

# Where Did All Those Cats and Kittens Come From This Year?

It is amazing to me that so many stray and abandoned cats and kittens are still out in the streets and in woodpiles and behind garages having babies when all the rescue organizations have worked so hard to spay and neuter to reduce the population of animals. Where do they all come from?

I can tell you how some came to RESQCATS...but I am glad I do not know the stories behind them all...it would just make me too sad. Following are some of the stories I do know!

"Xrayna" and her two sons were abandoned at an apartment building in Santa Maria—mom and both sons were adopted together by Barbara Auhll

A mom and three kittens were turned into Orange County Animal Control by the owners and were scheduled for euthanasia at that shelter when they were removed by a rescue person in Orange County. She called because all the rescue fosters in her area were already overwhelmed and begged for them to come to RESQCATS.

A mother cat and six kittens were said to be stray and ended up at Orange County Animal Control...also scheduled for euthanasia.

Two litters were taken in from Second Chance Cats during the Jesusita fire when the foster was in danger of being evacuated from her home.

Several litters arrived as stray kittens from feral moms through Catalyst for Cats whose mission is to trap, neuter, and return the ferals...

RESQCATS helps find homes for the kittens once they are socialized and put through our medical protocol.

Several litters were fostered for the Santa Maria Shelter by one of their volunteers, but with the overflow of so many cats and kittens, there was no room at the shelter so RESQCATS was able to help.

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

## HOLIDAY ISSUE 2009 Newsletter



### President's Message

Well, it is that time of year and as promised, I like to keep you informed about our recent kitty season AND start planning for 2010!

RESQCATS is excited to announce that we surpassed the 1500 total number of adoptions this year! In fact, the actual total is 1545! Just think back, it took nine years for us to reach the 1000th adoption back in 2006 and in only three additional years RESQCATS has adopted over 500 more!

However, the 2009 kitten season was not without many challenges.

Many kittens stayed at RESQCATS for a much longer waiting to be adopted than in past years. I think the economy had a lot to do with this. So even though we had fewer adoptions than in past years, we are very proud to have placed 128 stray and abandoned cats and kittens in 2009!

In addition, many of the cats and kittens that arrived were in need of special medical attention above and beyond our normal medical protocol.

There was "Haley" who arrived with her mom, "Jackie," and gave birth to six kittens on April 11. Haley collapsed about 2-1/2 weeks later from an allergic reaction. During her extensive stay at a special referral hospital in Ventura she was diagnosed with a heart condition. The heart condition was probably discovered because of the IV fluids she was receiving as part of the treatment from the allergic reaction. Haley fully recovered from the allergic reaction and is wonderful about taking her heart medication. Her follow-up ultra-sound indicates that her heart condition has not progressed. In fact, it may never have been discovered that she had one if not for the allergic reaction. A true blessing in disguise! She is doing so well that the vet reduced her medication and said, "I'll see you in a year!" The only thing Haley and Jackie needed now...was a home. And as of October 4, 2009...that is exactly what Haley and Jackie got with Kim and Dean Paninides!

Haley's son, "Buddah Bear" was in and out of the vet clinic so many times that I lost track. He was diagnosed with mega-colon and is medicated twice a day with two different medications for



Jeffyne with Samantha

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**RESQCATS**

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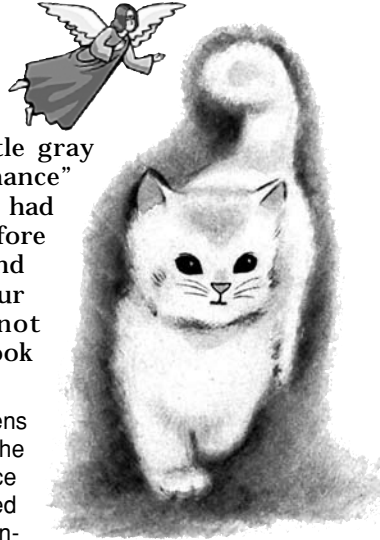
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Believe in Miracles...

## A Second "Chance"



**I**n June I adopted out a little gray and white kitten named "Chance" to a young couple. The man had adopted from RESQCATS before – now he had a new wife and they wanted to add a new fur family member and could not think of a better place to look than RESQCATS!

"Chance" was one of several kittens that came to RESQCATS during the recent fires. I was happy for Chance and for the couple when they adopted him. I never gave his well-being another thought especially since this was someone who had adopted from RESQCATS before.

Three months later, I received a call from a lady who wanted to know if I ever took cats back that had been adopted from RESQCATS. We will call her "Mary." She had a cat named "Chance" that a co-worker had given her when the previous owner said he had allergies and could not keep him. She also had two other cats. Mary had taken Chance home about a month before but the kitty had terrible diarrhea and she did not want her friend to have to clean up after him when she went out of town so she needed to "get rid" of him. She claimed that she thought the previous owners had given him to her because they did not want to deal with the diarrhea either. I asked her if she had taken him to the vet or had a fecal done to see what was going on. Her answer... "No." I wondered why she hadn't...part of having a companion animal is to provide veterinary care when it is needed. I asked to return her call so that I could check his previous paperwork to see if he was treated for anything while he was here. My paperwork indicated that a fecal had been done while at RESQCATS, it was negative but that we had treated him with an antibiotic anyway as prescribed by the veterinarian.

I called Mary back to share that information and that I did not have a single enclosure available for Chance to return to RESQCATS. I referred her to two other organizations where he would be treated for any diarrhea and then adopted out.

She said, "Okay, I'll do that" and abruptly hung up.

I got on the phone and called the wife of the couple who originally took Chance home to find out what had happened. They had given Chance to a co-worker's friend, someone they did not even know only two weeks after they adopted him from RESQCATS! I was livid! I asked why she had not called me to tell me. She said, "Well, I didn't know I was supposed to and gave me the run-around about why they did not want Chance. I told her I would have been in a better position to take him back and re-adopt him three months ago while he was still 10 weeks old! Now he was in a home where a second person did not want him...I had no room! I did make a few more calls and I can tell you that there is not an organization in town that will ever allow them to adopt an animal.

I never did get the "real" story about Chance. The couples' story and Mary's story never added up.

I felt bad that I did not have the space. I notified the other organizations that Chance may be coming and thought the responsible thing for me to do was to at least supply them with the health record that I had on Chance while he was at RESQCATS. I went personally to deliver them the following day.

Mary had gone to both places to relinquish Chance. One would not take him because she had no proof of ownership and the other would not take him because Mary would not pay \$42 relinquishment fee! Well, duh! If she wouldn't take him to the vet, why would she pay a fee to turn him in? And is this how it works? Does he just go back to a home where he is not wanted or cared for properly? I felt my blood begin to boil!

I sped home, got on the phone, made arrangements for two kittens to go into foster care so I could clear out an enclosure and make space for Chance. Thank goodness, Susan Leroy, one of the RESQCATS kitten fosters was available to take kittens for a few days so that Chance did not have to spend another day where he was not wanted. He could return to RESQCATS immediately.

I called Mary to let her know I had made some space if she still wanted to bring Chance to RESQCATS. She was happy to drop him off that afternoon. She claimed that his diarrhea was so bad and smelly that she had been putting him outside. It sounded like Chance was the "unwanted stepchild!"

I explained that RESQCATS kitties are never to be outside cats and then asked if she had followed up on any of his vaccinations and the dates that they were due...I knew she had his health paperwork and schedule of upcoming vaccinations from our previous conversations. She said, "No." It didn't mean a thing to her when I explained that if he was going outside he was not protected from distemper if she did not follow up on his booster and that he should have been vaccinated for Leukemia if he was going to have contact with outside unvaccinated cats and he certainly should have received his rabies vaccination.

Mary appeared at RESQCATS as planned with Chance that afternoon. She was wearing thick padded yellow gloves and handed him to me as if he was a diseased object. She signed relinquishment papers (with no fee required!) and offered me a bunch of vaccines as a donation. I said a simple and cool, "No thank you!"

Sue Sadler, one of the RESQCATS fosters and a long-time volunteer, was here when Chance was returned and suggested that Chance get a new name...we should call him "Second Chance!" How purrfect was that!

By now, Second Chance was about six months old and I was surprised that after all he had been through that he was still as sweet and social as could be. I told him that I was so sorry for sending him home with the wrong people and that he was safe from the dangers outside. Most importantly, I promised him that I would find him a forever home with the right people. I felt responsible for all his mishaps. I wasn't mad anymore—I was sad—I felt tears just roll down my face as I shared all this with him. All the while, he just lay on his back in my arms, looked up at me and purred!

He went to the vet the very next day so that we could start all over on the RESQCATS medical protocol and vaccines. The vet could hardly hear his heart for all the purring. And there was no diarrhea! No diarrhea? I thought he had terrible diarrhea and that was why he was not wanted. In fact, Chance had nothing but normal looking stools the entire time he was back at RESQCATS. I had a fecal exam done anyway. The results did come back positive for giardia, which we easily treated with an antibiotic over a ten day period.

Now, my worry was how to place a six-month-old kitten when he was surrounded by so many younger kittens. People come in every week to adopt kittens and decide on only the smallest kittens for whatever reason while the older ones just sit here!

