

September 2009 Newsletter & Fall Fundraiser

President's Message

July 12, 2009

I know that by the time this newsletter is designed and printed and in your hands that a lot more will have happened at RESQCATS. As promised, I like to keep all of you informed...after all, you, as contributors, make all things possible here.

Spring and Summer 2009 kitten season has been one of the busiest ones RESQCATS has ever experienced. I don't know what is happening...and why there are so many cats and kittens. Even with all the spaying and neutering of animals...there seems to be no end to all the kittens. It's as if there's a pregnant mom on every street corner...and the lucky ones get to RESQCATS or some other rescue before delivering their litter under someone's house or in a backyard or warehouse somewhere! Shelters are operating beyond capacity and with far less revenue. What are we all to do?!



Jeffyne with Buddha Bear, three pounds of high-maintenance joy

I just get up each morning and do the very best I can with the help of a lot of wonderful volunteers, a husband who understands the time commitment it takes for me to operate RESQCATS, and the support of people like you who receive this newsletter.

The days are long and hard...lot of trips to the vets with kitties suffering from Upper Respiratory Infections, digestive problems due to parasites and a very special kitten with some special needs. (I will tell you about him, "Buddha Bear," a little later.) In addition, there are phone calls and emails to answer in hopes of finding homes for all these kitties. But all has been "do-able!"

I believe the economy and people losing their homes has had a great impact on all of us in rescue. I receive calls every week and several times a week about cats that people left behind when they moved, people losing their home that cannot take their cats with them. Seems the cat is the first thing to get "thrown away." It angers me so...and it makes me sad.

Many cat-owners are not spending the small fee of \$50 to get their female cat spayed...so they get left behind pregnant. That \$50 spent could solve so many problems and reduce the number of kittens being born. That aside, I am always grateful when the pregnant moms get to RESQCATS before giving birth so that I know they are safe and that all is going to be okay.

"Mini" gave birth to six kittens just two days after she arrived with her own mother, "Cali." They were living in a school yard. And talk about lucky, Mini's sister was taken by a coyote just weeks after giving birth to kittens in the school yard. Mini delivered her babies in the comfort of RESQCATS. We named them "Dillon," "Timba," "Brunswick," "Liz," "Taylor" and "Buddha Bear."

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RESQCATS
 P.O. Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130
 (805) 563-9424 • www.resqcats.org

And Now...A Few Words From Mr. Jeffyne
Behind the Scenes with Jeffyne

Visitors to RESQCATS frequently exclaim, "Wow, what a wonderful facility! I'd love to come back as one of your cats in my next life!"

That's funny, because Jeffyne often says almost the same thing... "Wouldn't it be nice to be one of our cats and get all this special care...plenty of food, clean water, a safe place off the streets, live away from predators, get to sleep on soft blankets and a heating pad...and all this lovin'!"

Sounds like paradise, doesn't it. Well, it is...for the kitties!! But for those of us who rescue animals and all the wonderful volunteers who work so hard at organizations like RESQCATS, there's a whole other side to the story.

The pleasure and wonder of RESQCATS isn't free and it doesn't come without a lot of work.

Most of the articles in previous issues of the RESQCATS Newsletters have focused on the cats and well they should have. But this column

with an orange nose?..."My cat is urinating outside her litter box...what should I do?..."My daughter needs to complete her community service...can she do it at RESQCATS?..."What are your hours...I'd like to bring my mother-in-law over to see your facility!..."I just found two kittens under the porch...can RESQCATS help me?"

- And then there's the paperwork – and more paperwork and MORE paperwork... writing checks, paying invoices, preparing adoption applications, completing Humane Society forms and those all-important, never-forgotten, Individual Thank You notes that Jeffyne personally writes to each and every person who makes a donation to RESQCATS.



- Then, of course, there are the all important prospective adopter pre-interviews...many of you have been through Jeffyne's third degree..."What kind of cat are you looking for?..."What's your family situation...how old are your children? "Do you own or rent? Do you have landlord approval? Is it in writing?" "Are

from Mr. Jeffyne is not just about the cats and kittens, it's a small peek behind the scenes at what it takes to run a cat rescue organization...A Day in the Life...at RESQCATS!

Every day for Jeffyne begins between 5:30 and 5:45 AM with a cup of her favorite chai tea. (She's really no fun to talk with until she's had her chai!!)

As she slowly sips her chai, the grumbling lion in this normally gentle kitten gradually subsides, and Jeffyne's day can begin.

While there's never a "routine day" at any rescue organization, since no two days are ever the same, this could be a "typical day" in the life of RESQCATS...

6 AM...Out of bed...medicate the bedroom kitties...clean the litter boxes in the house...all five...throw in a load of laundry.

6:30 AM...Shower and get dressed. (Jeffyne likes to take pride in the fact that she's a rescue person who showers everyday, does her hair, puts on make-up and has a few social skills!!)

7 AM...First trip out to the cattery...feed all the resident kitties...medicate the ailing kids.

7:45 AM...Back in the house for a very quick breakfast of O.J., non-fat yogurt, granola, a banana and her vitamins. (Many of you know that Mr. Jeffyne does the meal preparations for Jeffyne. So on the days when he's traveling, Jeffyne's vitamins and bananas are neatly laid out by day of week...she has a tendency to forget to eat!)

8 AM...Out to the cattery once again...meet the day's volunteers...help the Cinderella Crew (the morning clean-up volunteers) clean and change litter boxes, sweep and hose out enclosures, pick up the empty beer cans...(not really, but that's what some of the enclosures look like after the kitties have partied all night!!)

