

RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Fall 2015



President's Message

Written on August 19, 2015



Jeffyne and "Belle Baker" (who gave birth to seven kittens the day after she arrived at RESQCATS!)

Is it newsletter time again? Yes, it absolutely is time to bring you up-to-date on all that is happening at RESQCATS.

Many of you know that RESQCATS added five new enclosures this season giving us the capacity to rescue more cats and kittens than in past years. The loss of "Smudge," our longest time resident cat opened up a sixth space. Smudge's enclosure sat empty for weeks. I just couldn't get past the tears until my husband, Mitch (also known as Mr. Jeffyne) said, Jeffyne, you need to put some life back in her room. He was right. Allowing moms and babies to thrive where Smudge once lived has helped to heal my heart and enabled us to help even more felines.

What I didn't figure was just how busy it would be at RESQCATS. But with a handful of dedicated volunteers, RESQCATS has already touched the lives of almost 200 cats and kittens since the season began in April.

In July, we celebrated a total of 2300 adoptions since we began in 1997! A previous adopter had an idea for a campaign. She suggested that RESQCATS collect \$1 for each adopted kitty and raise \$2300 to honor each adoption. So we did just that and within

a couple of weeks, RESQCATS had raised \$2300 thanks to many of you. But the story doesn't end there. Another supporter promised to match the first \$1000 dollar for dollar. In the end, he and his wife rounded it up so that the campaign raised \$3500.

RESQCATS has already adopted over 120 this season. And the year is not over! I predict that this will be one of our biggest adoption years. RESQCATS has successfully placed many of the available cats and kittens by holding adoption events at the Montecito Pet Shop.

During kitten season, the days are long...usually dawn to dusk. Every morning begins with feeding and medicating the cats well before the volunteers arrive to help with all the cleaning of litter boxes and enclosures. I must pause here and say **THANK YOU** to each volunteer for all that you make possible. Volunteers are the backbone of RESQCATS and I am so grateful for their commitment, dedication and priceless gift of time. The remainder of the day is filled with vet appointments, monitoring sick cats and kittens, vaccinating, worming, laundry, paperwork, etc. Shall I go on!? The final call of the day is about 8 pm when the last meds are administered and I wish I could say that everyone is tucked in for the night. But that is just not true! It seems that the cattery is the busiest at dusk. Not a creature is **not** stirring! It reminds me of the show "Romper Room" from many years ago. And I am witness as to why it takes so much time to clean the enclosures every morning. Blankets are tossed, water bowls are tipped, litter is slung, toys are amok and fun is being had! The morning crew has the job of cleaning up everything but beer cans after the all-night parties! Seeing all the activity of growing, happy, healthy kittens is a great way to end a long day. Understand, it takes a lot of medical attention, tender loving care and sometimes a miracle to get many of cats and kittens to that point...but that is why RESQCATS exists.

RESQCATS has continued to sponsor spay and neuter surgeries for the public and through other local rescues and shelters. Our efforts to help the community reach beyond the spays and neuters we do within our own organization. RESQCATS is the only group that helps other non-profits with spay and neuter funding. We are very proud to be able to make a difference outside our walls.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With all that **RESQCATS** accomplishes, I realize that none of what we do would be possible without people like you. Your loyalty and generosity towards **RESQCATS** is truly a gift that makes a difference.

I have shared many times how difficult it feels to ask for your support. But it is an important part of my job. Without you, we could not save as many, provide the best medical care possible, reach out to the community to help with spays and neuters or have an impact on the lives of these so many felines.

So I ask for your tax-deductible donation as we continue with the long kitten season. Every dollar counts and **RESQCATS** offers ways for you to donate. We still accept the old fashioned checks, but we also have a donate button on our website: www.RESQCATS.org if you choose to use PayPal.

