all of us wrapped around his little paw... I miss you, "Snowy."  
Love,  
*Jeffyne*

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❖ For **"Miejek"**  
Love,  
*Jeffyne*

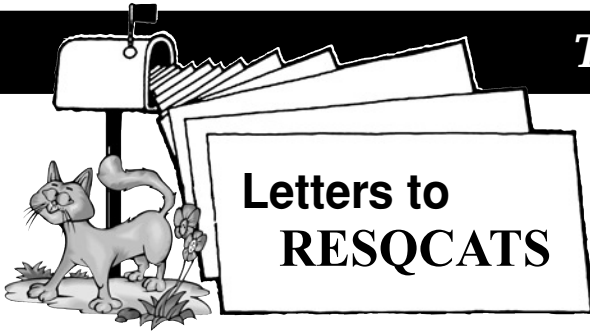
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❖ For **"the sistas," Joy and Harmony**  
Love,  
*Jeffyne and Mitch*

---



## Thank You For Staying In Touch!



Hi Jeffyne,

We just wanted to thank you for our kitty, *"Little Dipper."* We adopted her from RESQCATS three years ago and couldn't be happier. She is a perfect fit for us. She is so sweet and loving. She purrs when we come into the room, loves to take naps on our laps and loved to have her belly rubbed. We are so grateful for RESQCATS and all that you do.

Thank you so much,

**Todd Ward and Laura Koffman**

Hi Jeffyne,

On April 10, 2009, our precious kitty, *"Little Dipper"* turned 4 years old. We can't believe it has been four years since we adopted her from RESQCATS! We wanted to make a donation to celebrate her birthday and to say thank you for all you do. She brings so much joy to our lives.



Thanks,

**Todd Ward and Laura Koffman**

Hi Jeffyne,

I have been wanting to e-mail you since we got the kittens from you in September. My daughter, my mom and I came to look at all the tabbies and adopted *"SuzyQ"* and *"Sol."* We changed Sol's name to *"Shelby"* but we decided to keep the name SuzyQ. Our family just adores these kittens. They are so lovable and are just all around...great cats.



I would just like to thank you for letting them be part of our lives. I want to let you know that they are doing really well. My daughter would love to come and volunteer in the summer time when you need help the most!

**Kelli and Kristina Fishbach**

Hi Jeffyne,

I figured it was about time that I gave you an update on *"Dotted Swiss"* and *"Oreo,"* renamed *"Pyewacket Dotted Swiss O, Malley Clark"* and *"Chaos Oreo O'Malley Clark"* respectively. (or just *"Pye"* and *"Chaos"* for short!)

Both are doing great! We started out with them in my sister's bathroom, then her room, then the laundry room and now they have run of the whole house. Right now they can play upstairs during the day, but sleep in the adjoining bathroom, bedroom and laundry room at night. They eat about two to two and a half cans of wet kitten food a day and I always keep their dry food and water bowl

filled. They found their litter box the very first day and have been perfect about it every since.

They play and purr and play and purr, and sleep and eat and poop and play and purr! They are fairly integrated with the dog—they only get a little freaked when she starts "dancing" when it is time for her walk. They are very open and curious with our other cat, *"Boo,"* but it is taking Boo more time to accept them. She is getting used to them, however, and slowly I believe she will be okay with the kittens.



They love to sleep on our laps, especially with fuzzy blankets and they love to play with stuffed animals. They bathe each other and it is so cute! Pyewacket and Chaos remain very close to each other. Chaos definitely has a bigger mouth and is turning out to be rather chaotic while Pyewacket is pretty soft spoken, except at dinner time! In fact, they just curled up with my dad as I am writing to you.

Anyway, they seem wonderful and we are all completely in love with them. I attached a picture of the two of them together and I will keep you updated. Thank you so much for again bringing these beautiful girls to us. It certainly has been a blessing.

Hope to hear from you soon!

**Addie Clark**

Hi Jeffyne,

I just wanted to say hello and hope that you and Mitch and all the kitties are doing well.

I just wanted to share with you that *"Asya"* turned seven months old a couple of days ago ( written on November 18, 2008) and while she makes me smile, having her with us makes me and my husband lucky to have our home even more warm than it was. She brings us smiles, laughter, love...anything and everything you can imagine to take our minds out of pain and stress from the every day happenings that come from the world. Asya rescues me from that which is why my husband and I are so thankful to have her in our lives and are so in love with her. She is a touch of breath for us... and angel or "melek" as my husband would say in Turkish!

Jeffyne, I can't believe how quickly the time has passed since I adopted Asya from RESQCATS. Everyday I think of her and I picture when she was just laying there sleeping on the cat tree and then playing with her feather toy. Well, I must tell you, I had to get her a cat tree when she came home. It has rattling purple striped balls and she loves them. She found her favorite places, favorite toys, and favorite eats. She is healthy and beautiful and very well mannered. Because of Asya, my husband and I are eager to come home to play or cuddle with her because we know what she can do for our spirits by just being our "little one."

It is all her little moans and walk up snuggles that really touch our hearts.

Forever and always...thank you Jeffyne. Thank you for allowing me to bring Asya into our home.

