



Catalyst for Cats

A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Altering the Future for Ferals

NEWSLETTER

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Our Mission:

As a feral cat organization our primary purpose is to spay and neuter feral and abandoned cats, and to socialize and find homes for rescued kittens. These services are designed to address the feline overpopulation problem and to prevent cruelty to animals by preventing the birth of unwanted and uncared for cats and kittens.

From the Founder

Early spay/neuter and an 'angel' got us through

The good and the bad, the yin and yang, the caring and the uncaring—it's all part of reality. The shelters are overflowing with pets. Fewer adoptions and fewer donations are what we deal with daily.

The demand for supplemental cat food is on the rise. More cats than ever are surrendered to the shelters or simply abandoned as lost jobs and foreclosures persist. It is a grim picture overall. Every rescue group is dealing with these trying economic times as best they can.

In this last issue of the year we conclude our story of the history of *Catalyst for Cats*.

Throughout the 1990s the reports of feral cats continued steadily, and we went about trapping cat by cat. Many times we encountered kittens too old to socialize, yet too young for surgery. This meant not all the felines we'd found could be done, and we would have to return to trap again.

Then I heard that "early spay/neuter" was being done at a well-known Chicago Clinic. I researched the safety of it and found several vets in Santa Barbara who were willing to do kittens at eight weeks

of age. This was a major breakthrough as well as shocking to many. Not only did we not have to return to "finish up" a colony site, but even our kittens could be spayed and neutered prior to adoption. This would take care of "slip ups."

We were the first group in town to advocate early spay/neuter, which is now the norm for kittens as well as puppies. In fact, California passed a law several years ago requiring shelters and rescue agencies to have animals "fixed" prior to adoption, unless medically contraindicated; a deposit is required if it is not done.

And luck was with us when I contacted Mr. Emil DeLoreto. I'd heard he sponsored the neutering of the well-known Hendry's Beach feral cats. A local group of feeders fed there for many years, until there were only four cats left. Those were then re-trapped and taken home by the feeders to comfortably live out their lives. To this day, I am asked about the "cats at the beach."

Originally, it was Theresa DeLoreto who loved cats, but Emil soon caught on to their charm. He used to say, "You couldn't pay anyone to do



Buddies: Once a feral himself, but now living with Julia Di Sieno of Animal Rescue Team, Inc., Opus (left) has made fast friends with Sambo, a more recent feral arrival.

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In Appreciation

We are very grateful to those who participate in our goal of preventing feline overpopulation. Unless you are “into” animal rescue no one understands the amount of time and effort our volunteers contribute. Our volunteers are the ones who “make it happen.” It is a true labor of love and often personal sacrifice and we thank you all enormously. The reward is the satisfaction they get from helping the animals in whatever way they can. We rely on you, our volunteers, who give from the heart. Some are mentioned here, but all are appreciated.

We are thankful for the amount of cooperation within the rescue groups this past season, despite the difficulties we all face.

CARE 4 PAWS – for its gathering of 19 shelters and rescue groups, 25 animal welfare groups, vets, vendors and pet service providers at Girsh Park on August 29.

Tributes & Memorials

Honoring or remembering a special person or pet provides a means for the donor to recognize the richness and happiness brought to someone, and allows *Catalyst* to improve the lives of cats less fortunate. Donations have been made....

In Honor of:

All the Catalyst volunteers – by Charleen Malzman
Found my cat (thanks!) – by Marvin and June Wilson

Victoria Blunt – by Garbakino

My birthday – by Victoria

Chaya and Taz – by Maria and Dan Carmean

Kimmy – by Ernest C. Pratt

Mystical, who was helped by you – by Karen Segroves

Joanne O’Roark – by Janet H. Sterling

My six cats – by Judy Pike

Randi – by Maura Grube

Randi and National Feral Cat Day – by Dan and Nancy George

Randi Fairbrother – by Wilma Titus

Randy Rose, a feral’s best friend – by Di Ramar

Sheryl Fierro – by Don Davidson

Susan Canas, Lavi and Monica Gonzales, Debbie

Merry, Debbie Walker, some of our most dedicated

Santa Maria trappers, feeders and volunteers – by Randi Fairbrother

They got 32 dogs and cats adopted. They also sponsor spay/neuter services (dogs as well as cats) through participating clinics throughout the county.

RESQCATS – for sponsoring spay and neuter of 100 cats through **CARE 4 PAWS**.

Barbara Hilaire – for her unwavering and generous support of our program.

The Santa Barbara Humane Society – for their assistance in adopting out our older felines.

