

# RESQCATS™

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



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## *President's Message*

Written on July 25, 2014



It's time to bring you up-to-date on all the happenings so far during the 2014 kitten season. It does take a while to write the newsletter, have it designed and printed so even more will have taken place by the time you receive this. But as you can see, I have a lot to share in this sixteen-pager!

This year has been like no other I can remember in our history. There has been a constant flow of moms and kittens. They are enough to keep us all busy! Trips to the vet for wellness physical, fecal exams, Feline Leukemia testing, vaccinating, keeping track of weights and making spay and neuter appointments is part of our routine schedule.

But the new normal at RESQCATS this season seems to be dealing with the challenges of special medical needs cats and kittens. I feel we are fortunate to be able to give every cat and kitten the very best medical care available. But more importantly, it is my philosophy that each one deserves a chance for life. Many of the cats and kittens that we have helped may have been euthanized at other shelters due to their medical conditions.

"Sparrow" was a mother cat whose kittens were advertised on Craigslist. When I arrived to pick them up, the owner said she did not want Sparrow either. I have

never understood that mentality and I learned a long time ago not to waste my energy trying to make sense of such a lack of responsibility and insensitivity. Sparrow tested positive for Feline Leukemia. However, her kittens were negative. That was highly unusual, so Sparrow was retested two additional times at recommended intervals with the most comprehensive and expensive test available. Both times resulted in a positive status. Her kittens had to be separated from Sparrow and retested in 30 days. Fortunately, they remained negative and were adopted to wonderful homes. That left me with Sparrow and the worry of how to find a home for her. For weeks, I posted her on every rescue site I could think of and she appeared daily on Facebook pleas. Understand that most other rescue organizations would have euthanized her due to her positive Leukemia status. I just could not do that and I believed that there was someone out there who would give her a home where she would be wanted and loved...something she had never known. The lifespan of a Leukemia positive cat is usually only a few years, although many can live to be much older. Lifespan is not something that any of us can predict. Many of you read about Sparrow in the last newsletter so I couldn't wait to let you know that she did find a home!!! Lori Keifer, a previous adopter from RESQCATS, had followed Sparrow on Facebook for weeks. Lori and her boyfriend, John Montagne met Sparrow and felt that Sparrow was destined to join them



Sparrow

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Jacquelyn

in their home. So Sparrow was loaded up into their car and travelled to her new home in Arizona where she has a new life and the new name of "Autumn!" A happy ending... no, a happy beginning for a very special cat.

"Jacquelyn" was thought to be six months of age by her rescuer. She was abandoned in an apartment parking lot and brought to RESQCATS by a lovely woman who did not want to leave her behind when she moved for fear that the landlord would carry out his threats to euthanize her. It took only a glance to see that Jacquelyn was no kitten when she arrived. She is 8-10 years old and she is lucky to have landed at RESQCATS. She appeared to suffer from a broken leg or hip. X-rays revealed no broken bones and the vet felt she suffered some neurological problems that cause some unsteadiness in her walk. In addition, a huge mass cell tumor on her head in close proximity to her eye had to be removed. Thankfully, it was benign. Jackie's treatment involved ultra-sound, blood work, x-rays, chemotherapy, surgery and love...yes, lots of love. She also had a dental to remove a nasty tooth and to clean up all the other ones. Jacquelyn is feeling like a new girl these days. She bows her little head to butt mine each time I greet her in her enclosure. She plays with mylar toys and enjoys catnip! In my optimistic viewpoint, I feel certain that we will find a forever home for her. She deserves to know the comfort of a couch and cat stairs to help her get there. I am confident that there is a wonderful person who will be touched by her story. He or she will pass on adopting a cute kitten and understand that sometimes it is about **who** needs a home. And Jacquelyn does!

"Winkin" and "Blinkin" are siblings that were found abandoned by their feral mother probably because she sensed their impending death. They had herpes eye infections that were beyond any medical treatment that we could offer...and we did try with nine medications that were given at different intervals and sequences for weeks. Blinkin had both of his eyes removed in June. Would you believe that he purred all the way home! He actually felt

better the day of his surgery than he ever had during treatment in our attempt to save his eyes. Within days, he was chasing the sound of a broom as his foster whisked it around the room. Then he heard a fly and went after that as if he could see it! He jumps from the bed to the chair to the floor. But his favorite pastime is playing with his sister! Upon the vet's recommendation, Winkin was given more time for the medications to work, but all failed. In late July, she had both eyes surgically removed. As of the writing of the President's Message, Winkin is recovering. Soon, this exceptional little pair will be ready for a home... together. Yes, together! And their new human parents will be amazed at what these two can accomplish. They have no idea that they cannot see ...at least not the way we do. They see things in a different light. To them it is still about being normal kittens...romping, playing, sleeping and eating. But they also teach us about seeing from a different perspective...that beauty comes in all shapes and sizes and to see that beauty does not always have to be with our eyes. It is more important to see it from our hearts.



Winkin + Blinkin

RESQCATS was also asked to take two siblings, "Nutter-Butter" and "Samoa" into our care and to find a home for them together. Samoa had to have her back leg amputated in late July due to an early break that went undetected until a terrible infection appeared. The vet explained that surgery to remove her leg would be much kinder than putting her through the suffering and pain involved in trying to repair it. She is fortunate in that it is her back leg and this little girl will be able to jump onto things, including your lap, just like any other kitten. Nutter-Butter and Samoa found a home immediately after I posted the siblings through RESQCATS with Kat Elliott and her family!

Many moms and babies were unhealthy and needed extra time and medical care. Others required several weeks of treatment due to fungal infections and upper

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respiratory sickness. "Charlotte" was a mother cat in poor condition, malnourished and weighing less than six pounds when she became pregnant so her babies were unusually small and needed extra time to grow and become strong enough for me to feel comfortable vaccinating and spaying or neutering. "Amira," a feral mom gave birth to nine and eight of them survived. She was in great shape as she is part of a feral colony where someone feeds. Having so many in a litter meant that her kittens are uncommonly small. Therefore, their stay at RESQCATS is extended because they need time to grow, build their immune systems, be vaccinated and spayed and neutered.

I am happy to report that we are seeing less kittens "for sale" on Craigslist. I cannot presume to know why but I am elated to not be constantly making trips north to Santa Maria seeing myself heading south to Santa Barbara from a trip the previous day.

RESQCATS continues to reach out to the community with our spay and neuter program. In our efforts to help with over-population, we have assisted other local groups with spay and neuter surgery expenses in addition to all those that are "fixed" at RESQCATS before going to adopted homes.