### ...But Miracles Do Happen!

After all, Second Chance was back at RESQCATS! It took a lot to get him here, but it was worth it.

Just a few days later, Second Chance caught the hearts of Julie and Bill McGeever! I think Second Chance knew the minute they came into his enclosure that he wanted to go home with them...they were his match! Julie and Bill looked at all the other available kittens, but kept coming back to him. Who could resist? They were charmed by this adorable purring machine and felt he also had the perfect disposition and personality to be introduced to their dog. They were even willing to administer the remaining medication for his giardia...they really wanted to take him home as soon as possible. Second Chance left the next afternoon. He has a new name, "Silas," and a new and forever home with Julie and Bill. They say he is doing wonderfully...he loves their dog and has put himself in charge of the household!

**Julie and Bill McGeever are Reminders That  
We Can All "Believe in Miracles!" ☆**



September 7, 2009

## Saying Good-Bye is a Journey of Hope

~ In memory of "Mandy"

**I**t is painful to think of all my animals I've lost since April ... Snowie, Wizard, Zorro, Bella, Charity, Starr and now Mandy. Yes, all were older cats and dogs and all suffered the old age "stuff." I did expect to lose them...someday...but not now. And not so many! And not in such a short period of time!

Mandy was a RESQCATS resident cat that arrived from off the streets in March, 2008. She was about ten years old and she placed her cute little furry butt on the rocking chair (fully equipped with soft blankets and a heating pad) and stayed there for a year and a half. Her ventures from the chair were only to the food bowl and litter box.

Mandy didn't care for the other residents and they knew to let her be...but she loved each of her humans. She had her favorites, of course—Rebecca Branscome is the one who saved her from death row before she would have ended up in a kill shelter in Ventura. Mandy loved me for letting her come to RESQCATS. And she adored Jim Hurnblad who was her favorite volunteer at RESQCATS.

I suppose Mandy saw her job as a quiet greeter to all who visited...never standing to welcome anyone but in full view of all who entered the cattery. And she was perfect at it, silently looking beautiful and inviting any snuggles that may come her way.

I won't go into all her medical history...I will just say...we spent months trying to figure out all that was wrong with her, running tests, medicating and trying all the humanly-possible things we do when we share our lives with animals.

Mandy died of cancer on September 4, 2009.

Each and every time I go through the process of saving an animal...I take it on as a personal mission and do everything medically in my power to help them. I do this even though I usually know deep down in my heart that they will leave me for the "Rainbow Bridge"...that is the bridge that connects Heaven and Earth and it is said our animals wait for us there until we join them. Every time I journey down this path of loss, I am somehow always full of hope...always full of hope.....always full of hope! I think to myself, "Maybe this time they won't die. Perhaps it is something we can treat or maybe even cure. I know we can save this one." As they say...I get my hopes up. Then they die and leave me broken-hearted and with so many doubts.

Since Mandy's death...I again find myself questioning hope. What is this thing called "hope?" Where does it go? It seems to just get snatched up and blown apart when one of my animals dies.

A few days before Mandy died, I ran into another rescue person as he exited the vet's office. He was sobbing and I tried to console him. He was about to lose his dog. He has rescued animals for years and he has such a compassionate heart. We sat on the front porch of the vet's office and hugged each other. I remember his words so well...he said, "Why do I do this? It is nothing but heartache....I have sacrificed so much in my life in order to rescue animals and it hurts so much every time I lose one."

I didn't know what to say...he was right...so I just put my head on his shoulder and hugged him tighter. A few moments passed and he said, "It is just such a passion in my soul!" I felt the words he said with every part of my being. "Yes," I said, "this is not like a regular job where you can just quit...it is part of the soul."

And now here I am once again, in the same shoes he was in that day questioning the heartache, the sacrifice and that thing called hope.

So many ask me how I do it... "How do you keep going everyday?" "How do you deal with so much loss?"

Well, I cry between adoption appointments. I sob at the end of my driveway when no one is in the car but me. I worry that I let one suffer

too long. I lose sleep. I cry some more. I think a lot... and then I write. Writing is the safest and least vulnerable way for me to get my feelings "out there."

I also realize how many more animals are out there that need help. I surround myself with people who feel the same way about animals as I do. As I sort through all my feelings, I listen to dear friends for perspective.

One such friend offered such an awakening for me as I ripped myself up emotionally because I felt I waited to long to say good-bye to "Starr," one of my collies. She said, "Jeffyne, her suffering was only a tiny moment in all of time and eternity." I have held that thought within my heart and it has given me such peace.

When Jim visited RESQCATS the day after Mandy died, he brought a beautiful yellow rose bush. There was one yellow bud just beginning to open and many others to follow. That yellow bud was placed with Mandy's body. As each new bud opens, it will be placed in a bud vase by her rocking chair. Jim picked the rose bush out especially for Mandy because this particular yellow color of the rose meant friendship to him. Then he shared the name of the yellow rose bush, "Eternal Flame."

I cannot tell you how it touched my heart...and reopened my eyes to that "hope" in my soul. It made me realize that hope is always there...it just takes a different form on Earth when we are struggling to save something we love. Hope did not leave when Mandy or any of my other animals died. I may no longer have the hope that I can save those that have passed. They may not be here in physical form for me to touch and kiss and hold. They have changed from an Earthly form into a soul that will live in my heart forever.

So where does "hope" fit in?

My hope now is that there really is a Rainbow Bridge. I hope I will be united with all my animals that have become spirit angels in my heart. I have hope again.

This hope will carry me through the losses...and that same thing called hope will also, most likely, lead me down a path when another one of my animals journeys through life towards the Rainbow Bridge.

**Hope. . . Hope. . . a Gift for my Soul ☆**

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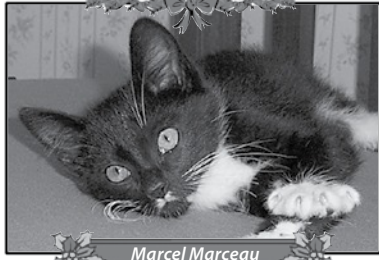
"Obie" Adopted by  
Andrew Le & Kara Ohlinger

*Bless their little pointed faces and their big, loyal hearts. If a cat did not put a firm paw down now and then, how could his human remain possessed?*

~ Winfred Carriere,  
Cats 24 Hours a Day







*Marcel Marceau*  
Adopted by Curtis Graham



*Mixie*  
Adopted by Amy Dozier



*Maomoa & Yoyo*  
Adopted by Jerry LaRue & Yuan Ji



*Nick is (blk & wht)*  
Adopted by Carmen Bachan



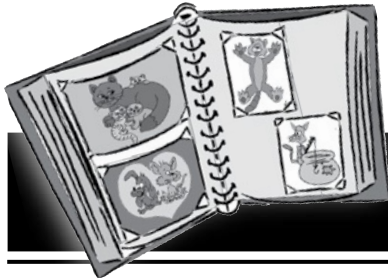
*Ginger*  
Adopted by Michele Lerardi



*Gwinnie*  
Adopted by Laura & Nathaniel Courtens



*Marilyn Monroe*  
Adopted by Vicky Campbell



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM RESQCATS FAMILY ALBUM

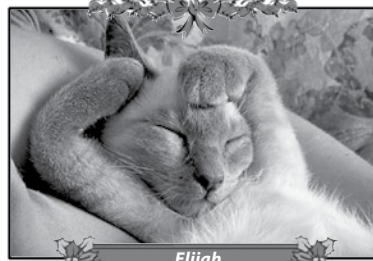
Welcome New Family Members & Some Familiar Faces



*Rita Hayworth*  
Adopted by Kelly McClean



*Maya*  
Adopted by Nancy & Jesus Aguirre



*Elijah*  
Adopted by Joanna Haynes



*Serenity*  
Gave birth to 4 kittens on the 4th of July  
adopted by Mary Evans



*Shiloh*  
Adopted by Joanna Haynes



*Jag*  
Adopted by Brianna Allen & David Beckwell



*Savannah*  
Adopted by Brianna Allen & David Beckwell



*Nick*  
Adopted by Carmen Bachan



*Purrcy*  
Adopted by Jane Bearinger





*Ammo & Brutal*  
Napping with new Mom Ali Woliver



*Obie*  
Kara Ohlinger & Andrew Le



*Sampson*  
Has become a resident with his Mom, Delilah



*Saffron*  
Adopted by Ginger & Michele Ierardi



*Daley*  
Adopted by Dee Dee & Marca Rowley



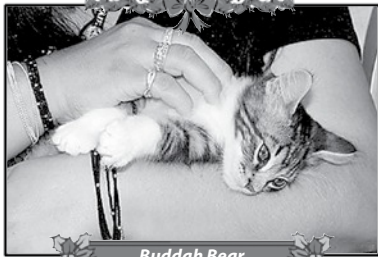
*Chevy*  
Adopted by Suzanne Cuddy



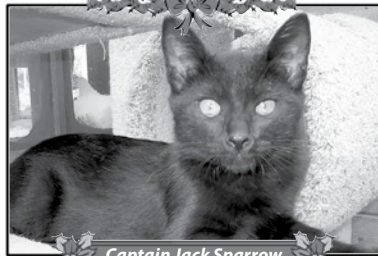
*Sahara*  
Adopted by Tamara Nichols



*Maya*  
Happy to go with Nancy & Jesus Aguirre



*Buddah Bear*  
Is a special needs kitty adopted by Jeffyne



*Captain Jack Sparrow*  
Adopted by the Warren & Leanne Simandle



*Sally*  
Adopted by Oliver, Jessica and Eric Rees



*Diaz*  
Adopted by Piper Presley



*Saffron*  
Adopted by Ginger & Michele



*Chevy*  
Adopted by Suzanne Cuddy



*Bronwyn*  
Adopted by Stephanie Stevens



*Fuzz*  
Adopted by Mary Giordano



*Brutal*  
Adopted by Ali Woliver



*"J"*  
Adopted 10 yrs ago by Jo Bardsley



*Dee Dee*  
Adopted by Marca Rowley

## The PERFECT DOG—A Tribute to Mijek

### A Few Words From Mr. Jeffyne (aka "Mitch Telson")

I recently read a wonderful article in the Southland Collie Rescue summer newsletter entitled "The Perfect Dog" by Michael Harper. In his piece, Mr. Harper tells a great story about his quest for the "perfect dog."