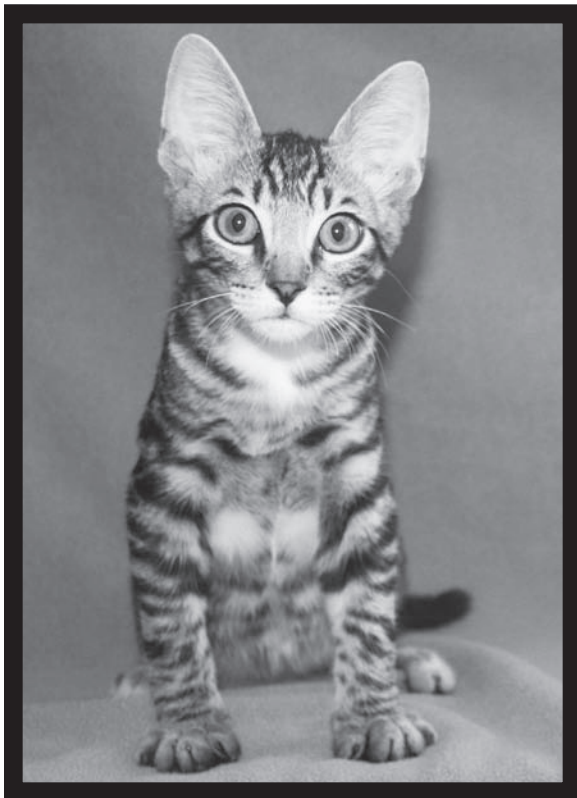
I send back to you all that you give through your contribution: love, light, hope, blessings and miracles.

Most sincerely,



Jeffyne Telson,
President and Founder of RESQCATS, Inc.

“Trucker” finds his way to California from OHIO!



I often feature articles in the **RESQCATS** newsletter titled “Where do all those kittens come from?” Believe me when I say that they all have a story!

This year we have taken in owned mother cats that were no longer wanted such as “Farrah” and her babies, “Gable,” “Bridget,” and “ZsaZsa.” “Bella Baker” was a pregnant stray rescued from Koreatown in LA and brought to **RESQCATS one day** before giving birth to seven. Kittens have been found in woodpiles, hiding under cars, discovered inside a bar-b-que, found inside someone’s sofa during a remodel and all are in less than perfect condition. We also assist with feral kittens through Catalyst for Cats which is a local trap, neuter and return organization.

However, there is one story that stands out above the rest this season and that is the tale of “Trucker!”

In July, a couple was traveling across country and stopped at a truck stop in Ohio for a morning cup of coffee and a newspaper. They inserted coins into the change slot at the newspaper bin expecting to purchase the daily news. Imagine their surprise when they opened the door to retrieve the paper and discovered a three month old kitten inside. He was petrified, scared and panting from the record-breaking heat! It was obvious that there was no way on Earth the kitten could have gotten in there by himself. Someone left him!

Thank goodness the little fella was found before he passed out and died from heat exhaustion. Being the good samaritans they were, the tabby boy was loaded in the cab of their truck with shredded newspaper for litter. So much for the purchased paper! Their trek across country continued. The story goes that the kitten enjoyed the remainder of his adventure in the safety of their truck sitting up front in the cab as they made their way back to Santa Maria, California.

His luck continued as the couple happened to be relatives of a **RESQCATS** foster, Monica Gonzalez. She immediately contacted me and told me the almost unbelievable story.

We named the kitten, “Trucker,” a clever and fitting name. He was tested, vaccinated, neutered, microchipped and put up for adoption. It took less than a week for him to find a forever home with the store manager of The Montecito Pet Shop. Kelly laid eyes on him at the **RESQCATS** Adoption Event and said, “Trucker has a home with me and my dog, “Diesel!”

Yes, this is a true story!

AND Trucker holds the all time record for traveling the farthest to **RESQCATS** and ultimately becoming a sunny California cat!



RESQCATS celebrates 2300 adoptions!

In July RESQCATS reached a total of 2300 adoptions since we began in 1997. I know that sounds like an odd number to celebrate, but I was just so excited and wanted to share my enthusiasm with someone. So I announced our milestone on Facebook.

A previous adopter loved the post and said she thought that RESQCATS should start a campaign to collect \$1 for each adopted kitty. I thought it was a neat idea. It truly escalated when another supporter offered to match the first \$1000. So many were inspired by the idea and the dollars began to arrive. In less than two weeks, RESQCATS had \$2300 for the 2300 Fund. And that promised \$1000 was actually \$1200 when it arrived making the fund total \$3500!

I feel it is important to share how that money was spent so that you can realize just what a difference you make.

Some of the 2300 Fund money went to cover much of the costs of "Serena," a young pregnant cat that RESQCATS pulled from a county shelter while she was pregnant. She gave birth to kittens in the luxury and comfort of RESQCATS but not without complications. Her surviving babies are in forever homes, but Serena remains at RESQCATS and in the care of an internal specialist, suffering from pancreatitis, digestive issues, kidney concerns and escalated liver enzymes. She has undergone an ultrasound and is on several supplements and sub-q fluids. Serena is about 1-1/2 years old and will continue to need medical support for several months. We hope her



treatment will get her to 100% but only time will tell. And if she is not adoptable, she will become one lucky resident cat at RESQCATS.