Love, **Violet, Samim and "Asya"**

Greetings Jeffyne,

Hope you enjoy the holidays. I am still teaching at San Marcos and *"Willey"* is now a teenager (he is about 12 years old) and is doing well according to the vet. He still has his orange nose, (I loved that about him when he was at RESQCATS) big green eyes



and velvety tabby coat. Thanks so much for getting us together 11 years ago!

**Karen Wilson and "Willy"**

Dear Jeffyne,

I hope all is well with you and the holiday season is not too hectic. I just finished reading your December newsletter and feel so inspired by your words and the stories of so many.

I continue to be so thankful for the lovely kitty, "**Princess**" aka "**Hershey**" who is so beautiful, healthy and strong. She is definitely attached to me and me only, hiding under the bed whenever I have a friend over. I feel so lucky she chose me to bond with.

I wish the best for you and all the feline life at RESQCATS. And I hope the included donation will help the kitties!

Best wishes,

**Mary Mason and "the kitty Princess"**

Jeffyne,

Thank you for our wonderful cats. Here is a photo of "**Rosie**" and "**Oscar**" (adopted several years ago from RESQCATS.) Hope all is well there. We think of you quite often and talk about how wonderful all of you are at RESQCATS!



Love,

**Irma Singer, Jeff Hattanda, "Rosie" & "Oscar"**

Hi Jeff, (as I am sometimes called)

**Bryce** wanted to help his brother, "**Roger**" since he hasn't been feeling well. So please accept this donation from him to help with his medical bills.

Love,

**Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare and "Bryce"**

Dear Jeffyne,

Thank you for taking care of all of the stray cats and kittens. We wish you lived in Bakersfield so that you can come help all the strays in our area.

We love you.

**Alyse Durham**

(age 10 – donated \$10 from her Christmas money to RESQCATS!)

Dear Jeffyne,

As an animal lover and fellow member of the *Santa Barbara Pet Care Community*, we at **Santa Barbara Pet Pals** wanted to express our appreciation to and RESQCATS for all you do.

After getting to know you and see the fabulous things you do for orphaned cats we wanted to help you to continue the immense love you give to the cats at your facility.

I am also very grateful for the extra help you gave me in finding a good home for "**Skipper**" Samuels. It was such a relief to have someone care as deeply as I did about finding him a home.

We hope that RESQCATS continues its success in helping the cat community.

You are wonderful!

Warmest,

**Colleen Robles**

*Santa Barbara Pet Pals*

("Skipper" is the 13-year-old kitty that belonged to **Carolyn Samuels** who was hit and killed by a drunk driver while training for a fundraising event last fall)

Dear Jeffyne,

I can't begin to tell you how much I love my "pretty girls!" "**Snow**" and "**Shadow**" are healthy, happy and loving. Thank you so much for them and all you do!

Love,

**Pat McCloskey, "Snow" and "Shadow"**

Jeffyne,

The very best to you always and in all ways! Thank you so much for your loving heart towards animals.

Sincerely,

**Roberta Roeser and "Vanity"**

Dear Jeffyne,

Happy Holidays! We hope this letter finds you and all of your furry and shelled friends (the tortoises) well. We received your December newsletter and wanted to send you something (a donation) to make the season a little merrier at RESQCATS.

"**Huckleberry**" continues to be a source of joy and amusement for the both of us. He enjoys playing with the reigning feline queen of the household, "**Carmen**," and she seems to like him as well. Not a day (or morning or afternoon or evening for that matter) passes that the two of them are not chasing each other around our house in a flurry of black and calico. Huckleberrys' favorite pastime by far though is to steal Kristin's hair ties from her nightstand and bat them around the floor until he loses them under a couch or rug. We've probably lost 20 of them over the past few months! Even so, he has been a fantastic addition to our family and we love him to pieces!

All the best,

**Gabe Brown, Kristin Livinston, "Carmen" and "Huck"**

PS: can anybody guess what Huckleberry asked me to get Kristin for Christmas!

Dear RESQCATS,

Thank you for all your help in our search for kittens. "**Bob**" and "**Lulubelle**" are a real joy and eased the pain of our loss of "**Coco**" and "**Chuck**." We are so grateful to you and your staff. We enclose a donation to help you in your work!

Keep in touch,

**Christine Larson and Dan**

Dear Jeffyne,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We consider you to be the fairy godmother of all cats and the honorary Auntie of ours!

Because of you we were able to add to our family two beautiful kittens, "**Raven**" and "**Haiku**."

Know that your efforts are very much appreciated and have enriched our lives!

Hugs,

**Larry and Carol Nordgaarden**



Dear Jeffyne,

"**Chrissy**" and "**Jonny**" (adopted two years ago) are very happy cats. They play with each other all the time in between their naps. They're both so pleased when I get up (I get up first). Chrissy runs to her favorite toy, sits there and waits to play. Jonny immediately waits for his breakfast! They're both so friendly. We just love them so much. They are healthy and beautiful and handsome!

Love,

**Carole and Jack Beckett and "Chrissy" and "Jonny"**

Letters to RESQCATS

continued from page 9

Dear Jeffyne,

Here is a donation to help you continue your wonderful work. I saw some terrible stories on the local news about cats and kittens being mistreated and it mad me so sad – and sick. Looking at my little “babies” made me think of people like you and your organization who do so much for our feline friends.