8:15 AM...Off to the Humane Society with a Mama cat and her litter to be spayed and neutered.

8:45-10 AM...Back home and into the cattery one more time to help with the final morning chores.

From 10 AM...until it's time to pick up that mama cat and her kittens from the Humane Society at 3 PM, Jeffyne will be busy with any number of things:

- A trip to the vet...one of the residents is losing weight!
- Get on the telephone and place orders for cat food, litter, special meds or supplies.
- To the office and start returning the 8-10 phone calls received since 4 PM yesterday when RESQCATS "closed" for the day..."I'm interested in adopting a gray tabby...do you have one

...? Do you have indoor approval is it alright? ... Are you looking for indoors or outdoors or both? (Aha! This is one of Jeffyne's "trick" questions because RESQCATS kitties are ALWAYS indoor cats for their entire life!)

- Once pre-qualified, Jeffyne will schedule the prospective adopter for their personal tour of the RESQCATS facilities and opportunity to meet the cats and kittens. This happens over 200 times during kitty season...on average, about 1-2 times every day!

3 PM...Time to pick up that spayed mama and babies from the Humane Society.

4 PM...Ahh, the day is over, time to relax...but wait! Not so fast!...now come the evening chores!...Feed and medicate all the adoptable cats and kittens in the cattery enclosures as well as in the isolation wards...scoop their litter boxes...(no cat likes to use a dirty toilet??) Turn on the heating pads...drop the evening curtains and say good night to the little critters.

5:30 PM...Now it's time to take care of the seven RESQCATS house kitties...Miracle, Hope, Buckey, Fifi and the three Bears...Suga', Honey and Buddha—the neurologically damaged, special needs, unadoptable cats that live in the house with Jeffyne, Mr. Jeffyne and our eight collies.

6 PM...Check for any last minute phone calls and answer all those web site emails.

7 PM...Finally, time to slow down a little...its dinner time. Wait a minute, what happened to lunch??? Well, if it was a "slow" day, Jeffyne was able to grab a 5-minute break that included a slice of matzo with a smear of peanut butter...but probably not!!

Back to dinner...if Mr. Jeffyne's at home, he'll prepare some of Jeffyne's favorite vegetarian dishes. If he's not, she'll find a prepared meal in the freezer, pop it in the microwave and relax with a glass of wine.

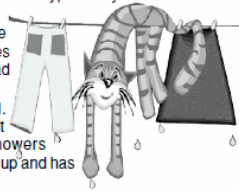
8 PM...Final walk through the cattery...make sure today's newly spayed and neutered cats and kittens are doing okay, check on the resident population...any sniffles? Double check that all the enclosures are secure...turn off the lights...that's it for today!

Now all that's left to do is let out the collies for their evening duties, take a warm bath and crawl into bed. "Oh, did I put the latch on the isolation door?? I better go back out to the cattery and check!"

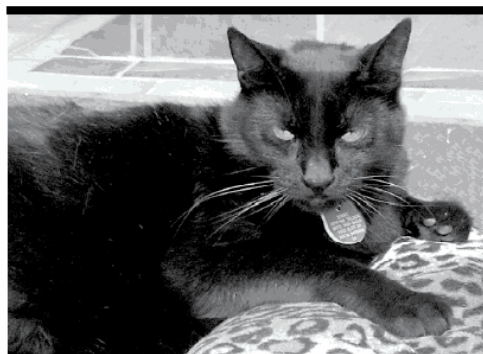
8:30 PM..."Good night Sweetheart" "Good ni...!"

Is the day in the life at RESQCATS hard work? Absolutely! But if you ask anyone who works with any rescue organization to explain how they feel about the work they do, they'd probably answer the same way as Jeffyne...

"Yes, it is a lot of hard work...but it's a labor of love!" ♦



*"Zorro" was one of our very special cats...
not that we don't love all of our animals...but Zorro was really very special!*



Remembering "ZORRO"

By Mitch Telson

He was the "universal" cat...and not just in the medical sense. He was welcomed everywhere by everyone. He was the only cat who lived in the house that could go into the office and spend time with "Fifi" (who hates all other cats), as well as, into the guest rooms to be with our shy cats, "Miracle," "Buckey" and "Hope." (Of course, his trips to the office weren't really to visit with Fifi, it was to eat her food, drink her water and use her litter box!)

Zorro was also welcome upstairs in the master bedroom with "Suga' Bear" and "Honey."

But again, his time on the second floor wasn't to visit "the boyz," it was to eat THEIR food and use THEIR facilities. But he usually didn't stay too long. As soon as Suga' began to wrestle with Zorro (or he finished eating...whichever came first), he wanted out to the relative peace and quiet of his lower domain!

Zorro was always Jeffyne's cat...though he was my pal...but then, he was everyone's pal!

Zorro never met a stranger. But he seemed to take special pleasure in spending time with people who he sensed weren't particularly fond of cats. (Of course, then you'd have to ask, "What are non-cat people doing in our house anyway!!") When a non-animal person did manage to get into the house and sit down on one of Zorro's couches, he'd take great delight in climbing up on them and perching in their lap.

Laps were one of his favorite places. My "little black man," as I loved to call him, really liked my lap, too...and my back and my

Zorro was our consummate dinner companion. Every meal that we had at the bar was "dinner for three..." Jeffyne, me and Zorro! But his idea of dinner was different than ours. Zorro would always jump up to the third or fourth bar stool pad, (except as he got "rounder" he'd frequently need someone's help to the table!)

