



RESQCATS™

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

May 2005 Newsletter & Summer Fundraiser

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RESQCATS

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President's Message

YES, it's that time again—kitten season is here! Pregnant moms abound and newborn kittens are being reported.

RESQCATS has already seen two of last year's late-Summer/early-Fall kittens that have been abandoned. "Texas Tom" (seven months old) was found roaming the neighborhood; not neutered and taking handouts from anyone who felt sorry for him while no one claimed to be his guardian. "Mona Lisa" (six months) was found in someone's avocado grove...just at the age she can come into heat and become pregnant. It's probably the same old story...love them while they are little bitty kittens and turn them out when they start to grow into young adults. Both kitties have already found their purrfect guardians and now live in wonderful new homes.



Jeffyne & MisJef

In addition, the first pregnant mom arrived at RESQCATS on March 30. RESQCATS maintains the philosophy to **not** abort kittens from pregnant moms. We believe it can cause physical as well as emotional trauma for the cat. This mother-to-be was found sitting under a car on Easter Sunday by a caring young couple. She is only about 10 months old and is expecting at least three babies any day according to her ultrasound. She is a beautiful Siamese kitty with blue eyes and she is just as sweet as can be. She suffers from a severely ulcerated eye that we are treating and hopefully she will not lose sight in that eye if we have gotten to it in time. We named her "Lilly" and all the volunteers are on call for when she gives birth!

From all the reports I am hearing, I have a gut feeling that all the little ones are going to show up at once...and my gut feelings are usually right.

RESQCATS is ready! Cabinets are freshly painted, repairs are done, food and litter have been delivered, supplies are stocked and the new baby blankets are out of their packages ready to be used. The resident cats are up-to-date on their yearly exams and we even found time to build our newest resident, "Jake," his own enclosure. He is the mostly blind kitty that I adopted and named after my late father on what would have been his 74th birthday. Jake let us know that he preferred his own space by **whacking** at the other cats. I believe he sees just well enough to be frightened by approaching cats and knows only to strike out at them. He loves his new space...he has figured out how to use his ramp to get to his outdoor enclosure on a nice day and seems so calm and peaceful in his own little suite.

The volunteers are ready to return...some have stayed on during the off season to help out and new volunteers have been recruited.

I have had some time off to putter in the cattery, take vacations with my husband, Mitch, and spend time with my own cats, dogs, and RESQCATS residents. I've had time away from all the stresses and responsibility of running an animal rescue organization. As many of you know, 2004 was a most challenging year for me emotionally...losing my dad, so many of my own cats and dogs and my little collie soul mate, "Miejek." Having time to cry when I needed to has been healing...having time to think has helped me gain some perspective on all the tragedies...having time away on vacations with my husband and

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Believe in Miracles

(A long story...but worth reading)

Some of you may remember the story about “How Jeffyne Got Her Bing Back.” It is not a story I have shared with everyone because it involved some undercover detective work and trespassing onto private property, which, I must admit, I am somewhat proud of now.

It began with the adoption of a little kitten we called “Bing.” He was adopted to a vibrant, enthusiastic woman who appeared to have fallen in love with him. She had been interviewed and passed all the criteria required to be a guardian of a RESQCATS kitty. Bing went home with the young woman while his littermates, “Cherry” and “Tang” continued their search for their purrfect person.

As always, I called the woman a few days later to make sure that all was okay, knowing that Bing was a little shy and might need some time to adjust to his new home. I left a message and asked for a return call. A couple of days later I left another message. When there was still no reply I began to feel a knot in the pit of my stomach...the familiar one we all get when we just know that something is not right. Another day went by before I decided to call again.

The woman answered the phone and I proceeded to tell her that I was just following up to see how Bing was doing and to ask if she had any questions about anything pertaining to his adjustment in his new home. I shared that I was little concerned since she had not returned my call and that I hoped everything was okay.

The voice on the other end of the phone was *very* different in tone and attitude from the excited, happy woman I had met just the week before. It was like Jekyll and Hyde. She told me, “Bing got out the day after I brought him home. You **SOLD** me a sick kitty, his eye was watery, and now I am sick with a cold that I got from him.” I was *shocked* by her attitude but I remained calm and polite. I shared with her that RESQCATS does not **sell** kitties...we adopt them. I reminded her that if any medical problems arise within the kitten’s transition period RESQCATS takes care of those medical bills. I also told her that humans *do not* catch colds from cats. I asked how Bing had gotten out and if she had tried to find him. She said, “No. I thought about closing the upstairs window when I brought him home...but fell asleep and didn’t get around to it.”



Sierra & Nevada

I was harassing her and that I had no business **selling** her a sick kitten. It was of no use to continue the conversation.

In my panic, I called a couple of volunteers to share my grief and to try and figure out what to do. The next morning one of the volunteers called to say that she had been by Bing’s new home and actually saw him in an auto body shop parking lot next to the woman’s property. That was all I needed to hear. I knew that the best way to recover Bing was to trap him in a humane trap baited with Star-Kist tuna in water like we trap the feral cats.

My volunteer and I were on a mission! When we arrived at the



Sierra & Nevada

property we were surprised to see another kitten sitting in the woman’s window sill wearing a name tag from another local rescue organization. The woman hadn’t bothered to look for Bing! But she had gone out within a few days to another shelter and adopted another kitten!

The auto body shop was closed for three days

during that Labor Day weekend....and I mean **CLOSED** – the gate padlocked and the seven-foot-tall chain link fence protected with metal spikes at the top to deter intruders! We felt compelled to get in to find Bing and since an easy point of entry was impossible, over the fence we went! We got the trap over the fence, baited it with cat treats and tuna then prayed for success.