“**Binky**” (one of **Snowie’s** kittens – **Snowie** was a RESQCATS resident for many years) and “**Smudge**” (both adopted from RESQCATS) are doing great and are good friends together with “**Speck**” whom we got from our local Humane Society. They bring Erik and me so much joy, although they can be “trouble-makers” at times – it is just their nature.

I hope these tough economic times aren’t affecting your work too much. And I hope our donation helps.

Again, thanks for all you do to care for the cats and kittens.

Sincerely,

**Erik Runge, Ailey Airey, “Binky,” “Speck” and “Smudge”**

Dear Jeffyne,

We are nearing “**Romeo’s**” first birthday and wanted you to know he has brought so much joy to our lives. He is still a playful “little

dickens” and has grown LONG legs and a LONG body. Still has that cute little face.

He has calmed down somewhat since we brought him home as a kitten, yet he only likes to be cuddled when HE want to be cuddled!

We are sending a donation in honor of his birthday to help with the other kitties!

**Dianne and Bob Miles**

Dear Jeffyne,

I hope you are doing well and I hope everyone at RESQCATS is doing well.

I wanted to give you another update on the girls, “**Chaos**” and “**Pyewacket,**” and let you know that they are doing wonderfully. They are sweet and playful and always let me know when it is time for dinner! They are both very healthy and have made friends (almost) with our older cat, “**Boo.**”

Thank you and best wishes,

**Addie Clarke**



## A Cat's Prayer

*Although I am too proud to beg, and may appear to be a very independent creature, I ask for your loving care and attention.*

*I rely on you for my well-being much more than you may realize. This I promise, my guardian, that I will not be a burden nor will I demand more of you than you can give. I will be a quiet peaceful island of serenity for you to gaze upon; a soft soothing body to caress, and I shall purr with pleasure to rest your weary ears.*

*Since I am a gourmet who appreciates different taste sensations, I pray you will give me a variety of nutritious foods and fresh water daily.*

*You know, dear friend, how I love my independence. Allow me, I pray, a warm sheltered place where I can rest peacefully and feel secure.*

*If I am hurt or suffering from disease, please tend me gently and see that I am treated by loving and competent hands.*

*Please protect me from humans who would hurt or torture me for their own amusement.*

*I am accustomed to your gentle touch and am not always suspicious, nor swift enough to avoid such malicious acts.*

*In my later years when my senses fail me and my infirmities become too great to bear, allow me the comfort and dignity that I desire for my closing days and help me gently in my pain and passing.*

*Hear this prayer, my dear friend, my fate depends on you.*

Amen

~ Author Unknown



## RESQCATS “Believe In Miracles” Lavender Soy Candle

Elizabeth Nicholson of Basil Essentials has created a lavender soy candle just for RESQCATS. It is a wonderful way to help support RESQCATS! The following is an excerpt from her website about the candle and RESQCATS...

The RESQCATS Pure Soy glass Pillar titled “Lavender Bud” is scented with pure Lavender essential oil sprinkled with dried lavender buds. Lavender helps create and emotionally calming, relaxing and balancing atmosphere, while also healing the soul, providing nervous tension relief and relieving slight depression.” The “Believe in Miracles” candle is specially designed for RESQCATS and the label shares that a donation was made to RESQCATS with the purchase of each candle. A great gift for friends and cat lovers.

“The benefits of Lavender are symbolic to what RESQCATS does everyday with our feline friends, as well as to the way a loving pet can help you in everyday life.”

“Each candle can be purchased for \$22.00 and \$17.00 goes to support RESQCATS and their amazing work to save the lives of our beloved cat and kitten friends.”

Elizabeth has helped raise almost \$2000.00 for RESQCATS!

**Visit Elizabeth’s website to order the RESQCATS candle and make a difference for the kitties!**



## The Cat Hoarder Mentality

Many of you may recall that RESQCATS was instrumental in removing several adult cats and kittens from a hoarder last year. It was a terrible experience and many of the kittens died because they succumbed to the horrible unsanitary conditions and inbreeding that took place in the small apartment of a hoarder. It took four months for all their health issues to be resolved at a cost of \$5000 in medical bills (that does not include the cost of food and litter during that four months).

There is no price tag for the emotional and physical suffering of the animals. And I cannot find the words to describe the heart-wrenching days that followed for all of us who tried to save them. I remember losing three kittens on three consecutive days...they are buried next to each other in our "Twilight Park" garden.

If I had not seen it for myself, I would never have believed just how bad the conditions were. I will not go into detail, but it was a small job compared to some of the other cat and dog hoarding that goes on in this country.

Let us first try to understand the emotional state of a collector/hoarder. It is a psychological phenomenon that usually begins with obsessive/compulsive disorder, usually striking single, post middle-aged women. However, it is a problem with men, too, as you can read in the story about my dogs, Harmony and Joy. Hoarders start with the idea of giving a home to a stray and soon have more than they can possibly care for. They lose sight of the unhealthy and unsanitary environment they have created. The hoarder loves their animals and considers them part of the family...that is why it is so difficult to convince them that there is a problem. The animals suffer beyond imagination. The hoarder may eventually receive counseling but it is up to us to save the animals.

