

RESQCATS™

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



paws for the news



Winter 2017



President's Message

Written on November 1, 2017



Jeffyne and "Honey Bun"

Is it time for the **RESQCATS** Winter Newsletter already?! Where did 2017 go?! It was a busy year with a lot of things happening. Let me take a breath and bring you up to date!

Although there has been no time to celebrate, **RESQCATS** reached a milestone of twenty years in serving the community. Our adoptions in 2017 are predicted to be almost 200. Our total number of adoptions surpassed 2800!

Hundreds more have been helped through our community outreach. **RESQCATS** funded spay and neuter surgeries for cats whose owners could not afford or did not understand the importance of spaying and neutering. We assisted other local non-profit groups such as Care4Paws and ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program) with grants for spay/neuter surgery so that we can all work together to solve the pet overpopulation problem.

RESQCATS tracked Craigslist ads where kittens were being sold or given away and we were able to intervene, save lives and make sure that all received proper medical care prior to adoption. For example, "Emmi" was advertised on Craigslist for free...and she was pregnant! Emmi gave birth to four kittens before her owner accepted our offer to take her. Emmi raised her litter at **RESQCATS** and all received vet care, vaccinations, Felv/FIV tests, worming meds, microchips and spay/neuter surgery. She and all her kittens found purr-fect homes through **RESQCATS**.

There's something new and fun in this newsletter. Be sure and read the first in a series of articles by "Mr. Jeffyne" as he looks back over the first twenty years of **RESQCATS**!

And more exciting news! It has finally happened! My book, *Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS*, is out! It has taken four years for me to complete this book and it is a work of dedication and passion. I hope to see many orders coming across my desk. See information on how to get your copy inside this newsletter! And remember, 100% of the proceeds from the book go directly to the cats and kittens of 2018!

We have also produced two calendars to help raise funds for **RESQCATS** and this year there is something for everyone. The second *Cat-Men-Do 2018 Calendar* is hot off the press and for those who don't care about the cute guys, the first *Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS 2018 Calendar* is also available. See inside for details.



"Emmi"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although all the cats and kittens that come through **RESQCATS** are special, there have been several felines that tugged at my heartstrings.

One might think that after twenty years of rescuing stray and abandoned cats and kittens that I would somehow be accustomed to hearing about many tough circumstances the cats endure before being rescued. But, that has never happened with me. My desire to help as many as I can remains strong and keeps me focused on what I need to do to get them well. And my love for the cats is unwavering.

Every day is a new day of opportunity to make a difference and that is what I try to do. I understand the importance of looking past the sad stories and think more about how to help. Does this cat need emergency medical care, or will a regular vet visit be okay? Will time and love cure the body and soul? Sometimes, it takes it all!

It is difficult to choose which stories to share as they are all significant. But there are a few from this year that come to mind first and in these circumstances, it took it all!



"Serendipity"

Serendipity was found lifeless at the Santa Maria recycle plant on the sorting belt by a worker when she was just a few days old. She spent weeks in foster care being bottle fed and recovering from a broken tail and foot. She stole the hearts of many that followed her story on Facebook. Serendipity is one I will never forget.



"Dash"

Dash was found on the side of the road at nine weeks old. Speculation leads us to believe that he was picked up by a hawk and then dropped from high in the air. His body was bruised and he had several lacerations and puncture wounds from what we believe was caused by the bird's powerful beak and sharp talons. Amazingly, Dash recovered from his mishap after two weeks of cage rest. His adopter, Robin Roe, believes he is still making up for those lost weeks of activity when she politely describes him as playful!



"Magic"

Magic was a stray mom that arrived at **RESQCATS** in August. She weighed four pounds and six ounces. She was emaciated and hungry, but never failed to care for and nurse her four kittens, although I wonder how much milk they were actually getting from a starving mother. Her babies were three to four weeks old and all weighed less than eight ounces; half of what the normal weight is for kittens that age. Magic took in her new surroundings at **RESQCATS** and seemed grateful for a full bowl of kibble, all the canned food her tummy desired and a safe place to raise her family. She gained a pound-and-a-half in her first month! Her shy demeanor disappeared with all the love and attention from the **RESQCATS** volunteers. And her babies blossomed, too. It is my hope that by the time you read this newsletter, Magic has won the heart of someone and will be adopted as quickly as her kittens.

