



Catalyst for Cats

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

NEWSLETTER

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From the Founder

So many ways to make a difference for cats

How quickly time goes by during kitten season. I am no longer able to do the strenuous work involved in TNR, but I do spend many hours on the phone coordinating and mentoring various sorts of rescue work. I miss the challenge and rewards of TNR and the enormous thrill of making a meaningful difference in the lives of felines that weren't born into the advantages of a loving home. The work is never boring, and it certainly adds new dimensions and skills to your life. Want excitement in your life? Become a trapper!

It pleases me enormously that so many of our former volunteers and even newcomers now step up and take it upon themselves to do rescue work directly when an opportunity presents itself. This

issue of our *Newsletter* captures several such stories.

As mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, we unavoidably added numbers to our feeding stations during

Covid due to lack of spay/neuter opportunities. Also, steady increases in the price of pet food remains an issue that adds to the cost of supporting even a very stable feeding station. Nonetheless, we hope we've earned your continued support in our commitment to feed our feral feline friends.

Sadly, during this holiday season much of this world is more troubled than ever. If only wishing could make it better. Count your blessings if you are able to enjoy Christmas and the holidays and we hope you are willing to share your good fortune.

Randi Fairbrother



Photo by Kelly Fairbrother

Lost & Found: *This wily guy escaped from his carrier at the Santa Maria Airport on his trip home to Pennsylvania. Read the story of his rescue and reunion on page 3.*

Practical tips for a more comfortable winter feeding and sheltering:

- Provide extra food during winter. Wet food freezes so put out dry food as well.
- Put out water in sunny areas and avoid those chilly metal bowls.
- Cats prefer sleeping together and cuddling for warmth. Heat disperses quickly if there is too much space.
- Place the shelters out of the wind as much as possible.
- Upgrade and clean shelters for winter weather. Replace with a lot of fresh Straw. Never use hay, blankets or towels because they do not repel moisture and will stay wet and cold.
- And emember to bang on the hood of the car before starting it. Cats will often find shelter under the hood for warmth.

In Appreciation

🐾 **Melissa Muñoz**, for noticing a cat that was clearly having trouble walking in the area of the Tanglewood housing development in Santa Maria.

She brought him into the Orcutt Vet Hospital for removal of a tumor on his paw and cared for him during his recuperation period. He is now a happy camper back at Tanglewood. Melissa brings in many cats yearly to the Santa Maria Humane Society for TNR as she finds them.



Photo by Melissa Muñoz

🐾 **Amy Smith**, for not only her everyday extraordinary efforts of helping others, ordering and delivering food to our many feeders, feeding her colonies, and effective trouble shooting; she spearheaded a birthday fund-raiser for *Catalyst for Cats*. We received a generous check from Net Work for Good and we thank her and the twenty-four people who contributed to the cause.

🐾 **Mary Scott**, Working Cats Coordinator for ASAP, who graciously responds to our requests in providing feral cats as mousers for barns and also finds help for those seeking assistance with TNR.

🐾 **Charles Clouse** for his expertise in putting together our newsletters.

Tributes & Memorials

In Honor of

Ethel Barclay, my friend of over 90 years on her upcoming 93rd birthday – by Randi Fairbrother
Sarah Granschow and all she does for cats in Santa Maria – by Teresa Hall

In Memory of

All the cats I've fostered and adopted for *Catalyst for Cats* – by Allison Coleman
Shadow, beloved companion cat of Helen Ganahi – by Nan Cisney
Toby and Mek Mek - by Karen Littlejohn



Updates:

Catalyst Action & Related Issues

New Shelter Opens in SLO:

A joint effort among San Luis Obispo County and the cities of Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo has resulted in a newly opened animal shelter for the Central Coast, a much needed replacement for the 43-year-old facility in San Luis Obispo.

The new shelter, located at the County Operations Center off Highway 1, is designed to better care for and find homes for not only dogs and cats, but also reptiles, bunnies, guinea pigs, and larger animals as well.

