

# The ICRA Catalyst

A Publication of Island Cat Resources and Adoption

Spring/Summer 2004

[www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org)

(510) 869-2584

## Feeding a Stray? Neuter or Spay!

AN ESTIMATED 17 MILLION AMERICANS feed stray or feral (wild) cats every day. In our community, hundreds of these cats are trying to fend for themselves in city alleyways, behind restaurants, in warehouses and parks, under office buildings, and in residential neighborhoods everywhere. But, there are also hundreds of kind people like you trying to help them.

The best way to do this and gradually reduce their numbers is to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) the feral adults and to socialize and find homes for the kittens and tame adult cats. You can plan and prepare for this using resources provided on ICRA's website at [www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org). **For obvious reasons, it is essential to ACT NOW and not wait until one or two feral or stray cats quickly become 5, 10, or 20!** We can assist you with step by step instructions, humane trap loans, and referrals to low cost or free spay-neuter programs in the local community. Below is a brief summary of free spay-neuter programs currently available.

### East Bay SPCA Free Feral Cat Spay-Neuter (Oakland or Dublin)

#### Requirements:

- Referral required to obtain appointments for free surgeries. Call ICRA.
- Appointments required
- Feral cats only
- Must be brought into clinic in a humane trap
- Right ear will be tipped

### Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) Free Spay-Neuter (Walnut Creek)

#### Requirements:

- Free appointments thru 501(c)3 non-profit organizations only. Call ICRA.
- Other services, including vaccines, cost extra

### East Bay SPCA Free Spay-Neuter for Owned Pets in Low-Income Households (Oakland - Call 510-639-7387)

#### Requirements:

- Must own the pet
- Appointments required
- Alameda County residents only (show picture ID)
- Show copy of WIC, Food Stamp Card, unemployment or disability check stub

The cities of Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Hayward, San Lorenzo, and the unincorporated areas of San Leandro also have spay-neuter voucher programs that are low or no-cost. Call your local city animal shelter, city offices, or ICRA for more information. ●

## Our Website is Changing ... Check it Out!

IN AN ONGOING EFFORT TO WORK SMARTER as a small group of volunteers, we are redesigning ICRA's website to better reflect our gradual shift in emphasis from hands-on rescue to providing practical information and resources to the local community. ICRA realized years ago that we can't do it all when it comes to rescuing the staggering number of abandoned cats out there. But we also knew we had to work harder to empower compassionate people to solve problems in their own backyards.

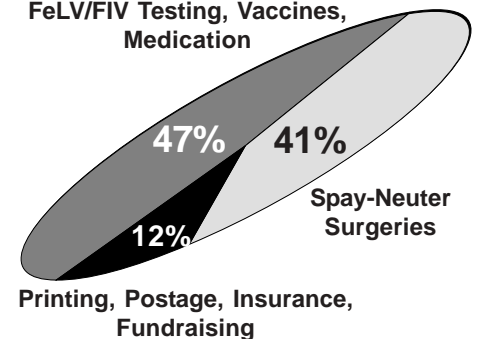
We want our website to be your first stop in finding information and useful links on a wide variety of topics related to the welfare of abandoned cats, including stray and feral cat management, spay-neuter, kitten care, behavioral problems, and much more. The revised website also highlights the many ways you can help ICRA and the cats now as a volunteer, supporter, or adopter.

[www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org)

Check It Out and GET SMART!

## Your Donations at Work in 2003

Veterinary Medical Treatment, FeLV/FIV Testing, Vaccines, Medication



Printing, Postage, Insurance, Fundraising



**ICRA's Mission:** Island Cat Resources and Adoption, a non-profit humane organization established in 1994, is dedicated to eliminating cat overpopulation, mistreatment, and abandonment. We spay-neuter, vaccinate, and provide medical treatment to all of our rescued cats. We place tame or socialized cats in quality permanent homes. We return feral or unsocialized cats back to their colonies when it is a safe, managed environment. We educate the public about the need for spaying and neutering, thereby reducing the number of unwanted kittens.



# The ICRA Catalyst

Spring/Summer 2004

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P.O. Box 1093

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Island Cat Resources and Adoption (ICRA) is a 501(c)3 all volunteer non-profit humane organization. All contributions, donations, and gifts are tax deductible. ICRA's federal Tax Exempt number is 94-3225519.

