

The ICRA Catalyst

A Publication of Island Cat Resources and Adoption

Winter 2009

www.icraeastbay.org

(510) 869-2584

Oakland Cruelty Case Touches ICRA

Resilient Spirits Triumph Over the Suffering

by Merry Bates, ICRA President

I was not the only one who felt strong emotions about this case.

"We decided that we could never meet her, because we would want to kill her." -- Comment from a staff member at one of three veterinary hospitals that treated seven of the cats allegedly injured by LaPreda Thomas.

"I am so sorry this happened to you." -- A phrase repeated three times by the veterinarian who examined "Choco." It was the first time in 15+ years of cat rescue work that I had witnessed such raw emotion from a veterinarian examining a patient.

It is extremely difficult to write a story about animal cruelty. I'd rewritten this one three times before realizing that not only did I not want to describe the horrific injuries I saw ... but I couldn't. To do so was to walk a painful path of envisioning just how LaPreda Thomas went about hurting these innocent animals, a vision I am emotionally unable to bear. So, rather than focus on the details of hurt and pain, this story celebrates the triumph of the feline spirit – as amazing and glorious in its resilience as it is in its seemingly infinite capacity to survive, and even forgive.

How does a kitten or cat survive heinous acts of abuse much less bounce back to become an affectionate, spirited human companion? Unfortunately, we found ourselves asking that very question not once or even twice, but on four separate occasions between July and September 2009. Worse yet, the woman behind these injuries allegedly had been hurting cats and other animals since at least 2006. Finally in late-September, Thomas was arrested and charged with two counts of felony animal cruelty for severely abusing more than 15 cats over the past three years. We could now focus our energy on helping the victims.



Chocolate Bunny is making a beautiful recovery. But how much did his soulful eyes see before one was so horrifically injured?

We had dealt with LaPreda Thomas three years ago but were unsuccessful in getting her charged for animal cruelty. Our paths did not cross again until this summer. It was July 8th. I walked into the exam room at the emergency vet clinic and saw a small cat carrier on the table. Its door was closed, so I leaned down to look inside and see a kitty in the shadows. Imagine a sweet black kitten, about 10 weeks of age, facing me with his legs folded beneath him. As I

peered inside, he immediately began to purr despite the horrific eye injury he had endured at the hands of a so-called human being. Did he know he was safe, or was he just purring to soothe himself?

Oakland Cruelty Case *continued on page 4*

Spring isn't THAT far away ... so neither is ICRA's 16th Annual Champagne Silent Auction!! Watch for details in the mail and on our website! Hope to see you all there!

Helping Cats is All About YOU!!

For ICRA, 2009 has proven to be the most financially challenging year in our history due, in part, to lower than normal donations. In addition, like last year, we incurred several high cost veterinary cases that cost ICRA over \$5,000 alone, including but not limited to cases involving the cats from the cruelty case highlighted in this newsletter.

ICRA hit an all time financial low this fall that forced us to implement emergency cost cutting measures and to send a mass e-mail plea for donations. For the first time ever we were in the difficult position of having to intentionally reduce our spay/neuter efforts to sustain operations across the board. Fortunately, we received some temporary relief thanks to several donations, including an anonymous \$6,000 donation -- a bittersweet



I wouldn't be the suave, sophisticated, and sassy little man I am today without the donations that allowed ICRA to have the doctors at Berkeley Dog & Cat Hospital rebuild my left knee. I'm told that I had three strikes against me: I'm black & white, I'm a bit skittish, and I have some fancy condition that boils down to two bum knees. But I found a home with a lady (who was suckered by her own story about me!) and her three BIG tabbies. I love it here even if the girl cat is really cranky. Chill, girlfriend!! Chip was adopted in April 2009 by Mary Sper, Herndon, VA.

reminder to us that our programs largely depend upon individual supporters.

Rule #1 known to all non-profit fundraisers is that to raise funds you need to ask for donations. So, we are asking, realizing that during difficult economic times many people must cut

All About YOU *continued on page 3*

The ICRA *Catalyst*

Winter 2009

Layout Editor - Mary Sper

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Visit us Online
www.icraeastbay.org

Web Administrators
Rena Fourkas and Heather Hanly

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

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

For more information e-mail ICRA at info@icraeastbay.org or call (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.