Opal was found at the Los Angeles dump when she was six weeks old. Yet, she weighed that of a three-week-old kitten; a mere twelve ounces. She was flea anemic, dehydrated and alarmingly weak. Then, she developed pneumonia and required weeks of antibiotics, follow-up vet visits and x-rays. **RESQCATS** provided all the medical care for Opal, but she needed more...from me. She was frail, afraid and alone. I spent weeks carrying her around in my "Kittyroo" sweatshirt pocket. Being tucked inside offered her security and my gentle touch and love must have helped her heal, too. She went everywhere with me!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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But hey, she was small and undetectable hiding inside my pocket at The Good Cup coffee shop and Natural Café! Isn't that part of the medical protocol!?



"Opal"

Matias was relinquished by a homeless man who finally realized that he could not provide proper care for a six-week-old failing kitten. Matias was so weak that the emergency veterinarian did not think he would survive. During his initial exam, the doctor checked several times to see if he was still breathing. Emergency care, intravenous fluids, worming medication, flea treatment and good nutrition saved Matias. But another hour or two and he may not have survived. By the time you receive this, I suspect that this little guy will be fully recovered and entertaining a new adoptive family.



"Matias"

I could tell you many other stories, but unfortunately I have limited space in this newsletter.

So let me share some personal thoughts.

As kitten season comes to a close, I have time to reflect over the past year. So much has happened and somehow it all takes on special meaning as the holidays approach. It is an occasion to be grateful, hopeful and

humble. This time of year offers me the opportunity to look back, take in all that has happened and celebrate **RESQCATS'** success.

As the dawn to dusk pace at the height of kitten season slows down, I have time to think about things on a more intimate level. I take note of the insightful lessons about life that the animals have offered to me personally. I come to appreciate their teachings as a guide as to how I look at and live my life. I am thankful for all the animals have offered me to see and learn. They are about giving. They love unconditionally. Petting them and hearing their rumbling purrs is like peaceful music to soothe the soul. Their playfulness is a reminder to laugh and find joy in the little things. Most importantly, I like to believe that I am a kinder, more tolerant, patient and positive person because of them. The cats and kittens give all they have from the heart...and I strive to do the same to **RESQCATS** and to the people that surround me every single day.

But it takes more than just me and the handful of amazing volunteers to make it work at **RESQCATS**. Not a day goes by that I don't realize that all we have to offer in order to save the cats' lives is because of people like you.

I realize that there have been many tragedies and natural disasters this past year and that many people may have turned their efforts towards helping those in desperate need.

I ask that we also think about the impact that animals can have on people's lives. I may not be able to change anyone's life in Texas or Florida or Puerto Rico by adopting a kitten to someone there. But with your donation, I can change the fate of stray and abandoned cats and kittens...and they in turn change the lives of those who adopt them. And that is a worthy cause!

So please join me in making a difference with your tax-deductible donation to **RESQCATS**. Your support will ensure that each and every cat and kitten receives any and all the medical care he or she may need. It provides food, litter, medical supplies and spay or neuter surgery. Your donation helps with extraordinary surgeries, critical emergency procedures and visits with veterinarian specialists such as cardiologists, ophthalmologists, orthopedic doctors and more.

In a world where we are all trying to make a difference, I promise that you will be doing just that with your donation to **RESQCATS**.

I wish you a holiday season full of joy, hope and peace.

Most sincerely,

Jeffyne
President of **RESQCATS**, Inc.



It's finally here!

My book entitled *Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS* has just been released by the publisher. And you can order yours now!

The book has taken four years for me to complete and I am excited to finally have it in finished form to share with all of you.

