



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. Catalyst for Cats, PO Box 30331, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 is a free newsletter published four times a year by Catalyst for Cats, Inc.

From the Founder

“It takes a village...” and then some!

Spring started out as a bit of a roller coaster ride. As usual, the influx of calls began with kitten sightings. Our trappers worked day and night trying to rescue as many as possible while the kittens were young enough to be socialized relatively easily. We recruited as many fosters as possible to do the time-consuming task of making feral, frightened kittens trusting, purring and lovable. Socializing feral kittens is one of our biggest challenges.

We had many requests for kittens, but often were not able to socialize them quickly enough, and the people went to other adoption agencies. Fortunately, and for the most part with few exceptions, the litters have remained small—few more than four—resulting in healthier moms and kittens. This helped us enormously. Even so, by mid July we had over 45 kittens in foster care.

We attribute the improved adoption rate to our new Facebook presence. In addition, several adoption

agencies in the county assisted us with placements. Their help is very important because it allows us to place the kittens while young and at their most adorable stage. In return, our work helps all the agencies by preventing kittens from being born and then brought to them. It truly takes a village to deal with

the feline overpopulation situation. Our work deals with the very core of the problem.

Despite the fact that presently all groups are overwhelmed with kittens, we can point out a couple of areas of improvement. Fewer calls regarding craigslist kittens were noted, and we received several requests for “mousers” for relocations at a time when we were desperate. We hope this trend continues. Maybe one of these springs those of us in feline rescue will be able to smell the roses instead of dashing about the county picking up

”community cats” and trying to save litter after litter



photo by Anne Marie Rose

4-H Project: *This passel of adorable 10-week-old kittens are part of six litters from an apartment complex in Santa Maria that were trapped and socialized by four local 4-H members. They have been vaccinated, FIV tested, spayed and neutered, wormed, and are ready for adoption. (See story on page 3.)*

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In Appreciation

Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They are absolutely essential to our work and we applaud and thank them for the hours and time spent away from their families and personal sacrifice dedicated to *Catalyst for Cats*. It is indeed a labor of love.

Although we adopted out more than two dozen kittens this year, we are not primarily an adoption agency, nor do we have a central location to hold or show them. When we were slammed with too many socialized kittens, we reached out to several of the local adoption agencies for help. This allowed the kittens to be adopted quickly because they were at their most appealing and cutest stage, and it opened up our fosters for more kittens.

We are most grateful for their kindness and cooperation. Many, many thanks to the **Humane Societies of Buellton, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria** (especially to **Denise**), the **Buellton Veterinary Clinic** and to **RESQCATS**. We are fortunate to live in a caring community that works together for the welfare of our furry animals.

Thanks to our dedicated team of fosters, trappers, feeders, and all the others who contribute to our saving and improving the lives of hundreds of felines every year. **Debbie Merry** is like the Energizer Bun-

ny, going on and on—feeding, fostering, trapping—all in addition to working. It seems she never stops. She keeps us busy dealing with all the kittens she saves.

And **Lavi** and **Monica Gonzales** (mother and daughter), our veteran volunteers, are consistently called upon to come to our aid one way or another, devoting many hours a week feeding colonies, fostering and trapping. They also hold jobs.

In addition to the several I've mentioned throughout the newsletter, a big thank you to **Doug Jenzen, Kat Pirky, Dian** and **Mark Poudrier**, and **Rosa Soto (Aunt Rose)**, who also feed, trap and foster.

Along with our veteran fosters **Melinda Siebold, Marci Kladnik, Rose Kollar** and the **Hawkins family**, we have added new fosters this year from the Santa Ynez Valley: **Daria Leyva** and the three **Voorhis girls (Allyson, Katie and Heather)**, who are home from college for the summer.

And thanks to **our feeders**—some who travel each day to their feeding sight and the many who feed on their property. There are dozens of you. Both the cats and the volunteers look forward to this ritual. Their commitment is admirable, and we extend our appreciation to them.

There are many others to thank. Know that you are all part of our team and are appreciated.

Tributes & Memorials

Each one of these names represents a level of love and caring to those remaining. They each have their own story.