## Visit us Online

[www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org)

## Web Administrator

Jean Richter

## Visit our Adoption Site

Every Saturday 11-5 (except holidays) at PETCO in Southshore Center, Alameda. For more information call ICRA Adoptions at (510) 869-2584.

## RESCUE STORY

### ... We Wish We Could Help Them All

HARRY WAS BORN TO A STRAY MOM living in an Oakland church parking lot. Part of a late fall litter, he was first spotted in December – all alone. At first it seemed that Harry was faring well among a colony of strays being fed by neighbors. But unfortunately Harry was not rescued happy and healthy. For the next three months he had to fend for himself through a cold and wet winter.

Harry was spotted again in March, huddled under a parked car ... wet, shivering, nearly lifeless. He could not move or make noise and did not accept food. His eyes were sunken in. ICRA received the call on March 16<sup>th</sup> and Harry was rushed to the vet where he was diagnosed with severe pneumonia.

Little Harry was hospitalized for seven days to receive fluids, antibiotics, a warm place to sleep, and the benefit of good nutrition. That did the trick and boy is he grateful! Harry gained two pounds in three weeks and was ready to stay warm and dry for the rest of his life.

If you ever wonder where your donations go, Harry's story is a good example. ICRA receives many calls about cats and kittens like Harry ... all needing another chance at life. Harry got that chance for a fresh start and is happily settling into his new home. ●



Harry

*This handsome boy is alive today because of your support. Thank You!*

## The Kittens are Here ...

### BUT ADULT CATS NEED GOOD HOMES, TOO!

KITTEN SEASON IS A BAD TIME FOR ADULT CATS in adoption programs and this year is no exception. Even before the influx of kittens has reached its peak, ICRA's foster homes are nearly full with over 120 adults just bursting with personality and character but who – for whatever reason – are still waiting for their 'forever' homes to come along. We also have an abundance of pure black and black & white cats who need homes, too. In fact, we held an exclusively "Black & White Cat Adoption Day" in January to showcase them before the kitten invasion. Who knows? This year it could be the tortoiseshells or brown tabbies. The point is, adopting out adult cats is always an uphill battle.

Kittens are inarguably irresistible. And let's face it - it's hard for mature cats to compete with the kitten high jinks in adjoining cages at the adoption site. But contrary to popular belief, friendly, calm and independent adults with known personality



'Greymore' / #NB158921

profiles are probably the best fit across the full spectrum of households, from those with young children and pets to those with one or multiple adults and senior citizens. Unlike kittens, most adult cats neither require nor demand a lot, and tend to take less time and energy to "train" and adjust to a new home. With adults, what you see is what you get. Those of us who truly appreciate the complexity and serenity of these creatures know that the kindness and care we give them is a small price to pay for their unconditional loyalty, acceptance, and companionship.

Our many great cats like **Greymore** and **Maybelline** have plenty of life left to live. Please give them a chance and perhaps consider adopting one with a kitten for the best of both worlds. Check our website for pictures and bios ... you just may find the *purrfect* match. ●



'Maybelline'  
#NB001mb

## ICRA Alumni News ... We Always Enjoy Hearing From You!

We are very proud to have found homes for over 1422 cats since the inception of our adoption program in 1995. All of us at ICRA extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our adopters for opening their hearts and homes to these magnificent little souls! Hearing from you re-energizes us and reaffirms our commitment to finding safe, nurturing, and mutually beneficial relationships for all of our adoptable cats. Keep the news coming and **HELP US FIND OTHERS LIKE YOU!**



**PJ** (left) and **Nannette** put their 'dogs' up during a very stressful day. "All they do is play and sleep - they love each other so - it was a great match-up." **Nannette** adopted December 2001 and **PJ** in July 2002 by Tirzah Gonzales, San Francisco.



"...wanted to drop you a note about how great **Mr. Toes** is doing - what a guy! He has fit himself in our home so nicely. He is such a bundle of joy and what a talker he is! He sleeps in between mom and dad's heads at night and sometimes under the covers." Adopted August 2003 by Erica and Dylan Long, Merced.



Are they cute or what? **Valentino** (left) and **Lana** look like picture perfect partners in kitty crime. Adopted April 2003 by Lynette Pang, Newark, CA.



When it comes to indoor bird watching, **Thor**, **Zeus** and **Isis** (formerly Halle) discover three's a crowd. **Thor** & **Zeus** adopted June 2000 and **Isis** adopted Fall 2001 by Jan Kahle, Lake Havasu, AZ.