PetSmart Charities® Grant Helps ICRA Launch Free-Roaming Cat Spay/Neuter Project

... Targeted on Alameda Point

ICRA received an \$8,372 grant from PetSmart Charities® to spay and neuter 161 free-roaming cats living on the former U.S. Naval Air Station at Alameda Point over the next several months. The ultimate goal of this targeted project is to significantly slow the feral cat population growth on Alameda Point by trapping, neutering, and returning (TNR) the cats so they can live out their lives in the only place they know as home while their population gradually decreases through attrition and without the birth of new kittens. ICRA initiated this grant project because we routinely receive calls from residents or people working at Alameda Point who are finding kittens born to feral cats. "ICRA's spay/neuter program is a great example of taking the initiative to improve the local community," said Susana Della Maddalena, Executive Director of PetSmart Charities.® "Targeted programs like these are the key to successful, low-cost spay/neuter in local communities. Cumulatively, they are making a huge impact on pet overpopulation nationwide."

Please contact us if you live or work on Alameda Point and know of feral cats that need to be fixed or if you would like to assist with the trapping, recovery, or transporting of the cats. We need everyone's help to make this project a success.

Below is a quick reference for additional low-cost spay/neuter resources available in the community:

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
- * Cats must be in humane traps
- * Right ear will be notched

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
- * Next clinic: January 10, 2010 (reservations open 18 December)

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

BUCHANAN



*A dopt
T hese
Black
Beauties!*

Buchanan is a real ladies man! He'll woo you in with his sleek, handsome good looks and long heavy blinks, then crawl into your lap to woo you some more. His tough side shows a little while roughhousing with his brothers, so he would do best with another kitty up to the task. He gets along very well with brothers Gatsby and Wilson, even though he doesn't always like to share. We estimate he was born May 14, 2009.

BIO# 2839D GW

GIA



Gia is a gentle girl who loves to purr for you. Shy to start, but her sweet nature will blossom in the right home. Gia's not pushy for attention but appreciates long back scratches and belly rubs. You might even win some licks! Needs another cat friend, and will flourish with gentle, experienced cat people in an adult only home or one with kids over 10. Okay with a small, calm dog. We estimate she was born February 19, 2009.

BIO# 2809C CHC

TO OUR FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS ...

Thank You for Helping Us Through a Tough Year

It is with heartfelt appreciation that ICRA takes this opportunity to recognize the many individuals, organizations, and veterinarians that provide us with the resources necessary to continue our work. During such challenging times, we are forever grateful to you for demonstrating such commitment and dedication to the welfare of stray and feral cats in our community. Your combined generosity was instrumental in helping us to have 767 cats spayed or neutered and to rescue and adopt out 124 cats so far in 2009, not including no-kill shelter transfers.

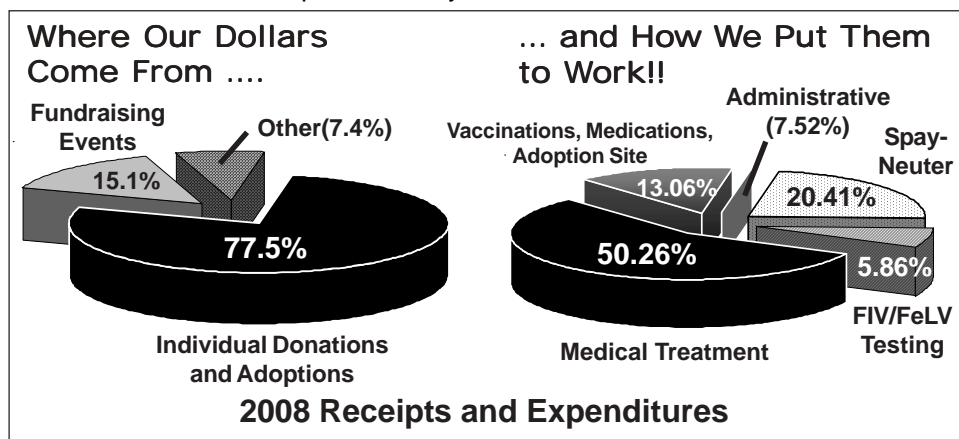
As the core of our revenue base, **individual donors** are key to us offering spay/neuter and adoption/foster programs to cats and caretakers in need.

