

RESQCATS™

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



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President's Message

Written on Oct. 14, 2020



Jeffyne and "Olaf"

It's hard to know where to start with all that has happened this year due to the Covid pandemic. Obviously, I have had to forego doing the usual three newsletters that I usually send within a year's time. But that is due only because of my commitment to the cats and kittens and all of the extra time and responsibility that has been required of me...all because of Covid.

When this pandemic first hit, I was advised to close **RESQCATS** for several reasons. First of all, no one really knew what to do or how to move forward saving animals. How would adoptions be

done without risking human lives. There were many unanswered questions, but the major concern was for my husband, Mitch, and his health. Due to his serious past medical history, I couldn't afford to take any risks. I was devastated by the thought of not being able to rescue and I couldn't begin to comprehend what it would feel like to say no to all those kitties needing help. Leaving them out there on the streets to suffer was just not an option for me. Understand this: rescue is not just what I do... it's who I am; someone who cares deeply about the plight of felines and is willing to dedicate my life to saving them. So Mitch and I sat down and came up with a safe plan.

For the past several years, The Montecito Pet Shop has handled the majority of adoptions, but the lockdown and social distancing would make that impossible. In addition, many of the volunteers elected to stay home and believe me when I say I certainly understood that. But it left me with only a handful of helpers, about one-third of the usual number. Over time, a few more returned which enabled me to take on more cats and kittens that needed help.

Like other shelters, I needed to find innovative ways that would limit human contact. There could be no visitors coming to **RESQCATS** (or the shop) to meet kittens, spend time with them and pick which one(s) to adopt. Those days are over for the foreseeable future.

In addition to my usual responsibilities of managing **RESQCATS**, I had another challenge to meet. It seemed that many people wanted to adopt and the applications stacked pretty darn high on my desk. I began sending approved adopters photos and videos and we chatted at length about the personalities of available cats and kittens. I explained why they could not visit **RESQCATS** and "shop," so to speak, for a kitten. Ninety-nine percent of the people understood and accepted this new way of finding the purr-fect feline.

As of the writing of this message, almost 140 have been adopted in this manner and due to the number currently in our care, I expect the number of adoptions to be right up there with those in past years.

Adopters and I meet wearing masks at my

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gate with the kitty, health record, a special toy and whatever else is needed. That's a lot of trips up and down a driveway that is a tenth of a mile just one way! But it works! It has, however, required much more of my time and honestly, there were not enough hours in the days to produce three newsletters in 2020.

I am one to always find a way to see some good in every situation... I function best when my "glass is half-full," not "half empty." But sometimes during difficult times, that's a challenge and we have to really look harder to see the messages of hope



Boo-Boo with his injured foot.



A heart over Boo-Boo's paw.



Boo-Boo and his sister Bella, adopted together!

and courage that are right in front of us. Many of the kittens and the challenges we have faced with their health and well-being have offered us those messages.

For example, soon after the pandemic was realized to be a serious threat to America, a newborn kitten who was severely injured came under **RESQCATS** care. His foot was caught in a carrier while trying to trap his feral mom and he de-gloved it in an effort to free his leg, meaning that he pulled the skin and muscle completely away from the bone. Our biggest fear was that we could not save his foot and that meant his leg would have to be amputated. Removing just a foot could cause problems if part of the leg was left as his tendency would be to use it and further bone damage to the leg was likely.

I posted about this tiny little kitten daily and reported his progress as he underwent intense treatment, vet checks and bandage changes. In fact, if I missed a day, or was late in the day with an update, I was often asked about him in a personal message or on in a post, "How's Boo-Boo today?"

Boo-Boo and his fight became everyone's battle... and somehow his progress gave us all something good to read each day. Boo-Boo became a symbol of hope to people during a time of uncertainty. He was a little warrior of hope and a kitten that I will always reflect back to on those days when my glass needs filling a bit!

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Bella and Boo-Boo growing up.



Boo-Boo happy as a clam in his new home.

Boo-Boo did lose two of his toes, but it never seemed to matter to him. And it didn't matter to the wonderful young lady who also adopted his sister, Bella. She still stays in touch!