**Purrsie "P" Paws** (formerly Kit) reflects on how nice it was for his humans to provide him with this cool resting spot. Adopted February 2003 by Michael and Lori McGibney, Alameda.



You probably can't tell, but **Jenny** is clinging to her new buddy **Jack**, a Feral Cat Foundation rescue. Her guardians report that, despite a few jealousy issues with **Jack**, **Jenny** has come a long way - "both are loved and doing well. I am so glad we have cats again!" **Jenny** is about 12 years old and was one of over 50 cats rescued from a project in East Oakland last summer. **Jenny's** new family originally agreed to take her in as a foster but after four months decided to make her a permanent member of the household. **Thank you for giving this older girl a second chance!** Adopted January 2004 by The Sedar Family, Walnut Creek.



According to her indulging guardian, **Selma** is "living it up in Brentwood." Adopted August 2003 by Keri Spaulding, Brentwood.



**Taos** and **Tuscon** prove that they really are inseparable buddies. Adopted November 2003 by The Adamson Family, Alameda.

**Max** (formerly Cuddles) and **Marty** are now part of one big, happy, and apparently playful family of rescue kitties. Adopted June 1997 and April 1998 by Jim and Victoria Tatum, Rosamond, CA.



**Magic**, pictured here in the arms of one of his new guardians, joins **Baxter** who was adopted from ICRA about five years ago. Adopted January 2004 by The Halliday Family, Alameda.

# I Found Kittens ... Now What?

IT'S KITTEN SEASON! The number of calls we receive about abandoned litters over the summer months is overwhelming. Limited foster home space makes it imperative that we educate motivated individuals **on working with us** to give these kittens a fighting chance to survive. Unfortunately, we cannot take in every kitten we hear about but can offer you the tools to deal with the situation at hand, to include playing surrogate mom until the kittens are socialized and old enough to be fixed and adopted through ICRA or another "no kill" program. Taking on kittens is daunting, but knowing what to do before you are able to reach the vet puts you ahead of the game and helps extend our reach to many more kittens who might otherwise slip through the cracks. So, what do you do with orphaned kittens? This list provides a starting point to **assess the situation** and **act quickly**. Kittens, especially those under four weeks, are very fragile. Delay can be fatal.

- ☐ Try to estimate age (see chart) to help define and prioritize their needs.
- ☐ **KEEP LOOKING FOR THE MOM CAT - she needs to be spayed! If you are certain the kittens are orphans**, move them inside to a quiet, warm spot in a carrier or cage with clean bedding.
- ☐ Immediately identify obviously life-threatening health problems. Injuries aside, the top four things to check for are **hypothermia**, **flea infestation**, **Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**, and **diarrhea** – all potentially fatal.  
**Hypothermia:** Critical for kittens under two weeks old. If cold and listless, warm them up immediately with a towel-covered heating pad set on low. Ensure kittens can move off the pad if it becomes too warm.  
**Fleas:** If fleas and/or flea dirt are present, use a flea comb or a *very small drop of Advantage* as soon as possible. Flea anemia can be fatal. Pale gums are a good indicator that anemia has set in. Seek advice if you are uncertain how to proceed.  
**URI:** Eye/nasal discharge, sneezing, congestion, and a visible third eyelid are all signs of URI. Seek veterinary treatment quickly to avoid permanent damage. Gently clean eyes and nose with a cotton ball and warm water.  
**Diarrhea:** Leads to severe dehydration. Could indicate presence of intestinal infection and/or parasites. Consult vet.
- ☐ Feeding (1-4 weeks old): **Do not feed cold kittens ... it can kill them.** Depending upon their age, feed kittens every 2-6 hours. Bottle-feed lukewarm KMR or other kitten milk substitute fed through a special nursing bottle or eye dropper (if they are weak or cannot suck). **Never use cow's milk! - It contains the wrong nutrients and can kill them.** You have to help baby kittens urinate/defecate after meals by gently rubbing a warm, moist cotton ball over their anal area.
- ☐ Kittens over four weeks can begin eating regular kitten food mixed with formula (wet/dry/mixture). Provide a shallow cardboard box to get them accustomed to using **non-clumping litter**.
- ☐ By six weeks of age, kittens should be eating and drinking on their own and be ready for FeLV/FIV testing, deworming, and their first vaccination. At 8-9 weeks, healthy kittens over two pounds can be spayed/neutered before adoption.

