

The ICRA Catalyst

Volume 2018 Edition I



Romeo was filthy and hungry when we rescued him from the streets. When adopted he was clean, comfortable, and ready.

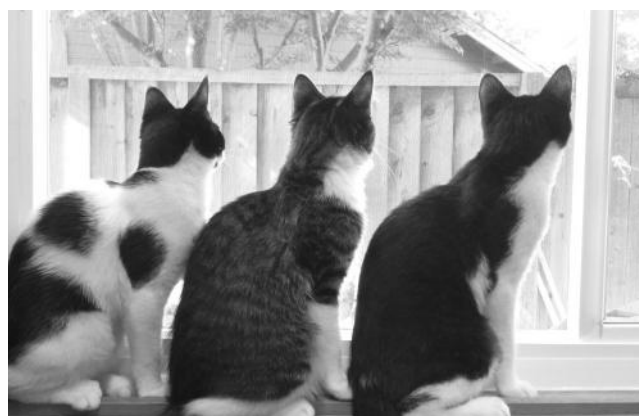


Foster Homes Know There is a Home for Every Cat

As a cat rescuer and foster caregiver, you come across those cats that bear the physical scars of a difficult life on the streets. Flea ridden, parasite infested and malnourished, they need remedial treatments and time on a nutritionally sound diet to gain some weight and to restore the bright eyes and shiny coat that characterize a healthy feline.

But what about the emotional scars that are much harder to comprehend and treat? So many rescue felines are scared, untrusting of humans, and/or need extensive socialization. After years as a seasoned rescuer, you know the journey you are about to embark upon but take a leap of faith that you can turn *this one* around. You acknowledge that the journey will be rife with challenges, setbacks, trials and tribulations offset by progressive breakthroughs in bonding and trust. Gradually, a glimmer of hope is in sight as you nurture your kitty until he or she is ready to find and conquer a forever home.

The big debut of your painstaking efforts comes when your rescue kitty goes to the adoption site for the first time. You are filled with grand expectations that he or she will be relaxed and interact well with the public. Then reality sets in after placing your little foster in the cage – the trauma of being in a strange place with a myriad of different and unfamiliar scents and sounds is overwhelming. They find themselves out of their comfort zone (your home). Bottom line – they don't show well and sadly are often overlooked by people looking for an instant and perfect feline friend.



The 3 Musketeers, Cody, Henry J., and Cassidy were rescued scavenging food by dumpsters at the Kaiser Center in Oakland.

Sometimes weeks or months pass. You worry that your foster may only be bonded to you. Your heart strings exude a deep sigh, dampened by fear that the only home your rescue will ever find is YOURS. But when hope seems lost, common sense taps you on the shoulder to focus on the journey of finding your rescue permanent placement. Your experience and track record remind you to forge ahead, repeating the mantra: *"Every cat saved and placed allows you to rescue another one in need."*

You just hope and pray that an understanding, patient and cat experienced adopter comes along and connects with your rescue sooner rather than later. Then one day – it happens! The perfect person makes a connection
(cont'd, pg. 4)

Teaching Compassion

People of all ages could learn a lesson or two about the difference just one inspired idea from one passionate teacher can make in the lives of children and, yes, animals in need. Kasey Brown's Animal Care and Welfare class at Wood Middle School in Alameda, CA fully embraces the idea that teaching children to interact with animals in caring and meaningful ways will teach them the truest meaning of empathy, compassion and respect for not only for animals but other people and themselves.

Brown says that "Kids are ambassadors of knowledge and they share what they learn with their friends, family and community, often through social media. Kids have the ability and want to make a difference to help animals."

When Ms. Brown conceived the idea of creating the Animal Care and Welfare class over three years ago, she had two questions in mind: **1)** What do students *actually* know about animals; and **2)** If kids knew how to help animals, *would they?* To help find out, on the first day of class she surveys students on what they know about animal welfare and pet care issues in general. She also includes qualitative questions to gauge how the students feel about helping animals and what topics interest them most.