The **veterinary hospitals and clinics** that work with us are not immune to the economic downturn either. Despite this, they continue to provide us access and discounts for their services to help our rescued cats, many of whom come to us in pretty rough shape. We thank each of our veterinary heroes including Dr. Buchinger and her staff at Alameda Pet Hospital, the veterinarians and staff at the East Bay SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic, Dr. Yang and his staff at Thornhill Pet Hospital, Dr. Bynum and her staff at VCA Bay Area.

A special thanks goes to **columnist Martin Snapp** — a dedicated animal person in case it was not already obvious — for his continued support in writing several ICRA-related stories this year.

Last but definitely not least, a monumental thank you goes to **each and every ICRA volunteer** for working so hard to make our programs successful year after year in so many mission-related areas.

A simple thank you is never enough to express how grateful we are for each and every one of you who choose to support ICRA's team effort to improve the lives of unwanted cats and kittens. The work is exhausting, the emotions often overwhelming. But knowing YOU have had a hand in helping someone welcome a frightened little four-legged companion into their home, helping a weak and injured foundling beat the odds and thrive, or giving feral cats the chance to live out their lives in relative peace is truly the best reward on Earth.



Black Cats: Sweet & Sophisticated

SPARTA



Sparta is a feisty little boy who is full of energy. He loves racing around and wrestling with other kitties, but his favorite activity is sneaking and pouncing. Although he enjoys having playmates, he is also very good at keeping himself entertained with a few toys. Once he has exhausted himself, he will look for a human to snuggle with for a quick nap. Sparta gets along with other cats as well as cat-friendly dogs. We estimate he was born May 28, 2009. **BIO# 2818 AP**

FIONA



Fiona is the type of cat who will greet you at the door, tell you of her adventurous day, and then go sit quietly in her special spot. She can be shy to start but will quickly warm to you. Sometimes a feisty gal who is fine telling foster buddies to move away from her food. She definitely likes human companionship but likes her space, too. She'll watch a movie with you and can easily keep up her side of the conversation. Could be a solo cat. Should be OK with calm kids over 8 and gentle dogs. We estimate she was born in mid-2007. **BIO# 2699 CC**

More *All About YOU!!*

continued from page 1

back significantly on their own expenditures. With that said, please know that even if you cannot make the same donation as you did in the past, no amount is too small. Whether \$5, \$10, \$25 or more, every little bit makes a difference to the cats in our community because your donation dollars are added to another donor's and so on. Please know that ICRA strives to stretch every dollar by working with our veterinary partners to obtain discounts for routine, specialty, and emergency care, with corporate sponsors for supply donations, and with our donors by asking whether their employers offer company supported charitable matching funds. Over 92 cents out of each dollar goes to the cats!

Bottom line: **ICRA can only continue with your support.** None of the budgeting and strategizing we do prepares us for the increasingly difficult programmatic choices we have to make when fate presents us with one or many abused or seriously injured cats or kittens who need us (and YOU!!) to realize the quality of life they deserve. If you share our passion for bettering the lives of animals without a voice, PLEASE HELP.

More Oakland Cruelty Case

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Fast forward to October. “Choco” (who now goes by the name of Chocolate Bunny) became a permanent resident with his former foster family, his empty gaze long gone. Guardians Leslie and Louie Hernandez report:

“On his first full day in his new foster home he was sitting with me on the sofa and he immediately wanted to investigate his surroundings. He jumped off the sofa and went around the room getting acquainted with the space and the other cats. He was not dissuaded by a few hisses. Every night we would play toys with him, snuggle and enjoy how he amused himself and us with his antics. Within days he was grooming his foster brother, wrestling, chasing, imitating, and instigating play. He also made friends with one of my cats who never liked any other cat. His resilience was amazing to us. He was not living scared, worried about losing an eye, or suspicious of us. Choco is a very special cat. He has emerged from a horrific situation to be independent, strong, active, and loving.”