This is a time to do something... anything to make a difference. Small acts of human kindness can go a long way these days... they can all be done safely. Yes, it's hard to see that smile that I might pass on to a stranger, but hopefully our eyes meet and they can tell there is a smile under my mask. Even a muffled "Hello, cool mask," may make someone's day.

Placing pets with people is especially important to those who might otherwise be alone during this time. Believe me when I say, for each adopter that meets me at the end of my driveway to pick up the kitty they have adopted... I can see the excitement and light in their eyes... that's a sure way to know that there is a smile under that mask!

This is also a time that you can make a difference at **RESQCATS**. Just because I haven't been able to get the regular newsletters to you doesn't mean that I haven't needed your support. I do! And now more than ever as we move into another year of uncertainty. I have shown that even a virus will not stop me from saving the lives of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. I promise to continue to do my best, meet every challenge and work hard... whatever it takes.

So please consider being part of making a difference and send your tax-deductible donations to **RESQCATS**.

Perhaps it goes without saying, but I will never miss an opportunity to say "**THANK YOU!**"

Jeffyne Telson
President of **RESQCATS**, Inc.



Bella and Boo-Boo now.



Where did all those cats come from?



By the time you receive this newsletter, **RESQCATS** will have placed between 160-170 in 2020. Even during a pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to help stray and abandoned cats and kittens. But it has taken a lot more time on my part. I have handled every adoption application, personally interviewed each prospective adopter, taken photos and videos to showcase cats and kittens and talked with each adopter extensively about the cats' personalities. At adoption time, I meet the adopter at my gate where we do the exchange. Understand, adopters have not met the kitty until that time. Our total adoptions will near 3400 as we complete twenty-three years of service.

While every cat and kitten has a story, I don't always know what it is. But sometimes I think not knowing is better... it breaks my heart when I see the conditions of some of the cats when they arrive. I do everything in my power to save them and have never made a decision based on how much it costs to save lives.

I thought I would share some of the stories I do know as a way to educate you as to some of the challenges we face at **RESQCATS**.

"Aurora" was a stray pregnant mom who was saved from life on the streets and went into foster care. When the foster noticed she was having difficulty during labor, she was immediately taken to the vet. Even with medication, Aurora was unable to dilate. She was taken to the emergency hospital where a life-saving caesarean was done at a cost of \$2000! She came to **RESQCATS**, raised her family and was adopted to a sweet couple. But Aurora had other ideas about her new home; she pushed open a screen and was gone on her first night. She did return three days later and then came back to **RESQCATS**. Ten days later she found her forever home, but within a week she developed breathing problems. Aurora was diagnosed with a diaphragmatic hernia, probably caused by an injury after she escaped. We will never know what happened to her out there. Surgery to save Aurora was \$6123.14. Happily, she is now living a life of comfort with her new adopters.

"Heidi" was found wandering in a mobile home park. She was pregnant and being harassed by other cats in the park. She came to **RESQCATS** when a dear friend who works at another shelter





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contacted me and asked if we could take her so her babies would not be aborted by the shelter. Heidi raised her family and was adopted along with two of her kittens!

“Shandon” was only a few weeks old living in a vineyard all alone. Who knows how she got there! She had a huge abscess and our best guess is that she had been bitten by a bird of prey while trying to carry her off. She had surgery to drain the abscess and eventually went home with a lady who is a former **RESQCATS** volunteer!

“Solo” was left in an open plastic tub outside in front of The Montecito Pet Shop. One of the sales associates noticed something moving from the corner of his eye and went to inspect. Imagine his surprise! Of course, the shop called **RESQCATS** and I went immediately to pick him up!



or death situation, so she was relinquished to **RESQCATS**, the surgery was done and she was adopted by a volunteer!

“Mango” was another exception to our mission, but by taking him into our care, it saved his life. Mango had a serious urinary tract infection and the owners could not afford the \$4021 in vet care that he required. It's awful when people have to make those tough decisions to give up their pet when the high cost of serious conditions just isn't in the pocketbook. Often these situations end up with a pet being euthanized. But Mango was lucky! A volunteer who also works at the emergency clinic called and asked if **RESQCATS** could help. Of course we did. And Mango eventually went home with a longtime supporter of **RESQCATS**!

