



RESQCATS™

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

April 2011 Newsletter & Spring Fundraiser

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PHOTO BY GRETCHEN SCHNEIDER

If the extension of your compassion does not include all living beings, then you will be unable to find peace in yourself.

— Albert Schweitzer

President's Message

*No, that is not a cat at the beginning of the **RESQCATS** President's Message! It is a wolf!*

Forgive me, but I could not resist sharing my experience with you. I visited the White Wolf Sanctuary in Tidewater, Oregon in February. The Arctic wolf in the photo was rescued at only three weeks of age and, because of that, is very accustomed to people. Her name is "Sakarri" and I was honored with a kiss from her through her enclosure fence. The synchronized howling of the wolves that day was a song filled with a message of the harmony that exists in nature. The wolves' song was such a spiritual experience for me that it brings tears to my eyes each time I replay it in my mind. My kiss from Sakarri is something I will never forget. It was as if my only separation from the wild was the fence surrounding Sakarri's enclosure and between us. I am in awe of the founder Lois Tulleners, and the compassion she has for the wolves she has rescued. I left White Wolf Sanctuary that winter day feeling blessed to have touched nature through Sakarri. I still feel the peace in my soul and spirit when I think of the wolves and my visit that day. And, most importantly, I carry their message to me in my heart...my compassion is for all animals, not just cats.

Thank you for indulging me!

Now, to the business of **RESQCATS**.

By the time you receive this newsletter, **RESQCATS** will be well into our 14th kitty season. Last year was a record year with 193 adoptions bringing our total adoptions to 1737!

continues on next page



Our First Mom & Kittens in 2011

(See a close-up photo of one of her newborns in the Family Photo Album page 6).

RESQCATS

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President's Message

continued from page 1

We are very proud of our success in finding homes for all those cats and kittens, but that is not even "a drop in the bucket" compared to what county and local shelters face and the numbers of pets dumped on them. Millions of animals are euthanized every year in shelters. There is not room for all the animals being turned into shelters under the guise of any lame excuse that someone can think of for relinquishing their pet. Something has to change!

RESQCATS was contacted by the local shelter in February when two sister kittens that had been adopted from RESQCATS were being relinquished. The lady who had adopted them was turning them in because "they were scratching the carpet!" I remembered them immediately. A volunteer and I had rescued them from a man's garage in July 2010 when a mother cat decided that the rafters were the best place for her to give birth to her three babies. Their little four-week-old paws had never touched ground until they came to RESQCATS that July...and now, two of them have returned.



Jeffyne is on a mission to find a forever home for sisters "Promise," top, and "Journey," bottom.

The sisters are now ten months old and finding a home for them will be tough since they are surrounded by the tiny eight-week-old kittens that most people want. But we are already busy working on it and we will find them a home together! I am on a mission here!

To start, we gave them new names upon their return to RESQCATS. One sister is named "Promise" because I promise to scrutinize and find a forever adoptive home this time. And the sibling is "Journey" because their journey has brought them back to RESQCATS once again until we find their purrfect guardian.

I do understand that sometimes there are valid reasons why someone cannot keep their pet...but in my mind, it is all too convenient to "dump" them on shelters. All rescues work hard to ensure that adopted pets go to homes where people understand the commitment (and I mean lifetime commitment) that they are making to their new cat or dog. And I will work even harder to educate everyone about that point...and part of my own 'journey' this year is to 'promise' to drive that point home to potential adopters. If we can work on educating the people at the adopter end, then maybe there will not be so many animals euthanized when shelters become overloaded.

I have set a goal in 2011 to educate people about the responsibility of pet guardianship and the lifetime commitment they must promise to that animal.

And that is something you can do, too!

You are receiving this newsletter a little earlier this season. A lot of heart and soul goes into the newsletter, but so does a lot of time. I hope you will appreciate some of the articles written by volunteers and of course, my husband, Mitch...known to you as "Mr. Jeffyne!" They have contributed so much of their hearts, souls and time to the stories...and that has allowed me to be where I am needed most...taking care of the cats and kittens.

I expect 2011 to be another tough year. The winter in Santa Barbara County was mild. That means that the cats went into heat early and many have had kittens much earlier than usual.

The lucky ones will not die in the elements, be eaten by coyotes, suffer from infection and disease, or slowly starve.

They will be rescued. And when they come to RESQCATS they will have physical exams, be tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV, receive vaccinations and worming medication, be spayed or neutered, and be micro-chipped. If any out-of-the-norm medical care is required...well, they will get whatever they need as long as they need it so that we do everything possible on this Earth to save them. Once they are healthy, the job of finding homes for them begins.

In 2010, RESQCATS reached out to the local community and sponsored over 100 additional spays and neuters throughout the county in an effort to reduce the overwhelming number of kittens being born. With your help, we are committed to doing that again in 2011.

Yes, I know, you know what I am getting to. Understand that one of the most difficult parts of my job is to ask you for financial help. But it is essential for RESQCATS to provide all that we do in the way of medical care. In addition, the kitties waiting to be adopted reside in beautiful enclosures that are the size of a powder room...no small metal cages! They have the luxury of heating pads, ramps to climb, baskets with pillows to sleep on, toys to play with, quality food and litter, and any extras they may require. That all adds up to a wonderful place with only the best care for all that we do at RESQCATS! And it adds up in dollars, too.

The volunteers and I will continue to do the daily chores—love, socialize, clean, care for and all the other tasks it takes to have a successful 2011.

I thank you for all that you have done in the past to help with your tax-deductible donation. You make a difference for the stray and abandoned cats and kittens and they pay it forward by bringing joy, laughter and unconditional love to those who adopt them.

So I end this message with a sincere thank you for your support...and a final quote.

*"You can judge the greatness of a nation by the way it treats its animals."
- Gandhi*

Most sincerely,

Jeffyne Telson
President, RESQCATS, Inc.

Maya's Thought for the Day...

"Charity sees the need, not the cause"

- German Proverb -

(**Maya** was brought to ResQcats at a few months old and was adopted by **Jesus & Nancy Aguirre**. She is the oldest of the 4 cats in their household and now shares her article in the newsletter with sister *Chloe* and brother *Aikin "Bones"*. Her "mom" Nancy also writes an article for the newsletter...it's become a family affair!)

A Volunteer Finds a Place to Heal Her Heart

By Darcie Del Rio



Photo courtesy Gretchen Schneider.

This was my cat, "Bear."

When Bear was abandoned by his mother one summer we took him in. I couldn't send him to the local Humane Society because he was only 10 days old and would have required bottle feeding around-the-clock every three hours. Since that particular shelter did not have the people or the resources available to care for him he would have been euthanized.

So I took the responsibility for caring for this little one. I named him Bear because he looked like a baby Polar Bear when we found him.

Bear was definitely a "mama's boy" and did not appreciate anyone else but me. (I have since learned that that is often the case when you bottle feed a single kitten.) When I moved to Santa Barbara to live with my partner I knew that I was going to have to find a new home for him since he did not get along with other people. I did my research and found a local organization that would take him. I was so grateful to find a place for Bear that I offered to volunteer at the rescue once a week. That way, I could not only help the organization, but I could also get in my cuddle time with Bear.

Then, one day and quite suddenly, the Jesusita Fire broke out and spread throughout the Santa Barbara area. The flames engulfed the shelter that housed Bear. Sadly, Bear was unable to escape and he died in the fire.