Following are a few hoarder stories that I found in a book called *Planet Cat* by Sandra Choron, Harry Choron and Arden Moore.

- In July 2005, 487 cats were seized from an 82-year-old woman in Virginia. 120 had been seized from the woman by law enforcement just four years before, but the woman just kept on collecting.
- In April 2003, 60 feline cadavers were found at a woman's apartment in Boston. She claimed to be a part-time breeder with 5 cats and a Great Dane, all malnourished. It was later discovered that the woman had rented a second apartment where she kept 52 additional sick and malnourished cats.
- A woman in Nebraska was charged with animal cruelty when she was reported because of an odor emanating from her home. There were 270 cats living in the house and 58 had died and been stored in her freezer. She even had a license to operate a cattery.
- Police entered a home in Florida after complaints of a horrendous odor to find 32 kittens and 36 cats in a woman's freezer. She was living with 24 cats and had once been an animal control officer who made a habit of taking in any kind of stray.
- In California, almost 400 dead cats were in found in a couple's freezer. They had a huge number of live cats living in the house with only one litter box and all suffered from upper respiratory infections and leukemia. Only six could be saved.

***It is a serious problem and it is up to us to do something about it. How can we help?***

***Report them to the local authorities or to a rescue group so they can get psychological help. It is also our responsibility to the animals to show compassion, save as many as can be saved and end their suffering!***



## Volunteer Appreciation

**V**aluable is the work you do

**O**utstanding in how you always come through

**L**oyal, sincere and full of good cheer

**U**ntiring in your efforts throughout the year

**N**otable are the contributions you make

**T**rustworthy in every project you take

**E**ager to reach your every goal

**E**ffective in the way you fill your role

**R**eady with a smile like a shining star

**S**pecial and wonderful...that's what you are!

In the first Sunday afternoon in May, RESQCATS hosted our 5th annual Volunteer Appreciation. All the volunteers and their significant others were invited to an afternoon of "being appreciated!" We hosted it at my home which is also the home of RESQCATS.

There are almost 50 volunteers at RESQCATS and all are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to keep the organization in operation.

Our "Cinderella Morning Crew" shows up in the mornings to help clean up the party the kitties seem to have in the cattery every night. I sometimes think we clean up everything but their beer cans!

The socializers are dedicated to helping RESQCATS' stray and abandoned cats and kittens become accustomed to people so that they will be comfortable with their human adopters.

There are also volunteers that...help with painting and maintenance in the building; foster kittens; bottle feed newborn kittens; run errands to pick up supplies and bottled water for the cats; take care of the accounting; maintain the website; design this newsletter; serve on the Board of Directors; help with fundraising; photograph the kitties and design the line of RESQCATS greeting cards and assist with adoptions by photographing the cats and listing them on the internet. Each volunteer plays an important role in the success of RESQCATS. And some of the volunteers actually "multi-task" and handle several jobs.

The Volunteer Appreciation is a way for me to say "thank you." It is one of the few days of the year that I actually cook! Don't worry...I always make something that I know I am good at making. It is strictly vegetarian so that we show compassion for all animals...and with this group I have to make sure there is plenty of dessert and lots of chocolate.

It is a fun afternoon where many volunteers meet for the first time. Since each one comes to RESQCATS at a scheduled time, many of them don't know each other. I often hear, "My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am on the Tuesday morning crew...what do you do?"

I think everyone has a good time. I know I enjoy preparing for it and love to be in a relaxed atmosphere in our home to share my appreciation.

Everyone was presented with a new RESQCATS tee shirt for 2009, a "Believe in Miracles" Lavender Soy Candle and a cat print recycle bag to be used over and over as a reminder of just how important it is to have compassion for the environment, too.

The volunteers share a common philosophy...the cats are first at RESQCATS...except for the afternoon of the Volunteer Appreciation!

*Thank you volunteers*







## Some Special THANK YOUs!

A very special and heartfelt thank you to **Elizabeth Zeller** for her beautiful donation in honor of "Lila!"

A special and gracious thank you to **Pamela and Duke Vincent** for their kindness, compassion and heartfelt donation to help the kitties at RESQCATS. They truly are "Angels in Heaven!"

Thank you **Fred and Nan Euler**, not only for all your support of RESQCATS but for all the kind words of encouragement that you send. I treasure them so much.

A heartfelt and gracious thank you to **Betty Oberacker** for her beautiful donation to the "Polar Bear Fund," a fund set up for the cats and kittens that require special medical care beyond the normal protocol for RESQCATS.

**Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare** adopted "**Bryce**" in October 2008 after fostering him and his brother, "**Roger**." Roger went to a wonderful home with **Judy and Dean Malmgren**. Roger was diagnosed with a serious hernia and congenital defect that required critical surgery by a specialized surgeon. Sue, Cathie and Bryce sent a beautiful donation to help pay for Roger's surgery... he recovered beautifully and is doing PURRfectly well!