The 2300 Fund has also paid for extensive and expensive tests for a little kitten that arrived at

RESQCATS in July. "Henri" was found as the only kitten on a dangerous public property with his mom, "Heidi." He was minute for his age and suffering from anemia and some neurological problems. Although, tests have not revealed a definite diagnosis, he is being treated for a blood parasite. He is responding beautifully. I expect a full recovery. Mom and son are extremely bonded so I cannot imagine separating them when it comes to adoption time.



In addition, you vaccinated 50 kittens, provided exams for those 50 kittens, spayed 25 females and neutered 25 males.

WOW!

You really do make a difference!



I want to extend a very special thank you to Valerie Kuan and Michael Gardner for adopting "April." She was abandoned at the Chumash Reservation and came to RESQCATS with four one-day-old kittens. She raised her family and watched each of her babies leave for homes. Valerie saw April on RESQCATS Facebook and knew she would be the purr-fect match for her family.

I always smile when Michael posts about how much they love April!

And now...

A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne... How to Survive the Loss of a Love.

As the deadline for the RESQCATS Newsletter article draws near I usually suffer a minor panic attack! I worry...will my article be interesting enough for people to want to read it? Will it be relevant to the animal world? Is it important to RESQCATS supporters?

Yikes! What am I going to write about?

I fret, because, unlike Jeffyne, who's writing sometimes doesn't even need to be edited, my ideas for a story and the words that draw that story's visual images don't come pouring out of my head and through my fingertips onto the computer keyboard like an evenly flowing stream. No, for me it's generally a chore to figure out what I'm going to write about, and an even greater task to organize my thoughts into an article that is fluid and makes sense to the reader. My pieces normally begin more like an old car that has trouble starting, and when it finally does get going it coughs and sputters and chugs down the road until it's finally warmed up and the "congestion" is out of its system...because, like others who struggle with dyslexia, writing and its corollary, reading, are very difficult roads to navigate.

So when I ask Jeffyne, as I usually do, "What would you like me to write for this newsletter?" It always bolsters my confidence when she tells me, "Write whatever's on your mind...I'm sure it'll be wonderful!"

So here goes...the 21st in a continuing series of *A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne...* articles about animals and our life with them. This time...*How to Survive the Loss of a Love*.

Many years ago, during a particularly difficult time in my life, someone recommended that I read a wonderful little book entitled, "How to Survive the Loss of A Love" by Melba Colgrove, Harold Bloomfield and Peter McWilliams. It's a very simple book...only about 200 pages, but exceptionally powerful in its message for dealing with grief, the healing process and moving on with your life.

Even after more than 30 years, I recall many of the ideas from that book particularly noting that surviving loss is not just about losing someone to death or divorce or separation...surviving the loss of a love is about the loss of anything...a job...a dream...your youth...your health...your mate...or "simply" your pet.

On Friday, July 3 of this year we lost our little *Journey* following her courageous battle with kidney disease. This is how I remember Journey:



Mitch, Dawn, Jeffyne and Journey

Journey became part of our family in 2007 when I helped transport 3 of more than 50 collies from Tomball, Texas to the west coast. All the dogs had been confiscated from a terrible hoarding situation by the wonderful people at Houston Collie Rescue. (Yes, this is the same hoarder and the same rescue group where another 139 collies were confiscated in 2014!)

When Journey arrived on our doorstep, she weighed a mere 28 pounds, had a mammary gland tumor, a uterine cyst and a case of heartworm that required two rounds of chemotherapy...all reflective of the neglect and trauma of her first five years as a hoarder's breeding dog.

Notwithstanding these conditions, Journey survived AND blossomed, AND became a truly wonderful companion to us and her collie pack-mates.

But despite our greatest wishes, companion animals don't live forever...Journey was diagnosed with kidney disease in April, 2014.

For the next 15 months, she and I became a bonded pair as her feeding schedule increased from one to four, she received sub-Q fluids twice a day, and I gave her, literally, a medicine chest full of medications several times daily. But at the end of the day, it was always my loving pleasure to be able to pick her up and place her on our bed so she could sleep right next to, or on top of her real love... Jeffyne!

The week before she died became more difficult for Journey as she ate less and slept more. As the end drew near, Journey looked at me with her deep,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



soulful brown eyes as if to say, "Daddy, I'm tired, can I go now?" We knew it was time to let her go. And peacefully she did go...in our arms with the help of a caring vet.