Over the years he had learned that he wasn't allowed on the bar itself while we were eating...but that didn't keep him from being our "third" for dinner! He would simply get on his stool, look to his left and stare intently into Jeffyne's mouth. He understood that as long as she was eating, he was not allowed on her. So, he would sit patiently, often gently "pawing" her to remind her that he was waiting. Then, as soon as he could see that no food was going into her mouth and she had stopped moving her lips, he knew it was okay to climb into her lap and get some love from Mama!

Needless to say, Zorro was a little more than spoiled!

Zorro was never an outside cat...he really never wanted to go outside. Why should he - he had everything he wanted inside...plenty of food, fresh water, people who loved him AND his dogs!

However, there were a few, rare occasions when Zorro wandered through an open laundry room door into the garage. But these furloughs were usually pretty short-lived. His fear of the unknown quickly sent him scurrying back into the safety of his house.

In addition, to being a special guy, Zorro was obviously a pretty smart guy, too!

chest! When I would try to relax on the couch, he'd almost always, slink down from his black blanket, nestle on my chest and begin to paw my beard. The only way I could keep him from scratching my face was to tickle his back which caused him to lick himself violently in rhythm to the pace of my touches!

Zorro really loved his dogs...and they loved him in return. Whenever his pack came into the house...day or night it made no difference...Zorro would greet them with his special boldness, sniff each dog, let them know he "owned them" and return to one of his several favorite lounging locations...on the black blanket on the back or the couch or on the third bar stool.

Zorro had both his morning and his evening rituals. At the first light of dawn, Zorro would show up on the landing outside the bedroom doors and hover. I could see him through the cracks in the doors pacing back and forth waiting to be let in so he could have his "morning chai" with Jeffyne (or sample some of "the boyz" breakfast! (I personally think it was to get more of his Mama's love!)

At night, his routine was equally predictable. After greeting his dogs when they came in after their last yard visit for the evening, Zorro would "race" us all to the top of the landing often getting underfoot and almost causing a trip.

These were special "Zorro moments" that I will dearly miss.

While all our cats have always loved Jeffyne, Zorro ADORED her! And he even liked me...and that was reciprocal because as much as I don't like to show partiality, Zorro was my favorite cat.

He was one of only two cats ("Krystal" is the other) who loved to give tongue kisses! Disgusting as it sounds, when I would stick my tongue out at Zorro, he'd give me a little "peck" right on the end. I tried to be selective when we'd exchange these affections, but I'm sure there was more than once when it was litter box first and Daddy kisses second!

We let Zorro go on Friday evening, May 29, 2009 after several weeks of intensive care and treatment for what turned out to be an undiagnosed ailment...but most likely due to the fact that he as an FIV-positive cat.

He slipped away peacefully in Jeffyne's arms amidst both of our tears.

Zorro has been a fixture in our home since May 1996...before we ever moved into our newly remodeled house. His presence was a blessing and a gift for every animal and person he touched.

Zorro was my very special friend and I miss him more than I ever imagined. ♦



In Memory, Honor and Celebration of Some Very Special Humans, Felines and Canines!



To celebrate **Danielle Anderson** on her birthday!

From Jon, Elizabeth, Hugh and "Faro" Cook

This donation is in memory of "Wizard" (one of the RESQCATS resident cats who died in May). Wizard was one of my favorite cats right from the beginning when I first started volunteering for RESQCATS.



For Wizard...a very special and wonderful cat!

Love,
Kay Hewitt

August 14, 2009

It is a very sad day today...saying good-bye to "Starr". Starr was a lot of punch packed into a petite collie body. She had a fight and spirit about her from the time we brought her home 12 years ago and even until her last day today. I hope her body and spirit found peace as she crossed the Rainbow Bridge...and I pray I did not allow her to suffer too long. Peace will come to my soul, I am sure...but not today and not for a while. Starr, you were my star!

Love,
Jeffyne and Mitch

In loving and sweet memory of "Lady."

Love,
Addie Clarke and family

In celebration of **Jill Gass** and her birthday...Happy Birthday, Jill!

Love,
Julie Kaplan

In memory of "Lenny", for his brother "Lucas" and for the **Merrick family**.

Jeffyne

"In total admiration of the loving care **Rebecca Branscome** gives the kittens she fosters. I will always be grateful for what I've learned from her. She truly has a heart the size of Texas!" (*Rebecca, like Jeffyne, is from Texas*)

Love,
Julie Kaplan

In memory of "Bluebell" and "Silent Spring"

From Bud and Lynda Stuart

In memory of "Mimi"...I miss her sweet loving kind heart. She slept on my pillow every night for 20 years! She was my angel on Earth.

Love,
Mary Lou and Jon Sorrell

In honor of "Lila"...a dear little bundle of beauty."

Liz Zeller

In loving memory of "Brynnner"...with love from your mom.

Jane Bearinger

In memory of "Bella"

Love,
"Cha-Cha," "Grace," "Pumpkin" and Julie Kaplan

Your memory, "Zorro," is everywhere in this house...and how I miss you in this house and in my heart.

Love,
Jeffyne



In celebration of one year with my RESQCATS kittles, "Omar" and "Harriet"

Love,
Lynn Richardson

For "Tabby"

What a wonderful cat he was! His memory brings smiles to all that knew him.

Love,
The Sacks Family

In memory of "Nicky" and his daily visits to us and especially his girlfriend, our "Cally," and in honor of his family, **Sheryl and Ed Fierro**.