The book follows a timeline beginning with the story of my first cat, Tattoo, all the way to present day. Much of it is autobiographical in that I talk about my dream of creating a cat sanctuary and how RESQCATS became reality. I am able to share my thoughts about the challenges of rescue over the years through stories about some of the very special cats and kittens that pulled my heartstrings and taught me some of life's most valuable lessons. You will laugh, cry, and perhaps see rescue and cats in a whole new light.

And to get you excited about ordering your copy or copies, here are two of the advanced praise comments.



"This is a delightful and detailed history of a wonderful rescue organization, RESQCATS, and the autobiography of a selfless advocate who has devoted her adult life to sheltering and caring for cats and other creatures. None of us should be bystanders in a world where homeless animals, neglect, and suffering abound, and Jeffyne Telson shows us how one person can make a difference in quite an extraordinary way."

— Wayne Pacelle... President & CEO, The Humane Society of the United States and *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *The Bond* and *The Humane Economy*



"Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the cats and kittens of RESQCATS is a touching account of Jeffyne Telson's journey over the years with cats great and small. Her love for these abandoned strays, sometimes ill, sometimes injured, is a testimony to the healing process that accompanies any caring and mutually dependent relationship where humans are so often rewarded in ways far greater than they anticipate."

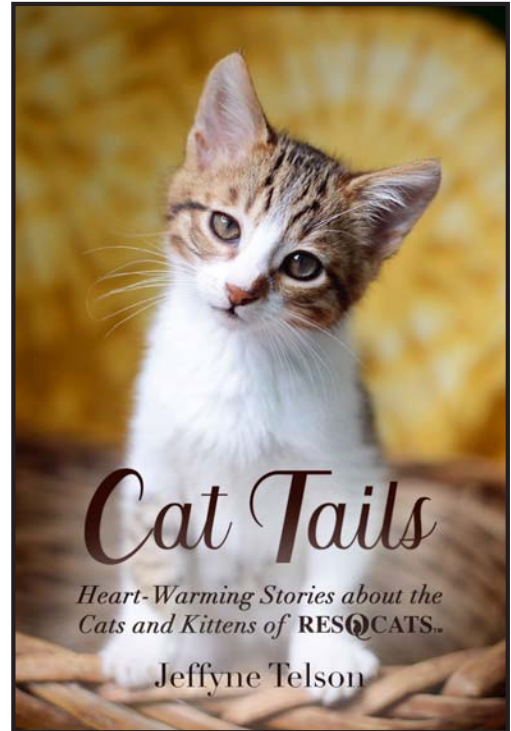
— Sue Grafton... Cat-lover and International Bestselling Author of the "Alphabet Series" of Kinsey Millhone Mysteries



It is my hope that this book will encourage you to expand your compassion for animals and discover a greater appreciation for the important life lessons they teach us. If I touch the heart of even a single reader, then I feel I will have accomplished this goal.

Here is how you can order! Fill out the form to the left and send it with your check made out to RESQCATS. Mail to RESQCATS, PO Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.

Or order online via PayPal by going to:
http://resqcats.org/cat_tails.asp



Cover photo of "Kaden" by Cata Esteves. Book cover and design by Demi Anter.

Mail-in Order Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Price per book:	\$27.95
Tax @ 7.75%:	\$ 2.17
S&H:	\$ 4.88
Total per book:	\$35.00

of books: _____

Total amount: \$ _____

How would you like the book to be signed
by the author? _____



And now... A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne

The Story of RESQCATS...The Beginning, 1995

Part 1 of a series on the history and evolution of RESQCATS from 1995 to the present.

As RESQCATS completes its second decade as a cat rescue organization, this seems like a good opportunity to look back over the past twenty years to see just how it all began.

As many of you will learn when you read Jeffyne's new book, *Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS*, we had no idea how the organization would grow and evolve over the years, nor what RESQCATS could accomplish. Jeffyne set out in 1997 to help stray and abandoned cats and kittens. And now, twenty years later, RESQCATS is the second largest cat rescue organization in Santa Barbara County having rescued, cared for and found wonderful homes for more than 2800 cats and kittens. But wait, I'm getting ahead of myself...let's go back to the beginning.