“Buttercup” was found with her sister, “Uma,” by a caring young lady when she was visiting Fresno. Both suffered from serious upper respiratory and eye infections. She took them to the emergency hospital for treatment. When she returned to Santa Barbara, she reached out to **RESQCATS** for advice, but I offered more than advice. I offered to take them into our care. Buttercup had to have her eye removed, but she stole the heart of a lady who had followed her on Facebook and was adopted soon after her surgery.

“Ash” was one of many that have come to **RESQCATS** this year and in previous years from the Santa Maria Recycling Center. Unfortunately, the owners are not open to spaying and neutering so the workers try to save as many as they find.

“Paw-Casso” and his siblings were found in a dumpster along with several other kittens. While I can't be certain just how they got there, I sure have an idea and it's not pretty! A supporter of **RESQCATS** was alerted to the situation and made

“Anastasia” was an exception to our “stray and abandoned” mission. She had swallowed a glue cap and her owners could not afford to pay \$696.18 for the surgery to remove it. It was a life

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the long trip to Bakersfield to rescue them.

“Tesda” and “Thomas” were five weeks old when they were discovered in Nipomo alongside their deceased mom. We believe that the mom was hit while transporting Tesda and somehow managed to get her to safety before she died. Thomas didn’t have a mark on him, but Tesda suffered from a broken leg, fractured rib and punctured skull. She saw an orthopedic surgeon who put her in a cast and checked her weekly. Once the cast was off, Tesda’s follow-up included limited activity and physical therapy for several weeks. We couldn’t bear to separate the siblings as Thomas laid by his sister’s side yearning for her to get better. They were adopted by a



beautiful lady with a heart of gold.

“Autumn” and her three kittens were dumped inside a gated community in Bakersfield in 115 degree temperature! A caring couple took them in and reached out to every organization in the area only to be told that they were unable to help due to Covid. When they called **RESQCATS**, we had space and were happy to help. Autumn was adopted by a caring couple and the three kittens were adopted together to a family! (I bet that house is busy with three active kittens running around!)

I think the most unique story of the year is the one about “Polly.” She wandered into a homeless shelter in Lompoc and gave birth to her kittens there. A homeless cat who gives birth at a homeless shelter! That’s just priceless!

That’s just a few of the tail’s tales! And while each is unique to a particular cat or litter, they do have one thing in common... they are the lucky ones who no longer try to survive on the streets. Someone cared enough to rescue them, bring them to **RESQCATS** and now they have a life of safety, comfort and love.



RESQCATS *Continues to Reach Across Borders*



Hector and one of his rescues!

One of my long-time volunteers, Janet Dewey, spent time in Leon, Nicaragua about two years ago on one of her many travels around the world. While visiting other countries, she often views how people treat (or mistreat) animals. So imagine how impressed she was to meet a young man with a heart of gold who dedicates his time and money to saving as many felines as he can. Some of you may remember a story from the Winter 2019 newsletter about a young man named Hector.

Hector is the oldest of twelve kids! His mother could not afford to care for all her children so he was brought up by his grandmother. She helped him financially so he was able to go to school and attend the university. He has a good job as a tour guide for his city and country, but what impressed Janet the most was his compassion for the local cats.

Many cats and kittens are abandoned in the city because people are not educated about spaying and neutering and most often, they cannot afford the surgery or medical care for them. That's where Hector steps in!

His resources are limited, but he is always saving "dumped" kittens, cares for them and finds a way to provide whatever they need. Many of them are so young that they

must be bottle fed and others require medical attention. Once a kitten is well and is spayed or neutered, he finds it a home and that makes room for the next one that needs his help. He works with a veterinarian who performs spay and neuter surgeries for much less than the normal cost to help Hector help more! But all expenses come out of Hector's pocket.

Last year at this time and once more since then, Janet and I gathered up much needed supplies and sent to Hector. He was elated and we know that we are making a difference for him and the cats in his care. By the time you receive this newsletter, much needed supplies will have arrived in Nicaragua from RESQCATS once again! We have packed a box with soft carriers, kitten milk replacement, bottles, blankets, beds and toys.

Yes, RESQCATS also assists our local community with grants for spay and neuter, food drives and much more. But there is something especially heart-warming about helping others (felines and those who love them) wherever they are in the world. There is an unexplainable common thread that binds all of us who work so hard to rescue and save animals.