Dick and Joyce Falk

In memory of "Wizard," whose sweetness so often lifted our spirits.

Alex and Joyce Carasa (long-time volunteers at RESQCATS)

In memory of "Zorro"...our hearts go out to you for your loss of Zorro. I, too, am affected by it and miss him during your massage time with me and miss seeing him patrolling all the other cats in the house, making sure all is in order. Please accept this donation as a token of our very special memories of him.

Love,
Sue Sadler and Cathie Pare

July 27, 2009

In memory of "Bella," a RESQCATS resident that had such a presence here. She left for the Rainbow Bridge today after battle with FIV. She was with me for many years and life is going to be so different without her and our routine together. Sadness fills my heart and tears fill my eyes...for my Bella.

Love,
Jeffyne

In memory of... **Sidney W. Bljou**

November 12, 1908 to June 11, 2009

A peaceful, natural death, as he was getting ready for another day. A life well lived to the very last moment. We will miss this gentle, extraordinary man who accomplished so much and was so loved and respected. He set the standard for all of us.

We were lucky to get to hang out with him for so long.

Lynn Matis

Love beyond words is what I feel for "Charity"...and a loss of words to describe the sadness of losing her.

Love,
Jeffyne and Mitch

As always, for "Miejek"

Love,
Jeffyne



Hoping for a Miracle... Mini's Saga Continues

(Mini is now known as Haley)

Many of you remember reading in the last newsletter about "Mini" and her mom, "Cali." They arrived at RESQCATS after living in a schoolyard just two days before Mini gave birth to six kittens: Dillon, Brunswick, Liz, Taylor, Timba and Buddha Bear.

Mini collapsed when her kittens were only two and a half weeks old. It was determined that she had an allergic reaction to something and was treated accordingly. During her treatment, it was discovered that she had a heart condition. The doctors believe that her collapse was NOT related to her heart condition...but only discovered because of her allergic reaction to who knows what!

I asked the vets to come up with new names for this mother and daughter pair that are inseparable. We thought new names in a new place would give them a new start and hopefully...a new home with someone!

So, based on the story of "The Wizard of Oz," they decided to name this pair after the actor who played the "Tin Man" because he only wanted a "heart" from the Wizard. Anyone remember the actor's name? It was Jack Haley.....so we named Mini... "Haley" and we named Cali... "Jackie."

It took me a while...but I love their new names and everything they symbolize to all of us here at RESQCATS. Haley and Jackie have been with us for over three months at the writing of this story on July 11, 2009. Our search for a home for them has been unsuccessful so far. Haley will have another ultrasound on her heart in August and she may or may not remain on medication...but she is easy to pill even if she needs to remain on her daily diuretic and twice-a-week aspirin therapy. RESQCATS will cover the cost of the ultrasound, regardless.

I will keep you updated on Haley's prognosis and hopeful adoption. So many of you have been kind enough to ask about her.



Update - August 4, 2009

Haley returned to the specialist for another ultrasound on her heart. Her heart remains stable and her heart disease has not progressed. The doctor feels so good about this that he reduced her medication to every other day and says she will not need to see him for a year! She will most likely remain on medication for her lifetime, but she is wonderful about taking it.

We are actively looking for a home for Haley and Jackie with a special person who is willing to give Haley her medication and be showered with a lifetime of love from this mother and daughter!

A New RESQCATS Resident!

"Buddha Bear," Haley's son, is the little kitten that suffers from mega-colon. He has required numerous vet visits to diagnose his problem. The nerve endings and muscles in his colon do not work well enough to push his poop through. So this poor little kitten has had more enemas than any of us like to think about. He is on two different medications to help regulate everything. One is called Lactulose and it brings moisture into his colon to make the poop softer and more moist so it is easier to push out. The second medication, mixed especially for him due to his size, helps the muscles in the colon contract so that he can push. He is medicated three times a day, has pumpkin added to his food and he eats about five times a day.

All the volunteers said, "Oh Jeffy, he will find a home. Someone will adopt him!" When I replied..."if you had a choice of adopting a kitten that has a special diet, is medicated three times a day for his lifetime and may require numerous trips to the vet to keep the medication regulated...or one of these other kittens with no medical issues whatsoever...what would you do!?"

So, "Buddha Bear" is with me...and I absolutely adore him. He is bathed a few times a week to clean his bottom and to get the pumpkin off his face because he still sucks his food. He has all my collies wrapped around his little paw. He is three pounds of high maintenance joy! And I love him from the bottom of my heart! ♦



How Do You Spell Volunteer?

Very special people who
Offer
Love
Unconditionally and
Never cease
To amaze me with their
Enthusiasm to help out and their
Empathy in caring for
Resqcats
Stray and abandoned cats and kittens.



The heart and soul of RESQCATS are our volunteers. They are responsible for everything from cleaning enclosures, fostering kittens, building new areas for the kitties as well as repairing existing ones, designing the newsletter, writing and placing ads in the local paper, socializing kittens and so much more. They are the backbone of RESQCATS!

Each volunteer offers something special and unique to the organization. Some of them have become the best of friends as they show up to help year after year. Their compassion for the kitties, support of me and willingness to help is unbelievable. I sometimes wonder how I ever got so lucky to have them as part of my life. It is hard work here... physically and emotionally. But they show up year after year eager to go!

I want to thank all of you that have "stuck with it" all these years and a hearty "welcome" to all our new volunteers. ♦

Thank you volunteers



Thank You For Staying In Touch!