I was heartbroken beyond belief. I felt that it was completely my fault that Bear had died. I was, after all, the one who put him there. The universe had sent me Bear to care for because there was no one else that could...and I had failed.

After a few weeks of mourning I decided that I needed to get out there and volunteer at another cat rescue...Bear would have wanted me to do that. I had heard through the grapevine that there was a wonderful cat rescue organization called RESQCATS. Word was that someone could volunteer to be a "socializer." I thought to myself, maybe this would be the healing therapy I needed. I needed to love and appreciate all those kitties that had no one else. Through my care for them, my deep love for Bear would be passed on.

I emailed RESQCATS and got to speak to a lovely woman named Jeffyne Telson, the founder of RESQCATS. I told her my story and I shared that I would like to volunteer. At that

time she had so many socializers that there was not an open spot for me. I was disappointed, but Jeffyne asked me to keep in touch in case anything changed. The following season, I contacted her again...and found my spot.

That was two years ago. I started volunteering at RESQCATS immediately. I was truly grateful to Jeffyne for bringing me into her cat family.

The love, compassion that she and her volunteers have for the cats and all the hard work they do is nothing short of amazing. RESQCATS mission is to rescue, care for and adopt stray and abandoned cats and kittens. That statement resonated so much with me that I knew I wanted to continue volunteering any and every time I could. Halfway through my first season at RESQCATS I decided that I wanted to do more than just socialize. I asked to "up" my duties and to get into the nitty gritty by being one of the morning volunteers who help clean the cattery. The answer was yes, so I went about cleaning enclosures on those early mornings and then spent time with the kittens and all the resident cats, too.



He looked like a baby Polar Bear when we found him.

RESQCATS has made it possible for me to slowly heal. I admit that talking about Bear even today still brings tears to my eyes. I realize that I am not even close to having a healed heart. But, I have come to find that RESQCATS offers me a warm, comforting patch over the hole in my heart that Bear left.

I believe the universe has brought me to Jeffyne and to RESQCATS for a reason. I don't believe that RESQCATS is only a rescue for kitties in need of homes. It is also a haven for people who have suffered loss and/or have the desire to pass on their love and compassion to these lovely creatures who others have cast aside.

And on a personal note, thank you, Jeffyne, from the very bottom of my heart. You touch so many lives, both feline and human. The world truly is a better place because of you and RESQCATS. Thank you for understanding my loss and letting me become a part of your family so that I could heal. You are a gift to all of us as I look forward to another kitty season and working with you.

All my love,
Darcie



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

The Ugly Truth About Living in a Disposable Society!

I don't think it's a secret to anyone that we live in a disposable society. From cellular telephones...to big, ungainly televisions...to sluggish computers and clunky printers...



It seems that everything that's made and everything we buy becomes obsolete and gets trashed at an ever-increasing rate. Practically every item that's being produced becomes outdated, frequently, well before its useful life has expired.

Virtually all of us are guilty of this problem at one time or another. We all love the smell of a new car, the sharper image and neater appearance of a flat-

screen, high definition television and the sound and tone of a new music device. There are few among us who can avoid the temptation to upgrade our cell phone or computer to the new, faster and glitzier model with all the new "bells and whistles."

RESQCATS' recent e-waste fund raising event was a clear affirmation of this modern phenomenon. It was amazing to see the quantity and quality of the electronic items that were being discarded to be stripped for their recyclable materials.

Many of the items we expected to see...old telephones, boxy televisions, AM-FM stereo receivers, record turntables and kitchen appliances. But what surprised us was the number and **QUALITY** of the computers, (including laptops,) printers and other electronic items...several of them still in their original packages!

Many of the items brought to the e-waste event were only one or two years old but considered obsolete, nevertheless. They had been replaced by newer, more efficient and faster models...or maybe by one that was just plain sleeker or prettier.

Regardless of the reason, everything that was being dumped was now obsolete...junk, refuse, trash...in a word...**disposable!**

We've learned that this trend is part and parcel of an affluent society...everything happens faster. Computer processors from 20 years ago occupied a whole room...today, the same processor is the size of a credit card...and in 18 months will probably be as small as a postage stamp and have twice the capacity.

We have become a society hell-bent on having what's the latest and greatest... whether it be cell phones or cars or televisions, or sadly...for many...animals.

Too many dogs and too many cats, (and other large and small animals as well,) are acquired as more of a fashion statement or a status symbol than as the loving, personal or family companion they so want to be. They're acquired because they "look good" or make someone "feel good" rather than because the pet needs a good home and will give unconditional love. They're frequently bought rather than rescued because the purchased animal displayed the "perfect" markings or had the "right papers."

I doubt that this brash statement applies to any of you reading

this Newsletter because the vast majority of you have either adopted a **RESQCATS** kitty or are a supporter of this organization. But, I'm sure that all of us know people...friends, co-workers, relatives...who have purchased a dog or a cat or a puppy or a kitten because it was the "in thing" to do.

Dalmatians were the "in dog" following the movie "101 Dalmatians" ...chihuahua's after the Taco Bell commercial era, tea cup poodles were "in" to emulate Paris Hilton and the Reese Witherspoon character in "Legally Blond," and, of course, the much-maligned, pit bull became popular with some because of their perceived "macho" persona.

Many of these animals were purchased and then discarded when the fad passed...discarded to shelters and rescue organizations that were already over-loaded with too many "disposable" animals.

Unlike our cell phones and televisions and computers...animals should not disposable!

Despite the fact that our nation's shelters kill more than 6 million dogs a year...animals should not disposable!!

Regardless of the 3 million purebred dogs euthanized in shelters every year...animals should not disposable!!

And in spite of the tens of thousands of cats and kittens killed in our state shelters every year... animals should not disposable!!

RESQCATS will adopt out between 150 and 200 cats and kittens this season...almost 2000 in the past 14 years...not a huge number when compared to the overall "disposable pet" problem, but a start.

In order to help solve the pet-overpopulation problem, we all need to start doing our share. We need to spread the word to all our friends, our co-workers and our relatives.

When they are ready for the pet that will provide them and their family that unconditional companion's love:

- **TELL THEM...**don't buy an animal from a backyard breeder, not from a pet store and certainly not on-line.
- **TELL THEM...**rescue your next pet from your favorite rescue organization, your local shelter or from one of the thousands of breed-specific rescue groups.
- And encourage everyone to spay or neuter their pets.

You know, it really is okay to upgrade to that fabulous new cell phone or to replace your old television with that great-looking high definition TV or to trade up to that sleek super-fast computer.

But what is not okay is to give up on our animals. Animals are not inanimate pieces of hardware to be scraped, junked or abandoned when they are no longer wanted or needed or "fit" in you life. Animals are living, loving beings...they deserve more.

So keep reminding everyone... unlike much of our society... animals are not disposable!!



ASK AIKIN

— by Aikin Bones



Q – *I want to adopt a shelter cat but am not sure what would be the best for me – adult or kitten? Can you help me decide?*

A – Good question and I am more than happy to give you some assistance in choosing. First, let me thank you for wanting to adopt a shelter cat over a store purchase or a breeder.

There are many important things for you to consider related to adopting a cat before you decide between an adult and a kitten.

CAT LIFE—The first thing you need to think about is the long-term life you will be sharing with your cat. A pet cat can live upwards of 17+ years and that is a big commitment. Are you prepared to make such a commitment? If so, I promise it is well worth it!