Lastly, you might ask, "Why do all this for animals when there are people in the world who need help?" And I would answer, "If you could see the excitement in the eyes of the people who have adopted, especially during Covid (remember, we do adoptions with masks) then you would witness what I do... animals provide joy, laughter and most important of all...unconditional love. And we could all benefit from that kind of happiness.





And now...
A Few Words from Mr. Jeffyne...
A Day in the Life at RESQCATS

Despite the adverse effects of the Covid-19 virus that are impacting the entire world, life in the realm of animal rescue goes on every day. The pandemic hasn't stopped the indiscriminate breeding of unsprayed and un-neutered animals... it's simply required the rescue community to adapt to safer ways of performing our normal responsibilities.

While the Corona virus and its devastating effects on the nation are very real, life at RESQCATS has continued... sometimes in a rather humorous way.

Below is a Mr. Jeffyne article that appeared in the Fall, 2009 RESQCATS Newsletter. While it's been slightly edited for the current times, I think that you'll agree that rescue people in general, and Jeffyne in particular, don't have the luxury of not doing their life's work... they really do have to adapt.

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 cushy 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 of the story.

Most of the articles in previous issues of the RESQCATS Newsletters have focused on the cats, and, well, they should have. But this column 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 **5:15** 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 tea, the grumbling lion gradually subsides and the normally gentle kitten starts to emerge. Now... 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...

5:30 AM... Out of bed... feed the bedroom

kitties... clean the litter boxes in the house... all five... throw in a load or two of laundry.

6 AM... Check the computer for urgent emails. Scan Facebook and Craigslist for kittens that might be in trouble.

6:30 AM... Shower and get dressed. (Jeffyne likes to take pride in the fact that she's a rescue person who showers every day... usually twice... 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., with her vitamins and a small bowl of (imitation) Cheerios topped with a little Grape-Nuts. (Many of you know that Mr. Jeffyne does the meal preparations for Jeffyne. So on the days when he traveled, Jeffyne's cereal bowls and vitamins were neatly laid out by day of week... she has a tendency to forget to eat!)

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

8:45-10 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... (well, not really, but that's what some of the enclosures look like after the kitties have partied all night!!) (*Special note: Since Covid-19 arrived, out of an abundance of caution, most of the RESQCATS volunteers have opted to stay homebound, so the organization has been operating with just 2 or 3 socially distancing, masked volunteers each day.*)

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

- A trip to the vet... one of the residents is losing weight!
- Hop on the telephone or the computer to place orders for cat food, litter, special meds or supplies.
- Into the office and start returning the 8-10 phone calls received since 4 PM yesterday when RESQCATS "closed" for the day... "I'm interested

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Mitch with Whisper, Atticus and Adonis.

in adopting a gray tabby... do you have one 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 still 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 essential 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 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 an opportunity to meet the cats and kittens. Before **RESQCATS** developed an adoption partnership with a local pet supply store, this used to happen over 200 times during kitty season... on average, about 1-2 times every day! (*NOTE! Since the pandemic, this of course, is no longer the procedure. Instead, Jeffyne is taking photos and videos of available cats and kittens and posting them on social media. Kitten selection and adoption approvals are all done through email and over the phone... there are NO personal visits to **RESQCATS**! Once an adoption is finalized, Jeffyne transports the kitten with all its supplies down the driveway to the front of the property where the new adopter is anxiously waiting for their new family member. Of course, everyone is wearing a mask!*)

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

4 PM... Back to the office to catch up with the afternoon emails and phone calls and answer the website questions.

4:30 PM... Ahhh, the day's over, time to relax... but wait! Not so fast... now comes the evening

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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 its time to take care of the four **RESQCATS** kitties that live in the house with Jeffyne, Mr. Jeffyne and our 8 rescued collies... the bedroom cats Sugar Bear and Twilite and the downstairs sisters, Pebbles and Paisley.

6 PM... Finally, time to slow down a little... it's dinnertime. 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 few pita chips dipped in hummus and MAYBE a half an apple... but probably not!! Back to dinner... if Mr. Jeffyne's at home, he'll prepare one of Jeffyne's favorite vegan dishes. If he's not, she'll find a prepared meal in the freezer that she can pop it in the microwave and enjoy 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 another shower 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 n-i-zzzzzz!"