Incidentally, Jeffyne is responsible for giving Journey her name the day she arrived in Santa Barbara. Jeffyne said her name from that day on would be Journey...because the road stopped here!

Journey is now on to her next road...a road to a bridge. She's gone from our touch, but she will be forever in our hearts.

Goodbye sweet girl...we will always love you.

Whenever we lose one of our beloved animals, Jeffyne and I are usually asked, "How do you do it?" "How can you endure the loss?" "Why do you choose to go through so much pain time and time again?"

While our answers usually don't satisfy everyone...probably because our lifestyle doesn't fit many people...it does reassure us. It is inevitable that with so many animals in our home that we would lose more of them, and lose them more frequently... especially since we now adopt only older and/or disabled dogs that have fewer options for a forever home. And Jeffyne, through RESQCATS, only keeps the unadoptable cats...those who are too old, too sick or too unsociable to be adopted. (This is what makes RESQCATS a truly no-kill shelter!)

So...how do we survive the loss of a love? Well, usually sadly....sometimes painfully...but always, always...we move on. We sometimes wallow in our grief longer than we had hoped because we cherish the memories...but eventually, we move on. We never forget and we never let go...but we do move on.

Because we've learned that the best way to honor the life of our lost love...is to love again. So that's just what we do... we love again!

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



For my "Journey."

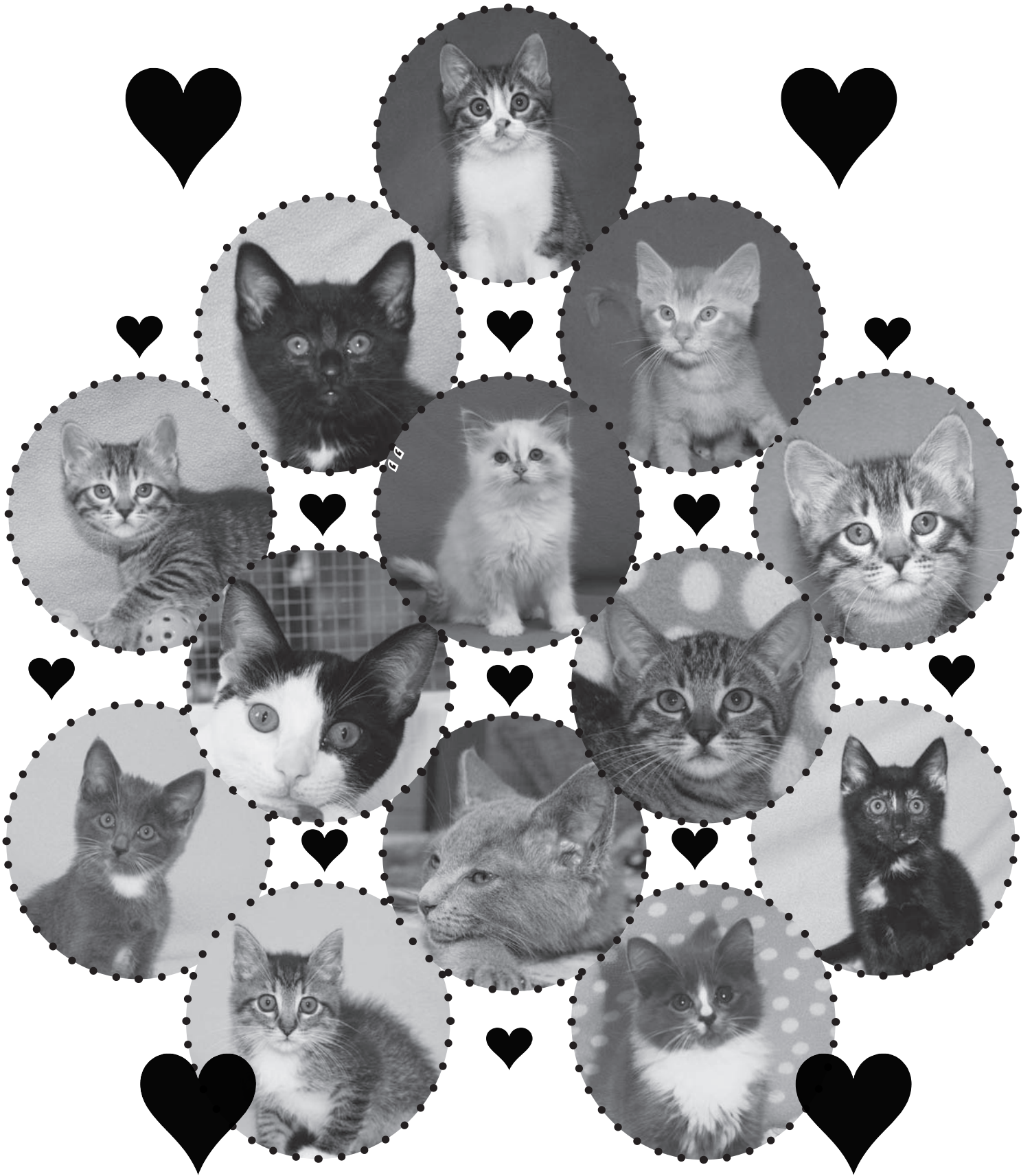
I begin and end each day thinking of you. As I watch the sun rise from my deck, I look for you when the first morning light glistens on the wings of the seagulls flying past as the sun begins to rise. And then my long and busy day begins. There are so many things to do at RESQCATS that I find some reprieve from the sadness in my heart. Then, each evening I sit on the bench overlooking the ocean. I listen to the waves rolling in bringing you close to me as if to say I am okay, Mom. Then I imagine my sadness leaving as the tide moves out. It is only then that I find some peace and my tears are quieter.