When I started to think about retiring in 1995, we were living in Phoenix. But having lived on the boardwalk in San Diego when we were first married, we already knew that we wanted to spend our retirement years someplace on the beach in California. At every opportunity, we would fly to the Golden State and spend long weekends looking at every large parcel of land along the coast. Our goal was a 100-acre piece of land so we could have lots of animals... although we had absolutely no idea just how big 100 acres really was!

During our search, it felt like we looked at every available piece of property from San Diego to Eureka, but we always seemed to end up back in Santa Barbara. In fact, on our earliest visit, our broker brought us to what would eventually become our home on Cliff Drive. But that was too early in our search...we were dead set on 100 acres!

On one of our subsequent trips, we journeyed up the Gaviota coast to the Hollister Ranch region. This was a little known area of 118 100-acre parcels right on the Pacific Ocean that was just starting to be developed. What could be a more perfect location for our future animal sanctuary!



Mitch with "Whisper," "Adonis," and "Fantazy"

In conversations with the broker, we asked "How do people develop 100 acres of land?" She told us that buyer's generally carved out a couple of acres of land for their home site and zoned the balance of the property as agricultural for crops or cattle. Well, at this point, Jeffyne's ears perked straight up and in her normal quizzical manner asked, "Okay, so what do they do with the cattle?"

The broker responded, "They're raised for the beef industry."

At the mere mention of the beef industry, Jeffyne spun on her heels and looked me straight in the eye and exclaimed, "I'm a vegetarian, I'm not raising cattle for the beef industry!" to which I responded, "Well, I'm not mowing 100 acres!"

That was the end of our visit to Hollister Ranch!

The broker showed us several other large parcels closer to Santa Barbara, but continued to bring us back to the Cliff Drive location. After our third or maybe our fourth visit, Jeffyne began to see the merits of the property. While it was "only" 3 ½ acres versus the 100 acres we had dreamed about, we soon learned, the lesser acreage was more than



SOME FACES FROM 2017

I know you all look forward to the **RESQCATS** centerfold! Believe me, the hardest part of the newsletter is choosing which photos to use! There are so many good ones!

Here a just a few for you to enjoy thanks to our photographers, Cata Esteves and Daryl Metzger. They did an outstanding job in capturing some great photos and I cannot thank them enough for the gift of their time!

Page 6 (L to R): Charlotte, Candy, Annie, Clover, Sweet Pea, Athena, Dillon, Matza, Ivy, Trevor, Kenya | **Page 7 (L to R):** Lily, Monty, Paige, Ruby, Nellie and Mattie, Zeus, Violet, Wallflower, Tao, Squeaker, Pandora, Scout



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

enough land for our needs.

When we finally got serious about the Cliff Drive location and made an offer for the property, Jeffyne's excitement about fulfilling her cat sanctuary dream was uncontainable. She talked non-stop about what needed to be done...get a lawyer, become a non-profit corporation, come up with a name, draw a logo, develop a mission statement, and on and on... her mind was in a constant whirl. And this was even before we bought the land!

The Cliff Drive property was actually part of an estate sale which was being handled by a local bank. Well, as many of you know, banks are not generally inclined to move very quickly until they have to. This bank didn't have to! Our offer was the first that they had received and they were not about to jeopardize their fiduciary responsibilities without trying to maximize the return for the estate. In other words, the bank needed at least one more legitimate offer on the property so they could set up a mini auction.

Our offer was submitted in September, 1994. In hindsight, we realized it was probably placed on the corner of the banker's desk while he or she waited for that second offer to come. So we also waited... and we waited...and we waited! From September through October and November and December, we impatiently continued to wait.

Didn't these people understand that Jeffyne was on a mission...she was ready, willing and able to start rescuing cats and kittens, but she needed a facility!

Finally, in the first week of January, 1995, we got a call from our broker telling us that a second offer had been received. To satisfy the bank, she told us, "You need to submit your highest and best bid right away...and then pray that it will be enough!"