My trip back over the fence wasn’t successful, however! The volunteer made it fine but I felt my shorts get caught on the spikes at the top, then rip as the spike punctured my butt! **OUCH!**

I was a mess by the time I got home. I thought that I just might need a *couple of miracles* for this scenario...one being that my husband would be willing to bail me out of jail if I was caught and most importantly...that Bing would take the bait and go into the trap.

In my effort to narrow it down to needing only *one* miracle...Bing’s return...I called the auto body shop and the owner’s message machine at home to explain who I was, what I was doing, to apologize profusely for trespassing and to leave my phone number if he had any questions. I drove to the shop around 10:00 p.m. hoping to see Bing in the trap. I left in tears when I saw it was empty.

At 6:30 the next morning, another volunteer showed up at my door to let me know that she had seen Bing sitting *in* the trap, awaiting his return to RESQCATS. Having learned from experience, I loaded the ladder into the car so I could get over that fence without mishap and brought him home.

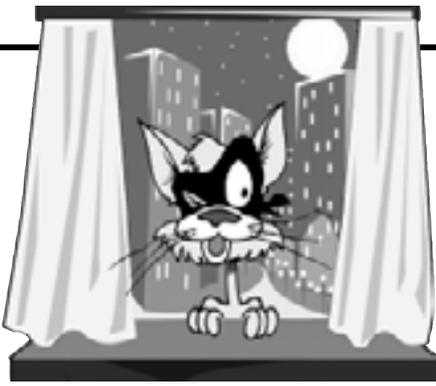
Bing had been without food for a week, frightened by the cars passing nearby on Hwy.101 and lucky he hadn’t been hit by a train since the Amtrak was just across the street. It took less than 30 seconds and he knew he was safe. Bing ate a big breakfast and looked at me with grateful eyes as I put him in his bed. He purred throughout his nap the rest of the day.

Bing’s littermate, “Cherry,” found a home the week Bing was gone but “Tang” was still waiting for one. We re-united Bing and Tang the next day and they were inseparable. They played together, ate together and slept in the same basket. I knew then that I must find a home to take them both.

Special note: *The shorts I shredded on the fence were framed by the volunteers and given back to me as a birthday present. They hang in our “RESQCATS Hall of Fame” entry into the cattery and the piece really is titled, “How Jeffyne Got Her Bing Back.” It is there for everyone to see. You will, however, just have to take my word that I have a puncture scar on my behind!*

And now, to borrow from Paul Harvey, **“Here’s the rest of the story:”** It wasn’t long before John and Emily McLaughlin visited RESQCATS in search of a kitten. I had some available that could go to a home as the only cat but when I shared the story of Bing and his newly found security blanket, Tang, it touched their gentle hearts. Bing and Tang went home with John and Emily to begin their new life. John and Emily gave them a new start and new names, “Sierra”

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Cat Apprehended For Breaking and Entering ResQcats!

There have been many times in the history of RESQCATS that a kitty arrived and decided that they did not want to leave our sanctuary. I explain to them that RESQCATS is just a “steeping stone” on their path to finding their own purrfect person and home in the world outside of RESQCATS. Sometimes it works....and sometimes it doesn't. That is how “Smudge,” “Snowie” and “Endora” became permanent residents at RESQCATS!

But never before have I ever experienced or heard of a cat breaking and entering into a cattery...guess he saw a good thing when he passed by!

It began one afternoon when I walked into the cattery and got a quick glimpse of a big black and white cat scurrying down the hallway, up the driftwood ramp and into the penthouse. I thought to myself, “WHO IS THAT?...that's not one of mine. And how did he get in here?!?” I searched everywhere for a point of entry but found absolutely nothing. I was baffled even more the next morning because the cat was nowhere to be found...not in the penthouse, not in the outdoor enclosures, not in the outdoor tunnels...just vanished! There had to be some place where he had escaped and my cat “Greyco,” had discovered it because he was out happily roaming freely in the yard!

Now Greyco is always looking for a way out of the cattery and he does manage to sneak past a volunteer or two upon occasion so I thought he had just slipped through the back door again without being caught this time. But five minutes after I put him away, Greyco was back wandering the yard again. I put him back again but this time I followed him and discovered his point of exit. The wire at the bottom of one of the enclosures had been forced out away from the base. It took quite a bit of skill to pop out the staples and work the wire away from the nails holding it in place. I knew Greyco couldn't do it...only the large black and white visitor I had seen was capable of this. He was gone now so I nailed the wire back in place and went about my day.

When I entered the cattery the following day I discovered that my visitor was back! I searched again for his break-in spot and found nothing. I even asked the volunteers to look for a hole in the tunnels or break in the roof but nothing. He stayed a few days and then disappeared once again. Was he hiding somewhere in the cattery....no! There was no place for him to hide. Then he was back again! I was leaving for vacation and thought I would just deal with this when I returned...obviously he needed to go to the vet and get checked and vaccinated, etc.

My poor house-sitter, Linda Higbee, got stuck with the comings and goings of this stray. She worked eight days trying to stop his breaking and entering and his uncanny escapes. She named him “Houdini” since he would just show up one day and vanish the next!

Linda did manage to trap Houdini. He went to the vet and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV, received his vaccinations

and was neutered. She brought him back to RESQCATS but he left again just three days after his surgery. I returned from vacation to hear all about it!

Houdini was estimated to be about three years old and, obviously, a tomcat. I don't know if you've had experience with tomcats...but let me tell you this! There is no question when you are dealing with a “tom” because they permeate the air with a horrible hormonal smell that will knock your socks off! Two days after my return from vacation, I walked into the cattery and knew, just by the scent, he was back!

It got to be quite a joke....volunteers calling to see if Houdini was in that day or had he left himself back out. I began to think he was being supernaturally beamed up and down like in Star Trek because no one could find his secret entrance and exit...except Greyco. I don't know how many times Greyco appeared on the upstairs balcony in the middle of the night meowing so loud it woke me from my sleep. He was so proud of himself for getting out...he purred as I put him in the bathroom until the next morning when I could inspect for another hole.