MALE vs FEMALE—Now, another thing to consider is whether you prefer a male or a female cat. Males tend to stay active and frisky well into adulthood while many females settle a bit more into a nice quiet companion. Don't misunderstand – this does not apply to all cats based on the male/female question – it is simply through observations and stories from other cat owners that I have come to this conclusion.

CAT FUR—Something else to think about is whether you want a long-haired or short-haired cat? Long-haired cats need to be brushed daily as their fur will tend to mat and become uncomfortable for them. Short-haired cats do not need daily brushing (although many do welcome it!).

PERSONALITY—Consider this, do you want a cuddly lap cat or is a feisty and playful one right for you? Do you prefer a quiet kitty or one who will “talk” to you all the time? These kinds of questions are so much more important than deciding ahead of time that you want a specific color or that the kitty has to be a certain age. Be open to all of your options. They all need homes.

It is important to remember that the way a kitten acts may not be the way it will act when it reaches adulthood. It is impossible to predict personalities of kittens. Some kittens are very loving, playful, shy or independent but that may not be their true personality when they grow up. It's just like people growing up – they change and you must be willing to allow them this change and respect that as well as love them for it. It is just like your parents did for you.

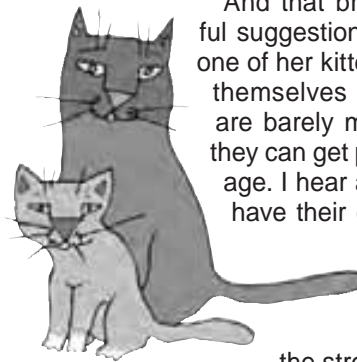
AFFORDABILITY—And here is a question that is of utmost importance...can you afford to take care of this cat? Your commitment to an animal is a lifetime one. Cats are not just about buying food and litter and fun toys and condos. Cats need yearly health exams and vaccinations. And, at some point in their lifetime, additional medical care will be necessary. It is just like

people, as they get older, things start to happen in the body and professional veterinary care be required. Are you in a financial position to provide veterinary care if your kitty gets sick? Think long and hard about the answer to that question.

YOUR OWN CHOICE—When you are preparing to adopt it is so important to not let your friends influence you during the adoption process. Remember, this will be your pet and your responsibility, not theirs. Which cat best fits their lifestyle and preference may not match yours. So make your own choice and only do so after spending quality time with a few different cats/kittens.

ADULT or KITTEN—Last, but not least – do you want to adopt an adult cat or kitten??? Most people think they want kittens, but is that really the right fit for you? They think they can mold the kitten's personality into what they want. In reality, that is just not the case.

Think about this! Kittens require a great deal of attention and if you are away from home a lot, it will be lonely for him or her. And the same can go for an adult cat. If you are away from home for most of the day, it might be better to consider adopting two cats/kittens so that they keep each other company during those long, quiet hours.



And that brings me to a paws-itively wonderful suggestion: Why not adopt a mother cat and one of her kittens! Mother cats were kittens once themselves and many times, the mother cats are barely more than kittens themselves since they can get pregnant as early as 7–10 months of age. I hear about this all the time: owners don't have their cats spayed and allow them to run around outside. Next thing you know, the people have a litter of kittens that they cannot find homes for so the kittens end up on the street or in a shelter.

If you are still thinking about adopting kittens, I will remind you again, they are extremely playful and can get into everything. I know, I was one once! If you decide you don't want to deal with all of that activity, consider adopting a young adult who has passed the kitten stage but is still young enough to be a playful friend. And, sadly, there are the older cats who get overlooked all of the time. They need homes just as much as the kittens do. The older cats are often so grateful for being adopted that they seem to be even more loving. They are capable of giving more than you could have ever imagined. An adult cat can give you as much happiness and add so much to your life just as well as a kitten can.

I hope my answer was helpful to you in your quest for finding the purr-fect cat or kitten or to adopt. It is crucial to be informed about all the details before making such an important and life altering decision. Pets are lifetime companions and making the right choice will make not only your life wonderful, but you can feel good because you are saving a life too.

Most people do not realize this, but, felines are really the ones that choose their person...it is really not the other way around! When you are chosen by a feline it is their lifetime commitment to you, you owe it to them to do the same!

Again, thank you for choosing to adopt a shelter pet over buying one – you won't regret it! Best of luck to you.

Always, *Aikin “Bones” Aguirre*





Promise & Journey are watching for the purrfect person to walk in the door!



One of the 4 kittens born March 19, 2011



Luna was adopted with her son *Benny* by **Jaime Heer** in 2010



Jag & Paisley...Jag adopted by **Bri Allen** in 2009



Benny & Luna adopted by Jaime Heer



Benny was adopted with his mom, *Luna* by **Jaime Heer** in 2010



RESQCATS • FAMILY ALBUM

Welcome New Family Members & Some Familiar Faces



Daphne was adopted by **Nancy & Jesus Aguirre**



Maya was adopted in 2009 by **Jesus & Nancy Aguirre**



Nancy & Cecilia, adopted in 2009 by **Nancy Kaller**



Riley from RQC & his buddy *Oscar* from ASAP now live together with **Nell Foster**



Savannah was adopted by **Bri Allen** in 2009



Stash was adopted by **Sophia Benevides** in 2010

Thank you for...
"Just Checking In"

By Nancy L. Aguirre

With the whirlwind kitten season we had last year, and it also being my first full season at RESQCATS, there wasn't enough time to let everything that happened sink in until after all of the adoptions were completed and things calmed down to a nice quiet purr! But once things did settle down, my mind began remembering and reminiscing over all of those adoptions – all 193 of them – our record year!

We work hard placing adoptable cats and kittens with the people and families best-suited for each other. We have a thorough process with a strict list of "must-have" and "must-do" that we follow before we adopt out any of our kitties from our sanctuary. And with all of that care and preparation, we really do fall in love with each and every one of those special felines that pass through our doors during their temporary stay with us. Sure, we remember certain ones more than others – depending on their story and purr-sonality, but they are all a purr-manent part of our family and always will be.

That is where this article brings me...letting all of you past adopters know how much it means to us when you keep in touch and fill us in on how your new family is coming along. And, of course, sending us your feline family photos and loving stories!

For example, one chilly day before Christmas, Jeffyne and I got a very pleasant surprise visit from Crystal, who, along with her boyfriend Isaac, adopted "Cy" and "Windy" in July 2010. Windy was given the new name of "Bella" while "Cy", which was short for "Cyclone", kept his name as it was most appropriate for this little force of nature. Crystal brought in the now six-month-old siblings, dressed in their finest Christmas sweaters adorned with bells. Cy and Bella ever so bravely and calmly roamed the countertops checking out the other cats and ingesting as many new smells as they could. Maybe they recognized RESQCATS! Truth be told, it was really Cy who was doing the roaming and checking out. Bella was most content allowing her mommy, Jeffyne and I to ogle over her beauty and serene nature.

We were filled in on their happy home life and how much joy Cy and Bella have brought to their new parents, how life could not be imagined without them in it, as well as, boasting over which cat wants to sit on whose lap the most – just like any proud and, I might say, bragging parent will do. I took an updated photo of Crystal with Jeffyne and the two cats and it really did seem that all four photographed were actually smiling – a happy family.

We also get "check-ins" from Nell Foster who took "Riley" home along with a cat from ASAP. Riley was abandoned to fend for himself by his family when they moved and found nearly starved to death, sitting next to his empty food bowl...hungry, confused and very, very heartbroken. When he arrived at RESQCATS, he was shy and withdrawn and only opened up to Kay Hewitt, a long-time dedicated volunteer who makes it her sole purpose to come in and "love" the kitties. Kay brought Riley out of his shell and reminded him of what happiness feels like. Then Nell came in, bonded with him, and gave him a home as well as a brother from another shelter!