Some Faces of 2015!



Photography by Nancy Aguirre

From top to bottom, left to right: Amy, Apricot, Zsa Zsa, Farrah and her son Gable, Wyatt, Whip, Bobby, Marvin and Bronson



*From top to bottom, left to right: London, Maui, Mahalo,
Keoni, SweetPea, Vannah, Pavarotti, Titus, Bootsie, Bubba,
Destiny, Cota and Miko*

Reasons to keep cats indoors.

Many of you know that RESQCATS has an indoor-only policy for cats. That means indoors only 100% of the time for the cat's entire lifetime.

It literally breaks my heart when someone does not honor the commitment they have made when they adopt a RESQCATS cat or kitten. Not only do I not understand why they don't honor the commitment they have made but they tell me about it. I recently attended a memorial where a previous adopter spoke about the great hunters his cats were. They were adopted from RESQCATS as kittens with the signed commitment that they would always be indoors. Most recently a lady who adopted a beautiful mother cat last year stopped by one of the RESQCATS fundraiser booths and proceeded to talk about how much the cat loved playing outside! I was devastated. After several days of trying to understand why anyone would break such a promise I realized that I can only educate people on the dangers and I do not have control over what they actually do once an adoption is finalized. Accepting that has been a hard road for me personally. I have learned that it is not about me...it is about the honesty and integrity of others to follow through on their promise. I know at the end of each day that I have done my very best.

I "get it" that not everyone understands or agrees with the policy but differences in ideas are what makes the world so diverse and "go round" so to speak. I make no exceptions to this rule and people usually appreciate my philosophy once I explain the reasons why to keep a cat inside. I tell the potential adopter that I respect their viewpoint of wanting a cat to go out. I explain that they need to do what works for them and their lifestyle and then I politely share the names of other organizations that may fit their desire for in indoor/outdoor or outdoor cat.

Recently, I met someone at an adoption event who had just lost their cat to a coyote. I offered my condolences and then asked if they planned to keep the next one indoors. Their reply was "No, we don't." I am still trying to figure that one out. The following week, a woman and her young daughter showed up on an adoption day and said, "Our cat ran away this week and we want to get a kitten." Again, I told them I was very sorry for their loss and asked if they were looking for an indoor kitty. The mother shook her head no. I took a chance, or maybe it just slipped out of my mouth, and asked, "Why would you let a kitten outside if you just lost your cat and don't know what actually happened to it?" The lady's reply, "We don't live that way." I was dumbfounded.

Most conversations with people who will not commit to having an indoor kitty end on a good note. I refer them to other organizations without the indoor-only rule and I always wish them luck. I go as far as to invite them to call me if they have any questions about

anything even if they adopt from another organization.