The other resident cats didn't seem to mind Houdini. It wasn't as if I would have to build him his own enclosure because of being unsocial like I have for “Abby” and “Jake”. But something had to be done. “In or out Houdini! Doesn't matter to me but it is not a revolving door here. I'll take care of you if you stay and wish you the best of luck if you leave but which is it?!” He just peered down at me from his perch in the penthouse.

As we inspected each enclosure, we were shocked to see what Houdini had done. He managed to pop out the staples holding the wire in place **and** pushed on the wire until it loosened from around the nails that secured it. We decided the best way to re-enforce the wire was with an additional piece of wood so that there was no way it could be dislodged.

It worked!

Houdini is now a permanent resident at RESQCATS. He doesn't smell like tomcat anymore so I am not always sure exactly where he is. Sometimes he sits in the penthouse and watches our world of caring for kittens and cleaning. He seems to enjoy listening to the music we play in the cattery. I leave his food at the end of a shelf where he is comfortable eating at night. Some sunny days I see him sitting in one of the outdoor enclosures or tunnels taking in the fresh air and sun. He does let me approach him, but I cannot pet him...yet. I tell myself that it will take time. For now, he is safe and dry, has a full tummy, and doesn't have to be afraid of cars or coyotes or any of the other dangers outside. He does seem content. Maybe he can talk to Snowie, Smudge and Endora about how wonderful it is at RESQCATS and that it is okay to trust me. I hope so.

Recently, I shared the story of Houdini with a friend. He said, “WOW! You must really have a great place if you have strays wanting to break in! ♦

Consider This...

- A gift donation to honor a friend or family member who loves cats but “has everything” for a special birthday or “just because.”
- Contributing to RESQCATS in memory or in honor of a special friend who has lost their fur friend
- A donation in memory of a beloved pet.

Danny's Corner

SO MANY OF YOU COMMENTED on the story of "DOM and Danny" in the December 2004 newsletter and how it touched your hearts that we decided Danny should have his own corner in our newsletter.

You may recall that Danny's mom, Linda Turner, adopted him last summer in hopes of filling part of the huge void in her life when her 17 year old cat DOM died. Danny and Linda *live* in her van which she has converted into a warm and cozy home. Linda has become a volunteer at RESQCATS and she and Danny visit every Wednesday afternoon. I always make my way to the van to see Danny. Their visits have given me the wonderful opportunity of watching Danny grow from a timid little kitten to a teen-age kitty that is somewhat of a "social butterfly" now! You see, I think Danny had a void that only Linda could fill.

There seems to be one difference between Linda and Danny—Danny's idea of who to visit on vacation is quite different from his mom's! Here's his version...

How time flies since I last wrote about my adventures with my human mom in her van! I am nearly a year old now and have already had a pre-birthday celebration with birthday candles, singing, and freshly baked kitten treats!

My mom spent almost a month getting the van ready for our vacation to Northern California. As we drove along I snuggled onto her lap like I usually do. When the huge semi trucks raced by it really scared me but mom's gentle hand of reassurance soon sent me back to napping as we drove.

We visited many friends and I was always the center of attention. I am a friendly kitty and fit in almost anywhere. Even resident dogs and cats are not a problem...**except** for "Sadie!"—a ten-month-old Springer Spaniel who is nothing but uncontrolled energy. When we arrived at Sadie's house I made a mental note of



Danny snuggles into the "Lap of Luxury"

where the front door was so I could get back to the van quickly if I needed to. I always wear a halter and leash so that I can explore an area without escaping when visiting strange places. I had already had enough of Sadie but when her guardian decided to vacuum, that was it! I could visualize myself being sucked up by this huge loud monster. I instantly bolted for the door and since my harness was attached to a nearby table...the table, plant, and everything sitting on top of it bolted with me. What a mess I made!

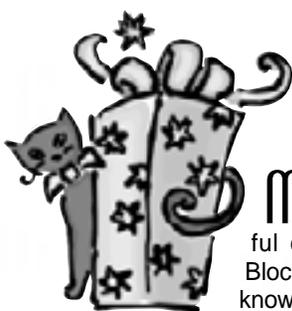
Unfortunately for my mom, the scenario repeated itself at another friend's house who had an energetic puppy. This time, as a basket followed me when I made my dash for freedom over a Dutch door, my mom caught me in mid-air!

That did it! After that I got to spend my nights in the peace and comfort of my van and my days in gardens under the beautiful ferns and flowers...no more flights of fancy for me!

It's wonderful to be back in Santa Barbara after our vacation...just me and my mom. My life is back to our normal routine, an early morning walk on the beach before mom goes to work, a snooze in the van 'til she returns, then we spend the rest of the day together playing "feather and stick" and fetch. I have learned a lot in my short life...that I don't particularly care for vacations and my favorite thing is to spend time with my mom. I give her special kitten kisses...little gentle nibbles on her nose with my teeth. She is the most special thing in my life and I adore her.

With the start of kitten season mom spends time at RESQCATS socializing all the timid kittens who are just like I used to be. Was that only a few months ago? Now I get to prowl around in Jeffyne's rose garden next to the van while mom is "socializing." We are both really happy.

"Til next time...have a purrfect day! *Danny*



Matching Gifts Program

Many of RESQCATS' wonderful supporters are employees of large, successful companies such as Starbucks Coffee, Blockbuster Video, and Cisco Systems. Did you know that these companies will match your cash donation to any IRS-approved-nonprofit organization such as RESQCATS? Well, they will!

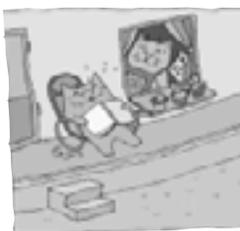
These companies and many others, will match your personal donation to a qualified 501 © (3), nonprofit organization on a dollar-for-dollar basis. So if you'd like to double your support to RESQCATS without having to increase your own donation, contact your company's benefits department and ask about their Matching Gifts program.