Elyse learning about a humane trap.

have visited classes for the benefit of kids wanting to know more about what they do a daily basis.

Students hit the ground running from day one. After a lesson on our local shelters and how spay/neuter and overpopulation are related, the kids are challenged to quantify the problems by guessing what types of pets and how many are currently at the shelters. From there they visit websites like PetFinder and Adopt-A-Pet to get a larger picture of just how many animals need forever homes. In the process they begin to form their own ideas about how they want to help animals in need. They're then ready to take on such projects as teaming up with local shelters to get long-term animals adopted, teaching lessons on spay/ neuter and overpopulation to elementary students, and creating school bulletin boards on topics such as "Animal Abuse – What You Can Do?" and "Are You Ready for a Pet?" They also organize fundraisers, and raised over \$1,200 last year for four different humane organizations, including ICRA. Their most successful – "Pizza for Pets."

ICRA Vice President Gail Churchill, a devoted volunteer for our group since 1998, has had the pleasure of being a regular guest



ICRA Fundraiser

speaker in Kasey's class since its inception. As a retired teacher, it's second nature for her to visit local classrooms and educate young minds about feral and homeless cats, trap-neuter-return (TNR), pet overpopulation and, of course, ICRA's mission. After all, it's never too early to cultivate that next budding "trapper," transporter, foster parent, fundraiser, or adoption coordinator extraordinaire! Kasey's students are well prepared for Gail's visits, to include learning the difference between feral and stray/homeless cats, "doing the math" on the consequences of not doing spay/neuter, and brainstorming insightful questions.

This allows Gail time to engage the students in hands-on activities, such as setting actual humane traps and handling kittens, to learn even more about topics like managing cat colonies, the reason for ear tipping feral cats, and what to do when you find a baby kitten wandering around all alone.

On the last day of class, Kasey conducts a wrap-up reflection survey for students to write about what they've learned. Almost 100% of them walk away with a deeper understanding of the many challenges facing unwanted animals. More importantly, they represent the next generation of stewards with the knowledge and drive to continue making a difference for all animals.

Kasey Brown's humane efforts extend well beyond the classroom walls. In 2015, she created a website (www.teachaboutpets.com) Teach About Pets, as a resource for educators to find vetted, standard-aligned lessons about animals. This past April, she presented a talk entitled "Know Better, Do Better: Takeaways from Wood Middle School's Animal Care and Welfare Class" at the

(cont'd, pg. 4)

ICRA Outreach: Making a Positive Impact

"I learned about feral cats. I didn't know that much about them or how to help them. Now I do."

- **Ray**, 8th grader

"I learned from one unspayed cat there could be thousands or millions of cats born in under a decade."

- **Sara**, 6th grader

Gratitude for Your Support



In Dedication

- **Buffy** from Lisa Johnson
- **Gail**, as always for your help and getting **Chester** ready for adoption from Cecilia Trost
- **Gary Wendt** from Bekki Lee-Wendt
- to **ICRA**
 - Thank you from Jette, Tate, Aimo, and especially Dorian the Gray Cat from Birgit Saukkonen
 - Thanks for all you do from Denise Mauldin
 - Thanks and also for bringing **Keif** home! from Jullyna Doan
 - Thanks for all you do from Veronica Lee
- Thank you **Karalyn, Gail** and **ICRA** from Tammy Miller
- **Dr. Sue Hughes and Staff** and **Judith Giardina** from Christine Bonavolonta

In Honor of

- **Adrian Hern** from Lee Harris
- Thanks to **Barbara Rogie** from Pat Dawkins
- **Beth's** milestone birthday! from Peggy Harding
- **Bob**, a beloved stray rescue of Bekki Lee Wendt from Valerie Feldman
- **Buster, Sidney** and **Faith** from Mitra Javidi
- **Kristyn Temple-Robinson's** birthday from Carol Kral
- **Loma** from Yasushi Nishimura
- **Mango** and **Max** from Jan Kahle
- **Martha Cline** from Anonymous
- **Merry Bates** and **Ben** from Lauri Luck
- **Debbie Damele's generosity!** from Heather Hanly
- **Debbie Sharp**
 - from Diane Dunn
 - from Barbara Jones
 - from Aurora Perez and Timothy Dilworth