A very special and heartfelt thank you to **Colleen Robles and Santa Barbara Pet Pals** for their beautiful donation to RESQCATS...and the beautiful letter they wrote to me about "**Skipper Samuels**." (see Letters to RESQCATS)

Thank you, **Dan and Nancy George**, for your kindness, understanding and continued generosity in helping so many of the kitties at RESQCATS!

A very special thank you to **Aikido** of Santa Barbara...the employees made a beautiful donation to RESQCATS in honor of **Chris Wong and Jeffrey Light!**

No words are big enough to thank the "**Polar Bear**" angels, **Paula and Melodie Haines** for all the work they do all year in preparation for a Christmas "sleigh" delivery to RESQCATS. They arrived this year with handmade toys, baskets to go home with the "Home At Last" kitties, new fleece pillows for all the beds, catnip, new blankets and so much more. They work all year to make the season of giving so special for RESQCATS. Paula and Melodie have hearts of gold. Each time they leave I am left in happy tears and think to myself..."Oh, if only the world had more people like them...it would be a purrfect place." Thank you from the kitties and from all of us at RESQCATS.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to **Donald and Christine Anderson** for their "Angel in Heaven" donation to the "Polar Bear Fund." The PB fund is a special fund set aside for those cats or kittens that have needs well beyond the normal medical protocol in order to have a chance for life. It is a fund we always hope we do not have to use because it means that a kitty is struggling...but the fund has saved many lives! What a wonderful start for 2009 thanks to Donald and Christine!

A special and very heartfelt thank you to **Lynne and Buddy Boderre** for always remembering "**Sweetpea**" in such a special way—they give every single year to the "Polar Bear Fund" and truly understand what it is to have a special-needs kitty. Sweetpea gave so many of us so much light and love...she is remembered by many. She was and always will be "one of a kind."

**Karen Lee Stevens** hosted a holiday party and asked everyone to bring a cat or dog toy instead of the usual bottle of wine or flowers. Then she delivered a huge wrapped box to RESQCATS filled with toys, blankets, feather teasers and a whole lot more! It was so special to receive such a gift as Karen does a lot to help all the animals and animal organizations in Santa Barbara. Thank you, Karen!

A very special thank you to **John and Judy O'Steen** and your beautiful donation this year and for all of your past support. Think of all the lives you have touched....feline and human! You are "Angels in Heaven!"

Thank you **Keith and Chris Flannery** of *Flannery Designs & Graphics* for designing yet another fabulous newsletter for RESQCATS. Your dedication of time and creativity is unsurpassed. The newsletter and the funds it raises are so important to our continued success. But YOU are what makes that happen!

My dear friend, **Roger Smith**, has been a contributor for many years and his generosity goes a long, long way to help many kitties every year. Thank you just does not seem big enough for all you do, Roger!

A very special thank you to **Diane Ledbetter** who has helped so many kitties this year through her support and in doing so...she has touched the lives of the people who adopt them!

For all of you who have enjoyed the "**Believe in Miracles**" RESQCATS candles...thank **Elizabeth Nicholson!** She has spent many hours developing the special scent and donates her time to make the candles at cost for RESQCATS! She has raised almost \$2000.00 for RESQCATS! Thank you so much Elizabeth! You are a very special lady!

Thank you, **Mark and Cindy Reinhardt**, for all the years of support you have given to help so many kitties here at RESQCATS. Your generosity has saved so many cats and kittens over the years and there is not a thank you big enough.

**Denny Epperson** remodeled the isolation area to make it more secure for kittens. He spent three long days just before his knee surgery to make sure all was ready for kitten season. All he ever requires in return for his work is CHOCOLATE!

Thank you, **Rebecca Branscome**, for your hours & hours of bottle feeding newborn kittens. It is an overwhelming job but you always send fat, happy, healthy kittens our way when you bottle feed!

And a big thanks to **Mel Kyle and Julie Kaplan** for being the "aunties" and helping out with the bottle feedings!

**Dan Joseph** donated several pieces of his artwork and drawings of cats to help RESQCATS raise funds...they are wonderful and two of them have already sold!

Thank you, **Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare**, for always being there to foster! It is such a wonderful feeling to know that I can give kittens to you and never worry about them...it's as if they land in Heaven with you! "**Toby**" and "**Michael**," two orphaned brothers that got to stay with you thank you from the bottom of their purring hearts!

**Susan Leroy**, thank you is not big enough to express my gratitude for all that you do. You are there 24 hours a day to offer help for

the kitties. How I love working with you. Having your support is such a treasure.

**Jim Hurnblad** is a new volunteer who has taken it upon himself to not only help with the cleaning of enclosures two days a week...but he has become our "Jim of all trades!" He replaces doors that need replacing, fixes anything that needs repair and has presented RESQCATS with some great ideas that benefit the cats and the people here!

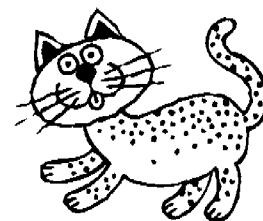
**Janet Dewey** took it upon herself to paint the entire cattery floor and isolation area while I was away on a winter break! It was an enormous job that took weeks to do! It is beautiful!!! The cattery looks so professional and clean...all the volunteers love it because it is so much easier to care for than the plain cement floor we had before. Janet, I find myself looking down at the floor every time I walk into the cattery...I just love it. And a huge THANK YOU just doesn't seem to say how much I appreciate you!