Is the day in the life at **RESQCATS** hard work? Absolutely!

But if you ask people who work 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!"

In celebration of...

In honor of **Raspy** — *Elaine and Robert Wilson*

For my forever friend, **Julie Kaplan**
— *Margaret Thompson*

In honor of **Susie Browne!** — *Susan Browne*

In honor **Eric and Beth** — *Jan Oldham*

In honor of **Chris and Del** — *Lisa and Maggie*

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

In honor of my wife, **Gail**, and in sweet memory of **Phantom** — *Jeff Brewer*

In honor of my sister, **Mary Jane Nirenberg**, and my niece, **Kimberly Nirenberg**... both are huge cat-lovers have rescuers — *Carey Landrith*

Happy 17th birthday to **Zuki**, adopted from **RESQCATS!** — *Marian Jean*

Happy Birthday to kitty **Dinah** who celebrated her 22nd birthday in August. **Tom and Jeannette Poling** are hoping for another year with this dynamo kitty who has lived with 14 dogs and she also raised their son, Matt, from the time he was ten years old!

To honor some special family and friends with my annual Christmas donation from **Julie Kaplan**:

Becky and Jay Eaton — I won the lottery in the Mom and Dad department. Every minute I spend with them is a treasure.

Mel and Hal Kyle — my neighbors and friends and the best kitty sitters ever!

Liz Benishin — In celebration of the years we've shared the love of competitive cycling that became riding for the benefit of others, to our devotion to a kitty rescue and to this friendship that will last a lifetime.

Margaret Thompson — To celebrate 25 years of friendship!

In honor of **Viet Dang** — *Evelynn Smith*

In honor of **Tricia Krout** — *Artie Maltby*

In honor of **John McKnight** — *Michael Rizor*

Happy Birthday to **Liz Benishin** and with special recognition for her volunteer work with patients who tested positive for COVID-19 — *Julie Kaplan*

Happy Birthday to my "kitty-rescue sister," **Mel Kyle** — *Julie Kaplan*

In memory...

In memory of **Missy Gill** and for her human family who loved this cuddly, sweet, yet very determined feline! — *Pet Pals of Santa Barbara*

In memory of **Cosmo...** a much loved kitty adopted from RESQCATS years ago — *Scott Herriman*

In loving memory of **Jesse and Spencer Lee**, two wonderful kitties who had the most caring and loving mother and for Nancy Lee who inspires us all — *Alice Easton*

In memory of **my dad**; he was a warm and gentle soul who loved animals — *Diane Ledbetter*

In memory of **Dr. Ron Faoro** and his service in caring for countless feline friends — *Elizabeth and Sierra Faoro*

In memory of **Jaime** — *David and Susan Stone*

In memory of my dad, **Patt Wardlaw** — *Lee Wardlaw*

In memory of **Penny Huff** — *Lisa Vignale*

With love and appreciation for all you do... and in memory of dear, sweet **Lily** — *Ron and Leslie Riskin*

In loving memory of **Bamboo** and for **Will and Betty Reed** — *Kathy Hartough*

In memory of **Miss Bella...** always in my heart — *Karen Lee Stevens*

In loving memory **Beverly** — *Steve Dorfman*

Remembering our sweet **Bobby** — *Martha & Sam*

In loving memory of **Meiko** — *Sandra Zinzer*

In loving memory of my father, **George I. Fisher** (95), whose love for cats was legendary. And, for his last two beloved kitties, **Angel** (23!) and **Felix** (18). All three passed away this last year, but their memory will warm our hearts forever. And in memory of our two very precious RESQCATS kitties, **Charlie and Darla**, who gave us 17 wonderful years of sweetness, joy, beauty and endless cuddles — *Cindy Reinhardt*

In memory of **Daphne** who was loved beyond words by **Nancy Aguirre**.