Unfortunately, we soon would learn that Choco was only the first case of several this summer. On the night of July 20th, a rescuer brought a limp orange kitten into my kitchen less than one hour after being taken from Thomas. He was in terrible shape – cold to the touch, dehydrated, and suffering from an upper respiratory infection. When he tried to push himself up,



What could a baby kitten ever do to deserve this?

his tiny front legs were like mush. I could feel every bone along his spine and ribs. We slowly warmed him, administered fluids, and syringe fed him a little. As I looked down at him in the crude incubator-like container we had created, I had little hope that he would survive the night. Over the next two days his rescuer miraculously pulled this tiny kitten from the jaws of death, but his ordeal was far from over. He perked up and was eating ravenously, but he fell over when he tried to stand. We thought it was general weakness, but after three days we sought veterinary expertise. X-rays showed fractures in both front legs and several ribs. The doctor also believed he had pneumonia. “Oliver Boy,” as we named him that night, had fought hard to get this far. We were not about to spare any expense to effect a full recovery. Over the ensuing six weeks, Oliver would be seen twelve times by a veterinarian, mostly to check and change his leg splints. He also endured two emergency overnight stays, as well as two days of hospitalization due to complications from a blood clot associated with his bone fractures. During this hospitalization, the veterinarian called his foster mom for fear that Oliver was dying. What she thought would be her last visit with this little guy probably saved his life. The connection Oliver already felt to her gave him the strength to live — this tiny tabby had more fight in him than a lion. He captured the hearts of the staff at the clinics and by all of us within ICRA. Oliver’s foster mom, Peggy Harding, provided this feedback:



Oliver fought back to become this ever so handsome and playful guy.

“Oliver Boy arrived with both legs in splints, showing no interest in anything or anyone around him. Slowly Oliver’s true spirit emerged. He began to eat on his own and showed a great deal of love for his toys, especially his stuffed lion. He delighted in batting toys with his leg splints, and he never tired of being held and cuddled. Oliver became a real “people” kitten. The leg splints are gone for good and he takes great delight in romping with his foster brothers, chasing toys, and curling up with the humans who love him. He is one of the most trusting and affectionate kittens I have ever met. I never cease to be amazed at his resilience. He has overcome a torturous beginning to become an incredibly loving and gentle being.”



Jules beat the odds. With care and compassion, his physical and emotional wounds have healed. Despite the cruelty he suffered, he trusts people for the first time.

On July 30th, Oakland Animal Services accompanied by Oakland Police, entered LaPreda Thomas’s apartment and removed three kittens and a dog. All of the kittens had leg fractures; the dog *physically* was okay. “Jules,” a grey tabby approximately eight weeks old, was one of the kittens rescued. Foster mom, Angie Pena, shared the following:

“For the first few days we fostered Jules, he was nervous. He would curl up and try to hide whenever we walked into the room. Although he purred loudly when I held him in my lap to pet him, he was definitely afraid of hands reaching toward him, especially near his head and neck. He would shut his eyes and flinch every time. Jules is now a completely different kitten. He runs up to us for attention when we walk into the room and he likes to follow me around. He is no longer afraid to play or stretch out across the bed.”

On September 24th, Oakland Police arrested LaPreda Thomas and found more victims of her alleged abuse — an adult mother cat and her tiny kitten less than three weeks old. The mom cat, now known as “Emily,” had a fractured leg and hip. Her baby “Tory” had a swollen but unfractured hind leg. When I picked them up from the clinic to deliver them to their foster home, I was struck at how docile Emily was as I — a complete stranger — moved her achy, limp body into a large

ICRA ALUMNI PHOTOS & NEWS

Please enjoy this latest collection of photos and updates which celebrates the many ways our adoptees manage to unwind after a busy day and, in some cases, hone their hidden talents and skills. We love hearing from you!!

Please be aware that we reserve the right to use your photos and comments in our newsletter or on our website to update the community on our work.



Everyone's a critic! **Seamus**, no fool when it comes to knowing what maintains the lifestyle to which he and his three fellow felines have become accustomed, senses that his human's creative block is threatening his next meal. So, he deftly takes matters (an eraser) into his own hands. Where does ICRA find such talent? Adopted July 1999 by Mary Sper, Herndon, VA via Alameda.



Mog used all of the charm he could muster in choosing his new home, transitioning from porch visitor to almost-foster cat to permanent resident. His people have gained a new friend and fierce competition for the sofa. Monica L. & Nicholas S. were adopted by **Mog** April 2009, Oakland.



SCORE!! Like any self-respecting feline, **Caz** (f. Lester) has his guardian "wrapped around his paw" in terms of indulging his every recreational need. "He is well on his way to being spoiled rotten!" Adopted 2009 by Stacy H., Alameda.



Morris has found a new and happy life with his two humans, two big boy kitties, and Princess the Golden Retriever. "What a sweet, sweet boy!" Adopted October 2006 by Sue & Don L., Livermore.