Dear Jeffy,

I hope this note finds you well and that RESQCATS is treating every worthy home to a wonderful purry beast!

"Bella" and "Chloe" continue to bring me joy and happiness with every rub, meow, and greeting at the door. With the exception of a recent bout with the sniffles, both have been quite healthy and happy. They continue to amaze me with their energy and affection

soft food and starts begging for her 5 p.m. dinner about 2:30 in the afternoon.

She is also quite the "ham" – her favorite thing to do is roll over on her back with all four of her paws sticking straight up into the air and then peek over at you to make sure you're watching! She gets more and more comfortable everyday. We love getting to know her quirks and routines and most importantly, just spending time with her.

Thank you so much for taking a chance on her so that she could one day become a part of our family.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn and Chris Kuzminski



ResQcats Misty is now Lucy Belle

for each other. Of course, I spoil them with toys of all sizes and colors, but their favorite toys are still me and one another.

So, as is obvious, your work brings a lifetime of joy and fulfillment to all sorts of creatures, including me!

Thanks for all you do for the world. You really do make a difference!

Love,

Laurie Pfeiffer, "Bella" and "Chloe"

June 16, 2009

Dear Jeffyne,

Your newsletter brings tears to my eyes—I cannot help but send you something "to help the kitties." This donation is from "Omar" that I adopted from RESQCATS after he was turned into the Santa Maria pound. I keep asking myself, "How could that be that anyone could possibly give him up?????" And "Harriet" was one of the babies from the hoarding situation last year that you mentioned in your newsletter.

We are very happy together and their beauty is stunning. I smile at them constantly.

The kitties and I had a "vacation" at the Bacara when we were evacuated from the Jesusita Fire and rode in the elevator.

My heart is full of love and gladness that these kitties found me.

Thank you for everything,

Lynn Richardson

Jeffyne and RESQCATS!

Thank you so much for our wonderful babies! We love them so much and they are so wonderful. We appreciate everything you do for all the kitties in Santa Barbara and all the families like us that you make happy! We love RESQCATS! Here is a donation that we hope helps the other kitties there.

Thank you,

Brianna Allen and Brooke Stockwell

May 12, 2009

Dear Jeffyne,

I wanted to write you a note to say thank you for saving our Kitty, "Lucy Belle" (formerly "Misty") last year. We have had her for about seven months now and she is such a sweet addition to our family.

Remember when you were worried whether she would eat or not? Well, she is quite the little piglet now! She is spoiled with her

Dear RESQCATS,

I am sorry I haven't written in so long. I have been busy with school and graduation practice. I just wanted to send a small gift so that you know I care.

Happy first days of summer. I hope you have a happy and healthy summer and that more kitties get better.

Love,

Jackie Wax

- your little helper

PS: Reach for the stars! You can make it!

(Jackie sent RESQCATS \$5 from her allowance to help the kitties! If everyone did that we would never have to worry about taking care of them! See the newsletter story from December 2008, on our website, titled "How Misty Stole My Heart," to read about Misty's journey to RESQCATS after her owner died, and finally to a home with Jocelyn and Chris...)

Hi Jeffyne,

Well, little "Wilbury" has certainly settled in! We kept him secluded in our computer room with all of his accoutrements including his own condo for the first two days. The girls, "Fiona" and "Phoebe" were so curious!

The first sighting took place on Tuesday. Since Fiona is deathly afraid of the cat carrier, I took Wilbury outside on our enclosed patio, put down a towel for him to romp on, closed the screen door and let the girls watch from inside while Tony soothed them. Wilbury has a pretty substantial growl for such a little guy!

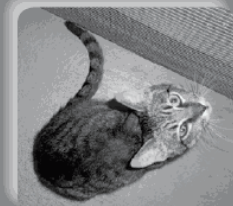
After the initial meeting, he's not fearful of the other two at all.

During this time, I've let Wilbury have supervised exploration of the house while the other cats remain closed in the master bedroom...He shows no fear and really loves the stairs! Such energy!

Yesterday and today all three are interacting. Phoebe thinks Wilbury is the best cat toy ever! There's lots of nose-touching and mutual chasing! Fiona is more distant. She's curious but always has a perfunctory hiss when he gets too near to her. This is the same behavior she exhibited when Phoebe came home as a kitten. There have been no signs of aggression from either girl. It's interesting watching them establish the hierarchy! (The first "Kitty Commandment" to Wilbury: *Thou shalt be no higher on the cat condo than I am.*)

Wilbury has the sweetest personality! He's so talkative and he purrs constantly, even when being hissed at!

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Delilah - Things are looking up!



Gump - adopted by Laura and Nathaniel Courtens



A newly born Buddha Bear holding his own



Pukini & Kanani relaxing on the bed, adopted by Shannon Gil



Mick & Sam with their dog Allie was adopted by Cindy O'Brien



Allie was adopted by Kim Hartson in 2008



Maury and Diaz



Tucker's first day home, adopted by Joel Paarman



Mystic & friend!



ResQCats Family Album
Some New & Some Familiar Faces



Brunswick - looking a bit messy after his meal



Jag adopted by Brianna & Brooke





Some Special Thank You's

Ron and Leslie Riskin adopted "Lilly" and "Bunny"...a mother cat and one of her babies!

Alexis and Nels Henderson adopted "Elvis," an eleven year old cat who ended up at RESQCATS after his owner died.