In memory of my **Max** — *Lori James*

In memory of **Penny Huff** — *Rabun Huff Bistline*

In memory of **Midnight**, a sweet boy who left us all too soon — *Jessica Garcia*

In memory of **Stovetop and Tators** who lived long lives and were loved very much — *Colleen Robles*

In memory of **Mrs. Bergman** — *Tatiana Owen*

In memory of my **J-Zee** — *Deborah Stafford*

In loving memory of "Chumash," who was adopted from RESQCATS in 2006 — *Tina and Jeff Long*

In memory of **Gazoo** whose life on earth was much too short. And with gratitude for **Scott and Deanna Koens** and the love they gave to him.

In loving memory of my sister, **Patti Hummel** and for her husband, **Les** — *Lynn Penney*

In memory of **Lucy Loo...** a symbol of courage and hope — *Jim and Aleks Craine*

In special memory...

Every once in a while, a little feline comes along and captures the hearts of so many of us. Her name was Lucy Loo.

Deanna Koens, a long-time foster has a special place in her heart for kittens like Lucy Loo and asked if she could be a RESQCATS resident but live with Deanna. How could anyone resist this sweet little ball of fur! Lucy had hydrocephalus, also known as water on the brain. She was also eventually diagnosed with congenital hypothyroidism, a condition rarely seen in kittens.

We all fell in love with Lucy Loo. She was followed by so many of you on Facebook and the updates about were something we all looked forward to especially during the stay at home and shut downs during Covid. Such a small little feline gave many of us joy, hope and strength at a time when we needed something positive. With that love, comes heartache when she left us all too soon. But as my mom always says, "Angels are never on this earth for very long."





RESQCATS URGENT FOOD DRIVE

In April, I saw a post from Care4Paws, a non-profit organization that works to reduce pet overpopulation, keep animals out of shelters and improve quality of life for pets and pet owners in need in Santa Barbara County. The post requested donated cat and dog food that could be distributed to people who needed help feeding their pets during Covid. At that time, stay-at-home had been advised for people if at all possible and only essential services remained open. That meant that many workers lost their jobs and that making ends meet was difficult, sometimes impossible.

While many organizations exist to help people have nutritious meals to eat, Care4Paws saw a need to help people with food for their cats and dogs. With people experiencing so much loss, their jobs and incomes, it seemed unfair that they would have to surrender their animals because they couldn't afford food. Shelters were struggling to find new ways to house and adopt animals, but many could not accept them until there was a protocol in place. In an effort to keep pets in their homes, a food drive seemed like a great idea!

I donated 250 pounds of cat food to Care4Paws who then distributed it to needy families. At the time, I was struggling with how to continue to keep **RESQCATS** open in a safe way. I have found that for me, when I am emotionally at a crossroads or facing what may feel like an insurmountable challenge, it makes me feel better to help others. It goes back to that filling the glass to half full that I mentioned in the President's Message.

So I got on a mission! I began a month-long food drive and requested donated cat kibble and canned food. I asked people to drop it off at my gate...more trips down that long driveway hauling food back to a storage area! I also requested funds for those who didn't want to shop and drop food here. I then purchased the food at The Montecito Pet Shop as a way to not only help needy families but to also support a local business. Kelly, the manager of the shop, got great deals from vendors and passed on discounts in order to be a significant part of helping the community.

The total raised by **RESQCATS** in donated food and funds was over \$10,603.00!

It felt good to be part of a community that comes together in times of need.

By the way, there is always room at my gate for anyone who wants to donate food. I can pass on for distribution...for many still need our help. A little goes a long way to help people keep their pets. The difference that we make each time we do for others is immeasurable.





The 2021 Calendar is Here!

The Cats and Kittens of 2021 Calendar with photos by Daryl Metzger is available now!

Order yours through RESQCATS website: www.RESQCATS.org where there is a donate button that leads straight to PayPal. Be sure to follow up with a personal message to Jeffyne Telson on Facebook letting her know that the donation is for a calendar. Each calendar is \$25 (including tax) and add an additional \$3 for shipping and handling for each calendar. **OR**, the calendars are available exclusively at The Montecito Pet Shop on the Mesa at 2020 Cliff Drive in Santa Barbara, CA 93109.



Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS

Over 1,100 Copies Sold!!!

Awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Cat Writers' Association.

A book you won't want to miss and 100% of the proceeds go directly to RESQCATS!