The year is not over. And our expenses this year have been extraordinary because of all we provide. Jacquelyn's medical expenses alone are over \$4000. Blinkin and Winkin have surpassed \$3300. Sparrow's care and additional tests were almost \$1000. Kittens that are in our care as neo-natals require not only the time commitment but weeks of providing special kitten milk replacement in addition to food and litter. The longer kittens need to be in our care, the more expenses we incur. Kittens with upper respiratory infections require extra trips to the vet and additional medications beyond our normal costs. My point is this, the \$95 adoption donation fee does come near covering our cost for each cat or kitten.

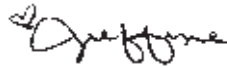
That is why I count on you. I realize that part of my job is raising funds for RESQCATS. Honestly, for someone like me that is better at giving than receiving, asking for your support is one of the more difficult aspects of my job! But it is so necessary. I realize that none of what we do would be possible without people like you. So I take the time away from what I am best at doing ...caring for the kittens ... to let you know what we are doing at RESQCATS, share some of the stories and ask for your support.

If I had to choose a word that best describes how I feel on a daily basis...that word would be **GRATEFUL**. **Grateful** for realizing my life's mission in rescuing animals and **grateful** for the ability to be able to do so. **Grateful** that the cats and kittens that need so much care come to RESQCATS where we believe that every life is worth saving. **Grateful** to you for helping RESQCATS achieve all we do through your financial support. It takes us all to meet these challenges.

So please, help us continue to accomplish all the good things we do at RESQCATS by sending us your tax-deductible donation. We accept checks in the mail,

of course. And we also have a PayPal button on our RESQCATS Facebook page and on our website at [www.RESQCATS.org](http://www.RESQCATS.org).

As always, from my heart...thank you!



Jeffyne Telson  
President and founder of RESQCATS, Inc.



## Letters to RESQCATS

Hi Jeffyne,

"Princess" is now 13 years old, adopted from RESQCATS! I remember how you said on the day I adopted her that SHE chose ME. She is still in great health.

I will always appreciate you and what you do to no end. Not only providing me with my soul mate in feline form, but for all you do for the kitties in general. In loving appreciation, **Mary Mason Scott**

Jeffyne,

Words cannot express my appreciation for what RESQCATS does. I do know that thanks to you Santa Barbara is a better place for the cat population than many other cities. I see so many feral cats when visiting my dad in Florida and it makes me so sad. Thank you!

—**Diane Ledbetter**

Thank you, Jeffyne, for your incredible spirit. You inspire me and give me hope and motivation and strength. I love what you do with your time, your passion and your life. You are an angel, so happy for all the kitties that come across your path. —**Haley**

Jeffyne,

We love "Jenny" (now "Nala"). She was restless the first night but she is warming up today and taking it all in at her new home. She met "Butters" this morning, the seven year old cat we adopted from the Humane Society. Butters showed signs of dominance with some harmless hissing but I think they will end up being best friends.

Thank you for knowing that Alex and I were the ones for Nala...it was truly meant to be.

A big thanks for the food, toys and blankets RESQCATS is truly a wonderful organization and I am so happy we found it.

Cheers, **Alex and Sara Hort**

# Misa

It is always a challenge to not become attached to every cat and kitten that comes through RESQCATS. If I allowed every single one to capture my heart, I would always be in emotional turmoil when they leave and go to homes.

Honestly, the kittens are not usually here long enough to become bonded to because they are adopted so quickly. My relationship with them involves trips to the vet for exams, vaccinating, de-worming, making sure they are eating, making calls to Mother Nature and taking them to get spayed or neutered. Yes, of course, kisses on the belly and snuggling kittens is also part of my job...the best part in many ways. But I see myself as a "stepping stone" in their journey to their final adoptive home where they will become the source of someone's joy, laughter and unconditional love. That is how I manage my emotions in order to not keep every single kitty that enters RESQCATS as one of my own. I often refer to those who keep their foster animals as "flunking fostering." My husband is a perfect example!

I feel the need to clarify my actions so as not to appear insensitive. I am actually quite the pile of mush when some of them leave. I am often invited to visit adopted kitties, but I don't remember ever taking anyone up on the offer. I realize that there comes a time when I need to let go and move forward to help all the others that need to be rescued, cared for and adopted.

However, once in a while without warning, I have an immediate connection with one of the cats or kittens. I can't really explain it... the bond is just instantaneous. That was certainly the case when "Misa" arrived at RESQCATS.

Misa was a stray cat that was rescued off the streets pregnant. As it turns out, she was very pregnant. She arrived from foster care and the moment I saw her and felt her presence, I knew there was something very special about her. I admit she was beautiful with her lynx point markings and soulful blue eyes. But there was more than that...I preach to the choir, so to speak, about the prejudice of human eyes when people say they want a particular color cat. They conjure up the shape of their face, the hue of their eyes and where they want their tuxedo markings to be! Maybe one day, long ago, I was like that...but I doubt it! I can say wholeheartedly that I see the beauty in all of them. The loveliness of Misa was in her soul, her kindness and the way she looked at me. She gently asked for love. And it was so easy to bestow that upon her.

Within a couple of days of her arrival, she was off to the vet with me for her exam, Leukemia/FIV tests and maybe an ultra-sound to determine how far along she was in her pregnancy. Perhaps the babies would be

situated in her belly and give us a hint as to how many kittens she would deliver.

I expected all to be just fine. And it was. That is, with the exception that she went into labor during her exam and ultra-sound! The vet rushed her back to me and said, "Jeffyne, you have to get her home! Misa is about to deliver!"

All of a sudden I understood how expectant fathers must feel: excited, apprehensive and with a keen sense of duty to get her safely back to RESQCATS! I recall driving like a maniac saying to her, "Now Misa, don't start delivering in the car!" I slowed down at every turn and bump in the road for fear of jolting her into giving birth. I was keyed up to say the least. I felt myself gripping the steering wheel, my breath was heavy and short. Concentrating on driving and checking on her in the carrier in the backseat was not going to win any awards for safe driving. But if Misa was to give birth to kittens, she needed to wait at least ten more minutes so that I could return her to the comfort of her enclosure.

Within minutes of our arrival back at RESQCATS, Misa was situated inside a large crate full of soft towels and sheets. I gathered my latex gloves and hemostats just in case she needed any help with cutting umbilical cords. Many young mothers don't cut the cords and the kittens can become entangled. The outcome is not always good, so I wanted to be fully prepared.