- **Debbie Sharp** and **Nel O'Neil** from Joan and Harold Lewis
- Remembering **Ellen Lynch's** rescue of **RUBY** from Mary Perusina
- **Flufferson** and **Evan Emerson** from Kate Goggin
- **Keri Spaulding** from Levon Reposo
- **Peggy Harding** with thanks from Zuni
- **ICRA's Silent Auction** from Lee Harris
- **Twiggy** from Bobby Feehan
- **Zack** and **Zuli** from Merilee Fisher

In Memory of

- **Atka** from Suzanne Renne
- **Big Guy** from Paul and Lisa Gregersen
- Rena's beloved **Blaze** from Merry Bates
- Rena's **Blaze**
 - from Debbie Sharp
 - from Heather Hanly
- Heather and Dan's **Bobbles** from Debbie Damele
- **Boojums, Sir Arthur,** and **Silver Silkie** from Sandra Morey
- Don and Karen's faithful black Labrador, **Bosco** from Peggy Harding
- **Bouchey** from Gail Churchill
- **Cali**
 - from Fred Heckendorn
 - from Gail O'Connor-Justice and Robert Sidney Justice
- **Cashew**, our favorite nut with us forever in our hearts from Nina Coloso and Julian Watts
- **Chester**, we miss him every day from Daniel Borgstadt
- **Dave Turner** from Susan Simpson
- Cindy Wilson's **Frosty** (*the Mayor of Eucalyptus Road*) from Katina Ancar
- Debbie's adored **Gertie** from Merry Bates
- Debbie's favorite garden girl, **Gertie** from Peggy Harding
- Sweet old foster girl, **Ginny** from Merry Bates

- Sweet, petite **Ginny** from Heather Hanly
- Merry's sweet **Ginny**, who touched so many lives in her 18 years from Peggy Harding
- **My dad** from Merry Bates
- **Glen Bates**, Merry's dad
 - from Debbie Damele
 - from Gail Churchill
 - from Peggy Harding
- **Hershey** and **Fuzzy**, Laura and her family's beautiful cats from Peggy Harding
- Rachel and Mike's dear kitties, **Jen Ai** and **Jamie** from Peggy Harding
- Mary's Dad, **John Sper** from Debbie Damele
- **Jubilee** from Allan Massingill and Ann Bracci
- **Kara** from Ruthann Zazeela Cohn
- **Leo**, my beloved cat from Lyn Gladstone
- Will and Nancy's precious **Lola**, you are missed! from Peggy Harding
- Kim and A.C.'s adorable **Lucia** from Peggy Harding
- **Mikey** and **Romeo** from Patricia Hirko and Brian Middleton
- Peggy's beloved **Pearl** from Merry Bates
- Peggy's **Pearl** from Marion Bayard and Michael Mombrea
- **Pearl** from Debbie Sharp
- **Pearl** from Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
- **Pearl**, a little black beauty, who filled my garden and heart with precious memories from Peggy Harding
- **Pixie** and **Ralphie** from Sheila Ewart
- DeAnne's **Sassy**
 - from Debbie Damele
 - from Heather Hanly
- Mary Sper's **Seamus** from Debbie Damele
- **Seamus** from Howdy's mom
- Mary's beloved **Seamus** from Merry Bates
- **Snickerdoodle** from Carol Ann Wood
- Nel's boy **Sunny** from Heather Hanly
- Lianna Epperson's **Sweet Elsa** from Katina Ancar
- **Tiger** and **Lucky**, beloved cats of Mike and Barbara from Gail Churchill
- Denise's kitty **Timmy** from Debbie Damele
- **William** from Diane Earl McCan



Freddie is such a lovey guy! He adores humans and wants loads of affection.