Well, with all due respect to the writer, he could not have found the perfect dog because Jeffyne had already found her. Her name was Mijek and she **was** "the perfect dog!"

That was how Jeffyne felt about her from the day she rescued her from a terrible backyard situation in Phoenix, Arizona until the day she died...five years ago to the day I'm writing this article...September 27, 2004.

#### Who is Mijek and why does Jeffyne remember her in every RESQCATS Newsletter?

Mijek was Jeffyne's first collie. She found her, she went to school with her, she trained her...she totally loved that little collie and the love was mutual...but for much too short a period of time.

All of you who receive this newsletter know Jeffyne as "the cat lady" because that's who she is...a person who absolutely adores cats...a woman totally dedicated to the well-being of felines.

But that's only part of the story...Jeffyne actually loves all of God's creatures (with the possible exception of reptiles...those she tolerates!).

Mijek was the second collie that Jeffyne and I adopted after we were married. (I don't count our first dog, Wolfie. Although he looked like a collie, Wolfie was actually a collie/shepherd mix that we had together for a very few months before he crossed the Rainbow Bridge.)

We got our first true collie, Traveler, when we lived in San Diego. But Traveler really wasn't OUR dog...Traveler was MY dog...I just shared him with Jeffyne (and everyone else who walked by our house on the boardwalk!)

Mijek, on the other hand, was a one-person dog and her one person was Jeffyne. She was that way from the day Jeffyne picked her out until the day she left this Earth...she was Jeffyne's collie!

The unusual spelling of Mijek (pronounced Ma-gic) came to me quite surprisingly just a few days after we lost Traveler and several weeks before we even started to look for another collie.

M-I was for the first two initial of my first name...E, for my middle name...J-E for Jeffyne's first two initials and K, for her middle initial. We added a little touch of poetic license and... "magically"...m-i-e-j-e-k became...Mijek! After we had the name, all we had to do was find a pint-sized sable collie that fit the vision – it didn't take long!

Jeffyne's Mijek was our only collie for a relatively short time. Within a few months after moving to Santa Barbara in the spring of 1995, we got Spirit and then in rapid succession we rescued Triton, Angel, Poseidon, Starr, Destiny, Apollo and Faith.

Mijek was our alpha female...the leader of the pack...our in-charge dynamo of non-stop energy packed into a petite little body. Mijek seemed indestructible.

But Jeffyne lost her beloved Mijek in the summer of 2004, only three months after her father died. It was a terrible time for all of us but especially for Jeffyne.

Mijek collapsed on a Friday and was immediately rushed to the veterinarian. After a few tests, it was determined that she needed emergency surgery. The news was not good—Mijek had cancer of the spleen, not an uncommon disease in dogs—very difficult for collies.

Jeffyne was in shock when she was told that we would have Mijek for only another 3 to 6 months...with special care, maybe longer. So, two days after her surgery, we brought Mijek home from the hospital making the commitment to her that the next six months would be her best months ever!

Sadly, Mijek didn't have six months. She didn't even have three. On her first night home, we realized she was not doing well and rushed her back to the emergency hospital.

She never came home.

Possibly due to other hospital emergencies and a veterinary staff that was always over-worked, Mijek did not get the individual attention that her condition required. A little after midnight on September 27, 2004, Jeffyne received the call...Mijek was gone.

As Jeffyne wrote on these Newsletter pages a year later, in September, 2005, "It was Mijek's death that blew out all the light in my soul. When she died, I could not even get words to come out of my mouth. The following few weeks are still a blur in my mind. I cannot talk about her without tearing up and feeling a huge lump in my throat and an empty space in my heart. For months, I wondered if I would ever be the same person again...happy, light-hearted and as much as I love to dance...would I ever feel like dancing again!"

Well, years have passed, and time and love have helped heal some of the pain that Jeffyne felt with the loss of her dear Mijek. Much of that healing love has come from being able to help so many cats and kittens find wonderful homes with terrific people like you. Some of the healing has come from Jeffyne's rescue of two other loving collies...Misjef – named for, her...Miss Jeffyne. And Journey, so named because her road stopped when Jeffyne rescued her, literally, at our front door.

Of course, as we all know, no pet can ever replace a companion that has moved across the Rainbow Bridge—they're all so uniquely different—that's what makes companion animals so wonderful. But what they can do is help us reawaken the light in our lives just as Misjef and Journey have helped Jeffyne fill the "empty space in her heart" left by her soul mate, Mijek.

Oh, by-the-way, Jeffyne does dance again...every morning, to music on her iPod...just as she did as a child in this painting by Barbara Snyder...Mijek, Shall We Dance...a painting that hangs above the fireplace in our bedroom where...

Jeffyne can catch a glimpse of her "perfect dog" as she falls asleep every night! ☆



*When we love a cat, and touch its life, we exercise that faculty that could, if so directed, enable us to love others, and to touch their lives as well.*

~ Charles Burke





## A Heart to Break All Hearts

I love it when kittens arrive at RESQCATS, breeze through the vet exam and come up negative on their Leukemia/FIV test so we can start the medical protocol of giving them their distemper vaccination and worming medication. Then all I have left to do is feed them and wait for them to grow enough to be spayed or neutered. Finding the perfect home for these purrfect kittens is easy.

But one little kitten arrived at RESQCATS after her family left her behind when they moved. A caring neighbor took "Samantha" and her sister into her home and called RESQCATS for help.

I noticed that Samantha was quite a bit smaller than her sister, but I did not give it much thought because that often happens in litters of kittens. And now as I look back, she also was much quieter and slept more than her active sister. At the time, I did not even give that a second thought.

It wasn't until Samantha was scheduled for her spay surgery that the vet noticed a heart murmur and was concerned that this might not be the innocent murmurs that are common in young animals and that usually resolve themselves over time. No, this one sounded more serious. The vet suggested that I have an ultrasound of Samantha's heart done.

The ultrasound revealed a problem called pulmonary stenosis. That means that the vessel and valve leading from the heart is restricted or too small. It is a congenital defect and obviously, this was not good news. There was, however, a possibility that Samantha's condition could be fixed by inserting a balloon into the valve and vessel to enlarge it...just like they do in humans. I was referred to a cardiac specialist in the Los Angeles area. Wow! A cardiac specialist for animals...I was impressed that there was such a person and went with high hopes that Samantha was a candidate for such a procedure.

One of our long time volunteers, Denny Epperson, drove us to the specialist just a couple of days after Samantha's initial diagnosis. We were on a mission to get this fixed.

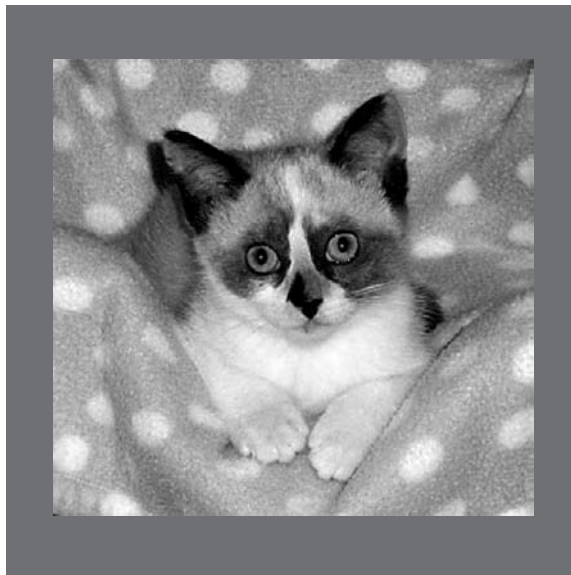
But it wasn't that easy. Samantha has two other issues with her heart that made the procedure to fix the first one impossible. She has a leak in her septum (that is the part of the heart that separates the left side from the right.) And the valve from the upper right chamber (called the atrium) to the lower right chamber (called the ventricle) did not function properly either. The doctor shared that he had not seen so many things wrong with an eleven week old kitten's heart and I could see through the tears filling my eyes that he felt so bad about not being able to fix little Samantha's heart. He shared that if Samantha's heart problems stay the same, she could live a long life. But if they progress...and there is no way of knowing...then she may not have a lot of time. My heart sank.