I had barely seated myself in front of the crate with all my equipment at hand when a tiny dark kitten popped out of Misa. I said to her, "Misa, that one sure doesn't look like you!" She was like a fair-skinned blue-eyed blond having a dark haired, olive skinned baby! I watched Misa begin to clean her kitten. However, the placenta was buried beneath her body and I feared there could be trouble if I did not intervene. I put on my gloves and gently moved the placenta so that Misa could cut the cord, thus detaching it so there would be no danger to her baby. As most cat mothers do, Misa consumed the placenta which is rich in nutrients. That part is a little hard to watch but it is nature and that is beauty in my book.

Misa and I went through the same procedure when her second kitten was born about 30 minutes later. Another dark tabby entered the world and I thought, "Misa! That one doesn't look like you either!"

It was a while before there were additional signs of labor. I was not about to leave her so I had some time to sit, contemplate and just take in this wonderful experience. You see, there was more to it for me than just helping a mother cat bring kittens into the world. I had been terribly upset about my dog, "Journey," and what I thought was her pending death. She had been very sick and had spent almost a week in the emergency hospital fighting for her life. She was home now, but not doing well. Honestly, my husband and I had discussed that very morning that Journey may not make it through the day.

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So here I was...with so many emotions. I feared losing Journey and grief for me is never easy. But, on this same day, I had the chance to see new life coming into the world. I felt blessed. I was witnessing the whole cycle of life happening right before me. I was part of it and had an open heart and eyes to be able to see what was happening. A gift had been presented to me by Misa today. And somehow, I found some peace and acceptance of what I thought was my imminent loss of Journey. Misa had bestowed that gift upon me...I felt humble and in a word, grateful...to her.

Misa gave birth to two more dark long-haired tabbies. It turned out that she had three boys and a girl. I still cannot get over how much they didn't look like her. I often teased her that she must have met some tall, dark, alluring stranger in the alley and that sadly, it had been just a one-night stand!

I watched Misa care for her kittens over the following weeks. She was a wonderful nurturer and her babies were certainly much more fortunate than she had ever been as a stray. Dahlia, Travis, Linus and Dallas grew up in the comfort of **RESQCATS** without the threat of outdoor dangers. I think Misa appreciated that...I saw it in her kind eyes.

I tried not to let her steal my heart...but she did. I spent hours brushing her, talking with her and telling her how I would love to have a kitty like her.

I knew all along, however, that she would not stay.... I wanted more for her than I could give as a rescuer. She deserved a home with someone who would bestow much more love upon her than I could ever give with all my **RESQCATS** responsibilities. I felt strongly that it would be selfish of me to keep her as one of my own. Her gift to me had been unforgettable and timely, and now I needed to give back to her everything she deserved...and that meant the love and attention she would have in a home with someone where she could be the focus of their life.

Journey did make it and she is still with me today. I don't look at her without remembering that day in the

cattery with Misa. All that my soul witnessed in just those few hours was an experience that I will never forget.

Misa found a home with a beautiful young lady who saw all the things in this exceptional cat that I had seen from day one. They went home together and I felt certain that Misa would have the long life of luxury and love she deserved especially after being a pregnant street cat. I saw her once, a few weeks later, for a follow up vaccination and knew that the woman and Misa were a match made in Heaven.

However, Misa was in her home only about a month

when a roommate left a door open. Misa wandered out. I know that every effort was made to save Misa, but the dog that lived next door attacked her and caused so many internal injuries that even surgery would not save her life. Misa's guardian called to let me know. She was devastated. We cried together and I did my best to reassure her that it was not her fault. I don't blame her. I don't blame anyone really. It was a mistake and we all make mistakes. Understand that I would not change adopting Misa to the young woman...it was something that happened.



But I cannot seem to find the lesson or gift in such tragedy. I have not cried or been without a voice that could speak since losing my soul-mate dog, Mijek, almost ten years ago. The visions in my head are of Misa's fight and suffering and how she must have felt and the scene plays in my head even as when I try to push it out.

Peace in my soul seems foreign and sadness in my heart is just as intense today as it was when I learned of her fate. I hope for light and insight into why this happened. And I pray that time will bring tranquility and the ability to see another gift from Misa even in the midst of such loss and grief.

My love for Misa was pure, heartfelt and unconditional. There is beauty in feeling that joyful kind of love. Perhaps that love is also responsible for my untainted emotions of sorrow. There is splendor in both

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love and loss. Would I change the love I felt for Misa just to avoid the pain of loss...not in a million years. And would I try not to love other animals that come into my life for any length of time just to avoid pain in losing them? No! Never!

My mind whirls back to a quote I read once: "It is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all."

One thing I am certain of however, Misa will be on the Rainbow Bridge waiting and one day I will see her again and love her as I do now...for all eternity.



## A boy and his new best friend, Julius!



It was summer 2013 when a young boy discovered his love of cats. Marc McClure was only eleven years old when he travelled to Europe with his parents for a family vacation.

He discovered a box of kittens being cared for by the people living next door to his family's vacation spot. Marc's life changed that day. He fell in love with the kittens. He set his heart on having his own kitten. But he had to prove to his parents that he was responsible. He was willing to set goals and work to earn the pleasure of raising a kitten.

Marc promised to study diligently the following school year, make good grades and read a certain number of books during the upcoming semesters. If he followed through on his commitment, he could adopt a kitten in summer 2014. Marc and his parents set the rules together. He also saved his allowance in order to make a donation towards an adopted kitten. His determination and work paid off! He received all A's and B's in his schoolwork, finished his required book reading and saved his allowance.

Having accomplished his goals, it was now time for

Marc to find the perfect kitten.

When Marc and his parents met "Travis," a beautiful long-haired, dark tabby boy, it was love at first sight (Travis is one of Misa's kittens!). Adoption papers were signed, the donation was completed and the young man waltzed out of the shop with his new best friend. Travis found a great home and got a new name, "Julius." The two (feline and young human) have a very special bond.

When I heard about Marc and all his commitment towards earning the privilege of giving a rescued kitten a home, I was speechless (a rare thing for me) and the story touched my heart.

Marc is a very special young man and without a doubt will carry this experience into adulthood and make a difference for future animals.

I also credit his parents for their lessons in responsibility to their son and for their kept promise.

Marc, congratulations for a job well done! I hope Julius brings you many happy years of joy, laughter and unconditional love!