Freddie = sweetheart

Freddie is a wonderful cat. He is alert and nosy in a good way. He loves to be with you and follows you around to see what you are doing. Freddie craves attention and wants to be held or in your lap. He is playful when engaged with interactive toys.

Freddie is okay with some cats but he's a bit of an alpha guy and confronts those who challenge him at times. He doesn't look for a fight, he just likes some space. If he has a buddy in his home it should be an easygoing type of kitty. One mellow cat friend would probably work well for him.

He hasn't been around children but he's gentle and good-natured and should be just fine with them. He might do well with a cat-friendly dog.

We estimate he was born in 2015.





Jethro suffered a permanently damaged ear and eye before he was rescued from the streets and adopted by a loving home.

A Home for Every Cat (cont'd)

with your foster at the adoption site or during a home visit. Excited but nervous, you arrange for kitty's transition to his or her new home. You hold your breath as you deliver your little charge with a supply of toys, bedding, a scratching box and food to offer some semblance of normalcy and comfort during the transition. You finalize the adoption, reiterating to the new guardian the need for patience in allowing kitty time to bond and adjust to a completely new environment. You walk away wavering between pangs of sadness and joy, but ultimately realizing that your labor of love ended in success – placement of a wonderful rescue. It's been a long road, and you shed a tear knowing how much you'll miss your temporary cat, but all the while repeating that adopted mantra: "Every cat saved and placed allows you to rescue another one in need. Every cat saved and placed allows you to rescue another one in need, Every cat saved..." You can't say it enough if rescuing and fostering cats are your passions.

As days pass, you eagerly keep in touch with the new adopter for positive updates and progress reports, thankful that a fellow *cat whisperer* is now the guardian of your once shy and under-socialized rescue. Then you pat yourself on the back a little and repeat another trusty mantra: **"There is a home for every cat."** It's what encourages patience yet propels you forward to make happy endings in the world of feline rescue.

All cats in this story have been adopted. — Debbie Damele



Archie, Reggie, and Kona demonstrate the grateful 'kitten pile' technique.

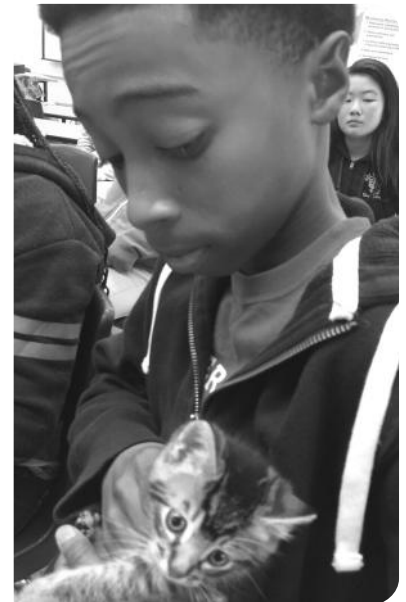
Teaching Compassion (cont'd)

National Association of Humane Educator's (APHE) Conference in Seattle. She is emphatic in her conviction that:

YES!! When kids know better, they do better.

She would love to see more teachers around the country teaching children compassion toward companion animals so together we can make a greater positive impact on their quality of life in our communities.

Kasey, we at ICRA applaud you AND your students for all of the great work you are doing on behalf of the countless innocent creatures among us who have no voice. And thank you for letting us be just a small part of it!



Dorrien with a tiny tabby kitten.

*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not.*

—Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

adopt

Savannah

Please let her entertain you!

Savannah is a sweet, active girl who loves to play...with or without human intervention. She adores attention, purring the instant you touch her. You'll see just how happy she is when she lays that tail flat across her back! Savannah's a tiny bit shy but adjusts quickly to new experiences – she'll seek you out for pets, lap time, belly rolls, and tummy rubs once she's comfortable.

Just try to resist her adoring gaze!