Boo



Gabby

Boo (f. Derby) and **Gabby** (f. Darcy) are adjusting very well in their new home and especially enjoy sleeping and morning cuddle time with their person. She writes, "I can't even tell you how much love I have for those little kitties. I swear, coming home is the highlight of my day." Adopted January 2009 by Ashley L., Oakland.



On last report, **Cooper** was making steady progress adjusting to his new humans and canine. Apparently, he's not afraid to meow loudly for help in finding his way around. What a handsome boy! Adopted April 2009 by Tim S., Alameda.



Two lovely ladies who epitomize the merits of adopting black & white kitties! "**Maggie and Chloe** are happy here in Illinois...they have stairs to chase and play on - hard to imagine sometimes that it is just two cats thundering in the house...I love my girls." THUNDERING, Mom says?? How gauche. Adopted November 2006 by Dana A., Illinois.



"**Nickel** (f. Harrison) is GREAT and really the apple of my eye...quite the active kitty...a real sweetie...Thank you so much for connecting us - I love him so much!!" Adopted March 2009 by Adrienne T., San Francisco.



"**Tad** (left) hanging out on the bed with his new brother Alfalfa." We've ALL seen these looks before ... snap the glamour shot already so we can get back to our very important 'activity.' Adopted September 2009 by Kimmel K., San Francisco.



Sammie (f. Samantha) seems perfectly happy being caught relaxing some rules of dignified feline behavior to have fun and nap with her ICRA 'sockie.' Adopted June 2009 by Jeni F., Vallejo.



Shadow (f. Spike) steals a power nap in the safe hands of his new friend, Aiden. Simply TOO cute for words. Adopted September 2009 by Demeter, Mike, Aiden & Kori L., Alameda.

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More Oakland Cruelty Case

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crate. After settling Emily into her recovery cage, I saw the same empty, faraway gaze I had seen in the other kitties rescued from LaPreda. Foster dad Tony Sauler reported the following:



Emily is slowly learning to trust humans again.

"When Emily first arrived, I could immediately see evidence of an abused cat. She looked fragile and timid with just a look of confusion. She walked with a limp, her right paw close to her side and barely moving, as if it was in an invisible sling. For the first few days she never looked up as I filled each of her bowls with water and food talking to her, petting her, and reassuring her that she is in good hands. She was always silent. She kept Tory close to her...As days passed, we developed a routine and I think she knew she was in a safe place. Emily now greets me at the door when she hears me coming. Tory has grown to be a vocal furball of energy. If she's not climbing all over Emily, then she's climbing over something else...Emily is still very quiet. The last time I had her in my lap I could almost hear her purr ever so slightly. She is using her right paw to walk and/or give herself a big stretch, but at times I will still see her pick it up to her side. Definitely one of the positives is that she looks me in the eye when she rubs her cheeks on my hand and even gets on her back for a belly rub. I guess I don't need her to be so vocal when her actions speak volumes of trust. To me that's progress."



Tory was one of the luckier ones, if that's possible. Who could harm an innocent such as she?

All of these cats survived a unimaginable ordeal, some at a very young age. Yet they have blossomed into wonderful feline companions. Our compassionate and committed foster families played a huge part in this. But, I also see this as a testament to the resilience of the feline spirit. With love and encouragement, these kitties left behind their traumatic pasts and never looked back. Seven are alive and well thanks to a lot of human intervention and heart that would NOT see them succumb to this latest rash of deadly cruelty. Sadly, these are only the cats about which we know. How many more suffered over the past three years?



Jean, sister to Jules, suffered a fractured right femur. Now she, too, is ready for a loving home.

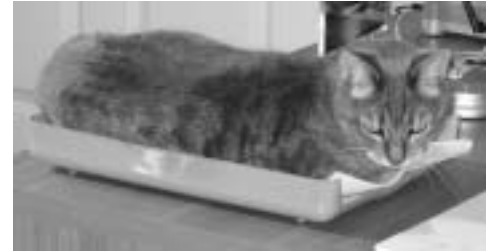
A special thank you goes to all of the volunteers who helped to rescue, rehabilitate, and care for these kitties. We are forever indebted to the veterinarians and staff at VCA Bay Area and Montclair Veterinary Hospitals in Oakland and the Pet Emergency Treatment Services in Berkeley for their professionalism and generosity in helping give these innocent souls a new lease on life. As of this printing, **Oliver, Jules, Jean, Emily, and Tory** await their safe, loving forever homes.