If you'll send your company's Matching Gifts forms to RESQCATS along with your personal donation, we'll take care of all the paperwork.

As always, we at RESQCATS (especially the kitties) really appreciate your support!



Cat "Quotes"



All of the animals excepting man...know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it.

~ BUTLER

I love cats because I enjoy my home and little by little they have become its visible soul.

~ JEAN COCTEAU

You never know in advance what an angel will look like.

~ BUBER'S GRANDMOTHER



Believe in Miracles

continued from page 2

and "Nevada." Bing who was a brown tabby became "Sierra" for the Sierra Mountains and Tang was named "Nevada" for his rich red-orange fur that reminded them of the sun. The kitties blossomed in their new home. John and Emily have called occasionally to keep me updated....we've stayed in touch for well over a year. I love hearing from them and about their new home located just south of Santa Barbara in La Conchita.

Emily called in January with fear and overwhelming sadness in her voice. Emily, John, Sierra and Nevada were part of the tragedy in La Conchita when the mudslide claimed many homes and lives. Emily said that Sierra and Nevada knew before anyone else even sensed danger that something was wrong. They buried themselves in terror in the box springs under their owner's mattress. Everyone in La Conchita was given only minutes to evacuate and, as much as they tried, Sierra and Nevada would not come out. They clung to each other and to the box springs. John and Emily had to evacuate but decided to leave a back door open so that the kitties would have a way to escape before the house was destroyed. And that is just what they did...Sierra and Nevada got out! My heart just sank as Emily told me the story and by the end of the telephone conversation we were crying together.

John and Emily were fortunate in that their house was not affected...but Sierra and Nevada were gone. After the slide, they were not even allowed to return to the property. Animal control in Ventura County set traps and did a great job in trying to help people retrieve their animals. They set small traps baited with food and checked the traps everyday for a couple of weeks. John and Emily found a new place to live in Santa Barbara but made daily trips to La Conchita to check the traps long after Animal Control left the area. But they never gave up hope. They called to let me know that paw prints were seen around their house, had word that someone had seen one of their kitties, and they had even trapped someone else's little black kitty.

I tried to reassure Emily that Sierra (Bing) had been on his own before and that I felt Nevada would follow right along. As the weeks passed I knew that the chance of ever getting them back lessened by the day. I loaned them two large traps hoping that the more traps set, the better chance they had for a rescue.

Five weeks had passed when Nevada was found in one of the large traps and welcomed home. The vet reported he had lost four pounds but looked pretty good after all he had been through. That was one down and one to go!

I feared that Sierra might be trap shy after his first horrifying experience at the auto body shop and that he might be even more lost and insecure without Nevada. But three days later, there he was in the trap! He was thin, had a few ticks, and a bad cut on his head, but looked pretty good, too.

Sierra and Nevada are home now at their new house in Santa Barbara. John and Emily never gave up hope. They were determined to get their kitties back no matter how long it took. All along, I knew, they *believed in miracles!*

I know I believe in miracles... I'm just never sure when they will be granted. I am **so** glad that this was a time for miracles! I think Sierra had *already* used up some of his nine lives.

Welcome home Sierra & Nevada! And thank you Emily and John for letting me visit these two special kitties once they made it home!



Mother Cat's Purr

Sleep the half-sleep
Kittens dear,
While your mother
Cat-naps near.

Every kitten
Is a cat,
And you must
Remember that

Naps for cats
Are mostly fake:
Any time
Is time to wake,

Or time to pounce,
Or time to scat.
That's what sleep is—
For a cat.

By Jane Yolen
(Taken from the book: *Cats are Cats*)



Bowie Blue & Calisto



Ferdinand, Blessing & Isabel

Rescue

Bony cat,
Scrabbling along
In the sleet,
You need a child
To warm you.
I'll take you, cat,
Where it's dry,
And there's a can of milk.
I'll feed you, Bony.
We'll be friends.
No more hiding
Under cars,
No more crying.
We'll be friends,
Bony cat,
Scrabbling along
In the sleet.

By Virginia Schonborg
(Taken from the book: *Cats are Cats*)



Alexandria

In Memory, Celebration & Honor of Some Very Special Friends

➤ In memory of **"Kiki"**
With love from your mom, **Nancy Stecki**

➤ Remembering **"Jesse"** Gilman
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ Celebrating our 1year old, **"Humi"** and in memory of our beloved **"Ivy."**
Fred and Nan Euler

➤ Remembering **"Jeremy"** Bertero
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ In memory of **"Ligi"**
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ In memory of **"Ligi,"** my sweet special friend who died at age 15 on Dec. 3, 2004.–She was a great cat who loved everybody and was happiest when curled up in my lap.

Eunice Schroeder



Ligi

➤ Remembering **"Anil"** Grady
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ In memory of **"Ewok"**
Love, Tom and Susan Smith

➤ How I miss you ...you are forever in my heart, **"Miejek"**
Love, Jeffyne

➤ For **"Sweetie"**
Vita Sheremetiev

➤ In memory of **"Pumpkin"**
Love, Walt and Evelynne Chezum

➤ Thinking of **"Kami"** Zolkoski
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ In memory of **"Harold"**
With love from Sarah, **"Jackson"** and **"Kenny"**

➤ In memory of **"Button,"** the best feral cat ever
-March 1988-December 2004
Love, Stephanie Welch

➤ Remembering **"Beanie"** Krupica
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara



Miejek

➤ In memory of *all our kitties in Heaven*
Mary Lou and Jon Sorrel

➤ In honor of **Tricia Krout**
From **"Matt"** and **"Ting"**

➤ In honor of **RESQCATS**
From **"Teddy"** Branch

➤ In honor of **Jeffyne** from **"Amber"** and **"Ash"** Krout for finding us such a great home. Our mom **really** loves and spoils us rotten!