Jeffyne with Cy & Crystal with Bella—checking in.

We proudly hear about our miracle babies: the blind kittens, "Blossom" and "Bloom." They were found living under a building in Los Angeles by Kevin. Originally, there were six kittens in that litter, but three had already died when Kevin discovered them. The remaining three had very bad eye infections. One of the kittens, "Petal," was in much better condition and her eye infection was cured with medication, but the other two girls suffered permanent eye damage. I asked myself, "Who on Earth was going to adopt blind kittens when there were so many perfect kitties out there?" It did not matter to most people that they were adorable and played

just as happily and skillfully as any cat with perfect vision. Then, along came Tricia Krout and her husband Mike. As it turns out, Tricia and Mike needed these kittens just as badly as the kittens needed them. Mike had cancer. Blossom immediately fell in love with her new Papa and Bloom attached herself to Mom. They had three precious months together before the cancer took Mike from his family. Now Tricia needs her darling little girls all the more during this most difficult time. They are all forever in our prayers.

We also receive regular updates on "TLC" and "Simon." Simon (his new name is "Mocha"), an over 10-year-old gentleman cat who was discarded by his family when they no longer wanted a three-legged cat. He found a home with Nancy George who already had a 3-legged cat at home! TLC was born without a kneecap on one of her back legs and therefore has limited use of it but she found her purr-fect owner with Susanne Peterson, who lost one of her legs when she hit by a drunk driver.

Mother and son – "KC" and "Blaze" (their new names are "Luna" & "Benny") keep in touch, too, along with their new mom and dad, Jaime Heer and Jestin. And we hear updates from Katy Campbell about "Merryweather" (her new name is "Spud"). Marion Jean who adopted "Zuki" seven years ago makes a donation and gives us updates every year on the Zuki's birthday. Karen Wilson has sent a donation and note about Willy every single year since he was adopted...13 years ago!

There are many others who also keep in touch, but to list them all would take up more newsletter space than Jeffyne will allow me to have – you all know who you are and we are sending you a thank you prayer.

Of course, with some of us volunteers also being adopters, we are always bringing in pictures of our cats and sharing them with anybody who looks like they have a minute to spare. I even carry small photo albums for each of my cats – all 4 of them! So if you are brave enough to ask me about my cats, be ready to sit down and look through at least 100 pictures!

E-mails, cards, letters, pictures, etc. Anything and everything that you are willing to show us and share with us about your cats mean so much because we consider them, and you, part of our family. When you send pictures and stories, it is like a family reunion to us. And it also reminds us that we have done our job in the best way that we can by creating and sometimes completing fur-ever families.

So, now you can see why it really does mean so very, very much to us when we receive an e-mail or letter including pictures and it begins with "just checking in..."





Thank You For Staying In Touch!

Jeffyne,

I wanted to let you know how well and happy **Bella** is. She has gotten so much bigger since we brought her home. I feel like she was put on this Earth just for us because she is the most lovable cat. She follows me wherever I go unless, of course, she and "Billy" are napping.



Bella & Billy

Thank you again for our **Bella**,

Christina and Charles King

.....

Hi there!

I hope all is finding you and the Kids/kitties well!
 I just wanted to let you know how your little **Merry Weather** was doing! We've changed her name to **Spud**, which has always been our nickname for little buddies we come across!
 She took to the house right away, getting frustrated with being penned up in rooms for more than a day! It took us less than three days to have her cruising around the house with that kitten fascination!

We've become great friends and I find myself spending most days with a playmate that never seems to tire, until you get that exhausted little one curled up on your chest for a long cat nap!

I included a few pictures of her in chronological order. The first one was her first day at home, followed by a month later, and the last one was last week, and was her "helping" me mend a pair of pants. She thinks she's quite a seamstress (she really is great at stealing my spools of thread though!)



Spud

I can't thank you enough for helping me find my new little buddy! It's amazing to see how much she's grown over the past two months! We've actually started to wonder if there's a chance she may have some Bengal in her. Probably not, but she is getting so long, and her tail is so long, she doesn't seem to know what to do with it! Ill have to send more pictures soon!
 Much love from **Spud** and me!

Katy Campbell

.....

Jeffyne,

Congrats to you and your crew in finding so many cats homes in 2010, especially in these times.

My cats, **Ben** and **Chloe**, are nearly three now—and the light of my life and that of my older tabby (an ASAP rescue) who now has her own fan club! I call her "**Queenie**" now!

Heaps of purred blessings to you and all your family and helpers at RESQCATS.

Love,

Diane Dunhill

.....

Dear Jeffyne and Mitch,

This is a thank you to both of you for all the wonderful things you do all year long for so many little animals and people, too. Paula and I are unable to be there on a day to day basis but our thoughts and efforts are with you through the give-away care packages and things we make for the cats and bring to you. We hope the things we make and give to you make life a little easier at RESQCATS!

Love,

The "Polar Bear Angels" Paula and Melodie Haines

(Paula and Melodie spend all year making hand-made toys for the kitties, give-away packages for special kitties and the people who adopt them and pillows and blankets for the comfort of the kitties while they are here at RESQCATS!)

.....

Hi Jeffyne -

We wanted to wish you, your wonderful volunteers and all the kitties a very Happy Holiday!

Riley is thriving and has quite the personality ... only to develop into more of a character as he's still a youngster!

He and **Oscar** play like crazy so as fate would have it ... they're quite a pair.

Have a wonderful New Year!!!

Best,

Nell Foster

.....



Riley

Dear Jeffyne,

We hope you have an adoption-filled 2011!

You and all your volunteers are truly angels.

Our "**Raven**" and "**Haiku**"(adopted in 2008) are happy and healthy and tell me thank you everyday!

Fondly,

Carol, Larry, "Haiku," "Raven" and "Darby"

.....

Dear Jeffyne and RESQCATS volunteers,

Thank you so much for being so caring and compassionate and for making the world a better place for so many cats and kittens. We feel so fortunate to have two wonderful kitties that received the love and care that you provide at RESQCATS.

“**Benny**” and “**Luna**” (aka **KC and Blaze**) continue to blossom and thrive in our home. Benny is still a mama’s boy. He cracks us up with the way he jumps for his toys and stretches out on the floor waiting to be petted when we get home. Luna (also nicknamed Mama) is blossoming more and more everyday and is starting to sleep at the foot of our bed with us.



Benny & Luna

We wake up to them dashing through the apartment and across our bed as they play early in the morning. They love their kitty hotel and take turns (or Benny kicks Mama off) the top perch.

They bring us so much joy and none of this would have been possible without your efforts. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and want you to know that we think of you all and the special felines in your care often.

xoxo,

Jaime Heer, Jestin, Benny and Luna

.....

Hi Jeffyne,

I’ve been meaning to reach you for some time now just to say that the kittens formerly known as **MoonPie** and **Cadbury** (now **Eddie** and **Ollie**) are such a great joy to us and seem to be quite happy here in their new home. They get lots and lots of attention and have found a few favorite sleeping spots around the house (all with great outside views!). Also, I want you to know that I really enjoyed finding RESQCATS and meeting you.

It was a bright spot during a rough time. All the best to you. Sincerely,

Jill & family

.....