San Roque Pet Hospital – Where we sometimes show our adoptable kittens. It works out well for everyone and we love their staff.

Marci Kladnik, Catalyst board member and outreach coordinator. She does it all – trapping, feeding, fostering, arranging adoptions – and also writes a brilliant bi-weekly newspaper column that has earned her recognition from the Cat Writers’ Association of America.

In Remembrance of:

Anamia and Sierra – by Colleen Sinclair

Baby – by Chicki and Richard Kitagawa

Cookie, BooBoo, the Orphan, Winfield, Orville, and

Lucy – by Diane and Stefan Mazur

Chauncey – by Gail Drillock

Pat Duesler – by Bonnie Wilson

“Eric the Red” DeFranco – by Bonnie Bisozlio

Freddie, my 16 year old cat – by Barbara McCurry

Freddie and Barnaby – Truett and Jim Thach

Grey Grey and Patty – by Karen Segroves

Karen, my sister, who loved her cats – by Barbara Evans

Krinkle and Domino – by Lois Waldref

Gale Graham, a faithful and loving caregiver – by Randi Fairbrother

Mink – by Donna Donnelly

Sheila Pratt – by Ernest C. Pratt

Paula, my wife, who died 6/16/10. The animals have lost a good friend – by John Kinealy

Princess and Bosco, our cats you fixed for us – by Charlene Dennis

Katherine Sakmar – by Veronica Eden

Snow and Lindsay – by the Richard V. Salotti Family

Spats, my feral for 15 years – by Kay Harrison

Sylvester and Elsa the bobcat – by Animal Rescue Team/Julia

Fosters & Friends: The Fruits of This Year’s Kitten Season



A Santa Maria rescue, Lonesome Dove (above) was fostered by the Simes family of Goleta. They introduced “Dove” to their family dog, which helped considerably with her adoption into her new family, which also has a dog in the house.



Felix has been placed on a farm and is already earning his keep catching mice.



Mary and Ed Taylor fostered these two sisters from Santa Maria, who found their forever home in Santa Barbara as well as new names – Toast and Jam.

And the rest is history

From page 1

what you do.” He was indeed our “angel” as he kept *Catalyst for Cats* afloat in the early days. Our organization is dedicated to both of them.

We depend on your financial support to continue our work. We do the best we can for our feral felines, giving them distemper and rabies vaccine, worming, flea treatment, testing for leukemia and FIV when indicated, and an ear tip signifying they have been altered.

Since most of those we help cannot afford our services, we give it freely. We are glad if they are able to feed the colony without assistance from us. Despite the difficult times, and as discouraging as it is, we will persist. We can not turn away from helping the ferals. What we do changes their lives for the better immeasurably, and it contributes to a better community as well.

This tumultuous year will soon be behind us, as we hope for a better one in 2011. May you enjoy the good will of the Christmas spirit with family and friends, and we extend our best wishes for the New Year.

Randi Fairbrother

Inky the cat: my first TNR

By Mary Mason

I met Inky the cat as he wandered through my condo neighborhood. I soon realized he was not only a hungry stray, but he had romantic intentions towards my spayed cat Princess. Inky and I became fast friends. I spent about six weeks earning his trust, through patience, TLC and, of course, food.

Eventually I contacted *Catalyst for Cats* and with a trap and instructions I succeeded in trapping him. The neutering was done at McDonald’s Animal Hospital, where I work as a veterinary receptionist.

Inky was vaccinated, tested negative for FIV and leukemia, and released the following day. Returning Inky was so rewarding. He was gone for a few days, but soon returned for his regular feedings and visits. As much as he values his outdoor lifestyle and freedom, he has truly become my cat.

I now feed Inky inside my condo, and because he has a clean bill of health, I feel safe having him around my other cat, Princess. He loves his food and hangs out a bit in the condo with us daily and is happier than ever.

I found my first TNR experience very rewarding, and knowing I helped a bit in preventing cat overpopulation is an added bonus.

The Belgian approach to feline overpopulation

Brussels, the capital city of Belgium, is set to embark on an ambitious and radical plan to sterilize all cats in the country by 2016.

The measure is meant to solve the problem of feline overpopulation. In a country of over 10 million people, there are an estimated 1 million cats, a spokesman for the health ministry told the German Press Agency dpa.

According to the “Multi-Annual Cat Plan,” due to be rolled out in 2011, sterilization will first be carried out on cats held in shelters, then extended to breeding establishments and pet shops.

At a later stage, spaying and neutering will be made mandatory also for pet cats, which are expected to be identified and placed on a national registry.