## *A special kitten finds his home.*

People are more than willing to adopt kittens that are perfect in health. RESQCATS follows all recommended testing by veterinarians such as fecal tests and Feline Leukemia/FIV to help reassure that they are healthy. When tests come back with negative results we can comfortably state that we have done all we can to provide healthy kittens for adoption. But understand, fecals results can change from negative to positive when enough parasites reproduce to present themselves in a follow-up exam. Feline Leukemia negative kittens can become positive months later if the virus is present but had not had time to surface in earlier testing. I have learned that veterinary medicine, like human medicine is not always definitive.

"Dallas," was born at RESQCATS. (He is also one of Misa's kittens.) His vet exam revealed a heart murmur rated high enough on the cardiac scale to raise concerns during his regular exam. A cardiologist was consulted and the results of his tests indicated a heart murmur that is more serious than the innocent ones you hear in many young animals. Those usually resolve over time as the kitten grows. But what Dallas' murmur will do over time is uncertain and unpredictable. It is that "gray area" that I just hate! I am someone who wants to know what it is, then what we are going to do to fix it. NOW!

I returned from his cardiologist appointment with much ambiguity. There is always a chance that his heart issues will resolve, but they may not. No one knows for sure so I cannot offer absolute reassurance to an adopter.

I thought that finding a home for Dallas would be

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impossible based on the cardiologist's findings.

Enter Victoria Stewart and her son, Brandon. They visited RESQCATS after losing "Bo," one of the two kitties they adopted from RESQCATS 14 years ago. The hope was to find their remaining cat, "Daisy," a new companion.

I invited Victoria to RESQCATS because she was a previous adopter. There were many kittens available at the time. But Victoria and Brandon were drawn to Dallas instantly. I was surprised, of course, and explained his circumstances in detail and presented the cardiologist report so that they fully understood Dallas' "gray area." Then I let them have some time alone with him.

When I returned, Victoria looked me straight in the eyes and said, "I have my own emotional heart issues. It makes sense to me that Dallas is meant to be part of our family." There are no words to express my feelings of gratefulness and awe. Their hearts are pure and they truly wanted to adopt a kitten that needs a home. I felt like angels were standing inside RESQCATS...named Victoria and Brandon.

"Eli" is the new name Dallas was given. Victoria and her family recently faced some of life's challenges, but when things changed for the best...they had both their home and Eli blessed. Little do they realize that I think Eli was blessed the very first day he went home with them!

*"Holding this soft, small living creature in my lap this way, though, and seeing how it slept with complete trust in me, I felt a warm rush in my chest. I put my hand on the cat's chest and felt his heart beating. The pulse was faint and fast, but his heart, like mine, was ticking off the time allotted to his small body with all the restless earnestness of my own."*

— Haruki Murakami, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*

## Chloe's Column

Hello to all of my most purr-ecious fans out there in kitty world! I've spent the past few months gathering more fun facts, trivia, and exciting information to delight you and to show off my vast research skills, knowledge, and general wonderfulness. I know purr-fectly well that my article is highly anticipated and therefore I strive to give you only the best – ME! So here we go...

### Did You Know...?

🐾 A 2014 poll showed that Vermont has the highest percentage of people who own cats at 49.5%! Utah has the lowest percent at 24.6%.

🐾 Cats respond better to women than to men because their voices are of a higher pitch (they are also much, much prettier!).

🐾 While kittens meow to communicate with their moms, adult cats mostly meow to humans – not to each other (I like telling my humans what to do too!)

🐾 Cats have a 5<sup>th</sup> claw on their front paws that is raised off the ground – like a thumb – and is called a "dewclaw" (I use mine to show a "thumbs up" when my Mom asks me if I want treats!).

🐾 Approximately 8 billion pounds of kitty litter are used each year in the U.S. (we could make our own beach out of all that)!!

### Cat Facts!

🐾 A cat rubs against people to show affection AND to mark territory with scent glands around its face. The tail and paws also carry the cat's scent.

🐾 A cat has 12 whiskers on each side of its face.

🐾 A cat's nose pad is ridged, each with a unique pattern, just like the fingerprint of a human.

*This brings the end to another article. I truly hope you found it interesting and learned something from it that you can pass*



*on to your furry friends. Now I can begin my research for the next RESQCATS newsletter... have a great few months and we'll see you again soon...*

xoxo, *Chloe*

## *A stepping stone in a kitten's journey...*

It takes a truly special person to foster animals. I would like to recognize those behind the scenes who spend hours fostering, nurturing and providing temporary homes for the cats and kittens that come to RESQCATS.

Sometimes, the enclosures at RESQCATS are full but there are still kittens to rescue and that need a place to go until there is an available space. If we are lucky, the newborns and young kittens have moms that are caring for them and just require a foster home for a few days or weeks. Fosters provide a safe environment where cats and kittens receive medical attention, shelter, food and needless to say, compassion, nurturing and love from their human foster.

RESQCATS is privileged to have **Debbie Merry**, **Susan Leroy** and **Monica Gonzalez** offer their homes to litters who would otherwise suffer on the streets. Moms such as Misa, Sophie, Amira, Jenny, Charlotte and Angel were lucky to be able to raise their kittens in the posh surroundings of a foster home.

Most often, however, kittens are found at such a young age that they require bottle-feeding. Their stories vary and honestly, I am glad I don't know them all as they would break my heart. "Chaise" and "Patty-O" were born on someone's patio furniture and left behind by a very young mom who had no idea what to do with them. "Pez" was found in the middle of the sidewalk with his umbilical cord attached which meant he was only a few days old. Who knows, maybe his mom dropped him when she was attempting to move him to a safer place. "Winkin" and "Blinkin" were curled up under the bushes and had been abandoned by their feral mom who probably sensed how sick they were (both had herpes eye infections so bad that both had to have their eyes surgically removed.)

Saving kittens that are only a day to a few days old takes an extraordinary person, indeed. Bottle-feeding is a commitment that most people cannot comprehend. Newborns must be fed every two to three hours around the clock. It is not until they are 4-5 weeks of age that

kittens can begin to eat on their own. You can imagine the schedule that must be kept during that critical time in a kitten's life. The investment of time is instrumental in their survival. And the love each one receives just comes with the territory.

I honor **Deanna Koens** for the magnificent

job she does with all the neo-natals she fosters, bottle-feeds, nurtures and cares for with all her heart. Her job is endless. Deanna works tirelessly to give every kitten a chance for life. She has saved hundreds of lives over the years! I don't remember her ever turning a newborn in need away.

Fostering requires unprecedented devotion and a commitment to a tedious schedule. But, one of the hardest parts of the job is letting kittens go when it is time for them to be adopted. Hours every day have been spent with them, so the attachment to them is heartfelt. Amid the tearful good-byes is always that fleeting thought of, "Oh, maybe I could keep just this one!" But for all of us as fosters, I think we realize that we are a very important "stepping stone" in the lives of the cats and kittens. And for each kitten that moves on to become the center of an adopter's life, there will be room for another one to be saved.

