

The ICRA Catalyst

A Publication of Island Cat Resources and Adoption

Winter 2007/2008

www.icraeastbay.org

(510) 869-2584

RESCUE STORY: Forever Indoors Mia

By Dan Purcell and Heather Hanly, ICRA Volunteers

We never intended to keep Mia.

In September 2005, a feeder and ICRA supporter called us about a very pregnant cat who was abandoned at 47th and Shattuck in Oakland. Before we could help, she gave birth and hid her four kittens. She tried her best, but two of them died due to limited food and lousy conditions in an empty lot. A neighbor took a third kitten from her way too early. Finally, Heather humanely trapped Mia, using her fourth and final kitten, Omar, as wailing baby bait.

For the first two months with us, she wouldn't let us touch her without fear. She'd cower and hide in her condo cage. Later, moved to our spare room, she would emerge from underneath the couch only to swipe at our ankles. She was a devoted mother; once when we trimmed Omar's claws, Mia heard his howls of protest and bravely attacked our ankles, trying to rescue her baby boy. We never thought she'd have much interest in living with people.

Mia gave us mixed signals. Someone had clearly done something horribly cruel to her; whenever our hands were over her face, she'd flinch and bite or swipe. Despite that, she seemed to want to interact with us, even if she usually ended up fleeing in fear and overstimulation.

When we placed Omar in December 2005 Mia had made enough progress that we hoped to find her a home with patient, experienced cat guardians. We were sure she wouldn't be adoptable to most. Many people prefer cats they can hold and cuddle. Mia panics when picked up, runs when approached on the floor, and, as for getting her in a carrier, forget it. It's easier to put toothpaste back in the tube.

Many months later we discovered that, even though still skittish, she trusted and had made herself at home with us. We solved the problem by adopting her ourselves. Since then, she's found her voice and frequently announces her presence. Her meow is more like a quack. She crawls in Heather's lap and drools profusely when we stroke her chin. She's gotten a little round and we lovingly call her "Stumpy." She hops down stairs using her back legs together, like a bunny.

In September 2007, we took Mia to the vet to treat mysterious vomiting. It was nothing serious, but we had her X-rayed to be certain. When the film came back,



X-rays reveal BBs lodged in Mia's back, evidence of the abuse she faced outside.

we learned one of the reasons why Mia was so terrified when we met her. She has two BBs embedded in her back, one at the base of her neck and one at the base of her spine. Seeing her X-ray reminded us of how high the stakes are for cats living on the streets, facing constant threats from predators, but especially humans, who drive too fast and use animals for target practice.

We can't save every cat, but no one will ever hurt Mia again.

A PLEA FOR HELP Lives Depend on It

From Merry Bates, ICRA President

With this edition of our newsletter, we send a heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters. As a non-profit organization, **ICRA's programs exist because of you, our individual donors.** The scope of our programs expands and contracts based upon the flow of donations we receive. Simply put, more dollars mean we are able to help more cats through our spay/neuter and foster programs. Your donation dollars do not go toward rent — *we care for our rescued cats in foster homes* — nor do they go toward salaries — *we are an all-volunteer organization.* **For every \$1 donated, 91 cents goes directly to the cats for veterinary care and spay/neuter.** Please know that ICRA's veterinary partners work with us to provide rescue (discount) rates so that every dollar we spend goes that much further to help many more cats than would otherwise be possible.

Please consider donating in honor of a friend or family member as a holiday gift this year. Remember also that many employers have a non-profit matching program that may double your donation dollars. **Kitties like Buffy will benefit.** As I write this, Buffy is recuperating from surgery in my home and I am falling in love with this sweet, buff-colored foster girl. Her right eye was removed, but only after she suffered silently for two weeks with a foxtail in her eye before she could be caught and provided with pain medication and veterinary care. Sadly, Buffy's first guardian abandoned her as a young adult. To survive, Buffy slipped under a chain link fence and lived among storage containers by a freeway for three years without the warmth or love that she remembered from her early years. A

continued on page 7
with **Fundraising News**



Island Cat Resources and Adoption
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 US CONTINUE
 OUR WORK!!**
 Only passion and dedication
 are free when trying to save
 the lives of society's
 discarded and dismissed
 stray and feral cat
 communities.

Make a Difference in Your Community ... Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Works!