A very special thank you to **Linda Higbee**, who moved in for three long months this past winter to take care of all the RESQCATS residents, as well as, all of my other animals so that I could escape

for some rest and relaxation after a very busy 2008 kitty season. I never have a worry about any of the animals when she is in charge. You are a gift, a blessing and I just don't know what I would do without you!

**Levi Russell** spent almost three weeks bringing all the outdoor enclosures up to par for the resident cats. New mechanics wire replaced the old rusty chicken wire and he added a new tunnel for the cats to roam. He also installed exhaust fans to the common area for the resident cats and to the isolation area for sick kitties so that those areas will not get so warm in the summer. He was wonderful to work with...every time I suggested something or added a chore, he always said with a big smile..."No problem!" Thanks so much, Levi!

Thank you to all the volunteers who continued to come to RESQCATS while I was away this winter. Your commitment to the cats and helping out is appreciated more than you could possibly know!



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

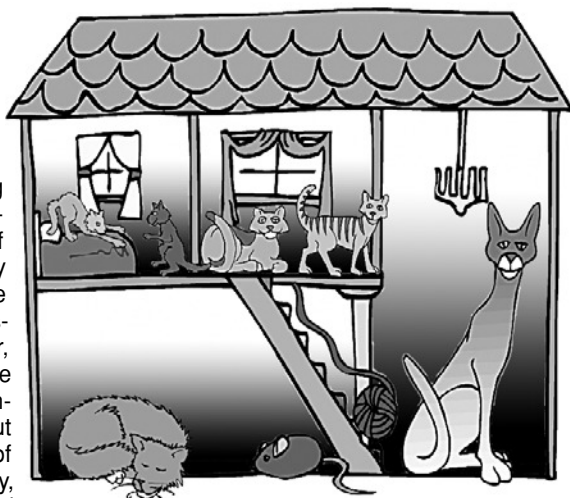
## *How Did We End Up with All These Cats?*

Following the surprising outpouring of comments after my last article for the RESQCATS Newsletter in December, 2008...well, maybe it wasn't a tremendous outpouring, but I did get a number of comments...actually, in all fairness and editorial honesty, Jeffyne did tell me she was talking to an old friend who mentioned my article in passing.

Anyway, despite this lack of over-whelming recognition, Jeffyne insisted that I write another piece for this spring's newsletter. (I really think she just ran out of cute kitty pictures and needed some pulp filler!!) At any rate, here goes...Mr. Jeffyne Part II...How Did We End up with All These Resident Cats?

Most of you who have been to the RESQCATS facility either to adopt a cat or kitten or simply to visit this unique sanctuary, know that I'm NOT the guy who's responsible for the resident cats that live here. I'm not the guy who feeds the cats and I'm not the guy who cleans the litter boxes. And I'm certainly not the guy who's in charge of the kitten adoptions.

No, actually, I'm the guy in the background wearing the RESQCATS t-shirt who takes care of the collies and the tortoises...and there's a very good reason for this arrangement that goes back more than twenty years!!



When Jeffyne and I got married in 1986, I brought my dog Wolfie, a collie/shepherd mix, and my calico cat, Mrs. Muffet, into the relationship. Jeffyne had two wonderful cats, Tattoo – a beautiful gray and white girl and her tabby, Miss Violet, from Texas.

Some of you know that I have two great sons from an earlier marriage and had made a decision before I met Jeffyne that I did not want any more children. Jeffyne, on the other hand, had never been married and had no children.

Before we approached the discussion of marriage, we talked through this all-important subject...to have or not have children. Jeffyne assured me that she had no desire to have any human off-spring and most important, that her "biological clock" was not ticking...so I could just relax!!

She did, however, remind me of her love for animals...especially cats...and that she might want to have more than just the three that were the beginning of our family. Being a caring person, I assured her that she could have all the cats she wanted...just as long as she didn't get pregnant!

Ahh, here's where I made my fatal mistake...what was her definition of, "all the cats she wanted?"

Well, it didn't take long for me to get the answer to that question! For those of you who know Jeffyne well, you know that she is very literal and takes you at your word...your ABSOLUTE word!! Don't get pregnant and you can have all the cats you want very quickly became "don't get pregnant...get a new kitten!!"

We got married on February 1, 1986. By Christmas of that year we had added Mr. Sandman, Neiman, Marcus, Flower, Stranger and her four sons, Mr. Personality, The Shadow, Gremlin and Buster Black. Early the next year Squint and Twilight joined the family. It became quite apparent that I was in BIG TROUBLE and to avoid an early dissolution of our marriage, we needed to modify our arrangement. So...in 1987 we agreed that "don't get pregnant FOR A YEAR...get a new kitten" would make for a much happier family life.

So now you know the rest of the story, "How Did We End up with All These Resident Cats?"

We've been married for 23 years...we have about 23 resident cats!!