In Honor of:

Audrey, Lori's Warrior Princess – by Maureen Maltzman

Mama Tu-tu, Tiffy, Boo Bear, the cat family – by Gloria Shepard

Feral cats **Heather** and her sons **Boxco** and **Toxie** – by Sandra Pray

Naarak, (Thai for cute) – by G.V. Parker (Parkie)

Randi's birthday – by Ethel Barclay,

Beth Rushing and **Diana Maenhout Walmsley**, who helped so much with the care of our second feral kitty – by Carline Vassallo

Squeaky, our newly adopted kitty – by Rita Fleming

In Memory of:

Morgan, the Corgi who loved her cat Xena

Nutmeg and **Princess** – by Rita Fleming

Rodney, abandoned by neighbors at age two years, he owned me for the next 17 years. I miss him – by Veronica Eden

Sam and **Snow**, by Richard V. Salotti and family

Ms. Stubbie, a good-natured young female who wanted a quick pet before breakfast, but only then. We would play “peek-a-boo” and “chase me.” She was also willing to tease the colony's alpha male. You left us too soon, and you are sorely missed – by Dian and Mark Poudrier.

Zoe – by Teresa Hall

Two's Company



photo by Anne Marie Rose

Holding and Petting: Santa Barbara County 4-H members (l. to r.) Caleb Thompson, Samuel Smith and Alex Thompson trapped and have socialized 15 kittens from six feral mothers as their summer project.

Catalyst – 4-H collaboration yields 15 adoptable kittens

For over five years, *Catalyst for Cats* has worked with young people in Santa Barbara County's 4-H organization. They are now completing the task of helping six mama cats with six litters of kittens from an apartment complex in central Santa Maria.

In July we helped them trap and socialize fifteen kittens in preparation for adoption. 4-H members, Alex and Caleb Thompson and Elizabeth and Samuel Smith, have been lovingly holding and petting these feral kittens into sweet felines.

The kittens are about 10 weeks old and are ready to adopt. They have each received their vaccines, FIV testing, worming and have been spayed/neutered. For kitten adoption 4-H is asking a tax-deductible donation to *Catalyst for Cats*. The project has also been covered in the August 4-H Newsletter.

If you are interested in adopting any of these rescued kittens, please contact Anne Marie Rose at 841-1570, or email her at amrose@lightspeed.net.

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.



photo by Mark Derrick

Molli & Chloe: Catalyst adopters Mark and Andrea Derrick describe these two as "fabulous kittens, both gorgeous and very good personalities. They are best friends."



photo by Rich Carson

Bella & Buddy: Siamese kitten Bella (l.), recently adopted by Rich Carson, has already found a pal named Buddy.



photo by Bud Emrich

Lucy & Zoey: After a long stretch without kittens, Bud and Mary Emrich are thrilled with this pair, delivered direct from Catalyst.



Catalyst to the Rescue!

True Tales of Successful Intervention by Selfless Volunteers

By Randi Fairbrother

1 *A shopping center is no place for a kitten, and down in a storm drain is even worse.*

Melissa Muñoz works in one of the many shopping centers in Santa Maria. When she saw a Tortie cat in the parking lot, she decided to attempt trapping her, knowing, as the Santa Maria shelter clinic later confirmed, she was probably nursing an older litter.

On her work breaks Melissa investigated the area where the Tortie seemed to hang out. Shortly thereafter she heard a kitten crying and looked around until she found it looking up at her through a heavy metal cover over a drain, unable to escape.

Melissa called upon experienced *Catalyst* trappers Monica and Lavi Gonzales for help. Unfortunately, shopping center security personnel refused to let them continue their rescue efforts that evening. Food for the desperate kitten, though, was placed down into the drain.

The following evening, after dark, Melissa and her boyfriend managed to remove the heavy metal cover and place a trap in the drain. On her next break she checked and found the kitten had been safely captured. They removed the heavy cover and retrieved the little black kitten.

Because the poor thing was shaking, damp and frightened, Melissa removed him from the trap and wrapped him in a warm sweater. As she began petting him, he began to purr. What a satisfying feeling that must have been for both of them!

Needing to return to work, Melissa returned him to the trap and placed it in a quiet, safe area until quitting time, when she repeated the process of holding and petting him.

She took him to Monica for fostering, and he has been a tame kitten from that day on. He has since been adopted along with his orange-colored brother.

We would like to find a safe relocation site for the mom and a few others cats from that area, but in the meanwhile, they are feed and watered everyday.



photo by Mitch Telson

A Ruff Life: Post-op Samoa, ready for three-legged action.