Savannah would be fine as a solo cat or with another friendly, playful kitty. Calm children and dogs are probably okay with her, too, with proper introduction into your family.

We estimate that Savannah was born in May 2016.



Alumni Mews

We reserve the right to use your photos and comments to update the community on our work. Thank you for sharing your images, your families, and stories of your ICRA kitties with us!



FIG + LARRY

A calico's vision of teamwork. You got it, Larry!! (*If not for me, you'd be clueless*). I'd help, but you're so much better at this (*Stroke the dude's ego*). Ooo, stretch out just a little bit more into the plant, Larry! (This could go really bad for us, and by us I mean HIM). Whatever happens, I'm right behind ya all the way, Larry! (*Outta here in a flash at the first sign of trouble*). **Fig** (l) and **Larry** (f. Zola and Cheddar) appear to be partners in crime, regardless of the task. Adopted June 2017 by Natalie D., San Francisco.



FOLIE

Before my expert tutelage, he probably could only understand the pictures. Her family reports that **Folie** (f. Winnie) likes to read the paper with dad every morning. Pulling out all the stops on her irresistible feline charm, Folie also has turned this alleged non-animal person into her favorite napping buddy. Adopted July 2010 by Gretchen and Tom G., Oakland.



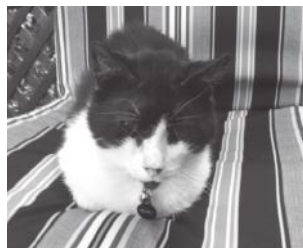
FRANKIE

Frankie (f. Bobby Kane) Rats!!! I just keep losing this blasted hide-and-seek, "curiosity killed the cat" game! Adopted November 2016 by Nina C. and Julian W., Oakland.



GIZMO

"**Gizmo** [is] doing great! I think because Butterscotch is such a foodie, she's gone along with him on that." Hey, now?! A girl's gotta eat to maintain such a breakneck pace each and every day. Adopted March 2017 by Maura G., Berkeley.



HENRY

"Thought I'd send a current picture of **Henry**, who is loving life. Isn't he gorgeous? Sweetest cat I've ever had." Gorgeous? Well, yes I am. Loving life? Absolutely. Thanks, mom! Adopted December 2015 by Donna A., Alameda.



MARLOWE

Here we have **Marlowe**, CLEARLY STRUGGLING to adjust to (and basically own) his new forever home ... less than 24 hours after his arrival. Adopted May 2017 by Rachel B., Hayward.



MOCHI

Umm, yeah. Does anyone but me see something clearly wrong with Marcel the canine's "get acquainted" ritual?! As **Mochi** establishes rules of engagement with the dog, his guardian keeps us posted on his progress: "Mochi is doing amazingly. He gets braver and more confident every day ... He is my little love bug. He sleeps in the crook of my arm and is such a cuddler ... Yesterday he happily sat with three different people and fell asleep on them." Note to humans: rules of engagement do NOT apply to the family cat. Adopted June 2017 by Kristen G., San Francisco.



PETE

Pete ponders why the life of an orange tabby as gorgeous as he has to be so very hard. Oh, well. Nap time. Adopted December 2016 by Betsy B., Alameda.



SCRAPPY DOO

Scrappy Doo is a super shy kitty who has done so well adjusting to his new home with 2016 ICRA alum Louie. Shy or not, he obviously is not afraid of putting himself into situations (and onto things) that could make the less cat savvy homeowner just a bit nervous. Adopted May 2017 by Michelle C., Richmond.