Please enjoy these excerpts from an alumni update on two rather shy kitties adopted in May 2008. The message should strike a chord with anyone involved in animal rescue and adoption. It also provides a stark, healing contrast to the cruelty case highlighted above.

*"As I was watching Claude and Chloe tear around the house recently, up and down the stairs, over the back of the sofa, sliding across the kitchen floor, it struck me for the first time that **THEY ARE HOME!** This is their house and they know it. They have explored every inch of it and go where they want to go, and do what they want to do, even when I'm around. They strut around with the supreme confidence that this is their rightful domain. And they have learned to trust that I am there to take care of and protect them...To realize that I have given them something so important — a sense of security and safety — well, I hardly have words to describe how that makes me feel. I get a little weepy thinking about it!"... "These two have really brought joy to my life. I'm sure we'll continue to make progress and deepen our bonds. And given that I guess Claude and Chloe are here to stay, I'm having custom fireplace doors installed so I can take down the ugly cardboard that keeps them from scattering ashes all over the house!" - Dawn R., Oakland*

ALUMNI PHOTOS & NEWS

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Anatomy of an adoption conspiracy: "I rescued Callie, brought her to work with me, and convinced Myra to foster her 'just for the weekend.' I think that was about eight years ago. She's still with Myra and her husband, who just moved to the Seattle area... Myra's husband is crazy about Callie and vice versa!" - Merry Bates, ICRA President & Conspirator Extraordinaire" Adopted January 2001 by Myra & Tom C., Port Ludlow, WA.



Nicolas is "All boy!" and very smart... apparently, he is learning how to use the toilet!!" Mom adds, "I think he knows how lucky we are to have found each other! I sure do! Thank you so much for him..." Adopted December 2008 by Lisa C., Newark.



Cats work soooooo hard to maintain that regal, sophisticated image...and then the mystique shatters with the onset of the dreaded tongue-sticking-out-of-the-mouth power nap!! Beckett, my man! And in front of the D-O-G??!! Feline decorum faux pas aside, it's obvious that this kitty feels right at home. His person reports that "Beckett is doing great! He's become accustomed to the dogs and pretty much doesn't seem to be bothered by them. Beckett and Two kitty also are getting along. Two follows Beckett around the house... I think he likes the company." Adopted August 2009 by Sherry M., Fremont.

Donations In Memory Of...

- A lektra from Georgianna Lear
- Alicia from Peg Baldwin
- Claudia and Art's Parker and Sonja from Debbie Damele
- Claudia and Art's Sonja from Merry Bates
- Cleo from Linda Fleming
- 'E lenor' at the cottage from Leslie Hernandez
- Margitta's sweet Sophie from Debbie Damele
- Marty and Jessie from Jim & Victoria Tatum
- Mary's beloved Raja from Debbie Damele
- Michelle's Ash from Debbie Damele
- Monica's fabulous Freddie from Debbie Damele
- Oliver from Anonymous
- Oscar from Lori Nelson
- Our long-time bicolor companion 'Bruno' from Randall Armstrong
- Our sweet (and much missed) kitten Winston from Laurel & Jonathan Wong
- Parker DeLaRosa from Merry Bates
- Pat Williams from Carla & James McGrogan
- Peek-a-boo Bailey from Yvonne & Les Temple
- R. Nancy Regan from Rebel, Red & Rascal
- Raistland from James & Manuelita Hinds
- Reka from Billy & Julie Weese
- Tania Harriman from Linda Campbell
- The Bailey's Peek-a-boo from Debbie Damele

Donations In Honor Of...

- All the people who rescue cats from Sharon Divitt
- Cairo from Victoria & Carl Ingram
- Donna Hanly, who taught me to love and cherish cats from a very young age, from Heather Hanly
- Ginger, Tootsie, and Casey from Mary Dynan
- John Boy and Megan from Margery Joy Service
- Juliet Inac from Karen Singer
- Leslie Hernandez from Frances Hayden
- Louie and Blaze on their 10th Birthday from Rena Fourkas
- Misty and Munchie from Laura Latt
- The work of Heather Hanly from Charles Dirksen
- The work of Ms. Mary S per from David Radi
- Samantha, my ICRA roommate, from Robert Lundy

Donations Dedicated To ...