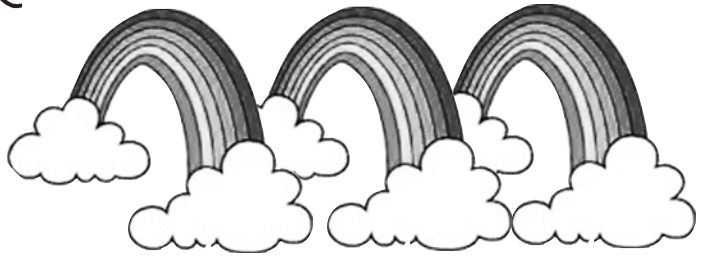
On the other hand, I have been hung up on and once I was called "ridiculous" before the caller slammed down the phone!

Following are some facts and reasons for cats to be indoors.

- "In 1992, the Humane Society of the US approximated the average life span of an outdoor cat as 4 years while indoor cats often reached 14-17 years, or even older."
- Your cat won't get hit by a car.
- Your cat won't get lost.
- Your cat won't be frightened by loud blasts of traffic, gardeners working or construction noise.
- It won't be attacked by a wild animal such as a coyote, hawk, dog or another cat.
- It won't be hurt by the whims of a neighbor that may not like cats and try to harm it.
- Your cat is less likely to be infested with fleas, ticks and internal parasites.
- Your cat won't catch diseases from other animals such as feline leukemia, FIV, rabies or immunodeficiency viruses.
- Your cat is less likely to ingest a deadly poison such as antifreeze or pesticide.
- Your cat won't ingest plants that may be toxic to them.
- Your cat won't be stolen.
- Your cat won't wind up at the pound if it becomes lost.
- Your cat won't become ill ingesting garbage or contaminated food left outside.
- Your cat won't become trapped in some place from which it cannot escape, such as a neighbor's garage.
- Your cat won't be exposed to the weather elements such as freezing in the winter or becoming dehydrated in the hot summer.
- Your cat won't eat wildlife such as birds.
- Your cat won't eat rodents that may have been poisoned causing the cat to go into immediate kidney failure.
- Your cat will have most likely have fewer trips to the vet because he or she will not be exposed to outdoor dangers.

Doesn't seem "**ridiculous**" to me!



In memory of...

In memory of **"Leo"** and for his human mom, Susan Leroy who gave him more on this Earth than any cat could ever dream of.

Amy and Glen Dobson



In memory of **"Ralphie."** Angels are never on this Earth for very long.

Love, Deanna Koens and Jeffyne



In memory of **"Smudge"** and **"Journey."**

Love, Erica Dahl



In memory of **"Journey."**

Liz Benishin



My memories of **"Smudge"** are endless. She was always so welcoming with her soft meows. I certainly fell for her "tricks up her paw" asking for treats!

Love,
Nancy Karlin



Remembering **"Ace."**

Another little angel on the Rainbow Bridge.
Love, Jeffyne and the Thursday morning crew.



In memory of **"Miejek,"** my other soulmate.

Love, Jeffyne

In loving memory of **"Leo."**

15 ½ years with you went by way too fast. For such a little guy you had a very large presence in our life and taught us so much. Because of you **RESQCATS** helped many of your distant relatives in need and for that we will be forever grateful. Run free little guy and continue teaching those who will listen. We miss you each and every day but we have so many fond memories (and videos) that will keep you close to our hearts forever.

Susan Leroy

*In celebration of...**In honor of*

The **RESQCATS** volunteers!

Happy 11th birthday to **"Lucy Lu!"**

From Connie Kennelly

In celebration of **"Web"** and **"Deacon!"**

Penny Huff



Happy 12th birthday, **"Zuki!"**

Marion Jean

In honor of **Dan and Nancy George!**

From Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell

Valuable is the work you do

Outstanding in how you always come through

Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer

Untiring in your efforts throughout the year

Notable are the contributions you make

Trustworthy in every project you take

Eager to reach your every goal

Effective in the way you fulfill your role

Ready with a smile like a shining star

Special and wonderful - that's what you are!



In honor of **"Brandy,"** our third and newest cat and four-legged friend.

Aileen Pautsch

Some special thank yous...

A very special *thank you* to **Nicola Parker**. She received a grant from school and set out to make a difference at RESQCATS. The grant money was used to purchase a 3-D printer. She then made objects with the printer and sold them to raise money for RESQCATS. Nicola presented RESQCATS with a check for \$350. She is eleven years old and is already making a difference in the world. I was so honored to have RESQCATS be her charity of choice.



Thank you to **each and every one** of you who donated during our campaign to raise \$2300 in honor of the 2300 cats and kittens that had been adopted from RESQCATS in July. It was an awesome promotion and so many of you contributed and your generosity will help us with the next 2300!