Samoa seemed to miss her tabby pal more than she did her amputated leg.

Siblings Nutter Butter, an orange tabby male, and Somoa, a pretty Tortie, were a bonded pair. Somoa's left hind leg was deformed at birth and X-rays determined it was broken. She weighed less than three pounds, and her leg needed to be amputated.

This meant the two pals had to be separated. Jen Foster at the San Roque Animal Hospital in Santa Barbara agreed to look after Nutter Butter, while I took Samoa to Dr. Sikes in Arroyo Grande for the surgery. Separating a bonded pair upsets us all because they miss each other.

When I picked her up the day after surgery, she was already playing with a feather. I was so relieved when

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Inseparable Samoa and Nutter Butter

From page 4

Jen said she would foster her post-op. This meant the reunion of Samoa and her brother. That evening Jen sent me a video of them playing hide and seek as though she'd never had surgery.

Thanks to a referral from RESQCATS they were adopted into an indoor home almost immediately.



*The ominous note read that
"all the cats and kittens
will be killed."*

In late April we received an anonymous letter that we found very disturbing, telling us of a house and barn in Santa Maria scheduled for demolition in two weeks. The letter warned that "all the cats and kittens will be killed."

The following day Debbie Merry arrived on site and began trapping day and night for the next five to six days. The litters of kittens were of various ages, some still in need of nursing, and almost all with their eyes glued shut.

Within that week all of our foster volunteers came into play. It was tough going and we had many fitful nights. Some took on the time-consuming task of making the kittens well and socializing them for adoption.

Others dealt with the adults. We proceeded to get them spayed and neutered, giving them their distemper and rabies vaccines, an ear tip, worming injection, and a flea treatment. Luckily, none were positive for FIV or leukemia. Since returning them was not an option,



photo by Debbie Merry

Just four of 19 cats and kittens saved from a demolition site.

we needed to find relocations sites for them.

All of the kittens survived and were placed, either through us or through other adoption agencies we called upon for assistance (See Appreciations, page 2.)

The final count: eight kittens adopted, nine adults and one older kitten relocated, and one mostly white adult transferred to the VIVA Feral Cat Sanctuary—for a total of 19 rescued felines.

No sooner had we completed this task than the typical onslaught of kitten sightings began in earnest and our fosters were called upon once more.



*We hit the jackpot
in one apartment complex.*

In the last newsletter I wrote about how Suzane Canus, Debbie Merry and I canvassed an area in Santa Maria, going door to door in a few blocks of the 93458 zip code. We chose that zip code because it's the area of the greatest number of calls for us, as well as for the Santa Maria shelter.

I knocked on doors at an apartment complex and found a kind family who was feeding an abandoned Calico cat who had recently delivered her third litter. She still had the kittens in hiding. Initially believing the mom to be feral, I was shocked to see her being held in the arms of one of the boys in the apartment complex. This made everything so much easier.

I asked *Catalyst* volunteer Christine Vargas to deliver food for the nursing mom, and asked the family to call Christine as soon as the Calico mom brought her kittens to the food source. A couple of weeks later Christine called to say the mom and three of her kittens were all safely in the apartment.

I asked Christine to take them all directly to the Orcutt Vet. The following morning mom was tested, wormed and given a flea treatment. All the kittens were beautiful, healthy and tame. I picked them up that afternoon and delivered them to ASAP (Animal Shelter Adoption Program) in Santa Barbara to be cared for and adopted. A very happy ending for all.

I know it was not easy for the three children to give up this lovely feline family, but their grandmother told them it was the right thing to do, and we were very appreciative for that good advice. We rewarded the children for their kind deed by sending them movie tickets.

Plenty of Kittens, Not Enough Homes

Who can resist these colorful kittens with those sweet faces?



photos by Monica Gonzales

Wish List

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

- We need adoptable forever homes for our rescued kittens. Please call *Catalyst* at 685-1563 to add one or more of these treasures to your home.
- Volunteers needed to feed various cat colonies throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. We provide food. Feeding can be done any time before 12 noon. We would appreciate substitute feeders as well to fill in for regular feeders.
- Cat food for the many, many colonies we monitor and maintain. We prefer meat flavors from Purina, Friskies, or Costco rather than fish flavors. Wet food is a treat. Past donations have been very helpful.
- We need to reach out to the Latino community more. Ideas are welcome. Our bilingual flyers are available for distribution to any individual or group interested in taking on this sorely needed project.
- If you see a stray cat, or start to feed one, it's best to call us within a week or so. We will do our best to get to you as soon as possible. TNR-ing one cat is much easier than waiting until the kittens show up.
- Fosters to socialize our feral kittens. It can be a rewarding and fun experience to turn these hissy little creatures into purring love bugs.