I don't think Samantha knows anything is wrong with her little heart...but Denny and I felt hopeless in that there is nothing that can be done.

And then there is the question of what to do with Samantha. RESQCATS does not euthanize kitties like her. But who would ever adopt a kitty with her problems?

I did not think it would be wise to bring her into my house with eight collies...they would love her...but that would certainly send HER heart rate up and that is what I wanted to avoid...undue stress on her heart.

So I figured, I would slowly introduce her to the other resident cats in RESQCATS and let her live out her life however long that may be here. I knew she deserved to have a real home with someone who would love her and care for her for whatever length of time she has on Earth. I could not give that to her and it broke my heart. When things like this happen the first thoughts in my head are, "Where is everyone? Why am I always the one to step up to the plate with the special needs kitties that are not considered adoptable?" My faith in the human race just goes out the back door.



About a week later, Bri Allen and Brooke Stockwell asked to come and visit RESQCATS. They adopted "Jag" and "Savannah" from RESQCATS this past summer. But they had just lost their six month old kitten, "Jasper" to congenital heart failure very suddenly. I had a kitten that was up for adoption that looked a lot like Jasper and they wanted to see if they could handle the fact that "Dallas" looked so much like their beloved and missed Jasper.

Bri came by herself and it was obviously very difficult for her. But she could not take her eyes off of Samantha. I shared what Samantha's condition was and the uncertainty of her life expectancy and said, "Bri, you don't want to go there. You are so vulnerable right now and I just do not want to see you hurt anymore by taking such a chance with Samantha." She dropped it. Or so I thought.

I found out later, that Bri had contacted Brooke immediately after leaving RESQCATS and told her all about Samantha. Bri emailed me when she got home and said that it was a shame about Samantha's condition but that she felt she still deserved a sweet loving home for however long her life would be. I emailed back with a polite "no."

I was up all night worrying about how to make it work here at RESQCATS for Samantha. I decided that she could live in her enclosure (after all, it is nice) for the next few months. We could all make sure that she had time out in the cattery under supervision so that she and the residents could get to know each other. That way, when she was bigger, she could be part of the group. So we started introducing her that day...but something was just not right.

Bri emailed me about her again and said she wanted to bring Brooke over to visit "all the available kittens" as she put it. I always like to give people alone time with the kitties without me in the cattery. Adoption is an important decision and people need to feel comfortable as they visit...and, in my mind, that does not include me hovering. I gave Bri and Brooke that alone time...but when I returned to the cattery they were in with Samantha. I think they knew that I had no intention of burdening their hearts or anyone's heart with a kitten in Samantha's condition.

That night, I returned from dinner with friends. It was cold and windy and my first thought was... "Oh, I need to check on Samantha." I found her all snuggled up on her heating pad and she was just fine. But I was not.

I came into the house and thought, "What am I doing? Is this fair to this little kitten? Am I being selfish in keeping her or am I just trying to save someone else the heartache?" I ask myself all the time, "Where is everyone? Why am I on the only one that steps up to the plate?" Here, standing before me had been two beautiful angels in human form—Bri and Brooke—who were willing to step up to the plate and take the chance with Samantha. Again, I had a sleepless night.

I emailed Bri the next morning and told her what had happened the night before and all my feelings just rushed out in my note to her. I told her my door was open to discussion about Samantha...

The next day, Samantha went home with Bri and Brooke. She has a new name. It is "Hezekia" and it means "The Lord is my strength." "Zeke" is her nickname. And so far, Zeke is doing wonderful. She has the home she deserves and I have been humbled and blessed by Bri Allen and Brooke Stockwell.

Thank you Bri and Brooke for being angels on Earth... for touching my heart...and for giving "Zeke" the warm loving home she so deserves. ✨

## Thank You For Staying In Touch!



Hi Jeffyne!

I thought you might like an update on Obie, the kitten we adopted from you as "Mr. Sandman" back in May. He is 7 months old now, and getting to be so big! I weighed him the other day and he is 9 lbs! He brings me and Andrew so much joy, whether he is running around crazily or purring in my ear (which he does every night.) Of course, he gets into his share of trouble, too. He just learned how to open cabinets, much to my dismay! He loves sitting in his favorite places: his kitty condo, the dining room chairs, and the back of the couch. He also loves walking on the railing over our stairway, and scares me regularly by trying to chase his tail while he's up there! He makes me laugh by trying to bury his food or Andrew's coffee. I'm attaching some pictures of him you might enjoy (as I certainly love taking pictures of my beautiful boy!)

Thank you for helping me to find Obie, and for everything you do for kitties!

**Kara Ohlinger**



**Obie**

Jeffyne,

Hi! I've been wanting to write to you since the day I brought "Violet" home (formerly "Meeka"). She has been the biggest blessing in my life and in my home the last few months. She has become the joy I look forward to seeing when I come home and she makes my roommate laugh all the time!

She is curious and energetic and defiant and loving and snuggly. Getting to care for her and to know her has been the most wonderful experience.

She received two care packages from my family, as well as many other gifts from friends! She is very popular and is often the topic of conversation, as well as, the center of attention.

When I was home sick the other day, Violet stayed in bed with me almost all day. I got up mainly so she would get to play a bit with me. Her loving spirit has endeared her to me (and friends and family) forever!

Thank you for all you do and for providing such an incredible atmosphere, health care and love for so many needy cats. And thank you for taking in "Juel" and her kittens (all of which were scheduled for euthanasia at a shelter in Orange County). Your generosity toward them ended up allowing me to be united with Violet. She has changed my life and I am so grateful!

**Nicole Comella**

Hi Jeffyne,

I am sending you this to give you a little update on how "Venus" is adapting to life here in the Erikson clan. Well, after a week of long deliberations and countless failures, "Venus" has become "Zoey" (or Zozo or Zozobo or Zobo...give it to my mother to create the most random nicknames).

Back to the small animal in question, Zoey is doing fabulously well

here in her new home with me! She just loves to snuggle with me every chance she gets and gives me plenty of "kitty kisses". She seems to be a very happy kitten and loves to play with her red feather that she got from RESQCATS.

Little Zoey and I also just went on our first big adventure back to Santa Clara this past Tuesday. I was really worried about how she would handle such a long car ride all the way back to the bay area. I mean we did practice with rides around Santa Barbara but nothing this long!

But on Tuesday, I packed her up with a little piddlepad in her carrier and her feather and we hit the road. We stopped every hour to make sure she was okay and to give her a little water and comforting words. Of course, she did squawk a lot during the ride, but I will have you know that around Paso Robles, she got the brilliant idea to take a cat nap!! After that she would only wake up when we hit a big bump in the road. Apparently, Zoey also adores ACDC because that came up in my ipod and she started to quiet down when they came on.

Zoey is such a wonderful kitty! I am so proud of her. When we reached Santa Clara (grandma's house) she just settled right in. She is also a little princess. She has grandma and grandpa (aka the non-cat person) wrapped around her little tail! After hearing all the things from them, her uncle cannot wait to meet her when he visits for the holidays. Everyone cannot stop gushing about how sweet she is.

Zoey is such a special animal. Thank you so much, Jeffyne, for bringing Zoey into my life. I am so happy that I can give her the loving home she deserves!

I'll keep you updated on Zoey.

The proud new mommy to a baby named Zoey,

**Blair Erikson**

Hi Jeffyne,

This is Jerry and Yuan. We adopted "Frankie" and "Nessie" from RESQCATS.

Frankie's new name is "Yoyo" and Nessie's new name is "Maomao." In Chinese, Mao means hair, which Maomao loved to lick on Jerry's arm that first day we got her and hence, her name! Coincidentally, maomao also means kitten in Chinese, so it works out well.

When we brought the kittens home, Maomao made herself at home right away and within 30 minutes had already decided that she owned the place! Yoyo took a bit longer, but with the help of Maomao's perpetual encouragement, he eventually felt at home after only a day or so. Maomao is the nosy one of the two, making sure that nothing in the house happens without her approval, while Yoyo is the dominant, though lazy one, always looking for ways to get on your lap for a quick nap. The cats seem quite happy now and get along with each other very well. They got all their vaccine shots done and are now on a monthly anti-flea meds.

We love having them around and it makes coming home from work so much more enjoyable. Thanks for all your help.

Take care

**Jerry LaRue and Yuan Ji**



**Maomao & Yoyo**

Dear Mrs. Jeffyne,

My mommy told us that she adopted us from RESQCATS when we were babies. She always tells us what a nice person you and all the



good stuff you do for all the kitties that come into your place. So we, ("Destiny & Kennedy") wanted to make a donation to RESQCATS so we can help you with all those cute little paws.

Thank you for keep us together. We are sisters and love each other a lot!

Love with paws,

**"Destiny & Kennedy" Robledo (Rachel, too!)**

Dear Jeffyne,

You showed me the most pleasant time at RESQCATS that I have had in years. I loved being in such a unique resort for cats. And a resort it is!