*I dedicate this newsletter to all who dedicate their hearts and time to fostering ...you are angels with golden wings!*

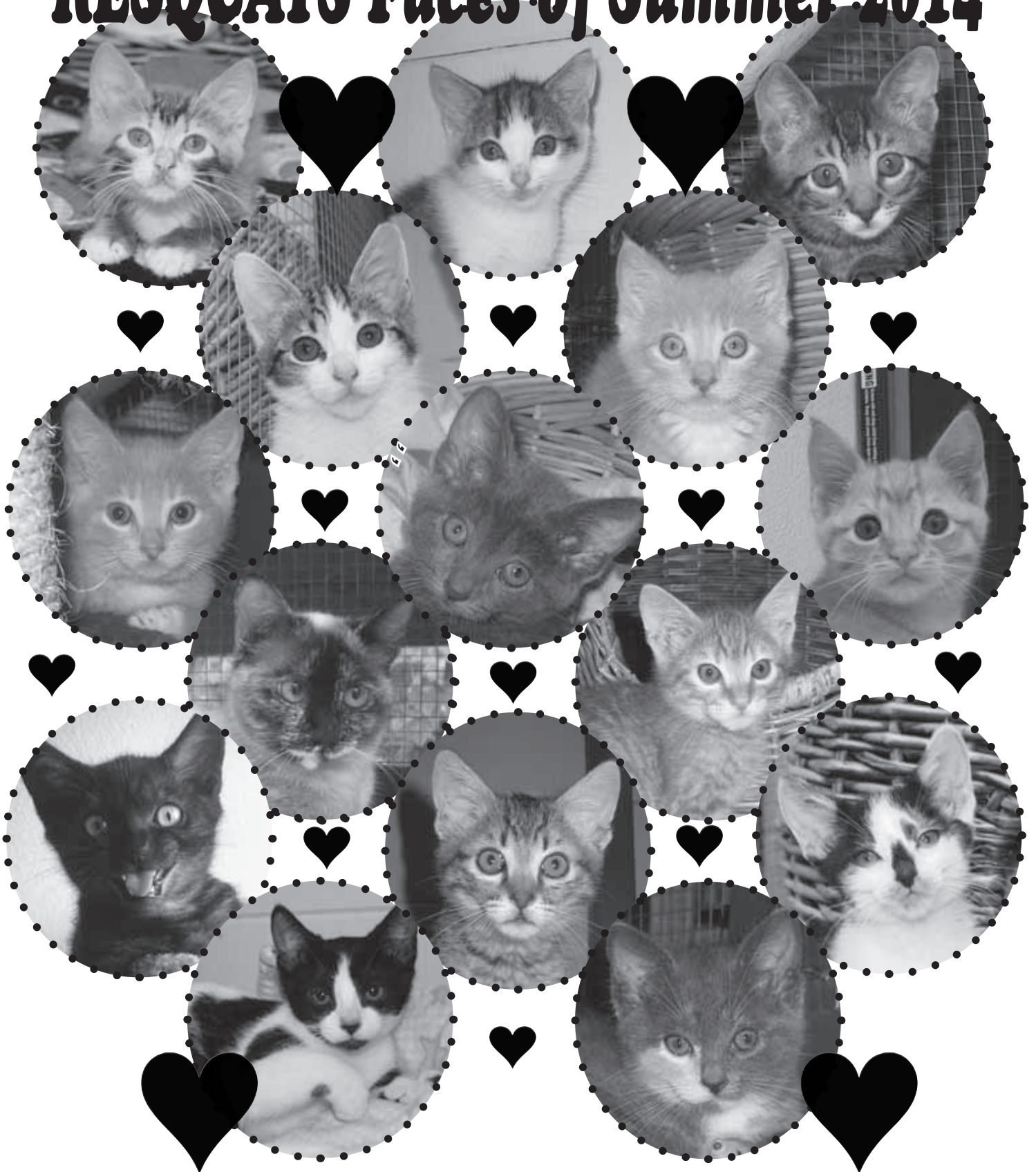
### *A poem to my foster cat*

*I am the bridge between what was and what can be.  
I am the pathway to a new life!  
I am made of mush.  
Because my heart melted when I saw you;  
matted and sore, limping, lonely, unwanted  
and afraid to love.  
For one moment in time you are mine.  
I will feed you with my own hand,  
I will love you with my whole heart.  
I will make you whole.  
I am made of steel.  
Because when the time comes,  
when you are well, when your eyes shine,  
and you purr with joy, then comes the hard part...  
I will have to let you go—  
Not without tears, but without regrets.  
For I know you are safe in your forever home.  
A new cat needs me now!*





# RESQCATS Faces of Summer 2014



**Photography by Nancy Aguirre**

*From top to bottom, left to right: Pez, Patty-O, Cowboy, Kate, Beethoven, Mozart, Desiree, Elijah, Margo, Luca, Milo, Nico, Pixel, Rosemary and Stella.*

## Some special thank yous...

I am so *very grateful* to “**anonymous cat lovers**” for always being there to offer support and such kind words of appreciation for what RESQCATS does for the kitties!



*Thank you, Diane Ledbetter*, for your heartfelt understanding, compassion and support for the “Polar Bear Fund” which is set up for kitties with special needs and medical expenses. You truly touch my heart and make a huge difference!



*Thank you, Gretchen Norqual* for such generosity all the way from Minnesota! You are always welcome to visit RESQCATS again and see the difference you are making...truly!



A very special *thank you* to **Mark and Kathy Wardman** for their generosity and understanding of all that it takes to help the cats and kittens at RESQCATS. They adopted in 2013 and have continued to make a difference for others here through their heartfelt support. And my thank you to them is also from my heart.



*Thank you* to my friend, **Joane Petrini**. I reunited with her on a recent trip to San Diego. We go back before the days of RESQCATS but we were still rescuing cats off the jetty in San Diego. I will never forget the day of celebration on the jetty in South Mission Beach where I lived when we watched the daddy of so many of the kittens born there go into a trap so we could get him neutered. His name was “Midnight.” Joane and I had a jumping for joy, hugging at the same time celebration right then and there!