**ADOPT
 a PURRfect
 FRIEND for LIFE**
 Calling All Homes!
PLEASE ADOPT!!
 We have many deserving
 cats who need
YOU!



Cammie Bio # 2578 JI



A raccoon attacked me about a year ago and hurt my eye really bad. The old woman who had been feeding me for about five years thought I would heal on my own. I didn't, but she was alone just like me and did the best she knew how. Then one day she died. I stayed in the garden by her side until someone came to find her. My only human friend was gone. Her son thought about putting me to sleep but then gave me a chance. I also got a trip to the doctor to make my eye stop hurting. I know a human somewhere was responsible for my predicament, but ICRA is teaching me to trust good people who are willing to do what it takes to help. PLEASE be one of them. DONATE TODAY. ADOPT.

QUICK REFERENCE for LOCAL SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

East Bay SPCA Free Feral Program The Feral Fix / Feral Hotline (510) 563-4635 http://eastbayspca.org/resources/theferalfix.cfm	* Referral required. * Call ICRA at (510) 869-2584 * FERAL CATS ONLY * Cats must be in humane traps * Right ear will be tipped
Fix Our Ferals Free Spay/Neuter Clinics for Homeless Cats East Bay www.fixourferals.org	* Call the Fix Our Ferals hotline at (510) 433-9446 to reserve space * Drop-off/pick-up cats the same day * Upcoming Clinics: 27 January
East Bay SPCA Low Cost Spay/Neuter for Low Income Households	* Appointment required * Call ICRA at (510) 869-2584 * ICRA provides funding for low cost spay/neuter through private individual donations

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Visit us Online
www.icraeastbay.org

Web Administrators
Heather Hanly and Rena Fourkas

Visit our Adoption Sites
Saturdays (except holidays) at PETCO in Alameda Towne Centre from 11am-4pm.

First Saturday of the month at Petfood Express on Blanding Way in Alameda from Noon-3pm.

For more information call ICRA at (510) 869-2584.

Our Mission: We are dedicated to reducing the suffering of abandoned and feral (wild) cats and to empowering the local community to aid them in their plight. We provide low-cost spay/neuter, vaccines, and medical treatment to all of our cats, and resources for people willing and able to help themselves. We provide foster care for tame or socialized cats until they can be placed into quality, permanent homes through our adoption program. We return feral or unsocialized cats back to their colonies if in a safe, managed environment. We strive to educate the public about responsible treatment of animals and the need for spay/neuter to reduce the number of unwanted kittens.

A DOUBLE RESCUE STORY ... Starving for Attention

Gracie appeared one day as the latest addition to a small, feral colony I'd been feeding daily for almost two years. She was a tiny black kitten, scared and backed up to a chain link fence surrounding the buildings where I left food. Starved and crying, was she trying to tell me her story? Was she dumped? Lost? Abused? I did my best to corral her as I had the other cats for spay-neuter, but Gracie was too frightened and skittish. Even with the older cats walking in and out of the traps, Gracie would not. I talked with her as she nervously kneaded the pavement yards away and watched me play with and groom some of the more adjusted cats. I hoped she would begin to trust me. And I worried.

Worry turned into a problem when the kitten became pregnant. She began staying under a building to escape the noise and other cats. I crawled after her with food and water. One day as I whistled to announce my arrival, I noticed my favorite black and white, one and half year-old boy, **Boushey**, running over to dive under the building with me. *We both had been grieving for weeks because Boushey's sister Olivia had vanished.* Boushey now sat beside the little mama, looking at me.

Every day I crept under the building, playing and talking, placing food in the traps, and cleaning towels I'd left for comfort. Gracie watched as Boushey walked into the traps freely and came out to let her know that food was there. Soon Gracie was eating inside the traps. No longer able to squeeze under the grates I removed each visit to let myself in, this became her only food source. I sat with Gracie and Boushey under the building and watched Boushey run off other curious cats. After a good dose of petting, he would go over to settle in beside little mama. Gracie was being cared for, but I didn't want her babies to be born in the fetid squalor of the crawl space and I knew it would be difficult to trap her and the newborn kittens. So one day I set the trap, picked up Boushey, and watched. I finally got Gracie.

I drove her home to an organized, comfortable, and clean environment with plentiful and nutritious food. Within three days, Gracie gave birth to five tiny black kittens. Youth aside, she was a good and attentive mother. And so the weeks passed. Back at the colony, Boushey languished – he ate less, lost weight, and looked ragged. When I whistled it seemed as though he came running more for



Gracie (Bio # 2993B GC) & Boushey (Bio # 2593A GC) are looking for a quiet and patient home to fill with love.

continued on page 6

ADOPTABLE CATS ... If They Could Tell us Their Stories

Tabatha Bio # SF001



My family moved to Florida and left me behind. Just like that, I'm 12 years old and homeless. What could I have done to make them love me more?