Any cat or kitten that finds itself in your hands must surely realize life has taken on new luster. Those spacious quarters with every comfort are just wonderful. Lucky felines! What fun toys, games, hiding shelters you provide for them.

As if all that were not enough, the residents who need to have their own space are given a ramp or access to their own outdoor and safe playground enclosure.

If I ever have another life, may I come back to RESQCATS?

Please tell Mitch that I loved seeing him, too. "Mr. Jeffyne" is your stalwart companion and deserves my respect and admiration.

Very much love to you both, dear Jeffyne. I salute you "Mrs. Mitch" with all honor at my command.

Best love to Zultan, foremost favorite lover, and to Grayco, another foremost favorite. Residents Rule!

**Liz Zeller**

Greetings Jeffyne,

This is "Captain Jack". He is named after Captain Jack Sparrow because he fearlessly has explored every corner of the house from his first day. He loves it when my students come and give him attention. He wistfully watches them leave through the screen door when their lesson is done. We love him - he is a purrfect fit for our family. He is affectionate and friendly and quite a character. He and we thank you for all you did to rescue him.



**Capt. Jack Sparrow**

**Leanne Simandle and family**

Dear Jeffyne,

I am enclosing a contribution that I hope will ease some of the ongoing expense of caring for so many lost and found cats. We adopted Indigo from RESQCATS a year ago in June and we're madly in love with her. She travels with us from California to Kentucky and back again and seems to look forward to the change of scene. As soon as we take out the Sherpa carrier, she's in it like a shot and waiting for what comes next. We bless you for taking her in as a baby and seeing to her health, safety, and comfort. You and Mitch are angels and the volunteers have to be the best folk on earth.

A heartfelt thank you from Steve Humphrey and me!

**Sue Grafton**

Hi there Jeffyne,

This is Renee and Justin. How are you doing? This is just a note to tell you that "Blackjack" that we adopted from you around two weeks ago is doing great in our house. And he's getting along swimmingly with the older cat. We can't thank RESQCATS enough for this lovely match.

All the best,

**Renee Barnett and Justin Foster**

Oct 2, 2009

Dear Jeffyne,

I just wanted to thank you for your incredible passion in life and love you give to so many helpless animals. It's heartwarming to know that so many cats are taken care of and helped to find good homes. Your services make a tremendous impact in the world. I was amazed to see your incredible facility and the love you have for these tiny creatures.

I am so glad to know that there are people like you in the world who care so much and commit their lives to helping others. You have inspired Justin and me to not only search out our own passions in life, but also to give the utmost love and respect to the animals that need us.

We wish we could do more, much more. For now, we have created a "RESQCATS Coin Jar" and plan on donating all we can to your cause. We are so excited to invite "Siegfried" (now named "Jack") and "Freedom" (now named "Sally") into our home and give him all the love he deserves. Thanks again for your passion, your love, and most of all, your commitment. You truly make a difference not only in our own lives but in the lives of so many other cats that need you.

With all the love and respect possible,

**Virginia and Justin Kosinski**



**Sally & Jack**

Hi Jeffyne,

"Xrayna" (mommy cat), "Felix" and "Maxi" (her two sons) are doing really well. I can't believe how fast they have grown. Felix has consistently developed 1-2 weeks earlier than Max. He jumped and climbed higher and got his grown-up teeth earlier than Max. In early August, I noticed Felix was getting in a large fang, then all his adult teeth came in and Maxi started to get his. Then on September 1, I found two baby teeth on the floor. What a keepsake!

Xrayna stopped lactating early in August. I was surprised it continued for so long but she didn't seem to mind...and the boys certainly wanted to continue to nurse. The still try to nurse now and then but Xrayna will protest or I will pull them away. She frequently bathes her sons, and they in turn bathe her!

They haven't tried even once to go outside and I am so relieved.

When I go outside, Xrayna will often just sit at the screen door and wait for me to come back inside.

The vet's office said it is time to start slowly transitioning them to adult food. They seem to like it just fine.

I always intended to adopt 2-3 cats together that already knew each other. Perhaps a rescue from someone who died. It wasn't until I read the RESQCATS website that I got the idea from your suggestion to adopt a momma cat and one of her kittens.

All three cats really like each other and often nap close together. All three play in different combinations and they never fight over food. Xrayna frequently wants to be alone in the living room. To honor her alone time, I keep the boys in the bedroom and bathroom and they play and chase each other or nap.

They also look for each other. There are many times when momma wants to know where her boys are or one of the boys cries for his mom.

There have been several people question my decision to adopt three cats all at once. I think it was the best decision because I've seen so many cats that do not get along when they are put together later in life. It's been hard to get pictures of all three cats together. And I rarely get a picture with even two of them in focus! But I have lots of pictures and videos. It is great to have all that documentation of how they have changed over the the months.

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## Thank You for Making A Difference!



### Congratulations to the adopted RESQCATS kitties and their rescuers!

It warms my heart to know there are so many people who consider adopting from a shelter rather than purchasing a pet from a breeder or pet store.

For all of you who adopted from RESQCATS this year (and in past years) I wish you...many years of joy, laughter and most important of all...unconditional love from the kitties you gave a home to.

### Kittens were Adopted by...

Nancy (a new volunteer at RESQCATS) and Jesus Aguirre

Caroline Albertson and Tony Da Pra gave a darling kitten a home.

Carmen Bachan gave "Nick" a forever home!  
Sunita and Andy Beall

Jane Bearinger, a RESQCATS volunteer, adopted her second kitty from RESQCATS.

Kate Bechtel, a volunteer, and Kevin Hildenbrandt adopted a kitten for their cat!

Sonia Blumberg, who volunteers at RESQCATS.

John Brainerd

Vicky Campbell

Joel Paarmann and Gabrielle Chambers

Nicole Comella

Blair Ericson got lucky when she adopted Venus! (now "Zoey")

Justin Foster and Renee Barnett adopted little "Blackjack!"

Curtis Graham

Sally Greenbaum

Joanna Haynes adopted "Elijah," her seventh RESQCATS kitty.

Heidi Jackson adopted her fourth kitten from RESQCATS (also one of "Haley's")

Brianna and Jared Ivy adopted their second RESQCATS kitten!

Anjelica Jochim gave "Biscuit" a home.

June Josey gave a home to a young kitten left behind when someone moved.

Hallie Katnic

Emi Kato adopted "Maury."

Harry Kennedy and Jennifer Rubalcava

Josiah Lamz who adopted a kitten 3 years ago, returned with his wife Jessica, to adopt a kitten for their first anniversary!

Elizabeth and Luke Lindquist

Anthony Loch

Chantal Marie adopted a kitten companion for her cats.

Kelly McClean

Julie and Bill McGeever gave a "second chance" to "Silas!"

Lolita Munoz & Krista Topete gave one of "Haley's" kittens a forever home.

Tiare Nenport gave a home to an abandoned kitten from a litter of five.

Aaron Nawai

Tamara Nichols

Kara Ohlinger and Andrew Le

Rosa Pinter adopted her second kitten from RESQCATS.

Piper Presley

Jessica Rees

Lorraine Robinson and Hamilton Vose adopted one of "Haley's" kittens.

Nick and Erica Rudawski

William Ryan

Minuet Sandifer

Elishia Seguine adopted one of "Haley's" kittens.

Donald Sellers drove from LA to adopt a kitten.

Nile Sherman and Danka Mullias

Leanne & Warren Simandle

Kyle Smith adopted a kitten that was born at RESQCATS on the fourth of July!

Ryan Sonneson and Rachel Moon

Nancy Stecki adopted her third kitten from RESQCATS.

Stephanie Stevens

Matt and Shelly Willis

### These Older Cats were Happy to Get A New Home...

Lisa Burke adopted a mother cat!!!

Weslynn Conti and Scott Wilson adopted "Lila," a two-year-old adult beauty.

Mary Evans gave "Serenity," a mother cat who gave birth to four kittens on the fourth of July, a purrfect home.

Alexis and Nels Henderson adopted an 11-year-old cat whose owner died!!!!!!

Kali Rush adopted "Juel" and "Tontoe," a mother cat and her son!

And! Kim and Dean Pananides adopted "Jackie" and "Haley!"

### More than one RESQCAT was Adopted by...

Barbara Auhll adopted a mother cat and her two kittens!

Molly Castor adopted two kittens.

Ron and Leslie Riskin gave a home to a mother cat and her daughter... "Lilly" and "Bunny"!!!!!!

Layne Brookshire adopted two kittens!

Rachel Ross adopted brother and sister kittens!

Kori Stricker adopted two brother kittens!

Ahuni Lin adopted brother and sister kittens.

Cindy O'Brien gave two brother kittens a home.

Yvette Ensign adopted two kittens.

Brianna Allen and Brook Stockwell gave three kittens forever homes.

Serena and Andy Galacia gave sister kittens a home together.

Jeremy Quinn adopted a kitten and then returned to get her a buddy!

Shannon Gilliam and her family adopted a brother and sister.

Jackie Battin-Symer adopted two brothers.

Ryan Hannington and Angela Jacen adopted two kittens.

Margo McIlwee gave two kittens a forever home.