Thank you, **Marian Jean and "Zuki"** for taking the time every year to visit RESQCATS on Zuki's birthday. Marian loads Zuki into a carrier and honors us with \$10 for each year that Zuki celebrates... and this year it was \$120 for her 12th birthday!



A heartfelt *thank you* goes to **Jon and Mary Lou Sorrell** for your generosity. You continue to make such a difference for so many cats and kittens at RESQCATS. Your donation was so timely being that this has been the busiest kitten season in our history. Your understanding, compassion and emotional support is priceless!



Thank you **Sue Grafton and John Humphrey** for your loyal support and wonderful donation right in the middle of kitten season when it is needed the most. I felt like an angel dropped in when I opened my mail. You cannot imagine impact you have on so many lives here at RESQCATS.



I am eternally grateful to **a beautiful couple who wants to remain anonymous** for getting our campaign of raising \$2300 for the 2300 total adoptions we reached in July. They committed to matching the first \$1000 raised, but in the end they enabled RESQCATS to reach a total of \$3500 with a donation of \$1200! *Thank you* from my heart!



The work we do at RESQCATS would not be possible without the help of St. Francis Pet Clinic. I am especially grateful to **Rick Morgan, DVM**, for always making time

to see RESQCATS kitties. His knowledge of veterinary medicine and compassion for rescued animals are just the right combo for so many that arrive in compromised conditions. Healing with empathy seems to be his way and it is purr-fect. *Thank you* from my heart!



A special *thank you* to **Greg Haskell, DVM**, at Adobe Pet Hospital for taking on some of the most challenging cases we face at RESQCATS. I tease that he always gets some of the toughest medical scenarios but his expertise is something that I truly value. He is there to help during an emergency and his support is a gift.



Thank you to all the **staff and doctors (Beverly Holmes, DVM, Eve Kuessis, DVM and Annie McDonnell, DVM) at La Cumbre Animal Hospital** for allowing me to drop kittens off for exams and treatment at a moment's notice. Your efforts to supply RESQCATS with so many of the medications that we need on a daily basis enable us to provide only the best for the cats and kittens.



A special *thank you* to **Advanced Veterinary Specialists** for your expertise in all those special needs cases. Having doctors who specialize in orthopedics, internal medicine and cardiology have enabled RESQCATS to save lives and provide the best treatment available for our most medically challenged arrivals.



When **Paityn Perrson** found newborn kittens in her dad's bar-b-que, she took it upon herself to bottle feed them and raise them until they were old enough to eat on their own and come to RESQCATS. She is eleven years old and much of her summer vacation was dedicated to getting up every three hours to feed "Emi" and "Milo" to make sure they survived. She did an amazing job and I am in awe of her devotion to animals. She is hope for teaching the importance of compassion for animals in the next generation. *Thank you* Paityn from Emi, Milo and RESQCATS!



Thank you to **The Montecito Pet Shop** for your dedication to RESQCATS. You are a pleasure to work with and I am grateful for all you do. And a very special *thank you* to **Lynn Penney** for your devotion to finding the perfect home for all the cats and kittens.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



Thank you Waverly and Whitney Bagley for spending your vacation raising money for RESQCATS. Your lemonade stand on the Santa Monica pier over July 4th raised \$193.60 for the cats and kittens at RESQCATS. That is four times as much as last year and will go a long way to change lives for the kitties. You are awesome!



Thank you, Lisa Smith and Ruff Stuff Studio for the wonderful pottery that you donated to RESQCATS for our fundraising booth in August. We collected over \$500 to help the cats and kittens because of you.



Sarah Bacon spent most of her summer vacation cleaning enclosures, socializing kittens and helping with Adoption Events at RESQCATS. She is an exceptional young lady at only 14 years of age. Her commitment to helping with so many of the tasks and caring for all the kitties is a priceless gift to the many lives she touched. She is hope for all the animals that cross her path in her lifetime and I have no doubts that she will teach others her age about giving and caring for animals....and people! We all love her! *Thank you, Sarah!*



A very special *thank you* to the **volunteers** for making so much possible at RESQCATS. You are the core of RESQCATS and I am grateful to each of you everyday. Your tasks are many...from cleaning litter boxes and floors, socializing kittens, building enclosures and installing cabinets, painting floors and enclosures during the off-season, designing and preparing the newsletter, working on fundraising projects and so much more. The gift of your time is a priceless treasure!