C.C. Bio # 2565 MB



Three kids were poking at my infected eye with a stick before a neighbor stepped in to help me. I was 10 weeks old. What did I ever do to deserve that?

A PLEA FOR HELP

... from page 1

woman named Luz noticed Buffy sitting behind the fence one day and began feeding her daily along with several feral cats (now neutered) in the area. This went on for almost three years until the day Luce noticed that Buffy's right eye was horrifically swollen and infected. With the storage manager's assistance, she trapped Buffy and contacted ICRA. Buffy did not tremble as we would have expected with a feral cat in a trap, but she did chomp down quite firmly on the towel we used to wrap her when attempting to examine her wound. We realize now that she did this because she was in terrible pain. Two weeks post surgery, she adores a good cheek rub and chin scratch. Her loving one-eyed gaze and soft *mew* tell us the rest. Buffy is forever thankful to you, our donors, and to ICRA and the supportive veterinarians who made her pain go away and brought warmth and love back into her life.

We dedicate this edition of our newsletter to all the kitties you have allowed us to help through your generous donations by highlighting some of their stories. Several of them (and many more listed on our web site) are still waiting for their permanent home to come along. We have had a tough year in 2007. Our funds are very low because we have helped many cats in hard luck situations like those featured in this newsletter — 815 were spayed or neutered and numerous cats like Buffy required additional and expensive medical care or surgeries. We also rescued, fostered, and placed 361 cats to date in 2007. As always, we would like to be able to help many, many more. **Please consider making a donation. THANK YOU.**

Fundraising News

IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!
ICRA's 10th Annual Champagne Silent Auction is on for **Saturday May 3rd, 2008** from 7-10pm at the Harbor Bay Community Center. This is our **BIGGEST** fundraising event of the year, so **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for a night of fun!

So many days to shop for the holidays! So many ways to give! All donations to ICRA are tax deductible. Thank you for your kind and generous support!!

GoodSearch You Search or Shop... We Give!

Use **GoodSearch** to search the Web or shop and they will donate 1 cent to ICRA every time! Use their menu to select 'Island Cat Resources & Adoption' before every search. **NEW!!!**

DONATE NOW THROUGH Network for Good

Network for Good: The easiest of many ways you can support ICRA is by a **secure online donation** with a credit or debit card via our website at www.icraeastbay.org.

iGive.com

Donate while you shop! Raise money for ICRA just by surfing the web or shopping online.

pet food express

Donate supplies to ICRA when you shop online at Pet Food Express. Purchase supplies for ICRA and receive a 20% discount (free shipping!). If you want to make a monetary donation, information on the My Mutt program is on the same web page - a way to showcase your pet at a Pet Food Express store!

cafePress.com

Visit ICRA's merchandise store with CafePress. We receive a small contribution from each sale and you help promote awareness of ICRA's mission in the community! Shop for apparel, gifts, stickers, and more!

MyJewelrySource.com Set yourself apart

Yes, buying jewelry can help cats! Buy gemstone, gold, or platinum jewelry online from MyJewelrySource.com and 10% of the purchase price will be donated to ICRA. There is a wide range of products to choose from between \$18 - \$18,999 ... and that could make a lot of cats happy! **Please mention "ICRA 10% donation" in the Comments section of the order form.**

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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 leave your old cartridges with our adoption site staff at PETCO in Alameda.

Find details on these and other ways to help us year-round in the "Support Us" section of our website at www.icraeastbay.org

Winter Wish List

- FOSTER HOMES!!
- ADOPTION SITE VOLUNTEERS!!
- KMR Formula (unopened)
- Four Paws nursing bottles
- Cat Food (dry & canned)
- Cat Litter (clay, pine, paper)
- Bath Size Towels
- Microwaveable Heat Disks
- Paper Towels
- Large Plastic Garbage Bags
- Scratching Boxes
- Food Scales (to 5 lbs.)
- Pet Store Gift Cards/Certificates
- Services-in-Kind, e.g., copying, printing, storage, legal, etc.
- Postage Stamps (Postcard & First Class)
- MONEY

Thank You!!