Just think, that's a whole lot better than the 276 cats we could have had...23 years times a new kitten every month...I shutter to imagine!!! ❖

## There is No Such Thing as a “FREE KITTEN”

I panic every time I see an ad in the paper for “FREE KITTENS.” There is no such thing for anyone who takes pet adoption seriously and responsibly. People advertising free kittens think they are doing the kittens a favor by just finding them a “good home.” In addition, they do not take the responsibility of having the mother cat spayed which means she can become pregnant again at about the time her first litter is eight weeks old and just getting ready to go to their “free good home”! By the time her second litter finds their “free good home,” the first litter will most likely not be spayed or neutered either by the people who took a “free kitten.” They may also be pregnant with their own litters!

This is the cost of a free kitten to those that receive them...no vet visits, no vaccinations, no flea control, no parasite control, no spay or neuter surgeries to prevent the huge over-population. The only person it is free to is the person who is giving the cats away because they didn't take care of the basic needs of the kittens and mom.

The cost that cannot be measured in dollars is the euthanasia of cats and kittens because there are not enough homes for them all! The monetary costs of taking care of a kitten properly is listed below.

Here is the real medical cost of a “FREE KITTEN”

- Vet Exam, depending on the veterinarian ..... \$47 to \$84
- Distemper Vaccination, depending on the vet clinic..... \$20 to \$26  
(a kitten requires two boosters so add another ..... \$40 to \$52  
in follow-up visits)
- Feline Leukemia/FIV tests ..... \$55
- Worming Medication ..... \$10
- Flea Treatment ..... \$10 to \$12
- Leukemia Vaccinations ..... \$23 to \$33  
(needed if the kitty goes outside)
- A Leukemia Booster is required three weeks after the initial  
vaccine so add another..... \$23 to \$33
- Rabies Vaccination ..... \$20 to \$26
- Spay Surgery, depending on the vet clinic ..... \$200 to \$538
- Neuter surgery, depending on the vet clinic ..... \$130 to \$195

The cost for a male kitten that receives his vet exam, Leukemia/FIV tests, all his vaccinations and is neutered is \$377 to \$526! The cost for a female kitten receiving the same care and is spayed is \$447 to \$869!

Remember, there can be other medical costs if your kitty becomes ill or needs surgery. For example, if your cats gets into a fight and gets injured and has an abscess, a conservative cost for surgery and follow-up antibiotics is \$150 to \$800 depending on how serious, where it is located on the body and your veterinarian.



Then add:

- Food – high quality food costs about \$30 for a twenty pound bag of dry and about \$1 a can for canned food (plan on a minimum of two cans a day at an average cost of \$60 a month)
- Litter – regular clay litter is less expensive than clumping...but plan on spending about \$20 to \$30 a month

**RESQCATS** minimum adoption fee is \$85. Obviously, that does not cover all of our costs and that is why we rely on our supporters to help make up the difference. Our normal medical protocol includes the following:

- Vet Exam
- Feline Leukemia/FIV Test
- Worming Medication
- First Distemper Vaccination
- Spay or Neuter Surgery

In addition, every adopter goes home with:

- Their Health Record with a schedule of prior medical treatment and vaccines, and a schedule of what is due and when
- Spay or Neuter Certificate
- New 3-1/2 pound bag of Science Diet Nature's Best kibble
- A few cans of Wellness or NutroMax food depending on what the cat or kitten is eating while at **RESQCATS**
- A Brand New Blanket
- New Cardboard Carrier
- New Feather Toy, Chaser Toy or Footprint Set
- Instructions on how to get a new cat adjusted to it's new home
- A good luck hug! ❖



### Mini's Saga

continued from page 4

doctors believe that this heart condition was discovered quite by accident and was not necessarily related to her collapse. It's lucky for her that she collapsed so that we could discover it and give her medication so that she can lead a normal life.

Our hopes for her now...another miracle...a person that will give Mini and her mom, Cali, a home and all the love they both deserve. I just feel mother and daughter deserve to be the center of someone's life and that is impossible for me with all the responsibility that comes with rescue. What a blessing it would be to find someone

to adopt them—I believe there is someone out there with a heart that would be purrfect. Is it you?

**RESQCATS** is fortunate to be able to help kitties like Mini. I always say, “We may not be able to take on as many cats and kittens this year because of expenses like this...but we do it RIGHT for the ones that are here.”

I hope you will consider designating your donation to Mini and all that it is taking to give her the very best medical care she can receive. I can assure you, that we will all send her thoughts of light and love to help her heal. And we will be asking for a miracle...we do “*Believe in Miracles*” at **RESQCATS**. ❖



**Two Painless Ways to Support RESQCATS...**

**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 non-profit organization such as RESQCATS? Well, they will.

Companies such as these and many others will match your personal donation to a qualified 501(c) (3), non-profit 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 Program forms to RESQCATS along with your personal donation, we'll take care of the paperwork.

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

**The United Way Fund**

If you donate to the United Way Fund through a payroll deduction at work, do you know that you can designate RESQCATS as your primary charity and our organization (and all the kitties!) will benefit from your generosity!

It's easy and painless...just contact your company's payroll or benefits department and tell them you'd like your United Way Funds sent directly to RESQCATS. We'll take care of any extra paperwork.