Kali Rush gave "Juel," a mother cat, a home with her son, "Tontoe!"

Barbara Auhll gave a home to a mother cat and her two babies!

Dr. Rick Morgan has been wonderful to work with in getting "Bud-dha Bear," who suffers from mega colon on the right path with his medicine. His patience and compassion has touched my heart. He is also responsible for the care of "Haley" (aka Mini) and her follow up medical needs.

Dr. Kelley Harmon has been so helpful in caring for "Haley." She has also treated one of the resident cats named "Mandy" for an ongoing skin condition...she loves Mandy and Mandy loves her. Mandy came to RESQCATS in Spring of 2008 at the approximate age of 10...she was living on the streets in Oxnard, and headed for the pound and euthanasia there.



St. Francis Pet Hospital has seen countless RESQCATS kittens and always manages to make time for them all!

Dr. Greg Haskell of Adobe Pet Hospital treats most of the RESQCATS resident cats and sees many of the cats and kittens that come through RESQCATS. He and his staff are always there to help in every way.

A special thank you to Keith and Chris Flannery of Flannery Designs and Graphics for another great newsletter. I can only imagine the hours and thought it must take to put together this masterpiece to help us raise funds for the cats and kittens!

A very special thank you to all the RESQCATS volunteers for all your hard work and hours of dedication this kitten season. You are treasures...every one of you!



Mystic

One of Many Reasons to Keep Cats Indoors!



Can Cats Get Sunburned?
The answer is YES!

Even cats get sunburned if they are left outdoors too long. This is especially true of white cats (or cats with white ears and white noses) or hairless cats.

There are three types of burns:

- **Superficial Partial Thickness Burns** – Similar to first-degree burns – only the top layer of skin is involved. The skin appears red but no blisters are seen and the hair may still be attached to the skin.
- **Deep Partial Thickness Burns** – similar to second-degree burns. In addition to the surface layer, some deeper layers of skin are also involved. Unlike humans, these burns do not usually have blisters. The skin is red and some layers of the skin may be exposed.
- **Full Thickness Burns** – similar to third degree burns. The burn extends through all layers of the skin and may even include tissue beneath the skin.

- Information from Dr. Jon – www.PetPlace.com

Many of you may remember a very special resident kitty, named "Snowy," who arrived at RESQCATS when she was about five years old. She had four babies who were all adopted but Snowy was so shy that no one wanted her, so she became a resident cat.

Snowy was pure white and had been on the streets for many years. She had spent a lot of time in the sun and she loved to rest in the outdoor tunnels basking in the sun when she became a permanent resident. We installed shade cloth on her outdoor tunnel and enclosure...but the sun damage had already been done.

Over the years Snowy resided at RESQCATS, she endured several surgeries due to the sun damage she accumulated over her years on the street. Both of her ears were amputated, part of her nose was removed and several places on her forehead were also surgically removed.

I will never forget bringing Snowy home the day after her ears were amputated. It was one of the saddest days of my life and it must have been miserable for her...even with the pain medication she received and all the extra love and care the volunteers gave her. She was a great example to potential adopters as to why it is important to have indoor cats.

I always told Snowy she was beautiful... even without her ears. I loved her from the bottom of my heart and it was really sad for me for months after she died. She had to be euthanized due to a blood clot that quickly paralyzed her back legs. I remember asking the vet just before he gave her the final injection to stop her heart: "Do you think Snowy will get her ears back when she gets to Heaven?" He smiled and looked straight into my teary eyes and said, "If she wants them back."

I always felt guilty about putting her through such tough surgery, even though I knew it prolonged her life...it just haunted me.

Then, one day during a massage, Snowy appeared to me. My mind had taken me to a beautiful and peaceful place with singing birds and a trickling brook. I floated on soft green grass in the warmth of the sun. In the midst of the beauty, Snowy appeared....without her ears! I felt tears roll down my cheeks as she came closer. Snowy had decided she did not need her ears back and that she WAS BEAUTIFUL without them. She wanted me know she was fine.

I look back now and think that was the closest I will get to the Rainbow Bridge, which is where our animals wait for us until we join them, while I am alive on Earth. What a beautiful vision it was...and of course, I had some explaining to do with the massage therapist! ♦

Sadly, this list is...In Memory of Lenny

Plants That Are Potentially Poisonous To Cats

This article is dedicated to "Lenny" who was adopted from RESQCATS with his brother, "Lucas," about a year ago.

Lenny ate lilies that had been given as a present and immediately went into toxic renal failure.

He had to be euthanized on June 23, 2009 when only a year old. His guardians were beside themselves and asked me if there was anything I could do to let people know the dangers of some plants to cats.

- from PLANET CAT by Sandra Choron, Harry Choron and Arden Moore

Aloe

Amaryllis

Andromeda Japonica
Asparagus Fern

Autumn Crocus

Avocado

Azalea

Begonia

Bird of Paradise

Boston Ivy

Caladium

California Poppy

Camation

Castor Bean

Cherry (seeds, wilting leaves
and pit)