COMMUNITY and ALUMNI FEEDBACK

Your Donations Help Us Make People and Cats Happy

Hi Gail,

I just wanted to thank you for answering all our questions on Saturday about adopting another cat into our household with **Tango** and **Zephyr**. We are still thinking about it and it might be later down the road until we decide to get another one, but I definitely enjoyed looking at the kittens and talking with you and your volunteers. Take Care. -- Heather Zamarin, Alameda. Tango and Zephyr were adopted in September 2006.



The private thoughts of Tango and Zephyr: ICRA decided that these people would exercise good judgment on our behalf? Do they even *ask* about dressing up cats during those interviews? Dang! Well, no one will see this ... right???

Hi, I am just writing to say thank you. I adopted my cat **Duane** (approx 5 years old, formerly "Pinky") from Pets Unlimited in San Francisco about 8 months ago. They took him in from [your organization]. He has changed my life - he's the most amazing creature. I just got his medical history (I'm getting insurance for him) and saw that he was fostered by DeAnne Jarvis. Just want a big thank you to go out to her and your organization. I couldn't imagine not having him in my life. Best, Dolly Renick.

Hi. This is Ellen Locke. I adopted **Cookie** last October. Her foster mom was Colette...we are now living in Arizona! Cookers survived the trip very well. We now live in a brand new 2 bed/2 bath apartment. So, she'll have her own bedroom. We'll continue to support ICRA. Please give Colette our best and a big thank you from both me and Cookers! -- Ellen Locke, Surprise, AZ

Heather: Thank you for the kind e-mail. We all feel so lucky to have **Coco** and **Fergus**! They are really cute kittens and will be beautiful cats. We are now fully integrated and although Sophie is not always happy things seem under control and no major separation is needed anymore. It is really nice to have the kittens around the whole house now (including the 5:45 AM wake-up call). They bound around and chase each other. We've never had siblings before so this is a treat - they are really close and well matched in personality. -- Debra & Victor Early, Alameda. Coco & Fergus were adopted in June 2007.

Hi, Juliet, You'll be thrilled to know that The Cutest Twins in The World have adjusted smashingly to their forever home. Big Brother Jules is *not* quite 100% on board yet; he's a little grumbly, but he's being good sport overall :-). We are sure to give him lots of "extra loves" & reassure him that he's still #1 Son ... Their new names are Marco **and** Lucas. **Marco** is the more forward of the two with the longer, skinnier tail and the nonstop purr; he loves to loll upside-down on top of the bed & get belly rubs. **Lucas** has the little white spot on his chest, a slightly thicker tail, and the great Egyptian profile. He was a little slower in warming up to the whole thing, but he's fine now. In fact, his nickname is The Mad Kisser...he loves to give little lickies to fingers & toes! They have gotten over their initial shyness and come when I call "hey boys!" Thanks so much for the opportunity to love these great kittens. -- Nancy Souza, Alameda. Marco & Lucas were adopted in September 2007.

Hi Heather and Erin, Just thought I'd let you know that **Merlot** (f. Jake) and **Shiraz** (f. Ralphie) ... just celebrated their one-year birthdays. Both kitties are doing great. Distinctly different personalities, but extremely close, as brothers should be. They play together, sleep together, eat together, and follow us all over the house together. Hope all is well. -- Steve Bitker, Alameda. Merlot & Shiraz were adopted in September 2006.

Hello ICRA, In the lower right of your web page, I saw a cat that looked exactly like **Josie**, the cat I adopted from ICRA about a year ago (right down to the collar she's now wearing - which I changed out about two weeks ago). As an after-note: When Josie came to live with me, she had a serious attitude problem packed in her baggage. Because I knew a lot of her history and saw a lot of potential in her, it took a couple of months to come to a truce about things. We definitely had to learn about each other; but I can now say that she is a truly lovable and loving darling. Being born on the streets, I don't think Josie ever learned how to 'play,' so we brought in another kitty (thanks, again). Josie immediately became the mother/leader figure the kitty needed and, in turn, **Kitty** (f. Ariel) has taught Josie how to relax and have some fun. Josie has really blossomed into the cat I thought I first saw, and Kitty is growing into her own as an adorable 'freaky kitty.' All I can say is, thanks for all you do. -- Wesley Nelson, Alameda. Josie & Kitty were adopted in February and December 2006, respectively.