❁ RESQCATS founder, Jeffyne Telson, launched her first book in late 2017 and it has sold hundreds of copies.

❁ In 1997, she founded RESQCATS, Inc., as a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens. In the ensuing years, with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers, Jeffyne has grown RESQCATS well beyond her dreams into a highly respected organization that has placed over 3000 cats and kittens with qualified families and individuals.

❁ “Cat Tails: Heart-Warming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of RESQCATS” is about Jeffyne’s journey of creating a cat rescue, the challenges and opportunities she has faced, and most important of all, the valuable life lessons the cats and kittens have taught her.

❁ Her book has not only received a Certificate of Excellence from the Cat Writer’s Association, but also has gotten wonderful reviews:

See how to order your copy on page 16



“Jeffyne allows you ‘in’ her life as well as the kittens and cats, so you feel like you know them all individually. I couldn’t wait to get the book and truthfully, Jeffyne did not disappoint.”



“What an inspiring book. The author’s devotion and passion for animals is incredible. It’s beautifully written and a hard-to-put-down book!”



“The tails and tales in his book will open anyone’s eyes to the true, exhausting, unending soulful work that is rescue.”



“This book is a gracefully written document of one person’s life in the equally challenging and rewarding field of animal rescue. The author writes about her experiences beautifully. I felt inspired by her life’s dedication of caring for the cats.”



To get your signed copy now, contact Jeffyne at Jeffyne@resqcats.org.
Or visit the following link to order yours today: http://resqcats.org/cat_tails.asp.

Announcing: More Cat Tails... the second book by Jeffyne Telson, is out now!



After more than a year of writing between kitten seasons, my second book, ***More Cat Tails: My Journey from RESQCATS to God's Little People in Syros, Greece*** is finally done and available for purchase!

As many of you may recall, at the end of 2018 I had the honor of being selected from over 35,000 applicants to go to the tiny Greek island of Syros in the middle of the Aegean Sea to help care for over 60 cats at God's Little People Cat Rescue. I also worked side-by-side with the founder, Joan Rachlitz Bowell, on a project helping a semi-feral colony that lived at the top of a mountain next to a Greek Orthodox Church.

My four months on Syros was a life-changing experience that I will never forget. Experiencing and then writing ***More Cat Tails*** has been a true flight of love.

The book is a heart-warming read about the cats I met, fostered, grew very close to and came to love. You'll find a lot of humor throughout the book as I share my experiences in a foreign country: how to parallel park, which stop signs to ignore, and the delightful people I met during my time on this incredible island. You'll chuckle when you get to the part about my attempts at cooking and how I survived on a vegan diet. Of course you'll also learn about the lives of the cats in Greece, the challenges I faced and the life lessons I learned from this experience. And you'll read about what it's meant to me to finally meet someone who truly understands rescue and how that friendship has endured.

More Cat Tails: My Journey from RESQCATS to God's Little People in Syros, Greece is more than just another book of cat stories; it's also a book about pursuing your dreams and making a difference. If you have a heart or a funny bone, I think you'll really enjoy the book.

To get your signed copy now, contact Jeffyne at Jeffyne@resqcats.org. Or visit the following link to order yours today: http://resqcats.org/more_cat_tails.asp



Here is how you can order! Fill out the form(s) below and send it with your check made out to RESQCATS. Mail to RESQCATS, PO Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. Or visit our website at www.RESQCATS.org and click on the "BOOK" tab to order. **100% of the proceeds from the sale of the book go directly to RESQCATS, Inc.**

Mail-in Order Form: CAT TAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Price per book:	\$27.95
Tax @ 8.75%:	\$ 2.45
S&H:	\$ 4.60
Total per book:	\$35.00

of books: _____

Total amount: \$ _____

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

Mail-in Order Form: MORE CAT TAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Price per book:	\$19.95
Tax @ 8.75%:	\$ 1.75
S&H:	\$ 3.30
Total per book:	\$25.00

of books: _____

Total amount: \$ _____

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

RESQCATS

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

I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation:

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

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

Make your check payable to:

RESQCATS, PO Box 3852, Santa Barbara, CA 93130
Or visit our website and PayPal at www.RESQCATS.org

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/Zip: _____

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

Email address: _____



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