➤ In honor of **Bonnie Epperson** and Merry Christmas to her!
From **Tina Reigle**

➤ In memory of **"Miejek"**
Love, the Telsons (Rhea, Bob and Sydnie)

➤ In appreciation for Linda Higbee
Dan and Nancy George

➤ In memory of **"Missy"** Altshuler
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara

➤ To Jeffyne...to honor the memory of your dad, **Jake**. I hope he was aware of and appreciated the terrific work you do at **RESQCATS**.
Joan Wright

➤ In loving memory of **"Sweetpea,"** a medically needy kitty and designated to the Polar Bear Fund.
Buddy and Lynne Borderre

➤ In memory of **"Sebastian"**
Sandy and Harriet Miller

➤ In honor of Janice Contons
Merry Christmas from your mom, June Stoner

➤ In memory of **Greg** whose sweet smile will never be forgotten. We miss you so much.
March 15, 1988 – May 31, 2004
Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare

➤ In honor of his brother, **Bob**, PFC2 in the army who left for Iraq in late January. Be safe. Both leave behind their own kitties who miss them dearly.
Sue and Cathie Sadler-Pare

➤ In memory of **"Itzik"** and **"Moishe"**
Betty Oberacker

➤ Remembering my Godfather **"Richard Stolcis"**
Peggy Nicolson

➤ In memory of **"Tiger"** Vasquez
Pet Sitters of Santa Barbara



We're Having A Kitten

I am always beside myself with disappointment in the human race when I receive calls from people who claim to love their kitty, but because of some *inconvenience* must find a new home for them. The excuses for not keeping their kitties are endless: "I am moving to a place that does not allow cats; I have a new puppy and my 12-year-old cat is not adjusting; my new roommate is allergic; my boyfriend and I just broke up and neither of us can keep the cat; I am pregnant; I just had a baby and the cat is not adjusting." I try to keep my cool and **not** say what I am really thinking and would like to say such as: "I cannot imagine that there is not a single place in your area that would not rent to someone who has a cat; your poor kitty is upset with the new addition and probably just needs time to adjust along with some reassurance and attention from you; did you not check with your potential roommate about cat allergies or tell them that you have a cat?; why is it you and your boyfriend could have kitties when you were together, but neither of you can take that responsibility now?; or gee, if you had a four year old child that did not adjust to his new sister, would you try to find a new home for him or treat him with patience and love?!!!!!" Many people try very hard to make me feel that **RESQCATS** is the absolute *last* resort and that somehow it is *my* fault if their cat ends up at some shelter and is euthanized.

I do my best to offer polite professional advice and direction, but it is heartbreaking for me to hear all this. I often hang up the phone and just cry with anger and disappointment. Whatever happened to making a lifetime commitment to our animals! For those of you that know me, you forgive me for not being a huge fan of children and understand that my compassion is strongest for the animals. But a lifetime commitment is just that...children, animals, or whatever! So you can appreciate the following e-mail that came to me across the Internet. I share it with you as a reminder of the compassion we are all capable of and the importance of thinking through the commitments we make for our lifetimes before we make them and to take our responsibilities seriously.

Perhaps the following should be posted in every shelter, veterinary office and OB/GYN office!

We're Having A Kitten! HELP NEEDED ASAP

After waiting for over a year for an orange tabby kitten, we have been notified that, at long last, our number has come up...and we are having an orange tabby kitten!



We must get rid of our children IMMEDIATELY because we just know how time consuming our new little kitten is going to be and it just wouldn't be fair to the children. Since our kitten will be arriving on Tuesday, we must place the children into rescue this weekend!

They are described as:

One Male, named Tommy: Caucasian (English-Irish mix), light blonde hair and blue eyes. Four years old. Excellent disposition. He doesn't bite. Temperament tested. Does have problems peeing directly into the toilet. Has had chickenpox and is current on all shots. Tonsils have already been removed. Tommy eats everything, is very clean, house trained and gets along well with others. Does not run with scissors and with a little training, he should be able to read soon.

One Female, named Lexie: Caucasian (English-Irish mix), strawberry blonde hair, green eyes and quite freckled. Two years old. Can be surly at times. Non-biter, thumb sucker. Has been temperament tested but needs a little attitude adjusting occasionally. She is current on all shots, tonsils out, is very healthy and can be affectionate. Gets along well with other little girls and little boys, but does not like to share her toys and therefore would do best in a one child household. She is a very quick learner and is currently working on her house training—shouldn't take long at all.

We really **do love** our children so much and want what's right for them; that is why we contacted a rescue group. But we simply can no longer keep them. Also, we are afraid they may hurt our new kitty. I hope you understand that ours is a **unique** situation and we have a real emergency here!!! They **MUST** be placed in your rescue by Monday night at the latest or we will be forced to drop them off at the orphanage or along some dark country road. Our priority now has to be our new kitty.



Sing a Song of Kittens

Sing a song of kittens,
Kittens full of play,
Chasing shadows, chasing tails,
Romping half the day,
Springing upon—nothing!
Scampering off—Nowhere!
Glaring out of milk-blue eyes,
Lashing tails in air.

Sing a song of kittens,
Kittens tired of play,
Kittens growing sleepy
At the close of day.
Very glad to cuddle,
Very pleased to purr,
Curling up in balls
Of thistledown and fur.



Willow & Friends

by Elizabeth Coatsworth

The Stray Cat

It's just an old alley cat
that has followed us all the way home.
It hasn't a star on it forehead,
or a silky satiny coat.
No proud tiger stripe, no dainty tread
no elegant velvet throat.

It's a **spotty, blotchy**
city cat, not a pretty cat,
a rough little tough bag
of old bones.

"Beauty," we shall
call you.