Ali Wolliver gave two little female kittens a wonderful home.

Amy Dozier adopted one of "Haley's" kittens, then came back to adopt him a buddy!

Phil and Terrie Bugay gave two inseparable brothers a home.

Carla and Lance Hoffman adopted two kittens.

Bob and Jan Zirreta adopted two kittens.

Vicky and Melissa Reese gave a brother and sister a forever home.

Jerry LaRue and Yuan Ji adopted two kittens!

Suzanne Cuddly adopted two kittens from different litters.

Raphael Perez-Torres gave two kittens a home.

Mary Giordano gave a brother and sister a forever home.

Lauren Breese adopted two kittens...lucky kittens!

Nancy Kaller could not separate two sister kittens.

When Justin and Virginia Kosinski came to pick up the kitty they had pre-adopted, they took a second one as a buddy!

Michele Lerardi gave a home to two kittens who were bonded to each other even though they were not brother and sister.

Marca Rowley adopted "Daley" and when he was miserable without his friend, she came back three days later to adopt "DeeDee."☆

## Sebastian and His Ninth Life at RESQCATS

**J**osh Rios and Yvette Pozzato have been volunteers at RESQCATS for almost two years. They are a young and inseparable couple that I just adore. I like to think that I have some influence with the young people and that by working with them the lives of the animals will continue to get better even when I am gone.



While on a bike ride in July, Josh and Yvette found a cat lying in the middle of the street literally dying. There was no way they could leave him so Josh stayed with this pathetic looking kitty while Yvette went to get the car. They took him home and called me immediately.

I went to their house to find him all curled up on a blanket tucked into a book shelf next to their desk. He had lots of food, water, and snacks and they had done everything to make him comfortable....kind of like we do at RESQCATS! They were even hand-feeding him. I was so touched by their compassion and sympathy for this poor cat...but it didn't surprise me coming from them. That's just how Josh and Yvette are.

The cat was emaciated and looked like he had been on the streets for a very long time. He was infested with fleas. And I could feel every single bone along his spine. I was shocked when Josh and Yvette told me he was de-clawed! How on earth could he have hunted for food or protected himself without his claws?! We arranged for this poor stray to go to the vet the next day and then Josh and Yvette could bring him to RESQCATS.

The vet exam revealed only bad news. He was probably about 12 years old. He weighed only five pounds and the vet said that with his body type he should weigh about 15 pounds! He was anemic due to all the fleas. He had hyper-thyroid disease, a heart condition that was probably brought on by the untreated hyper-thyroid disease and he was

Leukemia positive! I had never seen such a poor soul with so many things going against him. I knew many shelters would euthanize a cat like him....but that is not what RESQCATS does nor is it anything I could ever do with a conscience. So I asked the vet, "What can we do to help him?"

Josh, Yvette and I brought him to RESQCATS and the first thing we did was give him a bath to get rid of any fleas that the Advantage application had not taken care of and bathe off all the street dirt. We could not believe the hundreds of fleas on his poor five pound body...it took twenty minutes to rid him of all of them and all the dirt.

I gave him iron supplements twice a day to help with his anemia, thyroid medication to level his thyroid values and a heart medication to reduce accumulated fluid around his heart.

He also got a name....."Sebastian."

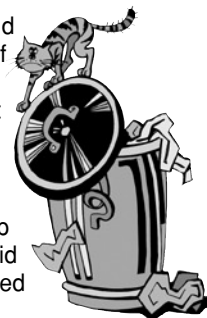
We set Sebastian up in his own enclosure with his own outside run (he cannot mingle with the other residents because of his leukemia positive status.) He has a running water fountain, heating pad in one of his baskets and lots of catnip and toys.

Sebastian has thanked us a million times over with all the love he gives and his soft purrs let me know he is feeling better and happy for the first time in a very long time. The volunteers love to brush him and tell him how handsome he is and that he is in a good place now.

I know that Sebastian is living his "ninth life" here at RESQCATS.... but I think he deserves to have the very best of everything for however long he has left on Earth. And you know... that just might be a while.

By October 19, 2009, Sebastian weighed 10 lbs. 6 oz now. His thyroid is in balance, his anemia is gone and he is doing great on his heart medication!

**I think Sebastian's ninth life is going to be his best!**



October 2009

## Tonka's Journey and the Micro Chip

Susan LeRoy, Volunteer RESQCATS

**T**his is a must read for everyone that has considered getting the Micro chip ID for their pet but have not done so, and for all others who have not thought about it.....

On October 23, 2009 Rebecca (a RESQCATS volunteer) received a call from her son telling her about a stray kitty that he and his girlfriend had been feeding outside their apartment for approximately four months.

They had recently noticed the kitty was not lifting her tail and she seemed to be losing weight. On Oct. 26th, because this kitty was found in the City of Santa Barbara, and I happened to live just around the corner from where they were feeding her, I received a call from Rebecca asking if I could come pick the kitty up and take her to our local shelter the next day. I set up my bathroom, loaded up my carrier and off I went to meet Rebecca. The kitty had a collar with a name tag (Tonka) and a phone number (which was disconnected)

Rebecca and I decided that if Tonka was injured it would be best to have her checked out by a Veterinary first before relinquishing her to the shelter. Rebecca called Jeffyne (who was in Oregon with her husband at the time) to see if we could take Tonka to RESQCATS' Vet and of course the answer was 'yes'.

Tonka was covered with fleas. Immediately RESQCATS provided CapStar and Advantage for her. The next morning at 8am I delivered Tonka to Dr. Morgan at St. Francis Pet Clinic. After a complete exam, blood work, fecal testing and x-rays all looked good except.....she had a



fracture near the base of her tail which is why she was unable to move her tail. Due to complications that are caused by non-use of her tail, the tail would have to be amputated.

The good news was Tonka had a micro chip ID which allowed Dr. Morgan to locate the name of the owner. The sad news was the owner, 31 year old Andrea Knott, who had raised Tonka since she was 8 weeks old (Tonka is now 5½ years old) had passed away exactly one year ago (October 2008). However, with the micro chip ID, Dr. Morgan was able to retrieve the historical veterinary records from Newport Beach, CA where Andrea & Tonka lived before moving to Santa Barbara.

Now that Rebecca and I had the owner's name the search was on to find family or friends of Andrea's who might know Tonka's story. It was quite the journey that brought it right back to my own insurance agent where Andrea used to work, who was able to provide us with the contact information for Andrea's family.

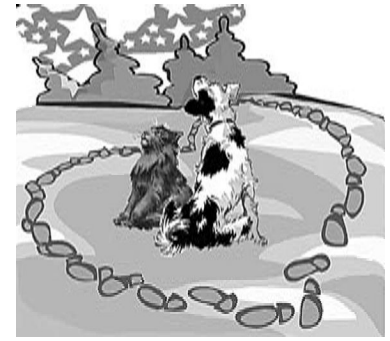
The moral of this story is.....because someone cared enough about the safety and well being of their furry family member to have a micro chipped (which is the size of a piece of rice grain injected under Tonka's skin) we were able to reunite Tonka with Andrea's family. Following surgery to have Tonka's tail amputated and two weeks of recovery, RESQCATS went even one huge step further and on November 17th gave me the honor of flying with Tonka to deliver her to Andrea's mother and brother, Liz and John Knott in Reno, Nevada. One can only imagine the joy in knowing their daughter's/sister's Tonka was coming home to the family.

Because of Tonka's journey I have decided that for Christmas the gift to my grandchildren is going to be micro chipping their furry family members. I can't think of a better gift that will keep on giving.

**Thank you Andrea and Tonka for sharing your journey with RESQCATS. I'm sure you had no idea how many lives you were going to connect with because of one little micro chip or how many hearts you would be touching Andrea, to one year after you were gone.**



## In Memory, Celebration and Honor of Some Very Special Friends and Family of the Human, Canine and Feline Types!



- ◆ In celebration of our "**Guilietta**," who had shared our lives for two years as of August 17, 2009!

Most gratefully,  
*Joyce and Alex Carasa*

- ◆ In memory of "**Sam**"...still so missed

Love,  
*Mary Rosenfeld*

- ◆ In memory of "**Mandy**," a RESQCATS resident who got to enjoy her golden years at "Cat Heaven on Earth."

*Julie Kaplan*

- ◆ In honor of **Jeffyne**, whom I am truly blessed to call my best friend.

Love,  
*Erika Sacks*

In honor of "**Raspy**"

*Robert and Elaine Wilson*

- ◆ In celebration of "**Chloe**" who we adopted from RESQCATS seven years ago!

*Joyce and Alex Carasa*

- ◆ In memory of **Paula Higgins**...she loved all critters and is one of the (human) guardian angels at the "Rainbow Bridge"

Love,  
*Julie Kaplan*

- ◆ In memory of "**Hadley**" and for **Victor and Karen Grandidier**

*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

- ◆ In memory of "**Zuni**" and for **Steve Chang**

*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

- ◆ In loving memory of "**Acoma**" who was adopted from RESQCATS in 1999 and for **Nancy Stecki**.

Love,  
*All of us at Resqcats*

- ◆ In loving memory of a sweet cat named "**Bianca**" and for her beautiful human guardian, **Vikki Taylor**. Vikki, she will be the first to greet you on the "Rainbow Bridge."