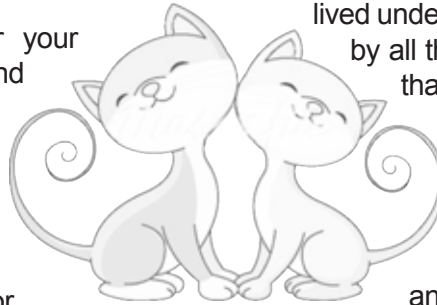
To see her again after all this time brought back so many fond memories. And I owe her for helping me to find what is was I really wanted to do in my life to make a difference in the world.

And she surprised me after our visit with a beautiful donation that will go far to help so many cats and kittens at RESQCATS.

Thank you, Joane!



*Thank you, Pamela Vincent!* Always a friend to the animals and to me. You are truly a unique individual who is out there all the time making a difference for the animals. Your generosity is so appreciated and it just makes every cat here at RESQCATS grateful...right along with me!



I am in awe of **Rachel Ross**. She is a volunteer at RESQCATS who has touched the lives of so many kitties, but especially one of the resident cats named “Buckey.” Traumatized beyond repair at a very early age, Buckey lived under my bed for years and became so upset by all the activity in the house with all the dogs that I thought it might be more peaceful for her to live in the cattery. She found a nice basket with a heating pad and seemed comfortable until ANYONE entered her enclosure. She was terrified and could not escape to her outdoor tunnel and enclosure fast enough...that is, until Rachel came along. Today, Buckey looks forward to Rachel’s visits and has even granted many of us with the privilege of petting and brushing her. And we all owe that to Rachel. Buckey will live out her life knowing that human touch is a good thing and that receiving love can be safe! *Thank you, Rachel.*



I am not sure if I have a *thank you* big enough for **Lori Keifer and John Montagne**. They adopted “Sparrow” and gave her a home when I thought it would be impossible to find one for her. Sparrow is Leukemia positive and chances are she may have a shorter lifespan than most kitties. She was tested twice and both times she tested positive. Lori followed her on Facebook and when she visited Santa Barbara from her new home in Arizona, she inquired about this special mom of four. She felt strongly that it was meant for Sparrow to have a home and that it should be with her. She and John visited RESQCATS and within a day, Sparrow was picked up and made the trip to Arizona.

It is difficult to come by people like Lori and John... they opened their hearts beyond measure. I am grateful to them and there still is not a day that goes by that I do not think of them and the gift they have given to Sparrow... who by the way, has the new name of “Autumn.”



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

*Thank you so much Alex and Sara Hort* for giving “Jenny” a home. Jenny is a mother cat who searched for her home for several months and watched three adoptions of her fall through. Several visited her but it seemed that most were taken only by her kittens or other kittens at RESQCATS. I was contacted by this sweet couple by email telling me of their interest in adopting a kitty that was having a tough time finding a home. I had received confirmation from a lady that she absolutely positively was adopting Jenny and picking her up later in the week. The next day she called and said she wasn’t. By that time, I knew that Sara and Alex had probably adopted another cat they were considering at the Humane Society. I called anyway and sure enough they had adopted “Butters,” a seven year old cat who had been looking for a home for over two years. My heart dropped but for only a few seconds as Sara said that Butters got along with other cats and they would still like to meet Jenny. Later that afternoon, Jenny left RESQCATS and joined Sara, Alex and Butters....her new adoptive family. I hear that all is going well. Jenny has a wonderful new life and her official name is now “Nala!”



*Thank you Montecito Pet Shop* for all your hard work and extra effort to support RESQCATS in so many ways: allowing us to have fundraising booths in front of your shop, working tirelessly to interview and handle adoptions so that I might have more time to rescue and care for the cats and kittens, helping us with donations for the fleece blankets and new tea towels and for the great spirit and attitude from every one of your employees!

A heartfelt *thank you* to **each of the volunteers** who give so selflessly of their time to help out at RESQCATS. The backbone of any organization is the volunteers and I honestly feel like we have the very best!



*Thank you, Nancy Aguirre*, for the endless hours of your dedication to so many tasks at RESQCATS from sewing the great fleece kitty blankets, photographing the cats and kittens for posting, working on articles and envelopes for the newsletter and for always being there to meet any challenge!



A special *thank you* to **Susie Brown** for setting up and maintaining the RESQCATS Etsy Store. She monitors our new store daily in addition to creating her own jewelry designs and running her own Etsy Shop.



*Thank you Susan Taylor* for the wonderful creations in the art of jewelry that you donated to RESQCATS for our fundraisers. You cannot imagine the impact you have on helping the cats through your generosity.



A special *thank you* to **Amy Dobson** for her creativity and the precious time she has dedicated to creating RESQCATS-exclusive jewelry designs. She has an entire line of earrings, necklaces and bracelets that are one-of-a-kind. And you can see them at our fundraiser booths or in RESQCATS Etsy Shop!

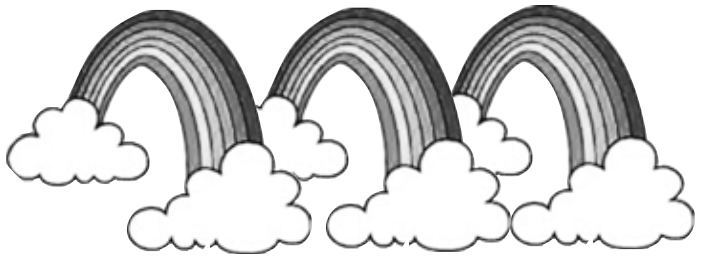


Time is such a gift and **Adrienne Kaplan** gives that so willingly with every stitch she embroiders on the new RESQCATS tea towels that you can find at The Montecito Pet Shop. Each towel is unique and Adrienne happily gives the proceeds to RESQCATS. She is dedicated to helping make a difference ...and she certainly does! *Thank you, Adrienne!*



*A very special thank you* to all of you as supporters of RESQCATS. The challenges this season have been many. Your donations make all the difference in the world for the cats and kittens. And your words of encouragement and compassion are treasures beyond measure. From my heart ...in a single word...I am **GRATEFUL!**

## In memory of...



In memory of "**Viper**" who was one of the very first RESQCATS kitties to ever be adopted. He lived with Marsha, Al and Ryan Roberson for seventeen years! He is missed very much!



In memory of my mom...**Sophia Irene Stanners**.  
January 22, 1926-April 25, 2014.  
Patty Stanners Rue



In loving memory of "**Sophie**" who was adopted from RESQCATS in 2002!

Jerry and Linda Menesez



In special memory of "**Sadie**" who was adopted in 1998 as one of the very first RESQCATS kittens by Linda and Jerry Menesez.