Dec 3, 2010

Hi Jeffyne,

Thanks for the newsletter.

“**Willy**” is now 16 and has been diabetic for a year...but he looks and acts much younger! He is still soft as velvet and loves to play and eat.

I think of you every year at this time and how lucky I was to find you and Willy (13 years ago).

Karen Wilson

.....

Hi Jeffyne,

The girls are doing great, they are getting so big! I took them to see Dr. Kellye at St. Francis and she couldn’t believe the progress with their eyes.

It seems as if **Ash** and **Amber**, the other two kitties I adopted from RESQCATS, have finally come to terms with the

fact **Blossom** and **Bloom** are here to stay. Once in a while there is still a little hissing, but not too much.

The girls are really funny and have such unique personalities. Bloom has really opened up and she is into everything. As would be expected, Blossom has taken a little more time to get her bearings; however she is a fireball of her own. She is very touchy and likes to be held.



Bloom & Blossom

They have brought me much pleasure and love and I’ve decided to keep both of their names.

Thank you so much for rescuing them, they have found a perfect place to stay.

Love, **Tricia**

PS – Yes, they still LOVE the “chase the dust bunnies while sweeping” game.



RESQCATS Gets a New Look!

Get out the paint! That is exactly what RESQCATS volunteer, Janet Dewey, did!

The entire inside of the cattery has been painted in a pastel spectrum of rainbow colors! Just imagine, every wooden wall now boasts... seafoam blues, pastel lavenders and happy yellows in the softest of hues! It is a whole new look that has truly brightened the whole place and given it a beautiful new look!

The cattery floor is...what can I say...FUN! Individually painted paw prints lead you on a tour from the time you enter the cattery! Follow them and you will meander through the entry to all the cats’ favorite resting places, to the resident cats’ private apartments and to each enclosure where kitties are waiting to find perfect homes.

Janet has a beautiful eye for color and after proving herself in 2010 by redesigning and painting our Rainbow Room (the name we gave our isolation area), she received the go ahead to give RESQCATS a new look! It has taken hours and hours of planning and physical labor to get the cattery ready for the 2011 season...but Janet has done it...with flying colors I might add.

Janet, your dedication to this project over the winter months is beyond simple words like “thank you.” Your commitment as a volunteer is quiet, humble and obviously from your heart. What you do not realize is that you inspire and teach all of us that volunteers are the heart and soul of any organization. Thank you for all that you give.

I would also like to thank some of your helpers! Joyce Carasa was instrumental in helping choose some of the hues of paint. And thanks to some of your recruited laborers who assisted with some of the painting: Erika Sacks, Joyce Carasa, Joe Sacks and Nancy Aguirre.

Meet Our New Residents!

Getting new residents in our cattery is always an interesting story. There is no coincidence in how life works...I just think you have to keep your eyes open to be able to see its gifts and lessons.



Every year there are several kitties that come through RESQCATS that have some special issues and require special attention from a medical standpoint. We are fortunate in that we can meet all those needs and once they are healthy we find homes for them.

However, when kitties arrive that are terrified of human beings...there lies a different kind of issue. It is not surprising that potential adopters pass these kittens by time after time and choose to take home much more social kittens.

Sadly, I watch these frightened souls sit in their enclosures for weeks while the volunteers work desperately to socialize them to a point where somebody...anybody...will give them a home and a chance. They do blossom over time with love, tender attention and frequent handling, however, then their continued growth and size then becomes an issue for people. Most potential adopters have a strong tendency to want the smallest kitten and sometimes I think that is all they are looking for! Believe me, it is frustrating to watch this kind of human behavior for all of us in rescue!

Such was the story of a 10-week-old kitten that arrived with his three brothers in June 2010. During the following weeks, his three brothers were adopted despite being a bit shy. However, this particular one was still terrified of all of us. He had witnessed his mom being hit by a car and watched her die (so the story goes from a sweet young lady that rescued the litter and asked RESQCATS for help). His reluctance to being approached made me realize we had a lot of work ahead to help him to trust us. I still wonder if watching his mom lose her life so tragically was part of his fear.



Spunky

Over the following months, this little orange tabby boy slowly began to feel more comfortable with all the volunteers, thanks to all their gentle attention.

But we could all tell he was so lonely after his siblings had gone to their new homes. We decided to put smaller kittens in with him for company and playtime and we hoped it might even help him socially. In the back of my mind I still thought it was possible for someone to come along and adopt him with one of his new buddies. But numerous buddies came and went just as his brothers had...all except for one.

This boy was younger and could have been adopted easily I thought...he was friendly, social and a real love. But potential

adopters passed him up because he was black and for some reasons I will never understand, many people do not want black cats...another frustration with the human race when you are in rescue!

But back to the point, the two boys had become very close... "like peas on a pod." No one felt like the little black one should be adopted while leaving the other behind. They slept wrapped around each others bodies...like spooning...in the same basket. They ate together, played together...they were inseparable.

I saw it coming then...but ignored it and kept trying to find a home for them together.



Rain-Beau

By October, I had to face the fact that the shy orange boy was not going to go home with anyone...and I did not have the heart to even consider separating him from his new surrogate little brother.

There is no coincidence in how life works...I just think you have to keep your eyes open to be able to see its gifts and lessons. The orange tabby was eight months old now and his looks reminded me of my

kitty, "Seacliff" with his bright orange stripes and big gold eyes. Seacliff was almost 14 years old when he went to the "Rainbow Bridge" in May 2010. So, I named this new resident, "Rain-Beau."

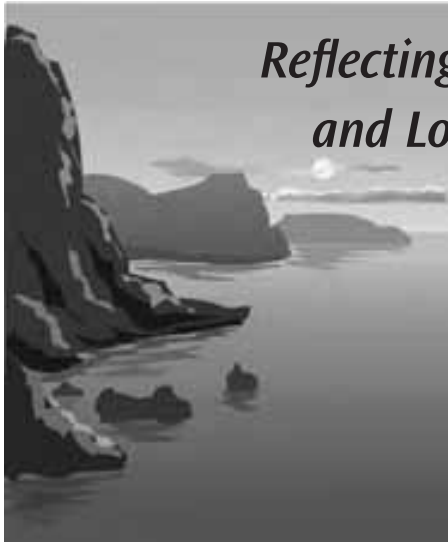
His little black buddy was about five months old and I call him "Spunky." And believe me, his name fits him in all his romping and playfulness.

The cattery is wonderfully busy with the addition of these two! With an aging resident population it is a kick to see so much chasing, climbing, and just sheer kitten entertainment. They make me smile and laugh and my heart is full of light when I watch them. I am so glad they stayed at RESQCATS (I suspect it was planned by them from the first moment they met!) "Sampson" another resident, is only two years old so he is happy to have some young ones to join him in his playful antics.

Rain-Beau continues to blossom...he now lets us all pet him although he is still shy. His confidence is not only due to the continual love bestowed on him by all the volunteers but by having a buddy like Spunky...they are best friends. We should all be so lucky as to have a best friend like that.



*So join me in welcoming our two new residents!
Rain-Beau and Spunky!*



Reflecting Back... and Looking Forward

February 6, 2011

As many of you know, I "disappear" in the winter months to the Oregon coast where I "recover" from the world of rescue.

I love my time in Oregon. I go in the winter for sev-

eral reasons. First, it is not kitten season...that usually begins every Spring. It is a time for me to wake up to days without schedules and all the responsibilities that RESQCATS demands of me. It is my "down" time and each day is precious in all it's gifts to me. And I love the drama of the ocean in the winter months! The huge pounding waves sound like a boom box when they hit the volcanic rocks in front of my house. The winter storms bring heavy rain and strong winds... then the storms show all their glory with beautiful displays of rainbows...everywhere!