Erica Dahl, Hunter Alison McGrath, Adrienne Kaplan, Janet Dewey, Jim Hurnblad, Nancy Aguirre, Erika Sacks, Christine Choi, Debbie Stanfield, Julie Moore, Shannon Crean, Susan Leroy, Deanna Koens, Debbie Merry, Denny Epperson, Laura Lewis, Sierra Faoro, Sarah Bacon, Monica Gonzalez Amy Dobson, Violet Coto, Mandy Gabriel, Halie Sila, Valerie Moreno, Kirsten Tambo, Demi Anter, Gretchen Ostergren, Steph Snow and Catalina Esteves.

So this is how it starts!

Maya was two years old with a litter of four day old kittens when RESQCATS was contacted by a family asking for help. The family lives in Santa Barbara so I was able to pick up Maya and her family within in hour of our initial conversation.

When I arrived, I saw six newborns that were Maya's latest litter.

In addition, there were two females and a male living at the house that were from her first litter the year before. I could only think of getting all the cats out before there were more pregnancies and more kittens from the two females who were at the prime time to go into their first heat cycle! I hoped I had rescued them before they became pregnant. I did convince the family to allow RESQCATS to neuter the male and hoped he had not impregnated his sisters.

Maya's older daughters, "Molli" and "Mochi," were quite bonded. I couldn't imagine separating the sisters. They were tested, vaccinated, spayed, micro-chipped and then the search for a home began. They were fortunate and found a home within a couple of weeks. Emily and Sam Schwab were okay adopting older kittens. I am truly indebted to them for their open hearts and they certainly have a special place in mine!

Another phone call came from the family about two weeks later. The family wanted to know if I could take the third kitten from Maya's first litter and have her spayed. It was obvious that "Pancha" was pregnant when I arrived to pick her up. The clincher was that family wanted Pancha back after she was spayed.

Pancha delivered four babies at RESQCATS and remained with us almost three months until her kittens were weaned and it was safe to spay her. As much as I wanted to find a safer home for her where she would be inside off the busy street where she lived, there was no persuading the family of letting me find a more suitable home.

When I asked why the family wanted Pancha back and not Maya, the reply was, "Well, Maya is older and I really don't want her because she is two years old." I am positive that Pancha never received the follow up vaccinations that were recommended. And I know she is outside a lot of the time next to that busy street. I worry



CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

about her. However, I do find solace knowing that she is very much loved by her family. Sometimes that is all I can do and just have to remind myself that I have done the best I can.

So it looked like this at RESQCATS....a home for unwed mothers! Maya nursed her second litter of kittens while her daughter, Pancha, gave birth and nursed Maya's grandkittens! See what happens!

Pancha's babies were adopted after following our medical protocol.

Maya and her kittens suffered from a severe upper respiratory outbreak that hit them hard. Stuffy noses, not wanting to eat and eye infections were so bad that it took weeks or medical treatment and vigilant care. Three of her kittens went to the eye specialist to make sure surgery from the damaged eyes was not necessary. I try not to think of the thousands of dollars that this one household of un-spayed cats cost RESQCATS!

Finally, Maya's babies were ready for homes all were quickly adopted to some wonderful people.

Only Maya was left looking for a home. I don't understand why it is so difficult for the young moms to find homes but it is usually such a struggle to find that open heart that will even consider a mother cat over a kitten. Most often, it takes months to find homes for young mother cats.

Imagine my surprise when Rebekah Whittington arrived with her seventeen-year-old daughter, Hannah, at a RESQCATS Adoption Event and Hannah, chose to adopt Maya over all the available kittens. Most people gravitate only towards kittens and never seem to lay eyes on their moms. But not Hannah. I am in awe of Hannah and I am grateful to Rebekah for teaching her daughter about giving from the heart. They are a gift to Maya.

They stopped by one of our fundraiser booths a few weeks later to let me know that Maya is doing just great. Hannah had a big smile on her face and as she walked away...I felt happy tears roll down my cheeks.



"Maya": adopted by Rebekah and Hannah Whittington

Following are the statistics of how many cats are born over the years when one unsprayed female and one unaltered male get together along with all their unaltered offspring!

- 1 year: 12
- 2 years: 66
- 3 years: 382
- 4 years: 2201
- 5 years: 12,680
- 6 years: 73,041
- 7 years: 420,715
- 8 years: 2,423,316
- 9 years: 13,958,290
- 10 years: 80,399,780

Get the message!

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/Zip: _____

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

Email address: _____



Or email jeffyne@resqcats.org and we will add you to our list!