Little did our broker know that our first submission was our highest and best offer! How were we going to find the funds to go any higher? But being ever resourceful, we put our heads together and came up with a rather creative plan to "sweeten" our offer for the property. We made our second submission and again sat back to wait for the bank's response.

Fortunately for us, the competitor who we were bidding against did not get his offer into the bank in a timely manner so we were happily awarded the rights to the future home of RESQCATS in February, 1995.

Having secured the basic facility, now the real work of building RESQCATS began. We didn't have a master plan or even a basic blueprint of what it was going to be...it simply started with Jeffyne's vision of rescuing cats and kittens.

Looking back, it appears now that her dreams were probably enough!

...To be continued.

RESQCATS has TWO calendars to choose from this year!

Both are guaranteed to put a smile on your face! They also make great holiday gifts or stocking stuffers for all your cat-loving friends. AND your purchase will make a difference for the cats and kittens at RESQCATS! You will be reminded of that every day of the year as you enjoy the photos.

The second annual *Cat-Men-Do 2018 Calendar* is hot off the press!



And for those of you who just want to look at kittens without all the cute guys, the first *Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS 2018 Calendar* is also available and features some of the cutest felines on the planet.



You can purchase calendars at The Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa, Healthy Pets on State Street, The Cat House Hotel, St. Francis Pet Clinic and Cat Therapy (Cat Therapy only carries the Cat-Men-Do calendar).

For those of you who would like to order directly, contact jeffyne@resqcats.org or message me through Facebook: Jeffyne Telson or RESQCATS.

Calendars are each \$20 (including tax) plus \$2 shipping and handling. Don't wait too long...supplies are limited! And thank you for your support!



FIFTEEN YEARS LATER!

A beautiful letter from a woman who understood what it means to make a lifetime commitment to a pet.

Hi Jeffyne!

I visited a few of the **RESQCATS** kittens this summer at the Montecito Pet Shop, and little Toby reminded me a lot of Zorro. I realized that it was 15 years ago that I adopted Zorro from **RESQCATS**, so I figured it was time to give you an update on how he's doing!

I grew up with Zorro; we did everything together – he would follow me all throughout the house; eat when I ate, sleep when I slept, curl up in the sink when I was in the shower. We went through illnesses together: I had kidney surgeries; he had pancreatitis and thyroid problems.

I remember making the promise to love him forever — forever is such a weighty concept for a 6-year-old! But it has turned out to be the easiest promise I've ever kept. Zorro is the most lovable companion I could ask for. He is family.

The recent heat wave has been hard on him, since he is getting older, but he's doing all right. He still plays with his favorite sparkly purple mouse. Here's a picture I took last week*:

I am so, so grateful to you and **RESQCATS** for rescuing him (from a campground, if I remember right) and giving him a chance to find a forever home – he is so special. My life would be so much dimmer and emptier if it weren't for Zorro.

So thank you!
So, so much!

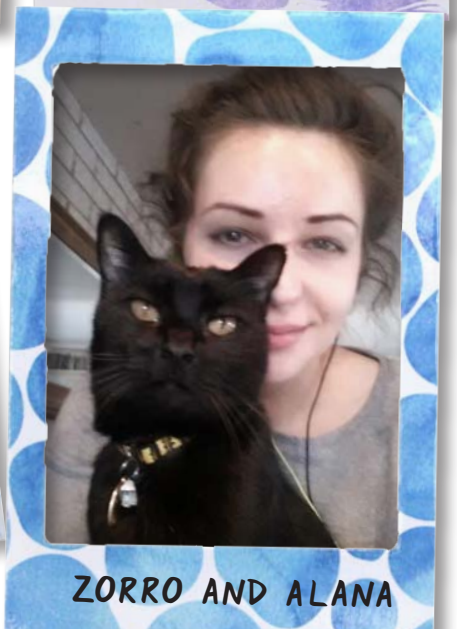
Alana Gray



ALANA AND ZORRO JUST AFTER HE WAS ADOPTED.