In memory of "**DiCaprio**" and for my friend, **Susan**, who gave him a peaceful way to the Rainbow Bridge... it was the kindest thing anyone had done for this beautiful boy in a very long time.



In memory of "**Halo**," a RESQCATS kitty who was loved for so many years by Kelly Jean. That special bond can never be replaced and will always have a place in her heart.



In memory of "**Lola!**" The luckiest dog in the world who lived with a wonderful couple who just happen to be my friends, **Harvey and Eileen Barish**. The intense pain you feel from such loss really will slowly evolve into sweet memories, gentler tears and smiles. I promise. Love, Jeffyne

For my mother, **Novva Milton**. And in memory of the beautiful boy she adopted from me seven years ago. His name was "**Tabu**." He and his brother, "**Tattoo**," brought her so much joy and unconditional love at a time in her life when she needed it. Her love and caring for these boys has been well beyond what any rescuer could dream of for their kitties. Tabu died very suddenly and left her heart broken. But, together, she and Tattoo will get through this time of pain and grief.

Bless your heart, Mother. I love you. Jeffyne



In memory of a feral cat named "**Blaze!**" He was rehomed to my friend's backyard and lived to be 15 years old. **Liz Benishin** gave him his own running water fountain and a heated bed! Not too bad for a feral!

Julie Kaplan



In memory of a sweet man and friend, **Fred Hunt**. He and his wife rescued many critters over the years. His last words on this Earth were concern for the animals.

Julie Kaplan



In memory of "**Daisy**" and for the **Stewart family**.



## In celebration of...

Happy Birthday, **Liz Benishin!**  
Julie Kaplan

Happy # SEVEN to "**Cha Cha**" who also sent her birthday cash to RESQCATS to help out any that needed special care!

Celebrating "**Deacon**" and "**Web!**"...adopted from RESQCATS several years ago!  
Penny Huff

In celebration of the "best cat-sitter ever!"  
Her name is **Mel Kyle!**  
Julie Kaplan

In celebration of "**Lexi!**" Lexi was a mother cat who was in terrible physical condition when she arrived at RESQCATS three years ago with a litter of kittens. She was only a year old and captured the hearts of **Lanette and Michael Perry** who have given her a home beyond anything she could have ever imagined!



**Advanced Veterinary Specialist** has kindly offered to write another article for the **RESQCATS** newsletter. And this one really is close to home in that it educates us all about herpes virus in cats.

"Blinkin" and "Winkin" are two kittens that were found under someone's bushes after their feral mom abandoned them. (She probably knew they were sick and that she could not care for them and that is why she left them but took her remaining healthy kitten with her.) Their eyes were so infected with the virus that even weeks of several different medications given many times a day as recommended by the eye specialist could not save their eyes. Both Blinkin and Winkin had to have their eyes surgically removed.

By the time you receive this newsletter, they will have recovered and hopefully be in a new home with someone who sees them as they are...normal kittens who see things through touch, smell and hearing.


Thank you, Dr. McLoughlin for taking the time to help us understand the herpes virus.

## HERPES VIRUS IN CATS

1. Feline herpes virus causes upper respiratory signs that can be severe in young kittens or debilitated cats. It is the most common cause for recurrent conjunctivitis in adult cats.
  2. Clinical signs can include runny eyes and nose. Initial signs can be so severe that cats stop eating and drinking and require hospitalization. Herpes can also cause severe damage to the surface of the eyeball (cornea) and is a cause for blindness in young cats. Herpes virus can cause ulceration and scar tissue to form on the cornea; this can cause the cornea to appear cloudy or have an irregular surface.
  3. Cats that are exposed to herpes virus often become carriers. They can have intermittent signs and be a source of infection for other cats. When they are not symptomatic infected cats feel fine. Typically a carrier cat may have mild 'cold' signs for several days every few months; signs usually resolve without treatment.
  4. After the initial infection the virus hides out in nerve tissue. During times of stress it is able to start to shed again and cause symptoms.
  5. Diagnosis of herpes infection is usually based on clinical signs and exposure history. A PCR test detects small numbers of virus; it is a highly accurate way to diagnose herpes
- and is sometimes useful to identify carriers in multi-cat environments (shelter, catteries). Tests that look for antibody against herpes virus (ELISA) are not useful as vaccination will cause inaccurate results.
6. Topical eye treatment can include antiviral topical medications (Viroptic, Vir-A) and antibiotics to treat secondary infections. These medications may be prescribed when ocular signs are severe or recurrent or if corneal ulcers are seen.
  7. Interferon alpha is sometimes prescribed. In the lab this compound makes anti-viral drugs more effective against herpes. Although no formal clinical studies have been done, interferon seems to shorten the course of clinical signs.
  8. Lysine is an amino acid that impedes herpesvirus replication. This is an over the counter supplement that is sometimes recommended for cats with chronic signs.
  9. Vaccination against herpes is recommended. While it does not prevent infection, cats that are vaccinated have less severe signs. Intranasal vaccine does not alleviate signs in symptomatic cats.
  10. Cats have their herpes virus and we have ours. They do not share their infections with us and we cannot give them ours.

Mary Ellen McLoughlin, DVM, PhD, is an Emergency Services Veterinarian at Advanced Veterinary Specialists, a 24/7 emergency and specialty animal hospital located at 414 E. Carrillo St, S.B. CA 930103. Visit [www.avs4pets.com](http://www.avs4pets.com) or call 805-729-4460



Blinkin + Winkin 

And now...

## A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne

"...It's never long enough..."



"Sheppie," Jeffyne, Mitch and "Laddie"

Sadly, I've repeated those words, "...it's never long enough..." dozens of times to scores of friends, family and even strangers, when I learn that they've lost one of their beloved companion animals. I've even said it to myself on far too many occasions. The time that these creatures have here on earth with us is never, ever long enough!

As some of you know, when Jeffyne and I got married more than 28 years ago, she brought into our family her two cats, *Tattoo* and *Miss Violet from Texas*, and I added, the only cat I ever had, *Mrs. Muffet*, and *Wolfie*, my 14-year old collie/shepherd mix.

Although *Tattoo*, *Violet* and *Mrs. Muffet* lived for up to 17 years, unhappily we lost *Wolfie* just three months after our wedding. But even with his passing, we were consoled by reminding ourselves that, after all, *Wolfie* did live to be 14.

However, this past winter, around the time of the anniversary of *Wolfie's* passing, I shared with Jeffyne the weird observation that if *Wolfie* was still alive, he would be 42 years old!! Now wouldn't that be wonderful!