SILKY

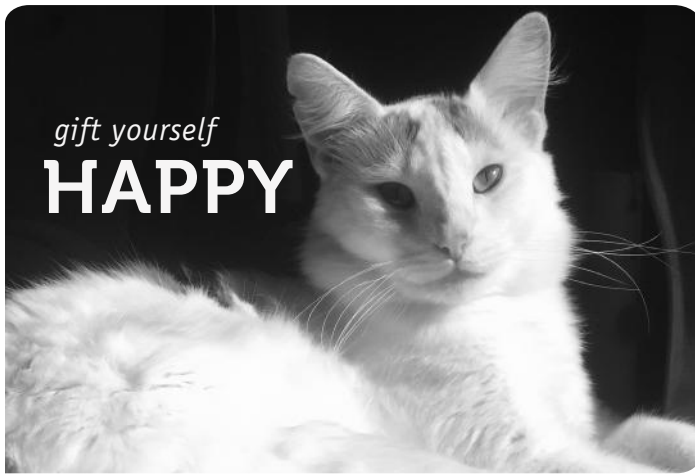
Napping blissfully ON new buddy Dragon, **Silky** (r) never dreamed life could be so good! Her guardian writes: "Silky is so perfect for our family. She and Dragon are basically inseparable now ... She is spunky and holds her own, but at the same time is such a sweet girl!" Adopted August 2017 by Jessica L., Alameda.



WILLOW

Willow looks adorable and ready to dish for her newsletter alum interview, if only given the chance. Of Willow and foster pal and fellow adoptee **Emma** (f. Popcorn), her guardian reports: "We adore them so much and know we picked the right ones for us." Adopted July 2017 by Tera L.S., Alameda.

Saturday, May 19, 2018, Alameda Elks Lodge
SAVE THE DATE 2018 SILENT AUCTION
 Email fundraising@icraeastbay.org with items!



Just in time for the holidays, a happy cat means a happy forever home!

Happy may very well have opposable thumbs, claims foster mom, Karalyn Buchner. His energy, smarts and spirited nature bring an unpredictable and adventurous element to the household. "Happy is the most entertaining cat I have ever had the privilege of fostering," she states. He is curious, social, a bit demanding, and thoroughly amusing. Buchner explains, "Happy will walk through any door – into a cupboard, the fridge, or the dishwasher – and sometimes he opens them himself. He has to stick his head into just about everything. He wants to know what you are doing, especially whether it involves feeding him. He's reached heights in my house that no other cat has achieved before - atop bookcases, cabinets and the refrigerator. Then he will fall asleep in a seemingly boneless position across something uncomfortable or with his head hanging off the furniture."

Happy appears to be a 1-2 year-old Turkish Van mix, bearing the characteristic semi-long-haired coat that feels like cashmere or rabbit fur. He also totally embraces the breed's fascination with water. "Happy loves running water and would much rather drink from a faucet than the bowl," reports Buchner. "He is also fascinated with the shower, wanting to sit on the edge of the

tub to see where the water falls, drips, or accumulates. He acts like he wants to jump in."

A small school in Oakland contacted ICRA earlier this year to assist with a cat hanging around campus. The staff and students had grown fond of him, but they knew he needed to be neutered and to find a permanent home. Buchner assisted with getting Happy fixed, vaccinated, and treated for fleas. "We initially released him back at the school, hoping to find a foster or permanent situation within the school network," she explained. "A few days later, however, he turned up with an abscessed leg. I got him the necessary medical attention but retained him as a foster. He cleaned up beautifully and integrated well into the household."

Happy is a social creature who wants to be around people and is curious about visitors. He would make a great companion for someone who is retired or works at home. "He will lay across the desk and organize things by pushing them onto the floor. He is helpful that way," says Buchner. He gets along well with other cats of similar age and an energetic dog in the foster home. He would do best with an experienced cat person. His sense of independence and penchant for comical misadventure probably make him an ill-suited match for small children.



This affectionate, youthful senior desperately seeks a loving home he can call his place OUT of the sun.



This guy is special!

Are you looking for a cat who loves to be picked up and hugged and then responds with affectionate face rubs? Look no further because Bruno is the cat for you. *Bonus:* he's a low-maintenance lap cat extraordinaire. Despite being a bit long in the tooth at 11, he still enjoys play time with his mouse and catnip toys. Bruno is confident and happy to greet visitors with a rub to their legs. Like most cats, he has preferences for how you interact with him, but respect his boundaries and be amply rewarded with a very fun and loving companion. Just one request from an older guy who's kinda set in his ways – Bruno would prefer to be an only pet and have *you* all to himself.