*ZORRO AT 15!



ZORRO AND ALANA



In memory of "**Peanut**" and for my friends, **Mary and Halie Sila.**



In memory of "**Faro Nightrainbow**" who was adopted from RESQCATS in 2002! Thank you for matching us with this lovely cat years ago—it was a long and happy cohabitation!

Elizabeth Cook



In memory of my wonderful companions from the past...my collie shepherds, "**Itzik**" and "**Moishe**;" my mother and daughter cats, "**Fanny**" and "**Felix**;" and my last cat, "**Blackie**." All were rescued from dire circumstances and lived long and healthy lives!

Betty Oberacker



In loving memory of "**MisJef**."

Violet Coto



In memory of **Shelly Nestved.**

Inez White



In memory of "**Rumor**" and for my good friend, **John Bowie.**



In memory of "**Sherman**," the best cat that anyone could want!

Sarah Torgenson



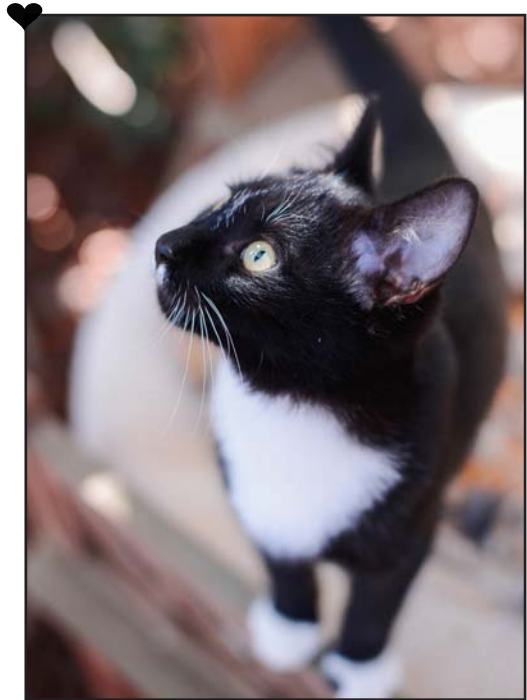
In memory of "**Teeter**" and for my friend, **Deanna Koens.**



In loving memory of "**Chi Chi**" and for my dear friend, **Susan Boesch.**

In memory of our beautiful "**Fellini**," who died in May at 25 years young!

Barbara Hill and Bill Vollero



In loving memory of "**Asya**," a RESQCATS resident. Asya became a resident in 2016 when she and her siblings, "**Liora**" and "**Katsu**," tested positive for feline leukemia as kittens. Liora was joined by her sister on the Rainbow Bridge in October due to complications from Leukemia. She will be missed by all of us at RESQCATS. But I am grateful for the smiles you always brought to my face every single day!



In memory of "**Jesse**" **Lee** and for my cat-loving friend, **Nancy Lee.**

Carolyn Johnston



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

In memory of a lucky feral cat, "**Jesse,**" that showed up and was taken in by a caring spirit, **Nancy Lee.**

Leesa Easton



In loving memory of "**Blossom.**"

Tricia Krout



2004



2016

In memory of my best friend, "**MisJef.**" There are no words that can describe my sorrow at losing you, but I have begun to feel your comforting presence on many days. And once again, I can laugh. Still, not a day goes by that I don't think of you, love you and miss you. Lately, I have been able to bring myself to look at pictures of you over our years together...and I remember all our special times with warmth in my heart. One day, I will be able to write about you and my healing from your loss will take another big step. But not today...not yet.



In honor and celebration...

In honor of **Jeffyne, RESQCATS** and **the person** who brought "**Blossom**" and "**Bloom**" to **RESQCATS.**

Tricia Krout

Happy Birthday, **Suzanne Shanelec!**

Your friends, *Paulette, Elena, Carrie and Noemi*



Letters to RESQCATS

The following is one of the most meaningful letters I have ever received and I could not help but share it with you.