Hi Merry, Thought you'd like an early update on Cinnamon, a.k.a. **Ginger Rogers**! She is amazing. The first day she hid a bit but always came out when I came into the room. She didn't eat much except for her greens. I offered her some raw food and she did nibble at that. She has seen and touched noses with Marilyn. She was interested and totally non-aggressive toward Marilyn, who on the other hand is much more cautious...but things are going very well. She has expressed interest in expanding her realm...she discovered the cuddle bed on Vic's desk and has taken that over as her napping and sleeping spot instead of the carrier. She loves her tummy being rubbed and flops down beside me...I'm very happy with her and think she has made amazing progress in essentially only 3 days! I'm confident we will have an integrated household sooner than later. Cheers.-- Susan Cohen-Stuart, Oakland. Ginger Roberts was adopted in June 2007.

MORE ALUMNI PHOTOS ... from page 4



"Hi Merry and ICRA folks. Jake and I just got the ICRA summer newsletter and it inspired us to send you a little update about how **Hazel** - formerly Flower whom we adopted at the East Bay Adopt-a-thon when we were on break from manning the Oakland Animal Shelter table - is doing. Basically, she is fabulous. We love her desperately - she is so funny and loving and smart and attentive and silly. We are so grateful that ICRA rescued her and took care of her. She has a dangling catnip frog toy that she is obsessed with - when we put it away she will squeak and squeak until we bring it back. She walks around with her big blue eye staring right at us and is not shy about squeaking very loudly when there's something that she thinks needs to be addressed. She loves watching the crows with big cherries in their mouths on the power lines outside, and she is very sweet with her two sisters, Chloe and Benji, and her new dog brother, Nero. It's a full house now with the new dog, and when Hazel wants to get away from it all she has a cozy spot in the closet where she goes - if you want to know if she's in there all you have to do is stick your head in and see if there is a huge glowing eye staring back at you in the darkness. Her tail stump is adorable, and she wags it and flicks it as expressively as if she had a full tail still. Her missing eye doesn't seem to bother her, although she has some depth perception issues which can be pretty cute, e.g. when she tries to dip her paw in the water bowl but she over- or under-shoots. Anyway, just thought you might like an update, and thank you Merry for taking such good care of her." Adopted July 2006 by Phoebe Connell & Jake Danziger, Berkeley.

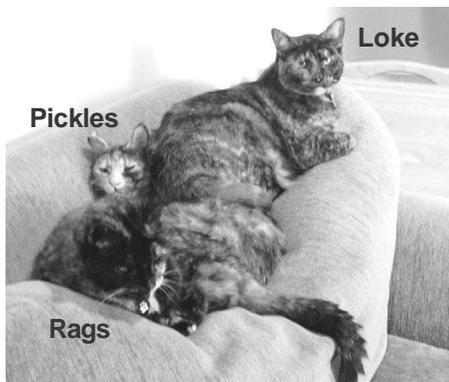
Here **don Francisco** (f. Francis) shares a perch with big sister Cordelia. Excerpts from a couple of updates reveal that things are going very well for both. "He [don Francisco] is absolutely in love with her, and follows her everywhere...Cordelia likes to pretend she's aloof, but she'll follow him around the apartment if he leaves the room. It's hard to believe that I've only had him for two years. I can't remember what life was like without him...He's very happy with us...and has all the women in the house (me and Cordelia, the resident queen-and-don't-you-forget-it) wrapped around his little finger...I know people say that Siamese only bond to one person, but nobody told him that! He's the most sweet-tempered cat I've ever seen, and only misbehaves when he's nervous or hungry. The rest of the time, I only have to tell him not to do something once, and I don't have to use my 'no voice'. He seems to understand what I'm saying." Adopted August 2005 by Michelle Booher & Sam LaVanaway, Alameda.



Starving for Attention ... from page 2

attention than food. One day as I prepared to leave, Boushey jumped into my car. He explored and sniffed. When I said that I really had to go, he jumped out. He did the same thing the next day, except this time he stretched out for a while in the back and looked at me for a long time before jumping out. On the next day, he just sat in the car and would not leave. *Now I looked at him for a long time.* I was prepared to foster Gracie and her babies, but I wasn't so sure about this. Well, I closed the doors and drove Boushey home.