Please remember that early age spay-neuter is the single most important thing you can do to prevent the birth of more unwanted kittens. **Don't ruin the good work you've done by adopting out unfixed kittens!** ●

*For an excellent reference on kitten care go to <http://kittenrescue.org/handbook.htm>*

## Determining a Kitten's Age

**Under 1 week:** Eyes shut, ears flat to head, skin pinkish. Part of umbilical cord may be attached. Scooting on belly.

**10-14 days:** Eyes begin to open, ears flat. Smaller than your hand. Still scoot.

**3 weeks:** Eyes fully open - blue in color, ears erect, tooth buds visible. Walking but wobbly.

**4 weeks:** Teeth erupt. Possible interest in canned food. Walking.

**5-6 weeks:** Eyes changing from blue to adult color. Playful - begin to pounce and leap.

**8-9 weeks:** Weigh about two pounds.

## WE NEED YOU! ... Become a Foster Parent

ICRA IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR DEDICATED AND COMPASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS who want to make a difference in the lives of abandoned cats in our community. Whatever your talents, we can put them to good use. But with the summer kitten surge upon us and so many adult cats already in our adoption program, we are in desperate need of quality foster homes **NOW** to socialize and nurture them until they can be placed into permanent homes.

Foster homes are the indispensable backbone of ICRA's rescue and adoption programs. Taking on the responsibility of caring for abandoned or feral cats and kittens can be

physically and emotionally draining. This is why ICRA allows its foster homes to participate actively in the adoption process in order to gain peace of mind knowing that the cats they have worked with for quite extended periods of time in some cases are on their way to becoming an adored member of a new family.

ICRA does not have a shelter, so the number of cats and kittens we can take in is directly proportional to the number of foster homes we have. If you have room in your hearts and homes and are looking for a rewarding experience, please consider joining ICRA's foster parent team – even if only on a short-term basis. All we ask is

that you subscribe to ICRA's mission and policies and provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for the cats and kittens who need it most. Visit our website or call our voice mail at (510) 869-2584 for more information, things to consider, and procedures for becoming a foster parent. *We need you and, most of all, the cats need you!*

A special thanks goes out to all of ICRA's foster homes past and present who have given of themselves heart and soul over the past 10 years. We and the 1400+ cats we have adopted out applaud your service! ●

## Donations in Memory of ...



- Tom Goff from Ginger & Dan Roberts
- "... my sweet affectionate cat 'Howard.' I really do miss him." from Verna Humphrey
- Her beloved cat "Leo" from Ellen Green
- "Wallis ... we will miss her very much." from Pat & Ski McCall
- "Amy" & "Andy" from Harold Gordon Harper
- "In Kate's Memory" from Ginger & Dan Roberts
- Jeanette Sherwin Sawyer from Patricia Cloud & Ken Sawyer
- Peggy Nice's father from your friends at ICRA
- Kathy Nelson's father from Gail Churchill
- "Daisy," adored dog of The Mathewson's from all of us at ICRA
- "Martina" from Peg Baldwin
- "Roadkill" from Rosemary Reilly
- James Rush from Gertrude Kluss
- "Lea" from Pat & Celia Wood
- James, "Tiger Rose," "Calico," "Checkers," & "Bubba Rose" from Rich & Vivian Bosted

## Donations in Honor of ...

- "Tux" from Linda Barrett
- "Olivia" and "India" from Sandy Hutchinson
- Twillah Reimers, " with love and purrs from Apollo" from Barbara Little & Robert Nogrady
- "Onyx," "Sunshine" and "Isaac" from Louise Woods
- "Cocoa" and "Suzette" from Joyce Chang
- The marriage of Martha Preble & John Hernandez from Fred Heckendorn
- "My clients" from Monica Vohryzka of As You Like It Pet Sitting
- "Caterina" and "Yuri" from Sylvia & William Edwards



Yes, we're totally cute ... and **very active**. But **PLEASE** consider adopting an adult cat this summer. You'll find they make great buddies for you and us!



Mark Your Calendars!! Join Us for Food and Fun!!

## ICRA's 6th Annual Champagne Silent Auction

**NEW DAY! SATURDAY, September 25, 2004**

**Time:** 7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Place:** Harbor Bay Isle Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Rd., Alameda

**Donation:** \$20 or \$10 + a New Bag of Cat Food

Don't miss the great food, drink, live entertainment, and over 100 items up for bid, to include a Claremont Hotel stay & dinner, Disneyland passes, sports memorabilia, wine raffles, fine jewelry and antiques ... all to help the cats! And it's never too late to donate that special item for auction! Watch for our event mailing in August.