Love,  
*Jeffyne*

- ◆ No words can express how much you are missed "**Mandy**."

Love,  
*Jim and Jeffyne*

- ◆ In memory of "**Itzik**," "**Moishe**," "**Felix**" and "**Fanny**" and "**Blackie**"

Love,  
*Betty Oberacker*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY "**Pumpkin!**"

You turned two years old on September 16, 2009!

Love,  
*Julie Kaplan*

- ◆ For "**John Denver**" who was adopted from RESQCATS in November 1998!

*Dorinda Beaumont*

- ◆ In loving memory of "**Doodles**" who was adopted from RESQCATS eight years ago and for Cathia Mahaffey...the best mom a kitty could ever want.

Love,  
*Jeffyne*

- ◆ In loving memory of "**Lilly**" and for **Evelyn Kert**

Lilly was adopted from RESQCATS by Evelyn, a long time volunteer at RESQCATS. Lilly arrived at RESQCATS with a litter of kittens and had apparently populated Carpinteria with many kittens in the past. Evelyn fell in love, not with her kittens, but with Lilly... took her home and showered her with love for several years. Lilly died of cancer on September 16, 2009....it was a sad day for all of us at RESQCATS.

Evelyn, we all send you light, love and many blessings until you are with Lilly again on the Rainbow Bridge.

Love,  
*Jeffyne and all the volunteers.*

- ◆ In memory of "**Cheyenne**," my best girl!

*Stephanie Welch*

- ◆ For "**Jasper**"—March 8, 2009-Sept 24, 2009

In loving memory of "**Jasper**," who was only six month old and died suddenly from a genetic heart condition. And for **Bri Allen and Brooke Stockwell**, who loved him from the bottom of their hearts.

Love,  
*Jeffyne*



- ◆ In loving memory of "**Poncho**" and for **Alex, Jason and Payton Koch**.

Love,  
*Mitch and Jeffyne*

- ◆ In memory of "**Calvin**" and for **Joyce Tromp**

*Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara*

- ◆ Always in my heart...never a days goes by that I do not think about you, "**Miejek**."

Love,  
*Jeffyne*

## Some very special *Thank You's...*

Words just can never express how thankful I am to **Kim and Dean Paninides** for giving "Jackie" & "Haley" a home. If I wished for one thing this entire 2009 season...it was home for them.... you deserve more than a special thank you. You blessed me with the gift of knowing there really are people who care, even for the special needs cats and are willing to "step up to the plate." Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Angels live among us...their names are **Bri Allen and Brooke Stockwell**.... Thank you, thank you, thank you...for giving "Samantha" (now "Zeke") a home. (see story: "A Heart to Break All Hearts" on page 7).

Thank you **Sandy Simmons and David Inger**.....for such a special gift to RESQCATS when it was needed most. Words are just not enough to share with you how much I appreciate your generosity!

A very humble and gracious thank you to **Caroline and Tony Albertson Da Pra** for adopting "Wilbury" from RESQCATS and for your generous donation to help all the other kitties waiting for their purrfect homes!

Thank you **Gennelle Linville** for all you have done over the years to help take care of the RESQCATS kitties and all their needs with your support. You have "angel" status in my view for your graciousness and generosity.

Thank you **Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare** for always being there to foster at a moment's notice. I know how hard it is to love these little ones while they are in your care and then have to give them up.

A very, very special thank you to **Jeanette Iwatsuki** for your generous support this year. It seems you send a donation when it is absolutely needed the most...and I don't even think you realize that. You have such a kind heart and I so admire you for that.

Thanks to **Fred and Nan Euler** for your wonderful visits to RESQCATS, for your generosity and for your understanding compassion.

A very special thank you to **Jim Hurnblad** for ALL the extra things you do to make RESQCATS purrfect. You are amazing!

I am speechless when it comes to finding big enough words to thank **Betty Oberacker** for her support of the "Polar Bear Fund" which was set up to help kitties with special medical needs...and we had plenty of those this year!

Thank you to my neighbor, **Paulette Callahan**, for all your support and kind words!

**Pamela Vincent**, you just catch me by surprise with your generosity. I am in awe of you and thank you for all your help this past year with RESQCATS!

Thank you, **Susan Leroy**, for taking care of so many foster kittens this season....it is what you do the best and I just love you for it!

**Rebecca Branscome**....the Earth's creatures owe you so much... you are always out rescuing them!

Thank you **Sue Grafton and Steve Humphrey** for your generous support of RESQCATS and for your kind words of understanding!

And a very special thank you to a friend who goes all the way back to Junior High School, **Vicki Scherer**. Your beautiful donation arrived just in time to help with a special needs kitten named "Samantha." You have given her the chance for life and for that there is no thank you big enough!

A very special thank you to "The Polar Bear Angels," **Melodie and Paula Haines** for making the whole year at such a special one with all their support and hand-made wonders for the kitties!

**Bon Appetit Danish, Inc.** has carried on a tradition started by **Sandy Ginsberg** who passed on several years ago. Your corporate support is a rare find and so appreciated.

**Diane Ledbetter**...you are an angel on Earth. Thank you always for your kind words of understanding and your generous support that helped us get through the end of kitten season and also helped pay for a special needs kitty named "Samantha."

**Tricia Krout**...a special thank you for preparing RESQCATS' monthly financial statements and year-end tax returns and government filings...you make Mitch's life so much easier...and mine more pleasant!

Have any of you seen RESQCATS on Facebook?! Well, we have **Susan Boesch** to thank for that! She created it, posts cats and kittens that are available for adoption, lets everyone know when they are adopted and posts some really fun stuff for all our fans to see. She maintains RESQCATS Facebook and is responsible for helping get so many adopted.

**Lisa Acho Remerenco** of *Animal Adoption Solutions* spent at least an afternoon a week at RESQCATS photographing cats and kittens to post on *Craigslist* and *Petfinder.com*. She came up with a great idea of doing a video of the cats and kittens for adoption and it made a huge difference in helping them find homes! Thank you, Lisa!

Thank you, **Joanna Haynes**, for always being available to photograph the kitties for the RESQCATS cards and anything else we need your beautiful photography for in order to find homes for them all.

Thank you to all the **VOLUNTEERS** who worked so hard this year doing whatever it took to make RESQCATS be successful. The gift of time that you give is the biggest treasure of all...you are all appreciated and loved.

And thank you, **Keith and Chris Flannery** of *Flannery Designs & Graphics* for three more beautiful newsletters this year. It takes close to over 250 hours a year for them to design and produce the RESQCATS newsletter. They may not be seen at RESQCATS but they work just as hard as anyone behind the scenes...and I think RESQCATS has the best newsletter of any rescue organization!

adoptions. That is truly amazing. You've made a lot of people (and kittens) very happy. How are you doing otherwise?

Things are going well for me. The "boys" and I are back in San Francisco now that I am done with business school. "Jackson" is still very, uh, large and very snuggly. "Kenny" is a very happy kitty, too and climbs into bed (and on top of me!) in the mornings to snuggle. Can you believe they will be 7 next year in March?!

Anyhow, I just thought I'd say a quick hello and to let you know how grateful I am to have the boys in my life! We miss you!

**Sarah Pederson, "Jackson" and "Kenny" ☆**

### Letters to RESQCATS

continued from page 9

I was so glad to read in your newsletter that mother/ grandmother ("Haley" and "Jackie") are still together and well and that you are not going to separate them.

Sincerely,

**Barb Auhll**

Dear "Aunt Jeffyne,"

Hello! So great to see the newsletter in my mail yesterday. Looks like things are going well at RESQCATS. Congrats on reaching 1500



Where Do All These Cats Come From?*continued from page 1*

Someone found six-week-old "Jag" in their backyard.

"Haley" and "Jackie" were living in a schoolyard....Haley was only two days away from delivering six kittens when she arrived at RESQCATS.

"Bowie" and "Billie" were left in the overnight cage at the Santa Maria Shelter when they were only about 4 weeks old.

"Lursa" and "Betor" were found in an abandoned warehouse as six week old kittens.

"Elijah" was only about six weeks old when a previous adopter from RESQCATS found him wandering by himself on a ranch in Gaviota Beach...brought him home and called to see if we could help....we DID!

"Purrcey" was relinquished to RESQCATS along with two siblings...in return, we had the owner's mother cat spayed at no expense to the them.

"Chevy" was found in a car engine with the pads of her feet burned...she was treated with antibiotics by a wonderful foster before arriving here.

A litter of six kittens came from a tame mother cat the owner had not bothered to spay...she is spayed now!

Three kittens were relinquished to a foster and volunteer for RESQCATS because the owner was moving and planned to have them euthanized...we could not let that happen.

"Sahara" was found in the parking lot of an imaging center in Oxnard headed for a busy street called Ventura Road.

A mom and her four babies were relinquished to RESQCATS by a neighbor of a family who was not caring for the mom and her litter.

A volunteer saw "Free Kittens" being given away outside a feed store in Ojai...then talked the owner of the store into relinquishing them to RESQCATS so they would receive proper medical care and be spayed or neutered!