We appreciate your donation but it's the cats and kittens at RESQCATS really benefit from your kindness! ❖



**Most Common Cat Names**

Most Common Cat Names according to the Veterinary Pet Insurance Company from over 300,000 policy holders in 2005.

— from *Planet Cat* by Sandra Choron, Harry Choron and Arden Moore

*Most common male cat names...*

Max	Charlie	Toby
Tigger	Simon	Milo
Tiger	Oscar	Buster
Smokey	Lucky	Leo
Oliver	Jake	Rusty
Simba	Sebastian	Oreo
Shadow	Jack	Gizmo
Buddy	George	Felix
Sam	Rocky	Chester
Sammy	Bailey	Harley

*Most common female cat names...*

Chloe	Kitty	Gracie
Lucy	Samantha	Precious
Cleo	Misty	Daisy
Princess	Missy	Shadow
Angel	Sophie	Ginger
Molly	Baby	Sassy
	Maggie	Lily
	Zoe	Bella
	Callie	Abby
	Jasmine	Smokey
	Patches	Annie
	Sasha	Tigger



**RESQCATS** 

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.

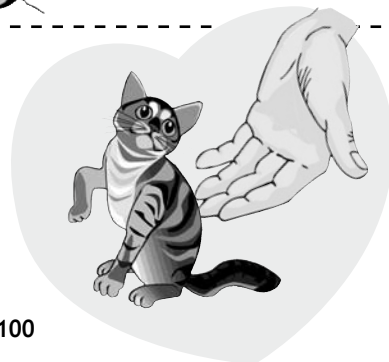
Make your check payable to:

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

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

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

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



**Give a Helping Hand!**

## Dedication

This newsletter is dedicated to all animals I have loved and lost and who wait for me on the "Rainbow Bridge"...

Mrs. Muffett

Wolfie

Tattoo

Miss Violet

Stranger

Buster Black

Mr. Personality

Shadow

Flower

Neiman

Marcus

Mr. Sandman

Bunny-Rabbi

Twilight

Squint

Destiny

Traveller

Triton

Poseidon



Miejek

Joy

Harmony

Angel

Jetty

Patches

Rosebud

Simba

Snowie

Abby

Snowy

Spirit

Gomer

Moonbeam

Quarter 'Til

Telly

Tawny

Oreo

Hydrox



Wizard left us the evening of May 21st at 5:30 to join the "Rainbow Bridge"



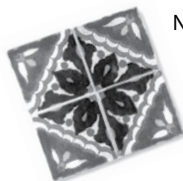
Little Dipper enjoying some "me" time adopted by Todd Ward and Laura Koffman



Raja...just lounging adopted by Jeffrey and Nancy Marroquin

A special thank you to **Jeffyne**.

Before we receive the newsletter parts so we can work on the design, Jeffyne spends hours writing stories, collecting photos and organizing everything to make it easier for us.



Newsletter Design & Production by  
Keith & Chris Flannery

FLANNERY  
Designs & Graphics

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## Wish List!

- ~ Homes for all the kittens!
- ~ Homes for all the mommy cats (they are overlooked so often)!
- ~ Homes for all the people so they don't have to give up their pets to shelters!
- ~ I wish for every person in this world to do something nice for someone else everyday!
- ~ I wish that the person who receives the nice gesture will "pay it forward" to someone else!

## How You Can Help...

- \$5 ...pays for worming 4 kittens or one adult cat or two bottles of bleach for sanitizing
- \$7 ...buys a bag of Tiger Tuff clumping litter
- \$10 ...covers the cost of a distemper vaccination for a cat or kitten, flea treatment such as Advantage, a bottle of Rescue Remedy to calm stressed kitties or a tube of eye ointment.
- \$20 ...will cover the cost of a fecal exam, or will vaccinate two kitties!
- \$25 ...will buy a case of canned kitten food
- \$35 ...will pay to have a male cat neutered
- \$40 ...will pay for an full vet exam
- \$50 ...will cover the cost of spaying a female cat
- \$75 ...buys cleaning and laundry supplies for a month
- \$100 ...spays 2 female cats or buys four cases of canned kitten food
- \$150 ...pays for an entire blood panel on a senior cat that needs to be checked for kidney issues, etc. before being adopted.
- \$250 ...pays for a dental exam on an older kitty before he is available for adoption
- \$500 ...spays 10 female cats or helps with all of the above costs!
- \$700 ...buys 100 bags of 20-pound litter
- \$1000 ...would pay for 1/5 of what was spent on the hoarder's cats in 2008 and would cover all medical expenses for the two moms, their 11 kittens and the two orphans rescued from a shelter in Orange County before they were euthanized!
- \$2500 ...would cover Mini's expenses as of May 4, 2009 (see Mini's Saga on page 4)



Salem "Hey! I could use a hand"

Visit our ResQCats website  
[www.RESQCATS.org](http://www.RESQCATS.org)

Please take the time to see our website. You can read past issues for the heart-warming stories or if you just want to see the entertaining photos.

The designers are **Nathaniel and Laura Courtens**.  
It is beautiful.

Thank you for all your hard work.