- Anne Montgomery from Deborah Mazzolini
- Hondo from Georgianna Lear
- Lightfoot from Heather Lamb
- Kathryn Cauldfield from Melinda Ramm
- Kristen Lee from Kelley Moran
- Maggie from Georgianna Lear
- Mamba from Catherine Veters
- My wife, Christine, from Javier Lopez
- Rabbit from Georgianna Lear
- Reka from Billy & Julie Weese
- Sooskee (Black Cat Fund) from Anonymous
- Stewart and Hermes, fostered by Gail Churchill. Thank you for our forever home! from Laura Kinser
- Topaz from Alexandra Bevil
- Turnhere Internet Video (Black Cat Fund) from Kathleen Kelley

Donations With Thanks To...

- Pat McGinnis from Mark & Dorothy Boynton
- Gail Churchill from Daniella Wenzlow

In Loving Memory James M. Churchill, Jr.

1928 - 2009



All of us at ICRA were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our dear friend, supporter, and long-time foster dad, Jim Churchill, on November 3, 2009. While we take pause to mourn his loss, we also honor his memory by celebrating his legacy of achievements as a devoted husband to Gail Churchill, father, grandfather, businessman, and U.S. Marine. Even amid all of the ICRA craziness and (yes) drama, you could always count on Jim for his unique blend of kindness, candor, quick wit, and common sense wisdom. *Semper Fi*, Jim! You are sorely missed.

The following friends have sent donations in Jim's memory:

Angie Pena	Mary S per
Ann Johnson	Merry Bates
Ann & Paul Dion	Peggy Harding
Arthur Lenhardt	Peter Andrea & Gretchen Whittier
David Barkley & Peggy Nice	Rachna Rajan & Percy Alejos
DeAnne Jarvis, I miss you, brother	Sandy Sher
Debbie & Gary Damele	Todd & Debra Miller
Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell	Tisha Schaller
Jan & Roger Bailey	Ulrich & Ursula Greczmiel
Jean Cox	Victoria Ong
Linda Campbell	Yvonne & Les Temple
Marella Guigou	

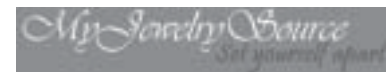
Note: Memorials received after this printing will appear in our next issue.



**Shop Online
for the Holidays
to Help the Kitties!!**



Click these icons on our website in the 'Support Us' section to ensure proceeds go to the kitties!



ICRA WISH LIST

- **FOOD:** Dry and canned
KMR kitten formula (unopened)
- **TREATMENT:** Frontline or Revolution
- **CAT SUPPLIES:** Cat Litter (clay, pine, wheat, or corn)
New cat toys (no fur, please!)
- **MISC. SUPPLIES:** Pet store gift cards, Paper towels
- **OFFICE SUPPLIES:** Postage stamps
Envelopes (6 1/2" x 3 5/8" and #10 size)

ADOPTIONS!! DONATIONS!!!



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MITZI



This little sister was the runt of a litter of six born to a feral mom in Alameda. She's shy to start but warms up quickly. She's very affectionate and cuddly and purrs a lot. And yes, Mitzi can be needy at times and she lets you know when she wants something. She likes other cats, so a playful friend would be great in her new home. She should be OK with calm kids over 12 and maybe a mellow dog. A sweet kitty who will capture your heart! We estimate Mitzi was born in May 2009. **BIO# 2848 DJ**

Ginny is a sweet, affectionate cat just oozing with personality. She loves people and hugs! Very talkative. Ginny *must* be placed in a business or office environment without access to soft material such as beds, couches, or loose laundry. She was traumatized by being declawed as a kitten by her former adopter and developed a problem where she sometimes urinates in inappropriate places. She does so infrequently and only on soft items. She's been fostered in a room with only a cat bed, cat tree, and litter box and has no accidents in such an environment. Despite these issues, Ginny is a wonderful and super special cat. We estimate her date of birth to be August 1999. **BIO# 1192 MB**

GINNY



ONYX



Onyx is a strikingly beautiful young cat with a white bib and white on the tips of her paws. She has the most mesmerizing, gold eyes that will look deep into your soul and tell you how much she wants your love. A bit timid to start, but when she warms up she craves love and human attention. She could sit in your lap for hours and would be an excellent bed-warmer. Onyx would do best in a quiet home with someone willing to give her the time and attention she deserves. We estimate she was born in 2008. **BIO#2837 DS**

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