"Serenity" was brought to RESQCATS when she was seen wandering around Spring Street in Santa Barbara....she gave birth to four kittens on the Fourth of July...just one week after her arrival.

"Chelsea" was nine weeks old...and left behind when her people moved...a nice neighbor brought her and her sister to RESQCATS.

"Sebastian" was found by RESQCATS volunteers laying in the middle of the street...he had anemia from fleas, was de-clawed, estimated to be about 12 years old, weighed five pounds, suffered from heart problems, hyper-thyroid disease and is Feline Leukemia positive. ☆

President's Message*continued from page 1*

his lifetime. He is just great about the taking his medicine and has a personality to rival any other kitten that has ever passed through RESQCATS! So many of the volunteers said, "Oh, he is so cute, he will find a home for sure." When I responded and asked if they were given the choice of Buddah Bear who goes in for enemas and will be on medication for his entire lifetime or one of the other kittens that has no medical issues....what would they choose??? That question was always followed by a lot of back-tracking and reasons that they could not take him and would choose another kitten without issues. It was the perfect example of what I go through when I try to find a home for a kitty with special circumstances. So...Buddah Bear has a home with me!

Two litters from the Orange County Shelter were scheduled for euthanasia...and of course, we wanted to help save them. They arrived with the worst upper respiratory infections we have ever experienced. The moms and all the kittens were all on medication that had to be compounded especially for them and the administration period was long and tedious.

"Maya" and "Samantha" both had heart murmurs that seemed abnormal, not the usual innocent murmurs found in many young animals, so they both saw a specialist to have heart ultra-sounds. Maya's ultrasound indicated no abnormalities and she was adopted immediately by a volunteer who had fallen in love with her.

"Samantha" was not so fortunate. She had her ultrasound on September 28 and was diagnosed with a very serious heart condition called pulmonary stenosis. It means that one of the valves in her heart is too small to get enough blood into her heart. The doctor suggested that Samantha see a cardiology specialist to see if she might be a candidate for surgery. So off to LA to see the specialist we went. Sadly, Samantha has three very serious congenital defects in her heart and nothing can be done medically or surgically to fix it. Now we just hope for a miracle that her condition does not worsen. (See article: "A Heart to Break All Hearts." page 17)

Taking care of so many sick kitties requires a lot of money and takes the help of many volunteers and fosters to rescue these special purring machines. The wonderful news is that RESQCATS was able help. It takes many of us to make an organization like RESQCATS work...volunteers, fosters, people willing to adopt a rescued animal, veterinarians who are willing to work with rescue groups and people who can help financially.

I cannot thank the volunteers enough for all their dedication and precious gift of time...they helped save many lives this year. They are my biggest treasure

I congratulate each one of you who chose to adopt a RESQCATS kitty instead of buying one from a pet store or a breeder. I have a special place in my heart for you and the cats and kittens that you gave forever homes.

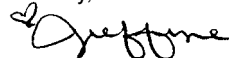
And I thank each of you who receive this newsletter. You get this because you have helped in some way this year or many ways in the past. And I am asking for your financial help once more. I think we are facing another tough season in 2010 with more challenges. And I want to be able to meet each and every of those challenges, but I need help. The volunteers will be ready, the kittens will be plenty, and I hope you will open your heart and checkbook once again.

I really want to continue to follow the passion in my heart to rescue, care for and adopt stray and abandoned cats and kittens.

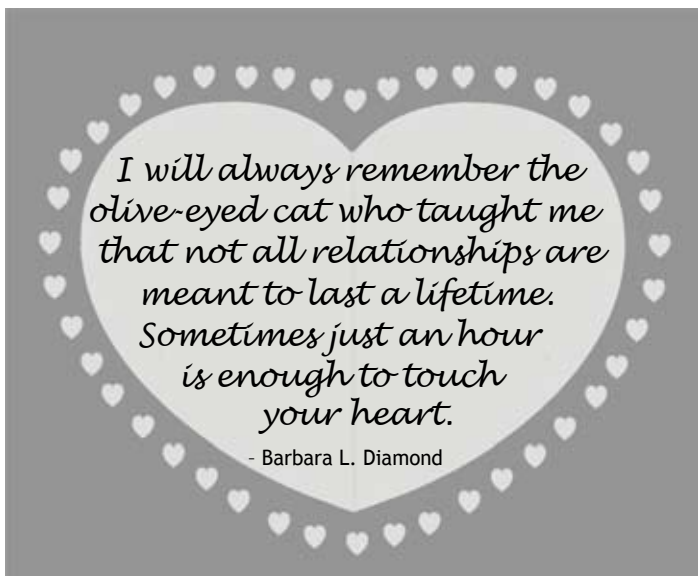
Remember what I said in the last newsletter? If everyone on the mailing list gave just \$10.00, RESQCATS could raise an immediate \$5000.00. Every single dollar makes such a difference.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for continuing to make that difference in the lives of the kitties. You also "pay it forward" by making a difference in the lives of those who adopt them.

Humbly and sincerely,



Jeffyne Telson





## The gift of Giving "Change for Change"

**I** mentioned in the last newsletter about the gift of giving through "The Christmas Jar." It began when, **Joanna Haynes**, a friend of mine told me that she dumps all her spare change into a jar all year long. At the end of the year, she gives it to someone or some organization in need.

I loved the idea and decided to start my own jar... I actually filled up the first one and have started on the second one for 2009. In the next few days, Joanna and I will roll our combined savings and decide where to donate change for the holidays. Last year, our combined efforts added up to over \$250. We were happy to donate it to a fund that was set up for animals that had suffered injuries in the Tea Fire here in Santa Barbara in November, 2008. The fund got medical help for the animals by assisting people pay for some of the treatment their animals needed due to injuries from the fire. I am glad that \$250 could make a difference in lives... feline, canine and human!

I hope some of you started your own jars after reading about the "Change for Change" the Fall **RESQCATS** newsletter. Now, we are ready to take all the change off your hands.

**RESQCATS** has already received **\$70** from **Liz Zeller's** jar of change! With that change, we can neuter two male cats ...or vaccinate 14 kittens...or worm about 10 kitties. We can make your "Change for Change" go a long way to help the cats and kittens at **RESQCATS!**

It takes nothing to dump all that loose change into a jar...and **RESQCATS** would love to take it off your hands now that the holidays are here...and it *"tis the season for giving."*

You don't even have to roll it...but it is fun to see how much it adds up to... we will be happy to do it for you.

I hear through the grapevine that there are a few jars in progress!

It is such a good feeling in your heart to know that you make a difference....and this is such an easy way to do it!

It truly is *"change for change!"*



## It's the Crazy Cat Lady!

You know that you've seen her  
Peeking out her front door  
Oh SOOO many cats  
To feed and adore!

In the kitchen, on the porch,  
Under feet and everywhere!  
Everything that one could see  
Was covered in cat hair!

Five, ten to twenty...  
Maybe even more!  
Ooodles of kittens  
And hair balls galore!

Pepper and Princess,  
Each one has a name  
Chosen with care  
By this crazy cat dame!

I can't begin to know how  
She keeps track of them all;  
But I'm sure she must love  
Each and every fur ball!

(Taken from the internet)



**ResQCats is now on Facebook!**

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

Please take the time to see our website.  
You can read the heart warming stories in past issues or you  
may just want to see the entertaining photos.  
The designers are **Nathaniel and Laura Courtens**.

It is beautiful.  
Thank you for all your hard work.

## Please Give What You Can to This Important Cause!

# RESQCATS™

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

I am enclosing my tax deductible donation :

Angel in Heaven .....	\$1000	Caring Spirit.....	\$100
Miracle Worker .....	\$500	Supporter .....	\$50
Magic Maker.....	\$250	Helper .....	\$25

Please designate my donation to the Polar Bear Fund to help kitties with special medical needs.

**Make your check payable to:**

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

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

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

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



**Give a Helping Hand!**

## Dedication

Many of you are aware that shelters have been overflowing with unwanted animals this year. Some of the animals were turned in by owners who did not want them anymore. Others were relinquished because of the economy, and some animals lost their home because their guardians lost theirs!

Shelters could only accept so many relinquished animals based on available space so the only choice left to shelter personnel was to euthanize the over-population.

Fearing that their animal would be euthanized, some people just left their animals behind to "take care of themselves" or, hopefully, be rescued by some caring person.

This RESQCATS newsletter is dedicated to all those unfortunate animals that were left behind to try to survive on the streets or were humanely euthanized in shelters because there was "no room at the inn."

Our holiday prayer is that next year, spay and neuter programs will help decrease the number of unwanted pets that are euthanized in shelters and abandoned on the streets.



## My Wish List. . .GRANTED!

♥ **Samantha** found a home with **Bri Allen and Brooke**

♥ **Jackie and Haley** found a home with **Kim and Dean Pananides.**



## RESQCATS "Believe In Miracles" Lavender Soy Candle

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

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



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

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

Elizabeth has helped raise almost \$2000.00 for RESQCATS!

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

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[www.BasilEssentials.com](http://www.BasilEssentials.com)

*Wishing You Peace, Joy and Harmony This Holiday Season!*

**RESQCATS™**  
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