Some rainbows dance in the sea spray above the waves and remind me of two rescued sister collies that seemed to dance across our backyard like synchronized swimmers. Joy and Harmony were separated as puppies from a terrible hoarding situation. We adopted Harmony when she was only a year old. Her sister had not been adopted a year later so we decided to add her to our collie family as well. By that time the "sistas" as they came to be known were two years old and had never spent any time together since they resided in their mother's womb! We brought Joy home to meet Harmony and witnessing their reunion was unlike anything I have ever seen. Their bond with each other was instant. Joy and Harmony ate together, played together, slept together and ran in perfect harmony together. I liked to say that they "danced" across the backyard. Sadly, Joy died suddenly at just 3-1/2 years old followed only a year later by Harmony. It took a long time for the light in my heart to return after such pain and loss. I am not sure full recovery will ever come to my soul. In Oregon, I am reminded of Joy and Harmony when I see the rainbows "dancing on the waves" as they roll in through the glistening sun and sea spray. I feel their presence on those days especially. It is as if they are letting me know that all is okay on the Rainbow Bridge!

Often, the glorious display of rainbows are too many to count.... there are rainbows that stretch across the vast sky and disappear into the ocean. They are for Greyco and Seacliff and Patches and Zorro and Zultan and Jake and way too many others that have passed. I imagine them as a beautiful way for Heaven and my animals to reveal themselves to me in spectacular rays of color across the ocean, sky and beyond. Each rainbow is unique and is a symbol of all those that have left me all too soon. To me, every rainbow is a miracle...a reminder of the past... and perhaps a vision into of the future and of a reunion with my animals one day.

When I am here, I take long walks along the ocean front...the luxury of a long walk by myself to think and reflect and imagine is not a luxury that I have in the midst of kitten season. My treadmill at 5:30 in the morning has to suffice during kitten season.

I think about a lot of things on those journeys along the ocean. Very often my thoughts are of RESQCATS and all the kitties that have come and gone in the past year. I reflect back on those "special" ones whose stories and spirits buried themselves in my heart. There are some that I will just always remember. I think back and wonder what the coming year will bring:

- Will there be another "Shadonna?" ...she was a sweet pregnant cat sitting in a small cage at an area shelter waiting to be euthanized. She gave birth to eight kittens four weeks after I brought her to RESQCATS! Regardless, it would be impossible to ever fill her paws ...she had more toes on her feet than I could count!
- Will I have the good fortune to again of find homes for the special needs kitties or did I just get lucky when a volunteer adopted "Raja" who was feline leukemia positive?
- Will an angel step forward to adopt another kitty like "Mocha," a poor three-legged, eleven year old, toothless feline that had been put outside by his owners to fend for himself.
- Is it possible that another special human being will stand in front of me and choose a kitten that has only three legs that function and a fourth that is severely deformed and say... "I want "TLC" (the name I gave this three legged cat) because she relates to TLC in the loss of her own leg?
- Will cats like "Riley" who are abandoned and left to starve to death by uncaring people when they move catch someone's eye, be rescued and brought to RESQCATS in time to be saved from a slow death on the streets?
- Will there be miracle workers who rescue kittens that have been abandoned by their mother, like "Blossom" and "Bloom," and then care so much for them that they refuse to have them euthanized just because they are blind?

Then my feelings transcend into anxiousness and I begin to question myself:

- Can I focus on the ones I do save and not get lost in all the guilt of the ones I cannot?
- Can I handle the schedule and responsibilities and hours another year?
- Do I have the physical and emotional strength to continue?
- Will there be more loss?
- How will I find homes for them all?
- And miracles...will there be any of those or have I used up my allocation?

As I round the last corner of my walk and move towards home...I see the vastness and glory of the ocean, I feel the cool breeze and soft mist upon my face, I am taken aback by the drama of the unknown in nature and feel almost breathless. Then, I feel peace and a oneness with the universe and it comes to me:

It is only because I have experienced the past and opened my heart to reflect upon it that I will also have the power to meet the challenges of the future.

Past rainbows reveal the potential for future ones, too. Rainbows are rays of hope.

So yes, there will be more special kitties like Shadonna and Blossom and Bloom that will capture my heart, there will be more loss, there will be angels who will appear and give homes to the special needs kitties, there will be people who feel as I do and rescue helpless cats and kittens and there will be many more miracles...and I will have the power to greet everyone of them with open eyes and arms.

Reflecting on the past...is sometimes the only way to look forward.

In Memory, Honor & Celebration of some very special humans, canines and of course, felines!



In Memory of my tiny angel "Tango"

I fostered **Daphne** because she had emotional and anger issues and would not let anybody touch her. Anybody but me. I wanted to keep her but Daddy said "Absolutely no more cats!" So, back she went to RESQCATS to try to find her fur-ever family.

Then you got sick and I fostered you. I knew that you would not live very long – I felt it so deeply in my heart – and I had to give you a home and a family who would love you before you died.

After much begging with your Daddy and also with Jeffyne – I was allowed to adopt you.

You lived with us for two weeks before you died, but in that short time you lived an entire life and gave us more love, joy, laughter and happiness than we have ever known.

You died on the operating table so I find comfort in knowing that you left us peacefully. I also know that you left us for a reason. Two days later, Daphne came home with us. I know that your sole purpose for living and for dying was to allow an unadoptable cat find the family who would love her with all of the love and patience needed until she felt safe enough to trust and love them back.

And she does. Daphne is now a very happy and loving little girl. At night when I sit in bed reading and she is lying contentedly on my lap, she will suddenly stare very intensely on a spot over my shoulder. Then she will look at me and close her eyes. She is watching you, my little peanut – my darling Tango – because you always sat upon my shoulder.

I know you are forever near me and telling Daphne that it is okay to trust me. I also know that you died for her. You died so she could come back to us and live in love. And while my heart will never heal at losing you, I have great joy in seeing Daphne learn to trust and love us more and more every day. And I have you to thank for it.

And I do thank you for everything you gave us, everything you taught us, and for the honor of knowing that you are now my Angel – and Daphne's too. An angel forever sitting on my shoulder. And I am forever your Mommy.

Nancy Aguirre

In honor of Julie Kaplan!

Love,

Becki and Jay Eaton

To honor Janice and Bob Contons!

Love,

June Stoner

In honor of my mom! June Stoner!

Love,

Janice Contons

In honor of Sue Sadler!

Your friend,

Wendy Cole



Tango

On behalf of Lisa Given and Brenda Lee and the kitties they adopted from RESQCATS—"Pinot" and "Sydney."

Your friend,

Dodi Gauthier

In honor of Nancy Aguirre!

Sonja Hansen

In honor of my brother & his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Derby. . . I chose to give to local charities for Christmas and I chose RESQCATS because they love cats!

Mary Derby

In honor of Liz Benishin and "Christopher the Cat" . . . my Christmas gift to them is a donation to RESQCATS!

Julie Kaplan

In honor of Julie Kaplan. . . RESQCATS is her favorite charity and this is for her for Christmas.

Liz Benishin

In loving memory of "A.J.," "Abby" and "Belle" . . .

You are always with me.

Love,

Donna Abboud

In sweet memory of "Flossie" who left this Earth way too soon and for Sheryl and Ed Fierro.