Chinese Evergreen

Chives

Christmas Rose

Chrysanthemum

Clematis

Corn Plant

Crocus

Croton

Cyclamen

Daffodil

Delphinium

Devil's Ivy

Dicentra

Dieffenbachia

Donkey Tail

Dumb Cane

Easter Lily

Elderberry

Elephant Ears

English Ivy

Eucalyptus

Fiddle-leaf Philodendron

Florida Beauty

Four O'Clock



Jimsonweed



Clematis



Delphinium

Foxglove

Foxtail

German Ivy

Gladiolus

Hemlock

Holly

Honeysuckle

Hurricane Plant

Hyacinth

Hydrangea

Iris

Ivy

Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Japanese yew

Jerusalem Cherry

Jimsonweed

Jonquil

Kalanchoe

Lace Fern

Lantana

Larkspur

Laurel

Lily

Lily of the Valley

Lobelia

Marigold

Marjuana

Mauna Loa Peace Lily

May Apple

Mexican Breadfruit

Milkweed

Mistletoe

Monkshood

Morninglory

Mother-in-Law's Tongue

Mountain Laurel

Mushrooms

Narcissus

Nephthytis

Nightshade



Foxglove



Hemlock Plant



Lobelia



Marigold



Nightshade

Oak Tree (buds and acorns)

Oleander

Onion

Orange Day Lily

Peace Lily

Peach (wilting leaves and pits)

Philodendron Pertusum

Poinsettia

Poison hemlock

Poison Ivy

Poison Oak

Poison Sumac

Poppy

Potato (all green parts)

Pothos

Precatory Bean

Rhododendron

Rhubarb

Ribbon Plant

Rubber Tree

Sago Palm

Schefflera

Shamrock Plant

Snake Plant

Sorghum

Star of Bethlehem

Stinging Nettle

Stinkweed

Swiss Cheese Plant

Taro Vine

Tiger Lily

Toadstools

Tobacco

Tomato Plant (entire plant except
ripe fruit)

Variegated Philodendron

Water Hemlock

Weeping Fig

Wisteria

118.Yew



Oleander



Poppy



Poinsettia



Toadstools

*"How we behave toward cats here below
determines our status in Heaven."*

- Robert A. Heinlein

Adopting A Cat is a Lifelong Commitment!

Your Cat Becomes
Part of Your Family



- I'm moving and I can't take the cat with me.
- I'm pregnant.
- My cat is 12 years old and my kids are allergic...yes, to many things but one of the many things is the cat so we need to get rid of it.
- I took in abandoned cats 12 years ago and have cared for and provided for them all these years...but I cannot do it anymore because I am ill...so if you don't take them...I will have to abandon them.
- My roommate is allergic.
- They want to play at night and it keeps me up.
- I can't afford it.

The animals. Most rescue groups have an interview process and application for adoption that spells out the responsibilities of adopting a pet. The adopter leaves with the understanding of the financial responsibility of caring for an animal companion. In addition, the person adopting is asked to make a lifetime commitment to the animal. So what happens? Where do we fail in spelling out the responsibilities and commitment we are making? Why do I get all these calls about why I can't keep my cat...or why I need to bring the kitties I adopted from you back? Following are some true examples of the calls I receive...

- I adopted two kitties from you eight years ago...I've met somebody and want to travel and need to find a home for them so the cats will be happy.
- The kittens I got are too active—they play with the cords behind my desk, mess up the papers on my desk, play in my closet with my clothes and I do not want to close that door and they knocked over a flower vase. I'd like to trade them for two less active kittens!
- They are nocturnal and too active...I cannot take a nap.

- The cat is not happy.
- They need too much attention from me.
- I'm not home enough.

Wow! What would you say in response? I won't tell you what I really think in circumstances like these...what I say and what I think are usually very different.

I do understand that there are very special circumstances when someone has to find a new home for their animal...but it saddens me terribly when I get calls like this and the cats are mere possessions. They aren't hats or purses to be exchanged. They are the new saw blade that doesn't work and needs to be replaced. They are lives! Maybe these people do not deserve to have these animals, but it honestly takes me a while to grasp that concept in the middle of such a call.

Animals are innocent lives that did not ask to be born. They only ask to be loved and cared for and for us to honor the commitment we made to them when we adopted them. It is pure, simple and unconditional! ♦



President's Message
continued from page 1

"Serenity" gave birth to four kittens on the fourth of July...just a week after her arrival. Serendipity was roaming the streets on the East side of Santa Barbara when she wandered into a yard asking for food. She was brought to RESQCATS by a caring lady named Jennifer. I actually got to cut some of the umbilical cords away from the placenta for this young mom. The kitten's names are "Liberty," "Justice," "Freedom" and "Purple Mountain Majesty" (or "Majesty" for short!)

Several other mother cats arrived with their babies...I have felt at times that RESQCATS was a home for unwed mothers! But we deal with it all and make sure that all the cats and kittens receive medical exams, are tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV, are wormed and vaccinated, of course, spayed or neutered before going to a new home. Any additional medical care is addressed, as well, no matter what the cost of getting a kitty well...we do it!

For example, Mini is a mother cat who had an allergic reaction to something and in the process of treating her for that it was discovered that she has a heart condition. Her medical costs alone have been \$2500 and her upcoming ultrasound will add several more hundred dollars to her care.

Mini's son, "Buddha Bear," suffers from what is called mega-colon and it has taken many trips to the vet with numerous enemas and

several trial and error medications. He is now medicated three times a day with two different meds and is finally doing okay. I don't dare add up his medical bill. He has become our newest RESQCATS resident cat...I finally faced the fact that no one is going to adopt him when there are some many others that are perfectly healthy!

I do think that what we do for each individual cat or kitten...even those beyond the normal protocol and with special needs is part of what makes RESQCATS special. And you are part of what makes RESQCATS special with your donation.