New On the Job:

Those in the Santa Barbara animal services and welfare community welcome several new hires across local organizations. **Sarah Aguilar** has come from Austin, TX to take over as the County's new Director of Animal Services. **Jessica Wiebe** has moved over from her position at Animal Services to take the reins at ASAP Cats as their new Executive Director. And **Becky Clement**, also previously at Animal Services, is now working for **ASAP's** wellness team as a Registered Veterinary Technician. Many of us at *Catalyst* remember Becky from her work for many years as head of the surgical clinic at the Santa Maria shelter on Foster Rd. She treated the animals in her care kindly and was a pleasure to work with.

SBHS Services:

The Santa Barbara Humane Society has absorbed the Santa Maria Humane Society and continues to provide free spay/neuter (with vaccines, flea treatment and ear tip) for ferals under their TNR program. Santa Maria needs trappers desperately.

Veteran Trapper:

Catalyst welcomes onboard **Mindy Miller**, an experienced trapper who has stabilized several colonies (moms and kittens) in the Los Alamos area.

Exemplary TNR services modeled in Tampa Bay, FL

From Debbie Merry

I would like to give kudos to the Tampa Bay Humane Society and the Hillsborough County run Pet Resource Center here on Florida's Gulf Coast.

I've been taking in kitties to be spayed and neutered from the trailer park I currently live at for a while now. Every Monday the Humane Society allows three cats per person to be brought in for TNVR, trap neuter vaccinate and release. The charge is twenty-five dollars per cat. I also add a dose of Revolution for seven dollars more.

I do all this under the *Catalyst for Cats* umbrella, and for that I am very grateful. Because of *Catalyst* I am able to still send food to Panama City, FL, where I first lived and worked after leaving Santa Maria. I TNR'd several colonies of cats while I was in that area.



Photos by Debbie Merry

Mama Boo Bear

I am also able to feed the cats here in the trailer park, where I currently live. I have three stations set up in the park.

Recently I was able to get four very tame and loveable kittens, born to a very loving and tame mama kitty, in to the Humane Society for adoption. Mama kitty, who has been named Boo Bear, has found her way to my trailer and frequently visits and comes to show her love and gratitude.

I was recently made aware that I can bring cats into the Pet Resource Center (animal control), fill out paperwork, and they will receive the cats and transport them to the Humane Society for neutering and vaccination. Once that's taken care of, the Humane Society will bring the cats back to where they were trapped. What a wonderful concept, and all at no cost to the trapper or caretaker. Wonderful for the people that cannot afford to pay for the service or are afraid the kitty will be euthanized. This can be done any day

of the week.

The Humane Society has also started waiving fees for the cats I bring in.

As all my fellow trappers and caretakers of feral and stray kitties are well aware of, it is such a satisfying and

awesome feeling when you see the kitties looking 100% better, gaining weight, eyes bright, skin and coat looking great. My heart is happy and I am truly grateful that I am able to still do this.



Sterling and Silver, Boo's kittens



Boo Bear's last, Sunkist and Swag

Arthur's fine adventure in CA, a tribute to microchips

Kelly Fairbrother rescued this friendly cat (*see Arthur's picture on page 1*) in early August after seeing him a couple times wandering behind Waller Park in Orcutt. She decided to take action and brought him home, using her chicken coop for a cat house. When she took him in for neuter and shots, a scan for a microchip found he was indeed an owned cat. A phone call easily contacted the owner—in Pennsylvania!

Story goes that the owner was at SM airport and Arthur got out of his carrier. She was leaving on a shuttle and couldn't find him. That was late March.

Arthur's owner flew to California in September to take him home to Pennsylvania. Thank goodness for microchips—and willing cat rescuers!



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

Ava sticks like Velcro!



Photo by Amy Orozco

***A Change in Attitude:** Amy Orozco's Catalyst rescue Ava was once an extremely shy, reclusive cat, hiding out of sight for most of the first three months in the Orozco home. She is such a different cat now, that Amy says the impression is more like Velcro, especially with husband Al, when they are watching sports together every night. Even adult cats can surprise us!*