Jean Parry

In memory of "Audrey" and for Vikki Taylor. . . Audrey is an angel in Heaven now just as she was on Earth.

Love,

Jeffyne

In honor of my friend, Jeffyne.

Love you,

Erika Sacks

For the memories of my beloved pets.

Betty Oberacker

In memory of "Punk and Pumphel."

Patty Brennan

In memory of "Hobie" . . . and to honor his amazing human mom and dad, Mel and Hal Kyle.

Sending them peace, love and purrs,

Julie Kaplan

In memory of my mother, Julene Farmar, who taught me until the end the love and compassion for animals. I request this donation in her name be designated to the Polar Bear Fund for those with special needs.

Love,

Patty Farmar Philips

To honor the best Mom and Dad in the world,
Becki and Jay Eaton!

Love,
Julie Kaplan

In memory of "Patience" and his wonderful human guardians,
Denny and Bonnie Epperson.

Love,
Nancy Foley

In loving memory of "Baby" 1998-2010
Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell

In memory of "Jake." He was really a good guy and **Alex** and I will miss him.

Alex and Joyce Carasa

Happy Birthday and in honor of **Evelyn Kert.**
Jamell O'Toole

In honor of my friends, **Julie Kaplan and Rebecca Branscome. . .**"who have enriched my life so much, I can't imagine life without them!"

With love,
Mel Kyle

In loving memory of "Tux" and for **Mel Kyle. . .**thank you for giving this stray cat the best life he could have ever asked for. He will meet you on the Rainbow Bridge one day, curl up in your lap and share his gratefulness with you with a big purr!

Love,
Julie, Rebecca, and Jeffyne

In memory of "Jake" . . .not an easy one to lose so suddenly. Thank you for six years of gentleness and sweet purrs you gave to all of us as a RESQCATS resident. You have a special place in my heart since I adopted you on what would have been my father's 74th birthday. . .sad for me to think of his death but you made September 13, 2004 be a day of celebrating my dad's life. And to think that you died on what would have been my parents' 58th anniversary. . .you certainly left a beautiful message with me and you have a very special place in my heart for always.

Love, light and rainbows,
Jeffyne

For **Tricia Krout. . .** she and her husband, Mike, adopted "Blossom" and "Bloom," two semi-blind kittens from RESQCATS in December 2010. Mike passed away on February 12, 2011 with Blossom laying at his side. May Blossom, Bloom and your two other kitties from RESQCATS, "Amber" and "Ash" give you the comfort you need and the unconditional love that humans cannot. We send you light, love, hope, healing, blessings and rainbows everyday on this journey.

All of us at RESQCATS

For "Miejek"---every rainbow is you.

Love,
Jeffyne



Jake



RESQCATS

Works to Help the Environment

Recently I was contacted by Kerry and Leah Cox and asked to participate in an E-Waste Event on January 8, 2010. Kerry and Leah have a love for cats and have been involved with rescue over the years. They offered to share the proceeds of any money

that was raised at the event! I could not resist the idea of tying RESQCATS and the environment together.

It was an opportunity for the public to turn in all those old computers, cell phones, television sets and electronics. The benefits were twofold—helping the environment and saving the lives of stray and abandoned cats and kittens at RESQCATS!

We live in what has become a "throw-away" society. Every few months technology comes up with some new gadget that makes the one we own "just not good enough" in our materialistic human minds. So, we run out to get the newest "thing" because we want "instant gratification now!" Ever ask yourself what our landfills would look like if we continued to throw all that stuff away?!

The E-waste event took some planning. We ran ads, sent e-mails, posted it in our December newsletter, and put up flyers on local bulletin boards. The event was held at Whole Foods and they were kind enough to pass out information on the event with every grocery purchase. Several volunteers scanned the streets and businesses rounding up any and every electronic device they could find and literally saving it from ended up in the city dump. Storing it somewhere until event day was an event itself. . .it all ended up in my garage!

Finally, the day of the event arrived. It was six straight hours of non-stop activity with cars driving through to donate old electronic stuff. I could not believe how many people in the community stepped forward to help make a difference. As the last truck was loaded we knew that it had been a successful day.

I want to thank all of you for coming out and helping to make a difference for the environment and for RESQCATS.

Many people who stopped by had actually adopted kitties from us in the past. . .I am still savoring all the conversations about updates on their cats! And I want to thank each of you for making that special effort to come by, donate and share your stories.

Thank you to the RESQCATS volunteers who participated. Nancy Aguirre spent the day logging in items. Her husband, Jesus, located and delivered items all day long. Jim Hurnblad spent over a week gathering televisions that were literally left on the street after Christmas. . .I guess lots of people got new ones. He packed 26 televisions into the back of his truck and delivered them! And Denny Epperson was the backbone and muscle. . .lifting, hauling, separating and loading items.

Kerry and Leah Cox were great to work with. I wish to extend a very special thank you to them for their consideration and generosity. . .they decided to donate their percentage of the proceeds to RESQCATS! They made it an even more successful day for RESQCATS!

Thank you Santa Barbara. . .for making a BIG difference!

♥ ResQCats' "Very Special" ♥ Thank You!



Thank you... so much, **Cindy and Mark Reinhardt**, for your support and for changing the lives of so many stray and abandoned cats and kittens over the years. The number of kitty lives you have touched cannot be counted...and they in turn make the people who adopt them happy...it is "paying it forward" and the world would be a better place if more people were like you. You are "Angels on Earth."

A heartfelt *Thank you...* to **Lynne and Buddy Borderre** for all your support over many years and especially for your generous donation to the Polar Bear Fund. You have made a difference for so many of the RESQCATS kitties over the years and touched many human lives, too. *Thank you, Thank you...* from the bottom of my heart.

A very special *Thank you...* to **Carol Giamoni Copelan** for your generosity and donation in memory of "Shiva" and "Shiva's Center for the Human-Animal Bond." You have no idea how honored RESQCATS is to receive such a special gift. I feel a kindred spirit in you and share your compassion for all animals.

Thank you... to the "Polar Bear Angels," **Paula and Melodie Haines** for all the wonderful toys you make for the kitties, the pillows you sew so they will have soft places to sleep and for the give-away packages you create to go home with some of those special kitties and the people who adopt them. You are "behind the scenes" Angels who work all year to make a difference. You are both amazing and thank you hardly seems enough for all your hours of work and dedication.

A very special *Thank you...* to **Pamela Vincent** for your generosity, compassion and understanding. Your gift to RESQCATS is so appreciated...and our thank you is heartfelt. You are one awesome lady!

Max and Lori Rad... *Thank you...* for your support and for making a huge difference here at RESQCATS. You will touch the lives of many of the kitties, and thus, the lives of the humans who adopt them.

My heart is filled with gratitude and joy for the generosity and constant support of **Donald and Christine Anderson**. I am honored to have your support. Your donations have made such a difference for so many over the years....*Thank you...* hardly seems enough for all you do.

Thank you... to my friends and long time volunteers and supporters, **Denny and Bonnie Epperson** for your unending support. You have helped hundreds of cats and kittens over many years with all that you do and your generous support. You give light, love, hope, blessings and make miracles happen at RESQCATS!

A heartfelt *Thank you...* to **John and Judy O'Steen** for all the kitty lives you have touched with your generous support...and through those kitties, you touch the lives of the humans who adopt them...what a gift you are!