Itsy Bitsy and Maggie 'The Cat Whisperer'

Photos by Marci Kladnik



A Family Affair: Itsy Bitsy (above) was five weeks old but weighed only 9 ounces when she was caught. She was very dehydrated and anemic, but Catalyst for Cats board member and experienced foster Marci Kladnik took the kitten home to try and save her— with help from her Scottie dog, Maggie, who was already known for her ease with inter-species communication. Itsy Bitsy was lonely for her siblings, so Marci successfully introduced her to a wonderful mom



(above right) that just happened to be in foster at a neighbor’s and was already nursing seven kittens about the same age as Itsy Bitsy. In the end, the whole family was adopted through RESQCATS. Itsy Bitsy and her adopted mom stayed together. Further evidence of Maggie’s affection for cats can be seen in her connection to Barney (below center and right), a feral kitten she adopted, who three years later still follows Maggie around the house and yard, purring loudly when she’s in sight.
—Marci Kladnik



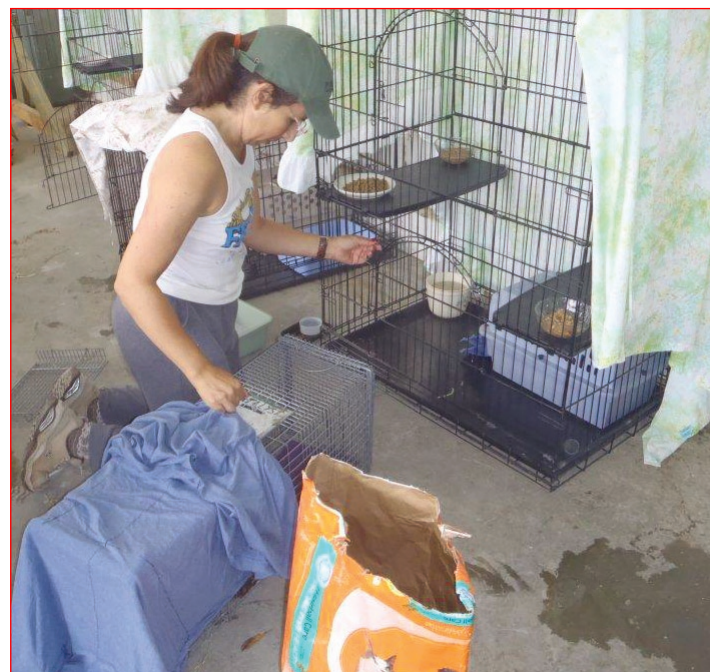
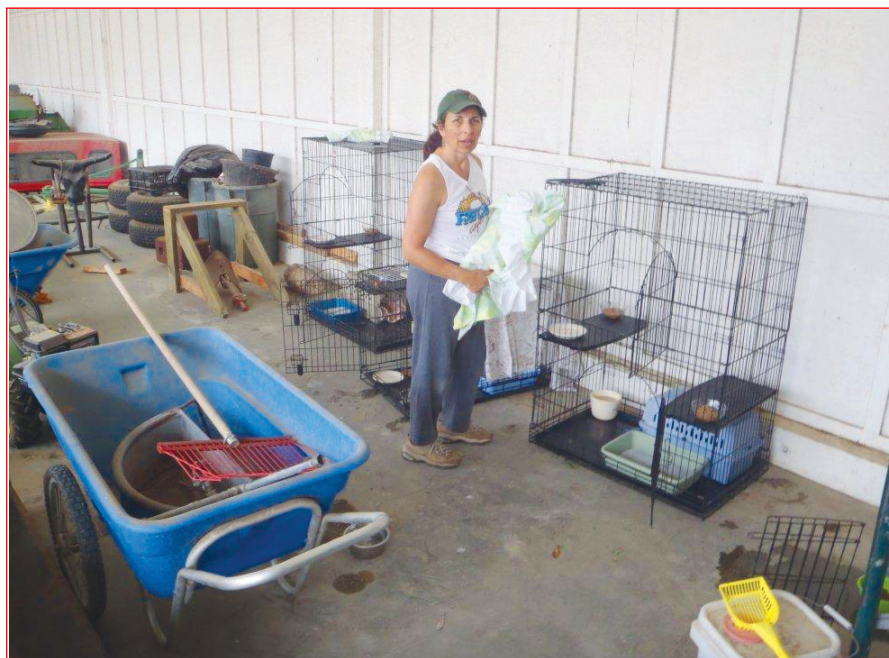
Valley relocation site gives 6 cats a second chance

The six semi-feral cats were from an apartment complex in Santa Maria, where they were being driven out.