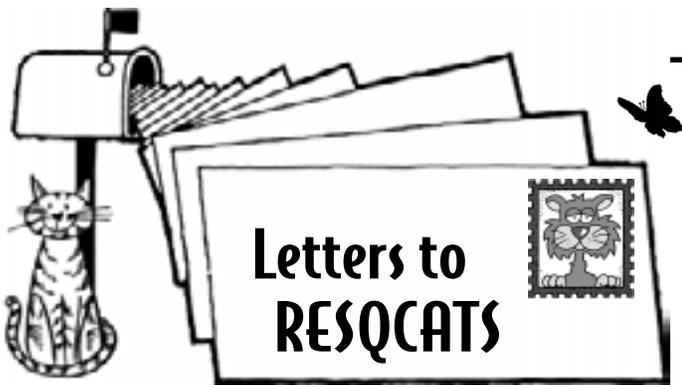
"Beauty, come in."

by Eve Merriam



Bella & Bijou

(both are taken from the book: *Cats are Cats*)



Snow & Shadow

the back of the couch where she can watch everything! They both sleep snuggled up to me at night and follow me from room to room during the day. When I open a can of cat food they can hear it no matter where they are and come running to the kitchen. They love to sit on the window sills and look outside.

They are such a joy to me and I thank you so much for giving them to me. I am enclosing a donation from them. I know RESQCATS could use it

Love, Pat McCloskey

(readers: you may recall that Pat gave Snow and Shadow a home last fall after they arrived at RESQCATS as neglected and abused kitties for their first three years of life. Sounds to me like they found HOME!)

Dear Jeffyne,

I've been meaning to send you a picture of "Jed" and "Oscar" that we adopted from you several years ago! They are doing great and have adjusted so well to our newest member of the family... Claire Elizabeth! Keep up the good work at RESQCATS...you are all amazing!

Love,

Carolyn, Chad, Claire, Oscar and Jed Slack

Dear Jeffyne,

I just wanted to give you an update on "Jingles" and "Zena." They are both doing so well. Jingles is just your typical teenage boy with long skinny legs. He is a great jumper and moves like an airplane jet when he wants to. Zena is turning into a little fatty girl! When we pick her up it's like picking up a water balloon! They both greet us as soon as we open the back hall door and we are now able to pick them up and hold them for long durations of time. They just love the attention and turn on the purr machines immediately.

We have slowly opened up the whole house for them to roam and they do just great. We still do not leave them alone with the dogs. But the dogs have gotten used to them and realize that the cats are the ones in complete control! Once in a while, Zena will walk right by Bruno while he is on his sleeping pad, go to his food

Dear Jeffyne,

I just had to send you these pictures of my girls, "Shadow" and "Snow"!

I walked past my guest bedroom and there they were with my wild stuffed animals. I grabbed my camera and took some pictures!

Did you know that Shadow loves to have her tummy rubbed!? And Snow's favorite place is on

the back of the couch where she can watch everything! They both sleep snuggled up to me at night and follow me from room to room during the day. When I open a can of cat food they can hear it no matter where they are and come running to the kitchen. They love to sit on the window sills and look outside.

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and drink some of his water. Bruno just lets it slide because he knows she is just trying to get him excited. We keep a baby gate up in the hallway so the cats can always retreat to their area without worrying about the dogs and it is working out beautifully.

Yesterday Zena pulled the entire bedspread off the bed and onto the floor. I called Suzi at work to see if she had pulled it off in the morning for some reason not realizing it was Zena who was the culprit! Suzi's response was, "Nope, that wouldn't be me!"

We just love them both and wanted you to know that Jingles and Zena have brought lot of laughs and smiles to our family!

Sincerely,

Joe Schomer

Hi Jeffyne,

Thank you so much for all that you do and for taking such good care of all the kittens in need. "Judah" is healthy, friendly and loving and is the light of my life. I know he is extra loving and special because of all the love he received when he was at RESQCATS. Lots of love and Happy New Year.

Nicole Muhlethaler

Jeffyne,

Happy New Year! I hope this next year treats you well and may life's surprises pave a smoother road for you.

Here is a photo of "Xander" and his favorite place on Jesse! It is hard to imagine him far from our hearts—as that is his favorite place to rest!

Much love and joy to you and yours!

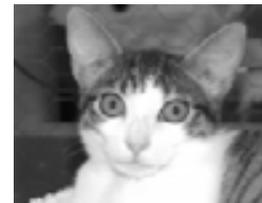
Monica, Jesse, Xander, and Murdull

Dear Jeffyne,

We thought you would like to see pictures of the beautiful kitties that we adopted from RESQCATS. "Munchkin" (adopted almost



Beautiful Bella



Jingles (top) & Zena



Judah taking a break



Xander & Jesse, heart to heart

four years ago) is very fluffy, sophisticated and is our "glamour queen!" She has a great disposition, enjoys people as well as being alone. "Bella" is Beautiful! (adopted in 2003 after undergoing major surgery to remove her terribly damaged eye as a tiny kitten.) She loves to play but still gets frightened quickly due to hav-

"Letters to RESQCATS" Photo Contest

RESQCATS is having a **Photo Contest** for each of our Newsletters starting with our Summer issue.

To be eligible, just mail or **email** us your cutest and/or funniest kitty pictures along with your letters. (If you mail, be sure to write your name and your kitty's name on the back of the photo(s)). There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit.



RESQCATS Funniest BLESSING.

Blessing must have used the last tissue.
Blessing's guardian is Kay Hewitt.

Our volunteers and staff will choose a photo from the "Letters to RESQCATS." The winners receive a RESQCAT T-shirt and will be featured in the Photo Contest space.

There will be one for **CUTEST** and one for **FUNNIEST**. So have your digital cameras ready for the action. We look forward to the fun of picking a winner!

(Please note: We prefer to receive digital photos sent via email.)