Hi Jeffyne,

I've been meaning to reach out to you after all these years. You adopted my first cat Apollo to me in 1998 when I was a sophomore at UCSB. He was my treasured companion in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, New York, and then Charleston, SC. I just wanted to let you know that he was beloved by me and my husband and he lived to be 18. We lost him due to old age on New Year's Day in 2017.

I am currently living in South Carolina. I was updating my other 3 pets' microchip information and came across your card, and figured it shouldn't be put off any longer. I've been meaning to reach out for years and tell you that Apollo (I think his intake name was Checkers?) was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I had originally attempted to adopt from a San Francisco shelter (my home town) but was rejected because of my young age (18) with the assumption that I would return a pet as soon as my life became complicated, which happens all of the time, I'm sure. When I reached out to you and visited your cattery, you had Apollo and his two sisters available for adoption. I thought that the girls



were beautiful, but when I held Apollo, he fell asleep in my lap and chose me. He slept around my neck for weeks, and once confident, he escaped my apartment for 3 of the worst days of my life only to find his way home. He then received his only bath by a human!

We travelled to different cities over the years and when he was six, I adopted his soul sister, Amelie.

He suffered from digestive issues, the random fever, then, hypothyroidism in his last two years, but I think overall he had the best life!

In his younger years, playing fetch, riding around on my shoulders, and hide and go seek were his favorite games, but as an older fellow, he was the groomer for his sister cat, always making sure she was looking pretty.

I want to thank you again for the many happy years and I'm so pleased to see that you're still saving lives! I wish you the best!

Sincerely,

Julia Pagan Board



A special thank you...

It is important to teach the younger generations about compassion for animals. They are the future for the protection and welfare of animals. That is why I welcome young volunteers to RESQCATS to help with daily chores and to socialize kittens.

But imagine my surprise when my youngest volunteer, Avalon, presented me with an envelope filled with dollar bills. She had raised \$33.00 for RESQCATS at her lemonade stand. Her grandmother was especially proud of her and decided to match Avalon's earnings. So when Avalon presented me \$66.00, I wanted her to understand the difference she had made. So Avalon, your donation vaccinated thirteen kittens!

Thank you for your efforts and for having such a great heart full of compassion!



Attention RESQCATS donors!

Here's a new way to make a difference at RESQCATS!

Securities and mutual funds that have increased in value and been held for more than one year are a great way to make a gift to RESQCATS.

As an IRS approved 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization, in addition to cash donations, RESQCATS can also receive stocks or bonds as a direct transfer.

When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds that you have held for more than one year, you not only support our mission of rescuing, caring for and adopting abandoned cats and kittens, you can also reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. And, you may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer.

So if you have appreciated securities or mutual funds and would like to reduce your potential 2016 tax liability, please don't hesitate to contact us via email (jeffyne@resqcats.org) or by phone (805) 563-9424 to learn the simple procedure.

Thank you for considering RESQCATS.



There are other ways to give and make a difference at RESQCATS!

Sign up on AmazonSmile and choose RESQCATS as your charity of choice. We will receive a percentage of everything you purchase. Amazon shares their donation quarterly and in 2016, their charitable contribution paid for 125 vaccines!

Also, check out RESQCATS' Wish List on AmazonSmile if you want to give directly. I recently updated our list to include probiotics, lysine supplements, dose syringes, Bach Rescue Remedy, feather teasers and much more.

Thank you for choosing 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

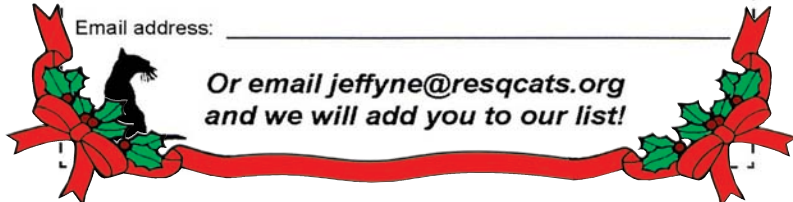
Your Name: _____

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!