Having white and gray coats and pink noses, they needed a safe place indoors for relocation, so Belinda Burns found a place even before Monica and Lavi Gonzales trapped the cats. They were all “fixed,” vaccinated and de-fleaed before being relocated to a farm in Santa Ynez.

Relocation is a permanent moving of an animal from where it was trapped to a safer place or job site. The process takes 2–3 weeks to allow the cats to become accustomed to their new home. A large cage is set up and equipped with litter box, food, water and toys. While in the cage, the cats become used to the sights, sounds, and people in the new surroundings.

Eventually the cage is opened and the cats freed to settle in. They seldom leave the premises once they are released, but stick around and go to work on catching those mice they’ve been watching.



Updates: Catalyst Action & Related Issues

Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Last autumn, the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors passed a spay/neuter ordinance for dogs and cats, applicable to the unincorporated portions of the county. It requires pet owners who want to keep their dogs or cats unaltered to license their cats, as an additional incentive to motivate them to make the responsible choice of spaying/neutering instead.

A similar ordinance passed the Santa Barbara City Council unanimously last month, and is now in effect. The elements of the city’s ordinance are essentially the same, targeting irresponsible pet owners by requiring them to have a conversation with a veterinarian in order to understand the consequences of keeping their pet intact.

Because the city’s Animal Control department has faced significant budget cuts recently, it is likely that the law will be enforced only when dealing with owners who are being cited for some other violations, or as is often the case, when we hear complaints of multiple cats breeding.

The ordinance provides an opportunity to persuade pet owners to accept offers of free and low-cost spay/neuter services, when they might refuse otherwise. So far, the county has had success with this approach, and has seen an increase in owners taking advantage of these services.

—Lee Heller.

Project Pet Safe

Animal Services of Santa Barbara County’s three shelter locations now offers low-fee spay/neuter services to the public. In addition, they offer vaccinations, licensing, and micro-chipping. Please pass the word. For information in Santa Barbara call 681-5285, in Santa Maria, 934-6119, and in Lompoc, 737-7755. And check the Web site sbcanimalcare.org/project_petsafe.html.

This program is a direct result of the new ordinances to encourage responsible pet ownership. We thank the Santa Barbara Animal Foundation and ASAP for their support and sponsorship of this new Project Pet Safe Program.

Cats Meow Raffle Winners

The annual Cats Meow raffle drawing was held at the Santa Barbara Arts Center Oct. 27. And the lucky winners are... **Sheri Ponack** –lunch at El

Rancho Marketplace and a wine picnic for six at a Santa Ynez Winery; **Susan Bower** – one night stay for two at Historic Upham Hotel, Santa Barbara; **Kathy Laabs** – one night’s lodging in a deluxe guest room for two with continental breakfast at Hotel Corque, Solvang and dinner for two at Solvang’s hottest new restaurant, Root 246; **Lester Gillies** – a scenic glide over the Santa Ynez Valley with Windhaven Glider Rides; **Maria Carmean** – a gourmet gift basket from Trader Joe’s.

The proceeds from this raffle—\$5,167—will be used toward a replacement for the well-traveled *Catalyst for Cats* van. Our present van is over 12 years old and has logged close to 200,000 miles. We certainly don’t want it breaking down with a load of feral cats going to or from the veterinary clinic for surgery.

Relocation Real Estate

When *Catalyst*’s relocation expert Belinda Burns needed living quarters for three uprooted cats, contractor Marc Trabucco built this tree house condo on his property in Santa Ynez for the group to sleep and spend their days in. All involved are grateful.





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**Every litter adds to the problem
Every spay/neuter adds to the solution!**

Wish List

Catalyst needs the following in order to carry on its charitable and educational goals. If you can help, please call 685-1563:

- Trappers, transporters and feeders for Santa Maria/Guadalupe areas
- Safe relocation sites for mousers who will earn their keep. Call Belinda Burns at 688-6359.
- More people who understand the importance of spaying and neutering.
- Cat food for the many, many colonies we subsidize. We spend thousands of dollars helping to feed these colonies. For dry food we prefer meat flavors of Purina or Friskies rather than fish flavors.
- More fosters for our rescued kittens.
- A dedicated volunteer to help organize feeding stations, trapping, etc. in the North County—a “project manager” of sorts. If interested, please call 685-1563.
- A replacement van is sorely needed. Ours is over 12 years old and has almost 200,000 miles on it. If anyone knows of a reliable low mileage van please let us know.



Cats come with claws!

Never declaw a cat! Declawing often results in irreversible physical and psychological damage. An excellent scratching post is available from **Felix Company (206) 547-0042**. Ask for their catalog. The **#1** (large) is a good selection.