Here is the contact information to send your entries:

email: www.resqcats.org

Mail to:

**"Letters To RESQCATS"
PO Box 3852
Santa Barbara, CA
93130**

RESQCATS Cutest

TING

"Ting likes her water from the tap. She begs to have it turned on."

Ting's guardian is Peggy Nicholson.

ing only one eye. She LOVES to be petted and lets you know when she is in need of good lovin' by letting out a little "mew." We love our girls.

Melissa is looking forward to volunteering for you when kitten season arrives.

Sincerely,
Patty, Melissa & AJ Comito.



Munchkin

Dear Jeffyne,

Jared and I just wanted to say Happy Holidays and thank you again for our precious little "Flea." She has grown to be a very playful kitty who likes to play hide and seek. She follows us wherever we go, sits in our laps whenever we sit down and insists on sleeping on the bed with us. She has not stopped purring and meows at the same time when she is especially happy. She loves attention and has brought many laughs...and I am sure there are many more to come.

Sincerely,

Mindy Facey and Jared Frey

(readers: you may recall that "Fleashia," now called "Fleas" was found near her death suffering from flea anemia. She required a blood transfusion and a lot of 'round the clock care for her recovery before she found her purrfect home with Mindy and Jared)



Flea (Fleashia)

Dear Jeffyne,

It is coming up on four years since we adopted "Teddy Bear." That is hard to believe. He is thriving at a whopping 16 pounds! He takes daily medication for his asthma, but is good about taking it. We got smart about putting sticks on the outside ridge of the sliding glass door so he can no longer maneuver them open and so he remains safely indoors. We have two birdfeeders in the backyard that he enjoys watching. Teddy Bear adores our other cat, Hope, and wants to play with "Lil Girl, the matriarch cat of our family. Lil Girl remains somewhat leary of him. We have someone come into our home to take care of them when we go out of town, but that is rare because we miss the kitties so much!

Love,

Ann McGorty and Ruth Stevenson



Teddy Bear

Dear Jeffyne

"Jackson" and "Kennecott" (adopted almost three years ago from RESQCATS) are doing so well. I now have the opportunity to work from home once or twice a week—and when I do, the boys are so excited! They take turns sleeping on my lap as I type on the computer and playing with each other on the floor behind my desk. Jackson has become a bit of a "mama's boy." He follows me around my apartment and stands on his hind legs with his front paws on the side of my leg while I am getting ready in the mornings. He cries because he knows I am leaving. Kenny is a little bit more

continues on page 10

President's Message

continued from page 1

kept me from burning out. I still struggle everyday trying to understand why Miejek was taken so suddenly after so many other losses, but the unending devastation I felt when I wrote you in my last newsletter is not as overwhelming. My new little collie friend, "MisJef", (get it...Miss Jeff!) has helped me a lot. She makes me smile. She is even a part of the clean up crew at RESQCATS in the mornings. Her job is to eat every morsel of cat food that lands on floor and well...just look adorable. MisJef has put a little light in my very dark soul. And I must say that the light got brighter when the first 2005 RESQCATS kitty, "Texas Tom," arrived. So... if you had any doubts, Jeffyne is ready, too!

I hope you, my wonderful supporters, will join me in 2005. You have helped us with the 840 cats and kittens that have found homes through RESQCATS. This kitten season begins our eighth year! We have kittens on the way that will need vet exams, leukemia tests, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, antibiotics, flea treatments, food and litter. If it is like it has been over the last seven years, there will be some kitties that require medical care that goes way beyond the normal protocol and usual dollars spent per kitty. We have always been able to provide everything the kitties need because of people like you. I hope you will find it in your heart once again to send your tax-deductible donation to RESQCATS. The "Polar Bear Fund" is set up to help our kitties with extra special medical care needs if you choose to designate your donation to that fund.

I thank you for all you do and all you continue to do from the bottom of my heart. But most of all...the kitties of 2005 thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffyne Telson
President, RESQCATS, Inc.

P.S. Since writing the "President's Message" in April, RESQCATS has placed 24 cats and kittens and is currently taking care of 27 additional ones. They Thank You for your help!

Letters to RESQCATS

continued from page 9

independent, but he has also become quite the social butterfly! Kenny was the one who hissed and growled when he was just a baby if I even came near him...NOW he greets anyone who comes into my apartment! He has also taken quite a liking to my boyfriend, Matt. It is so cute. He always gets very excited when Matt is over and makes an effort to come sit between us or on Matt's lap.

I know I have said this time and time again, but I could not imagine my life without the boys. They are my angels! They were so supportive of me when I lost my 17 year old kitty, Harold, this year.

I am sending along some of the items I saw requested on your wish list and a Petco gift card to help the 2005 kitties.

Take care, Jeffyne. Sending love, and happiness to you and your family.

Love,

Sarah Pedersen, Jackson and Kenny



Some Special Thank You's!

♥ **Betty Oberacker** made a donation in honor of "Itzik" and "Moishe" so RESQCATS could build our new resident cat, "Jake" his own private suite. Since he does not get along with the other cats he now has his own indoor area and an overhead tunnel that connects to his private outdoor enclosure! Her donation will also help with medical supplies and other needed items for the 2005 kitten season.

♥ **Roger Smith** donated the money needed to purchase a new washer for RESQCATS, as well as add some new tunnel runs to the outdoor enclosures. We may do as many as 10 loads of laundry a day during kitten season! Thank you, Roger!

♥ **Denny Epperson** spent many days donating his time to help build "Jake's" enclosure, add tunnel runs for the cats to outdoor enclosures and putting up ceiling fans for the cattery. He never asks for anything in return...we just try to make sure we have some chocolate for him while he is on the job!

♥ **Linda Higbee, Marcy Chavez, Adam Lee, Erika Sacks, Patti Farmer, Barbara Edwards, Susan Leroy, Linda Turner, Lee Heller, Denny Epperson and BJ Hawley** have remained on board as volunteers to help take care of the resident cats of RESQCATS even during the off season.