What would I do without **Nancy Aguirre**! Thank you so much for your wonderful additions to the newsletter...I receive so many comments about your articles. People share with me how much they enjoy reading them. And you take such a load off of me by contributing your precious time to write for the newsletter...it gives me more time to be where I am needed the most...taking care of the cats! And thank you for all the things you took care of to get ready for our **14th kitty season!**

A very humble and special *Thank you...* to **Fred Dawn and Donna Mancuso** who have been there since the conception of RESQCATS 14 years ago. Your donations every year have given the gift of life to so many stray and abandoned cats and kittens. Congratulations on falling into the category of "ResQCats Supporters for the Longest Time!" How do I ever show my gratitude and appreciation for always...always being there to help.

Thank you... again, **Janet Dewey**, for giving RESQCATS a uplifting new look with all the painting you did over the winter break. It is beyond beautiful!

Thank you... **Robert and Diana...** for everything!

Thank you... **Linda Higbee**, for taking care of everything at RESQCATS and all of my animals when I go away for a break from rescue in the winter months. When I leave and close that gate...I have not a worry in the world because I know you are there! You inspire me to be a better person with your positive attitude and outlook on the world. And most importantly, you are my treasured friend.

A special *Thank you...* goes to all the volunteers...you are the core of RESQCATS...giving precious time to help with all the jobs that need to be done. I worship each and everyone of you for your commitment and dedication.

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to **Tricia Krout** and her late husband, **Mike**. They adopted "Blossom" and "Bloom"... two semi-blind sister kittens in December 2010. Blossom and Bloom were rescued three times, first by the young gentlemen who found them and cared for them... secondly by RESQCATS when he brought them to us because no other organizations would take them... and lastly by **Tricia and Mike** when they adopted them. And now, Blossom and Bloom will help rescue Tricia as she journeys through her own loss.

"You are Angels on Earth"

Visit our beautiful ResQCats website
www.RESQCATS.org

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

Nathaniel & Laura Courtens
are the designers.

Thank you so much for doing this.





Corner

Chloe's

Hello once again to all of my fabulous fans out there in the cat-loving world! I have been spending many of my waking hours (which really aren't that many to be truthful) searching through books and

the internet (with very little help from my Mommy) to find all the best kitty related bits and pieces of trivia to further educate you on the feline species.

I hope that you will find this new article just as purr-fect as you did the last one. Happy reading my friends!

Curious Cat Related Facts

- ☉ In 1973, then-Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, signed into law prison penalties for kicking or injuring another person's cat. (This should go for any and all animals!)
- ☉ On the flip-side, President Dwight D. Eisenhower forbade cats in the White House and actually instructed his staff to shoot them on sight. He was well known for hating cats. (This is very disturbing – he didn't have to like us, but he didn't have to have us killed!)
- ☉ As of 1999, four museums in the entire world were devoted entirely to cats: one was in Ainville in northwest France, one was in Basel, Switzerland, and two were in the Netherlands. (Let's get those numbers up guys! Cats are real art!)
- ☉ A cat named Mousam got a letter in the mail telling him that he had to report for jury duty. His owner told the board of elections that Mousam was a cat and therefore should be disqualified. He was, but not for that reason – he was finally disqualified because he could not speak English! (Maybe I should stop taking my English lessons!)



In past newsletters I have shared the concept of having "Christmas Jar" – a jar that I designate for all my spare change for an entire year. At the end of the year, I roll all the coins, take them to the bank for a total...and then, I choose an organization and donate the money. I chose to donate mine to White Wolf Sanctuary in Oregon in 2010.

You will be surprised at how dropping a few coins in a jar at the end of the day can add up over a year's time. There were several people who picked up on my message and donated their change to RESQCATS!

I feel a need to express the importance of giving to as many people as possible and that just a little can go a long way. So I presented the idea to the RESQCATS volunteers at the beginning of kitten season in 2010. I challenged them with a way to make a difference collectively. At the end of the year, they could vote on which organization they wanted to donate to...as long as it was not

Famous Cat Quotes

"A cat is like a puzzle with no solution."

– Anne Campbell

"I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days."

– Comedian Bill Dana

"A Masterpiece."

– Artist Leonardo daVinci, referring to the cat

"I never married because there was no need. I have three pets at home which answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog which growls every morning, a parrot which swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night."

– Maria Corelli, Queen Victoria's favorite novelist

"One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home."

– Pam Brown, Contemporary New Zealand poet

Observations By Cat-Lovers

- ☉ When a dog leaps onto your bed it's because they adore being close to you. When a cat leaps onto your bed it's because they adore your bed.
- ☉ Cats are dogs with a college education.
- ☉ Dogs teach you how to love. Cats teach you how to live.
- ☉ The difference between a cat and a dog is that a cat can bark...and doesn't.
- ☉ Cats rule, dogs drool.
- ☉ Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.
- ☉ A dog comes when called. A cat takes a message and gets back to you later.

So with that last sentence, I will get back to you all later – like in the next newsletter. I hope you enjoyed my latest article and will be looking forward to learning more about cats in my next one. Until then, be good to your pets – they deserve the best – and that's probably why they are with you!!!

xoxo Chloe Aguirre

A Little Change Makes a Difference

RESQCATS. I speculated that we could come up with a couple hundred dollars.

In December 2010, Nancy Aguirre, one of the volunteers, spent hours rolling all the coins in our jar. Our grand total was \$400.00! Wow! With that amount of money, we could choose several organizations if we wanted to...maybe give \$100 to each! That is just what everyone chose to do. The voting took place!

\$100 was given to four local organizations:

- **All for Animals** that strives to educate children in classrooms about compassion for animals.
- **CARE 4 Paws** which is instrumental in educating the community about the importance of spaying and neutering pets. They also sponsor low-fee spay and neuter days.
- The **Wildlife Care Network** that helps injured wildlife.
- **Seer Farms**, an organization that assists people and their animals during times of natural disasters. They house people's pets until they are in a position to return to a life with some normalcy after such tragedies.

It just goes to prove a point...a little change can make a big difference. The volunteers have already started the

2011 "Giving Jar." ▼

Pet Portraits by Sandra Fenton

I hope you will all take the time to look at the work by Sandra Fenton. Some of you may remember Sandra and her husband, Wayne: they are the proud adopters of **Wabi and Sabi**...the 999th and 1000th kitties to be adopted from RESQCATS in 2006! Sandra's pet portraits are some of the best I have laid eyes upon and wanted to share her talents with you in the hopes that you may want to have your pet with you forever through her beautiful art work. I have included some information on her background and philosophy. Don't miss looking at her blog!

Her blog is: sandrafenton.blogspot.com

Sandra Fenton – Watercolor Artist

Furry friends have always been an important part of my life and I enjoy painting them! I have been painting for years in various mediums and my work has been shown in galleries and art shows from Los Angeles to San Francisco. My paintings capture a special moment in time for my clients with their pets.

I love the look and feel of watercolor and depending on the particular portrait will include mixed media. My clients find the combination offers a special quality that adds a balance of detail and softness to my portraits. I would describe my style as photorealistic at first glance with a painterly quality upon further viewing.

My art background includes years of study in life drawing, portraits and illustration and I have attended Otis Art Institute; Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles and the Academy of Art in San Francisco.

I can come over to meet your furry, feathered or scaly friend and I can also work from your photographs. Call me, Sandra Fenton 805 448-4752 cell for more information.



"Patty & Wheatina at the Beginning"



"In the Afternoon Sun"

RESQCATS

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



Give a Helping Hand!

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: _____