We are in the midst of one of our busiest seasons, adoptions are slower than usual and response to fund raising has been less than what is needed to do what we do. I understand economic times are hard...but look at it this way...there are approximately 500 people on the RESQCATS mailing list. If every person donated as little as \$10.00...that would add up to \$5000.00 for the stray and abandoned cats at RESQCATS. You can make a difference...and I hope you will find it in your heart to help one more time.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Jeffyne Telson,
President of RESQCATS, Inc.

LETTERS to RESQCATS
continued from page 6

He still remains in his little enclave when I'm gone! I don't want to give the run of the house with the others when I am not here.

He's a chow hound, too! I've taken pictures and I'll send them to you soon. Thanks for everything!

Love,

Caroline, Tony, "Fiona," "Phoebe" and "Wilbury"



May 2009

Dear Jeffyne,

I am writing today in true gratitude. Last August I lost a cat after adopting him just five weeks earlier. He was one of the finest cats I have ever known and it broke my heart to see him go. In addition to losing him, I was in a financially difficult situation partly due to the incurred medical costs of treating my kitty.

My mother suggested that despite my recent loss, that I should adopt another; that he/she could help with the healing. I looked around and upon arrival at RESQCATS I immediately fell in love with a three-month-old kitten. You called him "Guido." I renamed him "Samuel" aka "Sammy" or just "Sam!"

My little Sammy was given to me by you—no adoption fee or payment involved—along with food, toys and a new blanket. Your generosity and sweetness along with my darling Sam and a lot of time helped me recover from the passing and helped me accept that there were so many others needing love that I could come to terms with my other cat, "Rocky's" death.

In fact, I now proudly am the mom of 5 cats, in addition to a bunny. They all get along pretty well. This bounty of animal love is something that you were the catalyst for, and to this I owe much gratitude.

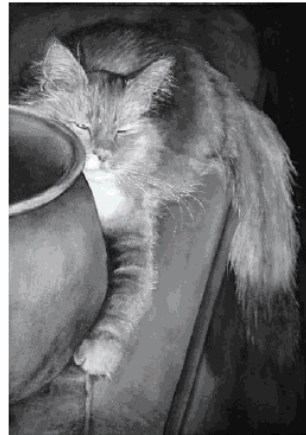
Today, I write you as a person who is much more financially stable and wanting to allow to happen what has happened for me. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family, as well as, all you do for everyone who has connections with RESQCATS!

Graciously,

Kat Klein



**A Watercolor Painting of a
RESQCATS Kitty**



"Golden Ginger"

To Help Support RESQCATS

a full color 8" x 10" giclée print of this painting can be purchased for \$125.

~ \$35 from each print will go to RESQCATS ~

To Order Contact
Chris Flannery • 805.966.2445
art@montecitomag.com

Go to www.RESQCATS.org to see the painting in color





Give a Helping Hand!

I am enclosing my tax deductible donation :

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

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

Make your check payable to:

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

***** Announcing ResQCats is now on Facebook! *****

Dedication

This newsletter is dedicated to Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare, Rebecca Branscome, Julie Kaplan, Mel Kyle and Susan Leroy for the endless hours of time they have given by fostering kittens for RESQCATS this season.

Fostering is often a twenty-four-hour around-the-clock job of bottle feeding. In addition, there are trips to the vet with sick kittens, medications to be given and all the worry that comes with caring for those with special needs.

These fosters give from their hearts and there is no treasure greater than that!



Wish List!

- ♥ A home for "Mini" and "Call" (they have new names at RESQCATS—"Haley" & "Jackie")
- ♥ For you to do something nice for someone else today...If you received something nice from someone today...pay it forward!
- ♥ Homes for all the homeless animals
- ♥ A speedy recovery for Walt Chezum, one of our long-time volunteers, who was mugged and beaten almost to death in Carpinteria on July 5, 2009.



The Gift of Giving

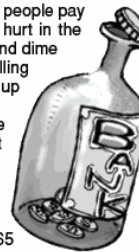
A friend of mine told me a story of something that she does every year to give to a person or organization in need. She has a jar that she fills with her change at the end of each day. She collects the change all year and her jar becomes "The Christmas Jar." I loved the idea so much that I began doing the same thing.

Last year she and I decided to combine our jars and donate all that change to an organization that was helping people pay their vet bills for those animals that had been hurt in the Tea Fire. We got penny roles and nickel roles and dime rolls and quarter rolls and spent three hours rolling all that change. Would you believe that it added up to \$256.50! I couldn't believe it.

It takes nothing to dump all that loose change into a jar...and RESQCATS would love to take it off your hands at the Holiday Season. You don't have to roll it... (but it is fun to see how much you collected)...we will be happy to do that for you!

At RESQCATS, that \$256.50 would spay 5 female cats, or neuter 7 males, or buy 65 vaccines!

What an easy way to make a difference!



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...

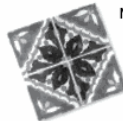
The RESQCATS Pure Soy glass Pillar titled "Lavender Bud" is scented with pure Lavender essential oil sprinkled with dried lavender buds. Lavender helps create and emotionally calming, relaxing and balancing atmosphere, while also healing the soul, providing nervous tension relief and relieving slight 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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 Keith & Chris Flannery
FLANNERY
 Designs & Graphics
 805 . 966 . 2445
 art@montecitomag.com

Visit our ResQCats website
www.RESQCATS.org

Please take the time to see our website. You can read past issues for the heart-warming stories or if you just want to see the entertaining photos.

The designers are Nathanle and Laura Courtens. It is beautiful. Thank you for all your hard work.