## New and Easy Ways You Can Support ICRA!!

\* **Network for Good:** The easiest of many ways you can support ICRA is to make a **secure online donation** with a credit or debit card through our website at [www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org). There is no charge to use this service and 100% of your donation will benefit the cats **AND** is tax deductible.

\* **Put Your Old Cell Phone to Good Use!** Donate that old cell phone to receive full fair market value as a tax deduction and make a big difference in the lives of our cats. Check [www.wirelessfundraiser.com](http://www.wirelessfundraiser.com) for information on donating by mail. You can also leave your old phone in ICRA's donation bin or with our Saturday adoption staff at PETCO in Alameda.

\* **Recycle Your Print Cartridges With Us!** With RecycleFirst, ICRA will take those empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges off your hands for proper disposal and receive a monetary donation in return. Contact us for pre-paid, barcoded envelopes that you can mail in yourself on our behalf or simply drop your old cartridges in our donation bin or with our adoption site staff at PETCO in Alameda.

*See the new "Support Us" section of our website at [www.icraeastbay.org](http://www.icraeastbay.org) for details on these and other fundraising initiatives you can support year-round.*

### Watch for Updates on Other Summer & Fall Events

**July**

Garage Sale

Alameda Fourth of July Parade

**August**

Park Street Art & Wine Info Booth

**October**

Holiday Boutiques

## ICRA's Summer Wish List

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> KMR Formula (unopened)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels  | <input type="checkbox"/> Food scales (up to 5 lbs.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four Paws nursing bottles      | <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic garbage bags  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet store gift certificates  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cat food (dry and canned)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Rubbermaid® containers for liquids  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cat food coupons   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cat litter (clay, pine, paper) | <input type="checkbox"/> New cat toys (ping pong balls, interactive toys, stuffed toy mice - <b>no real fur, please!</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Services-in-kind, e.g., copying, printing, storage space, legal services, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cat carriers                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratching boxes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage sale donations  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advantage® for fleas           |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fully elastic collars (new)    |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microwaveable heat disks       |  |   |

**Thank You!!**





Island Cat Resources and Adoption  
 P.O. Box 1093  
 Alameda, CA 94501

NON PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 OAKLAND, CA  
 PERMIT#4353

Change Service Requested

**Bring Your Appetite ...  
 Help the Cats!!**

**ICRA Day at** 

 **Sunday, June 27th**  
**12:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
 2400 Mariner Square Drive, Alameda  
 (Behind the Webster Tube)

**Chevy's will donate 20% of your bill to ICRA**

Must present FREE FLYER to waiter.  
 For Flyers, call (510) 523-4602, stop by our Petco adoption site, or download from our website.

**Very Special Thanks to...**

Marti's Place, Whales and Friends and Park Centre Vet in Alameda for displaying our donation cans and adoptable cat photos.

Alameda Pet Hospital, Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital, St. Louis Veterinary Clinic, VCA Bay Area Animal Hospital, and Chabot Veterinary Clinic for the special care and services they provide us and our rescues.

PETCO in Alameda for hosting our weekly adoption site and The PETCO Foundation for donating to our cause.

Wilma Briant who crochets kitty afghans so our foster cats can take something familiar to their new homes.

**Our individual donors!** Every dollar you donate makes a difference for the cats. Marina Bradley, the caring and generous 7-year old who donated \$117 of her birthday money to ICRA!!

**We couldn't do it without people like you!**

**Adoption Cage Sponsorship Program**

Sponsor a cage at ICRA's adoption site! The message on your sponsorship plaque can commemorate almost any occasion - celebrating the adoption of a new pet, a two-legged or four-legged birthday, or an anniversary, perhaps. Or donate a plaque in memory or honor of a beloved pet or person. **Be creative!**

With every \$100 cage sponsorship donation we will engrave a brass plaque with your message and place it on a cage at our adoption site for one year. After that, the plaque is yours to keep!

Fill out the form below and send it with your \$100 donation to:  
 I.C.R.A., P.O. Box 1093, Alameda, CA 94501

**ICRA Adoption Cage Sponsorship Program**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of / In Honor of (circle one)

Pet or Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inscription (10 words or less -- **Business sponsorships are welcome, but NO advertisements, please!**)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_