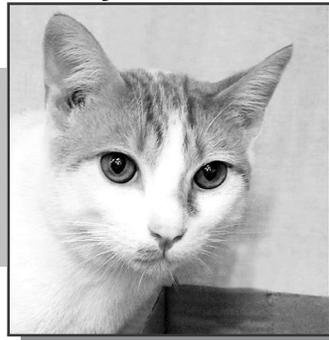
When I opened the door of the house, Boushey ran right over to Gracie and her kittens. He checked out the situation a bit but respected her maternal instincts. Clearly, he was just happy to be safe, warm, and reunited with Gracie. He never cried to go outside. When the kittens were allowed to totter and tumble around he played with and tended to them, ever mindful of mama's claws should one squeak. Gracie seemed relieved to have help. Then it was time for the kittens to go to a foster home in preparation for adoption. Gracie cried inconsolably for weeks. Boushey ran to her, licking and grooming her, sleeping beside her, and trying to get her to play. Another period of recovery commenced after her spay surgery, but the crying eventually stopped and Boushey coaxed Gracie to play with him - running, jumping, pouncing. He taught her how to jump inside boxes for toys, how to hide under the rug, and how to chase him around and around. Gracie seems more comfortable now and, taking cues from Boushey, is beginning to accept her situation. I know that these two need each other. It's time for Boushey and Gracie to find a permanent, loving home. Having come so far together, this last move will bring a peaceful and much deserved end to their journey.



Loke, Rags, and Pickles are three little pieces of 'Tortie Heaven' smooshed up into one big lovable ball here! Their guardian reports that "all three get along great - we've found them cuddling or lying in sunbeams together." Adopted by Shaun & Stacy Reid, Alameda.

ADOPTABLE CATS ... It Shouldn't Be This Way

Lenny Bio # 2603 TR



People dumped me, two friends, and some kittens under a freeway overpass. Would it have been so hard to put us in a nice place where people care?

Zen Bio # 2486A JI



My brothers and I had to watch our mom get hit and killed by a car. We were six weeks old and all alone until someone found us huddling in the rocks nearby.

ICRA ALUMNI PHOTOS

Please enjoy the following glimpses into the contented lives of a few of our 1,995 adoptees doing those - well - 'cat things' we all know and love. Lounging belly-up...ambushing the unsuspecting sibling...flashing the "Who, me?" look as the monthly bills magically fly off the desk...striking a regal pose with a perfectly draped paw...curling up for a nap in the last spot of afternoon sun...who else just can't get enough of that??? Well, we can't!! Thanks to all who take the time to let us know how our alumni are doing through the years.



Precious gains a new perspective on her life. "Thank you for bringing 4 wonderful little people in fur coats into my life. They are such great company and bring so much love into my new home. At this time **Brady** is on my lap with his head on my right arm having his special morning quiet time ... **Ramey** is still feisty but improving as she gets older. She actually climbed on my lap last evening while watching TV. **Molly** (f. Carly) is sweet and funny and has her "spot" on the bed at night, right under my left armpit. **Precious** is, well, just precious." Adopted February/March 2004 & August 2005 by Ella Jones, Union City.



"I just wanted to say how grateful my husband and I are for our new addition. She loves to play, and she sleeps with us every night. She's the sweetest little kitten ever!! Having **Zoe** (f. Sallie) is such a blessing! So thank you very much. You do wonderful work! Best." Adopted June 2007 by Melissa & Jeff Hudson, Alameda.



"**Rocky** is a wonderful happy happy boy! I am so in love with him. Every morning he jumps on the bed and curls up next to me in the crook of my arm for a cuddle. If I get up without the cuddle, he follows me around and yells at me until I pick him up. We are happy cat guardians! Adopted September 2006 by Yasmin James & Steve Kniep, Emeryville.