♥ A very special thank you to my loving husband, **Mitch**, for being my best friend and for all that he does not only for RESQCATS but for me, as well.

♥ A special thank you to **all of you** who gave me so much love, support and understanding in 2004.

♥ **Kay Hewitt's** grandchildren, **Bailey, Ty, and Brooke** visited RESQCATS and brought their piggy bank to make a donation to "the kitty that needed it the most!"

♥ **Bonnie and Denny Epperson** helped out in a pinch feeding **Solo**.

The 10 Catmandments

1. I am the lord of thy house.
2. Thou shalt have no other pets before me.
3. Thou shalt never ignore me.
4. I shall ignore thou when I feel like it.
5. Thou shalt be grateful that I even give thou the time of day.
6. Remember my food dish and keep it full.
7. Thou shalt spend most of thy money on toys and gifts for me.
8. Thou shalt always have thy lap ready for me to curl up in.
9. Thou shalt shower me with love and attention upon demand.

Above all, thou shalt do anything and everything it takes to keep me happy.

(borrowed from Tomato Cards—Cornerstone productions)



Millions of Reasons to Spay and Neuter!

Each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born in the U.S. That's over 25 million a year! And the sad truth is... millions of these loving, healthy animals are put to death each year because homes cannot be found for them.

According to the Arizona Humane Society Education Department, an unspayed female cat, her unneutered mate and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter will produce:

- 1 year: 12
- 2 years: 66
- 3 years: 382
- 4 years: 2201
- 5 years: 12,680
- 6 years: 73,041
- 7 years: 420,715
- 8 years: 2,423,316
- 9 years: 13,958,290
- 10 years: 80,399,780

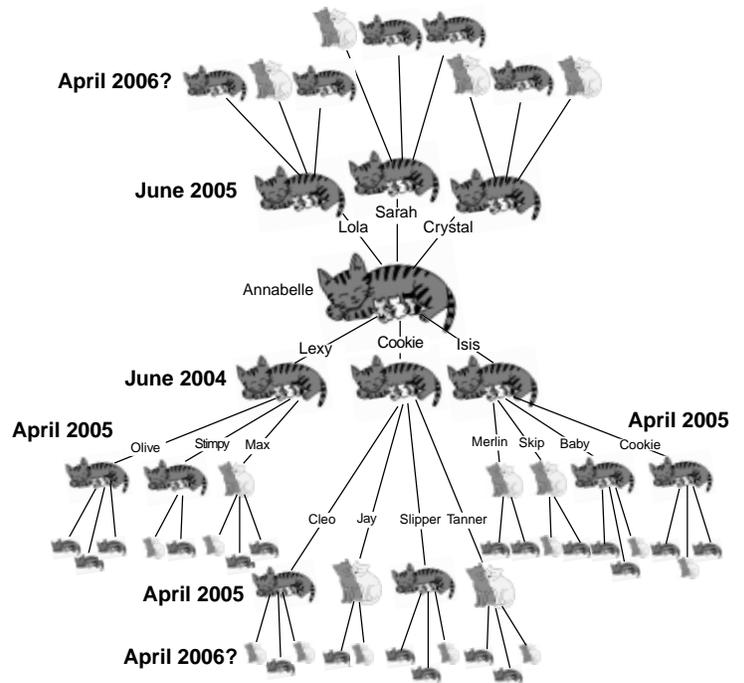
Many of you have asked me about the outrageous number of kitties that originate with just one unspayed female and one unneutered male. This really happened in Santa Barbara and RESQCATS saved many unwanted births in future years originating with one unspayed female named "Anabelle."

It begins with "Anabelle." In addition to the six litters she had in past years, she gave birth to three daughters in 2004.... "Lexy," "Cookie" and "Isis." In 2005, Anabelle had three more daughters, Lexy had two daughters and one son, Cookie had two daughters and two sons and Isis had two daughters and two sons. Just imagine this...Anabelle, Lexy, Cookie and Isis would all have at least one more litter in 2005. In 2006...not only would each have two more litters, but all the offspring from 2005 would have litters. That is 12 females having two litters per female in 2006 and all the males impregnating other females. See how it adds up! We tried to illustrate this in the next column.

That is how it gets to be over 80,000,000 in ten years. Luckily, that won't happen with Anabelle and all her offspring thanks to RESQCATS.

Your support of RESQCATS can help change these numbers. Because in addition to paying for vet exams, leukemia tests, vaccinations and deworming, the medical protocol for all the cats and kittens at RESQCATS includes spaying and neutering. Thanks for making a difference.

The number of stray and abandoned cats left on the streets to produce litter after litter of unwanted kittens seems insurmountable, but you can do something to help.



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

My Tax deductible donation is enclosed:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|
| 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: _____

Wish List!

- * Cat teaser toys
- * Scoopable Cat Litter
- * Nutromax **canned** kitten food—turkey or chicken flavor
- * CDs to play in the cattery—nature sounds, soft music, piano, harp and New Age
- * Incense for the cattery—it relaxes the kitties
- * Laundry detergent—safe for septic tanks
- * Bleach for sanitizing
- * Petco gift care to be used for supplies
- * Simple Solution for cat odors and stains—gallon size at Petco
- * Cat condos
- * Baskets for beds
- * New cardboard carriers for kittens to go home in
- * Baby blankets

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact us at 563-9424 or e-mail RESQCATS@aol.com.

Newsletter Design Donated by
Keith & Christine Flannery

FLANNERY
Designs & Graphics

805 . 966 . 2445
art@montecitomag.com

Dedication



Miejek

This newsletter is dedicated to "Miejek," my Angel in Heaven, and to all those who remember her and help me deal with her loss.

Be sure to visit the ResQCats website at
www.RESQCATS.org

RESQCATS
PO Box 3852
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