Of course, the reality is, our companion animals DON'T live to be 42 years old. Sometimes they don't even make it past their tenth birthday...not our cats, or our dogs, not our rabbits, or even our hamsters... not any of our warm, cuddly, family members live as long as we want them to. Most of them pass much too soon. Rarely do they live with us as long as we want them, and rarer still do they outlive us. (The

exceptions, at our house, of course, are our African sulcata tortoises. Not only will these prehistoric giants survive me and Jeffyne and my children, and probably my grandchildren, but it's likely that they could still be around well into the next century when my great, great, grandchildren graduate from college! But, they are the exception.)

So why don't the animals that we love so dearly live longer than an average of 10-15 years? Obviously, the most reasonable and logical answer to that question is based in science and biology and heredity.

Some say it's because these animals are smaller and have a short adolescent period and a fast breeding cycle. The gestation period for both dogs and cats is only 63 days...about 20% of a human pregnancy. And dogs and cats produce many more offspring. For example, a cat can go into heat at six months, and be completely grown at 1 year. That same cat could have 4-6 kittens in a litter, and those kittens could themselves start breeding at 6 months old. So, if a female cat has her first litter at 8 months, with an average of just 2 surviving kittens per litter, and lives for 8 years, (typical for an animal surviving without human intervention,) and has only one litter per year, this one cat will have 16 successful offspring to carry her bloodline. Because of this fast breeding cycle, cats, and dogs, simply haven't needed long lives, so they haven't evolved them.

But there might be a less scientific, and perhaps, more sensitive explanation for the shorter life span of our domestic animals, particularly dogs, exemplified by this story:

Having just lost their family dog, the parents of a young boy were wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal's lives are so much shorter than human lives. The little boy, who had been listening quietly, suddenly piped in, "I know why!" His startled parents turned to him and heard, perhaps the most comforting explanation yet as to why our dogs leave us too soon.

The little boy said, "People are born and have to learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice. Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

I've shared these rather insightful and thought-provoking words in other Mr. Jeffyne articles, but again now, because Jeffyne and I have recently experienced another round of grief with the passing of Sheppie, our 13 ½ year-old collie. We adopted Sheppie, along with his brother Laddie in March, 2011 from Southland Collie Rescue. Our friends had pulled the boys from a high-kill shelter just days before they were scheduled to be euthanized.

We estimated these guys to be at least 10 when

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we got them, so Sheppie lived to be about 95 in human years...a long life, but still...not nearly long enough.

While his dying was not unexpected, as Sheppie was an old dog, (at least in dog years, he was old,) it was nevertheless, very painful and difficult for us to accept.

During our years together, Jeffyne and I have been the proud "pet parents" to 22 collies and 57 cats...and with that number of animals, certainly the opportunity for frequent grief sessions increases dramatically. But none of this diminishes the pain and the heartbreak and the grief that we experience with the loss of each one of our animals...because, as all of you animal-lovers know, the loss of a companion animal is no less agonizing and no less devastating, than the passing of your closest friend or even a family member...because the reality is, in many cases, they are your closest friend and they are a member of your family!

People often ask us how we handle so much pain when one of our animals dies, and I always tell them the same thing, "Yes, it does hurt to lose a member of our animal family...it hurts a lot. But we wouldn't trade the joy they give us, for whatever length of time we get to take care of them...we wouldn't trade it for anything..." even though they never live long enough.

### *A Dog's Last Will & Testament*

***Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, giving their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...***

***To a poor and lonely stray I'd give my happy home; my bowl and cozy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap, which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur; and the sweet voice that spoke my name.***

***I'd will to the sad, scared shelter dog the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.***

***So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and the pain is more than I can stand."***

***Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to him.***

***This is the only thing I can give...  
The love I left behind.***

—Author Unknown

## *Lemonade Stand Raises Funds for Litter of Eight!*



It has been almost 20 years since I met Laurie Bagley. In that time she has gotten married, had three children and has never forgotten to donate to RESQCATS on a yearly basis. I am in awe of her commitment.

But what really amazes me is that she has shared the importance of helping organizations such as RESQCATS with her young family. Her daughter, Whitney, has followed RESQCATS through our newsletters since the time she was first able to read. She decided that she wanted to do something to help the kitties.

Enter the old-fashioned lemonade stand we used to see on street corners back in the 50's and 60's. Well I didn't see them! I was too young! But I do remember setting up one in my front driveway once. I also remember picking flowers and weeds out of the neighbor's yard and then going door to door trying to sell them with my brother! I am sure when my mother reads this I will be questioned at great length about that!

Whitney made her lemonade sign and featured a kitty on it she had drawn herself. She had in hand the most recent RESQCATS newsletter. Her donation jar was decorated with animal print duct tape. Now she just needed the lemonade.

Her plan was to have her stand at a soccer game



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in Phoenix, Arizona, where she lives. Sadly, it got rained out. Imagine that! Rain! And, imagine her disappointment.

When her family took their summer vacation in Huntington Beach, it seemed the perfect time to have her fundraiser. She recruited her sister, Waverly and her cousin, Sam, to help. I am sure that these little girls were irresistible and impossible to refuse. What person with any conscience could say no to three adorable kids raising money for a cat rescue!

Whitney raised \$36.41 for RESQCATS. AND her parents added \$40 to her donation for a total of almost \$80.

The family took a day from vacation and visited RESQCATS. The donation jar came with them and Whitney presented it to me. It was just awesome!

RESQCATS is caring for a litter of eight kittens from a single mom. That \$80 is designated to the "octo-litter" and will pay for eight vet exams and eight vaccinations for them.

I cannot express how excited I was to meet Whitney and Waverly. They had a great afternoon at RESQCATS. I have a feeling that this will not be their last good deed and that they will always make a difference in the world.



This newsletter was designed by Demi Anter

## RESQCATS signs up with Etsy and Amazonsmile!

Don't forget...there are lots of ways to help RESQCATS!

We have a new Etsy store that features a variety of our fleece blankets for the kitties and doggies and one-of-a-kind RESQCATS jewelry. We set up the store for all of you who need a last minute gift for someone (it ships the same day you order) and for those who cannot attend our fundraisers or live out of town. So visit our Etsy Store!

AND PLEASE! Sign up for Amazonsmile and choose RESQCATS as your charity of choice. We will receive a percentage of everything you buy.

It all adds up to make a difference.

Visit Our Store On



### RESQCATS™

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

**I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation:**

Angel in Heaven .....	\$1000
Miracle Worker .....	\$500
Magic Maker .....	\$250
Caring Spirit .....	\$100
Supporter .....	\$50
Helper .....	\$

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

Make your check payable to:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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