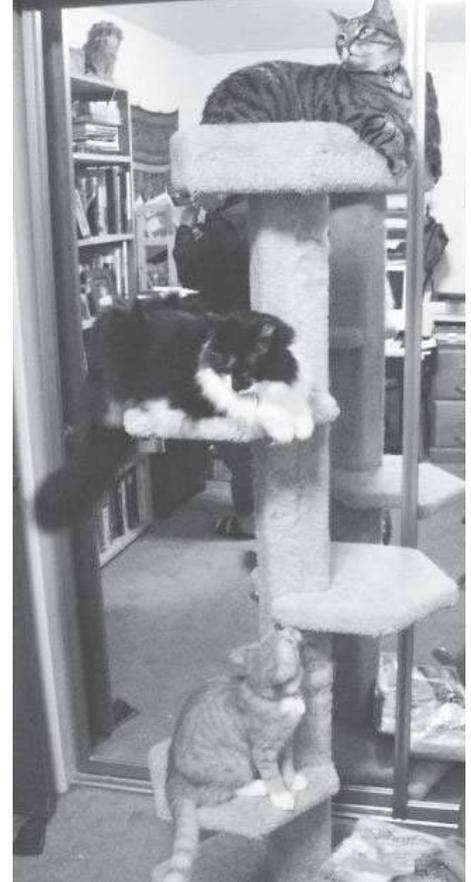
It appears that **Joey** (top) has the edge on pal **Jaxson** in this demonstration of the intricate art form of feline negotiation. "Peggy, I wanted to let you know that Joey is such a sweet boy, just like you said he was. He really likes Lilly and sits by her all the time. As you can see, he and Jaxson are fast friends, but Jaxson does play a lot and Joey gets tired of him rather quickly. Joey does sleep with me in the middle of the night and Jaxson joins us. By morning (4:00 AM) - I have two cats purring one on each side of me, and that's a good thing!" Adopted September and October 2007 by Patricia Whitney, Oakland.



"**Ms. Whimsy** (f. Gillian) is just divine. Here's a recent picture so you can see how big (relatively speaking) she is. She's clearly outgrown her kitten bed. She just gets more affectionate and funnier all the time. And still sleek as an otter. We adore her" ... "When we adopted [her] I wondered if it would be difficult having three cats, but she quickly became such a beloved member of our family that I can't imagine life without her." Adopted March 2007 by Michael Kerner & Tai Moses, Oakland.



Of **L.B. (Little Bear) Burton**, his guardian writes: "He is such a charmer!" This photo of the little guy leaves absolutely no doubt about that! Adopted July 2007 by Dori Hsiao, Albany.



"Yeah, big deal! You two think you're soooo smart. I'll show you!" **Russell** thinks to himself as he looks up at new siblings **Jacques** (middle) and **Lily** (top) on the cat tree ... "cuz I've got this snazzy human basket thingy aaaall to myself!"



His guardian, who apparently has ceded control of her desk items writes: "Another update on **Russell** (f. Hurricane). He's so much fun!! Right now he's snoozing in a basket on my desk but he's a little ball of fire when he's up. And he is sweet as can be. He and the other two are doing really well. Still some squabbles, but overall it's a peaceful little pride." Here is **Russell** vying for position on the cat tree with his new playmates **Jacques** and **Lily**. The cat tree shows their hierarchy. **Russell** is still the "little guy" among them even though he's big and outweighs both his siblings. But he still has his baby face! Best wishes." Adopted March 2007 by Andrea & Tim Davis, Pacifica.

More **ALUMNI PHOTOS** on page 6

Donations in Memory of ...

- * Gail Churchill's precious "Prince" from Debbie Damele
- * Gail & Jim Churchill's beloved cat "Junior" from The Temple Family
- * Gail & Jim Churchill's cat "Junnie" from Roger & Janice Bailey
- * Our sweet little ICRA kitten, "Winston," from Laurel McNeil-Wong and Jonathan Wong
- * Laurel & Jonathan's special little boy, "Winston," from Gail & all at ICRA
- * Ashley Cocks's handsome "Booty Bear" from Debbie Damele
- * Sheila Ewart's sweet "Tyler" from Debbie Damele
- * Michelle Harris's beautiful "Kishka" from Debbie Damele
- * "Rosie" Corlett, a beloved cat, from Monica Vohryzka
- * Walter from Marybeth and Jeffery Murray
- * "Bentley" & "Barlow" Post, two gentlemen cats, from Sandy Sher
- * "Bentley" Post from William & Joanne Post
- * "Darla," a darling of the Bailey household, from Sandy Sher
- * The Bailey's "Darla" from The Churchills
- * My cousin, David Mack, from Denise Cahalan
- * Dan & Ginger Robert's beloved "Spatz" from Gwen Edwards & Steve Hester
- * Dan & Ginger Robert's beloved "Spatz" from Jim & Gail Churchill
- * Dan & Ginger Robert's "Spatz" from all at ICRA
- * Karen & Earl Dyer's beloved "Ted" from Jim & Gail Churchill
- * "Pookie" & "Freja" from Pamela Senegal
- * "Buck" from Pamela Feack
- * Anne & Cara's kitty "Kona" from Monica Vohryzka
- * Angela Rose, a New Yorker who fell in love with "Oliver," a Bay Farm cat from Susan Denault
- * "Maxie" from Anne Reardon & Peter Batagios
- * Tom Billings from Doris Neuberger

Donations in Honor of ...

- * Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell's 11th wedding anniversary from Donna Hanly
- * Rachna Rajan's birthday from Jean Tom
- * Percy Alejos's birthday from Jean Tom
- * Margitta Gardner, who fostered and sold me on taking "Buck" home, and Claudia, who trapped, neutered & turned "Buck's" life around from Pamela Feack
- * "Rocky Bobcat" from Mary Ellen Bauer
- * Bev Chamberlain's retirement from Kenneth & Ava Chinn

A Gift in the Name of ...

- * Steven & Ann Marie Schoenfeld for their marriage from Micheal & Carol Foster
- * Steven & Ann Marie Schoenfeld for their marriage from Shari Schoenfeld
- * Steven & Ann Marie Schoenfeld for their marriage from Stephanie Ellen Martinson
- * Steven & Ann Marie Schoenfeld for their marriage from Jules & Ruth Meyers

Donations with Thanks to ...

- * Heather's awesome help with spay-neuter from Jennifer Kelso
- * DeAnne from 2570 Charleston from Law Office of Veneruso & Moncharsh
- * DeAnne from Jess & Sylvia Sugg
- * Jim & DeAnne from Jimmy & Josefina Inocencio
- * Merry & Juliet from Karen McNeil
- * ICRA for stepping in and fostering mom and babies from Kathy Condron (FOF)
- * ICRA for doing what you do for small animal welfare and Juliet for trapping from Mary Gorman

Young **Winston** lost his fight with Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), a tragic disease as impossible to diagnose as it is to cure.

Hi Gail,

I'm so sad to tell you that we had to put our wonderful little boy to sleep this morning. He had been failing pretty rapidly and this morning he sat in his favorite place in the sun in front of the window with Gracie and Franklin beside him and they enjoyed the fall breeze together.

Dr. Dunn came to the house at about 10:00 and Jonathan held him on his favorite flannel blanket and we pet and loved him and said goodbye.

He was a lovely, special kitten and we want to thank you for giving us the chance to have him in our lives. -- Laurel McNeil-Wong & Jonathan Wong and cat pals Franklin & Gracie, Oakland. Winston was adopted in August 2007.



Winston, being groomed by Franklin, will be missed by his human and cat companions.

In Loving Memory of Two Beloved ICRA Alumni

News of the recent loss of two ICRA alumni, **Maxie** and **Winston**, reminds us to cherish the time we are lucky enough to share with each and every one of the special creatures who come into our lives. Their histories are many and varied, but the holes they leave in our hearts when they're gone are every bit the same. The notes below are a testament to the bonds we form with our furry companions regardless of the time we have together, and we thank the devoted guardians of Maxie and Winston for sharing their stories. From all ICRA volunteers, our deepest sympathies and thoughts are with you.

Hi Debbie,

*Thank You so much for bringing **Maxie** into our lives. You named him and, boy, were you soooo on the money. He was the most incredible, most loving, and best boy we ever had the pleasure of knowing. He would look you right in the eye. This may sound crazy, but he could ask us things!!! He would*

look at us and have us follow him. I can go on and on. A big Purr Boy who loved to fetch and be with us as much as we loved to be with him. I just thank you so much. Max and I had something from day one when I saw him and his Charlie Brown tail...I was there with him for over four hours as I could not have two new pets. I wanted to be Max's caretaker. With luck, someone wanted the other little kitty in the cage with Maxie. So in the end we got to be together.

Max was so smart!!!! He knew things intuitively. By a look, Maxie was the one. We love and miss him forever. Maxie lived a happy, short life of 10 years. He went away the same way he came into our lives...with lots of love. He left quickly with heart failure.

Maxie the Wonder Cat was, as you had said, going to be a big kitty - he was 20 to 21 lbs...Never a mean or bully bone in his body. He always had his tail up so high...there was something about Maxie and me. Some folks noticed that we had some connection. On that note, did I tell you that Maxie came into our lives after my Dad passed away? Maxie passed away on the same day my Dad died - July 26th. That was weird.

Thanks again Debbie and all the folks at icraeastbay. -- Peter Sam Batagios & Anne M. Reardon, Caretakers of Maximillion, the Best Boy. Maxie was adopted in August 1997.



Maximillion
1997-2007