Bruno spent many years outdoors and developed skin cancer on his nose by the time we found him. He's adjusted well to indoor life, and now that he's cancer-free (thanks to two electrochemotherapy treatments) he'll need to stay there. And with that white nose of his is all healed up, Bruno can *REALLY* go to town with the face rubs...as much as he wants... which is often.

Please ask us how to meet him!
adoption@icraeastbay.org

ADOPT US



Sweet, sophisticated young lady would love to spice up your life!

Ginger has come a very long way since her days as a scared kitten born outside. She's blossomed into a confident and well-mannered companion who has no problem delivering chirps when she wants your attention. And you WILL oblige her with play time or just a warm lap for sitting — her call. Eliciting Ginger's thankful purrs and affection are your rewards! She does enjoy being held but would rather you not cradle her. Perhaps that will change with time and patience.

Ginger is an active youngster who loves to play with her own kind when the mood strikes (no offense), so she'll need kitty friend in her new forever home. Her best buddy, Artemis, would be a purr-fect match if you're game.

We estimate Ginger was born in March 2016.

Total cutie with a shy personality is ready to bloom!

I am little Lucy. I admit I am nervous, but aren't I adorable? I am shy at first with those I've not met. I just need your patience and reassurance. With some time to get to know you and new surroundings at your house I will settle in.

When I am relaxed I love to sleep! But, when I am awake and ready to go – I love to wrestle with my brothers! They are Petey, Linus, and Cooper. I need a cat friend in my life and any of them would be a fantastic match for me. I am sweet, soft, and playful. Will you help me find my way into your heart? I am ready.

We estimate she was born in June of 2017.



Gentle, sweet soul needs your help to recapture the kittenhood she never really had

Tulip was practically a babe herself when rescued in San Lorenzo with her two-day-old kittens, all of whom have found homes. She'll love nothing more than sitting with you to be petted, rolling over and curling her head under with sheer contentment. She's still kittenish when it comes to playtime, delighting in a good game of bat the ping pong ball or a furry stuffed mouse toy.

Tulip was a wonderful mom and is ready to find a forever home of her own. She should be fine with children over 6 and possibly a calm dog.

We estimate she was born in September 2016.



Your donations help homeless cats. Please **DONATE NOW** at icraeastbay.org
NEEDS: cash for medications, gift cards for supplies, food and litter, gas station cards, auction bid items

thank you



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adopt

Bella Sarah



Youthful black and white beauty seeks loving home to have all to herself!

This 7 year-old tuxedo was rescued in 2011 with a litter of kittens in tow. She is a healthy, friendly, attention-loving girl with an independent streak. She's also quite the talker and enjoys belly rubs.

Bella Sarah's previous adoptive family surrendered her because of an overseas move. She is accustomed to children and probably would be best as a solo pet.

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Design and layout, Heather Hanly
Text editor, Mary Sper

FACEBOOK, Julia Griswold
facebook.com/icraeastbay

INSTAGRAM, Nina Coloso
instagram.com/icraeastbay

WEBSITE, Amelia Ireland,
Julia Griswold, icraeastbay.org

CONTACT US
info@icraeastbay.org
voicemail 510.869.2584

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WEEKLY ADOPTION EVENT

PETCO, South Shore Center, Alameda
Every Saturday*, 11 am – 4 pm

(*Not all holiday weekends - check our website about Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve)

Island Cat Resources and Adoption is a 501(c)3 all volunteer non-profit humane organization. ICRA does not sell, share, or rent names, addresses, or mailing lists to any other groups or affiliates.



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OUR MISSION: Island Cat Resources and Adoption is dedicated to improving the lives of free-roaming and unowned cats through spay/neuter, adoption, and community education.