We Have Kittens for Adoption
Call us at 685-1563

Join our new Facebook community!

Go to our page, 'Like' us, then watch for adoptable kittens and event announcements. Please 'Share' the adoption posts to help these kitties find homes quickly.



**“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound.
I once was lost, but now I’m found.”**



photo by Joe Pinnella

A Cat in a Hat: Fostered by Marci Kladnik, Lili Rosa has plenty of hats to choose from these days now that she and her brother found a loving home with Tracy and Joe Pinnella.



photo by Doug Jenzen

Bonded: Momo has clearly found her forever home and a long-term friend. A recent Catalyst rescue, the remarkably well-adjusted kitten was placed by North County feeder and foster Doug Jenzen.

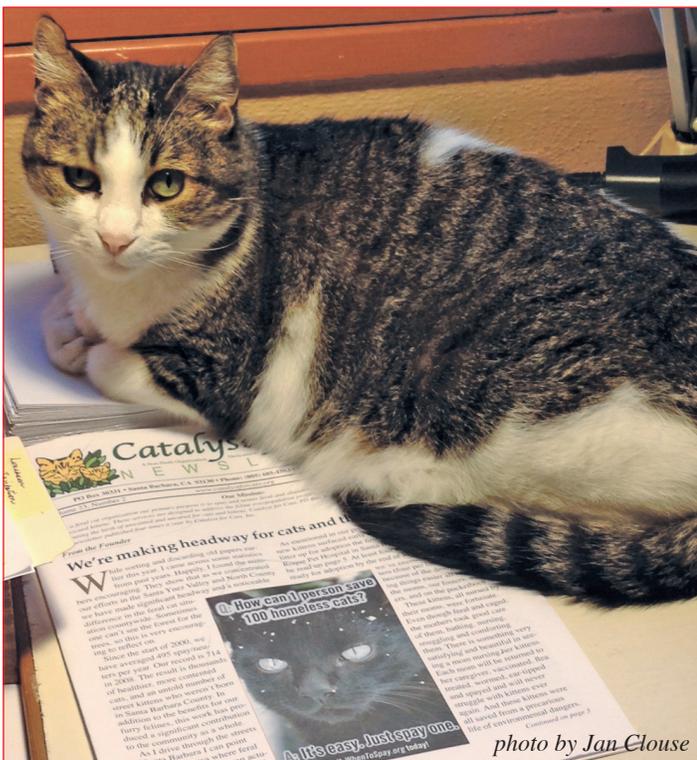


photo by Jan Clouse

Copy Editor: Ci Ci helps Charles Clouse put together the current edition of the Catalyst for Cats Newsletter. An ASAP cat from the class 2001, Ci Ci was found on the streets in a Santa Barbara Eastside neighborhood with her litter of four kittens in tow. Though never feral, she’s just wild about computers and mice.

Founder’s Letter continued

On-going need for donor support

From page 1
of their kittens.

Moms are now beginning to drop their second litters of the year. In order to get our urgent job done we do not charge for our services, though we do ask for donations. Very few we deal with could ever afford to cover our costs; therefore, our outflow of money is constant.

We appreciate and depend on your financial support to continue our rescue work and are grateful to each and every one of you who have supported our efforts in preventing thousands of unwanted kittens from being born.

Randi Fairbrother



Catalyst for Cats, Inc.
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**Every litter adds to the problem
Every spay/neuter adds to the solution!**

Help Catalyst for Cats When You Shop Online

Every time a purchase is made through

AdoptAShelter.com

at any one of over 400 top name online stores, 100% of the amount displayed is donated to the animal organization or shelter chosen by the shopper. You can buy just about anything online and earn a donation, all without logging in or remembering a password.

Check us out at www.AdoptAShelter.com

No-hassle donating can now be done using **PayPal** or **credit card** using the Donation Form button on our website. Catalyst is also registered with **Cars for Causes**, also accessible through our website.

