Helping Community Cats for 25 YEARS

NADIA (f. Mochi) & VINNY (f. Miso) “We’re home, sis!” Feral and scaredy kittens no more. Nadia (renamed after the gymnast for apparently obvious reasons) and Vinny have successfully captured the heart of their new forever home, especially in the case of one very skeptical senior cat.

We’ve come to know that cats are amazingly good at finding themselves a home, or at least help, when needed. It’s as though they have a sixth sense about which door leads to the right home for sitting and looking woeful. No doubt plenty of you have been their targets, willingly stepping in to save that hungry stray, orphaned kitten, or beat-up tomcat who serendipitously walked into your life to save their own.

Thanks to you, our supporters and fellow rescuers, Island Cat Resources and Adoption celebrates our 25th year helping community cats. Whether assisting an individual who wants to spay or neuter the cat that suddenly appeared on their doorstep at home or at work, providing trap-neuter-return (TNR) education, or acting upon the countless referrals we receive every year to help an injured cat or fix a cat colony, we have been there day and night to meet the steady demand for helping free-roaming and unowned cats in a resource constrained environment where grant funding is unfortunately disappearing.

Island Cat was established in 1994 as a community-based, non-profit, all volunteer organization. Our focus remains empowering people to deal humanely with cat overpopulation problems in their own neighborhoods. By striving to involve the entire community – through education, financial assistance and hands-on help as needed – we can extend our reach to help more cats and kittens well beyond what our small but agile volunteer base can handle.

The keystone of Island Cat’s programs is our commitment to expanding and facilitating access to low-cost spay and neuter resources, primarily in Oakland and Alameda. Our adoption program is going strong after all these years, and we take pride in our success at finding well-matched permanent homes for all cats and kittens in our foster program. We are also proud that Island Cat consistently operates with minimal overhead, thereby directing as much of every dollar as possible toward the health and welfare of the cats. Our funding comes from corporate donations, bequests and grants, fundraising events, and mostly from our individual donors. It’s been an amazing 25 years and we look forward to growing our community of support for many more to come.

– Merry B.
Happy Birthday OLIVER!

Occasionally we feature stories that are unbearable for some people to read. The very thought of severe animal abuse or neglect makes them quickly turn the page in search of light-hearted alumni updates or adorable photos of cats and kittens awaiting adoption. The aversion to horrific stories is understandable, as the images implanted in your mind are virtually impossible to erase. For our volunteers, however, bad situations are the reality we face more often than we’d like. Oliver’s journey is one we continue to follow because it epitomizes the triumph of spirit and compassion over the wounds of even the most senseless and unconscionable cruelty.

Ten years ago, we introduced you to Oliver, the tiny orange tabby kitten sporting huge casts on his broken front legs. As you may recall, he was but one of many severely injured kittens rescued from the home of convicted animal abuser LaPreda Thomas. Today, Oliver is a handsome, affectionate, energetic, cat who is deeply loved by guardians Art and Terri. We hear that he rules the house and enjoys the companionship of his older “sister” (and mentor), Amber. Despite the emotional and physical trauma he endured, Oliver has learned to trust, show affection, and delight his people with his silly antics. THERE’S an image everyone can embrace!

Only your continued support gives cats and kittens like Oliver the second chance for the love, security and contentment they deserve. So, on the occasion of Oliver’s 10th birthday, we extend a huge thank you for the generous donations that allow us to continue our work helping community cats. Read other success stories at icraeastbay.org

Oliver 2009

Oliver, Terri, Amber, and Art 2019

ISLAND CAT 25 YEARS TIMELINE


1st Adoption 501(c)(3) status 1st Silent Auction Held KIRI 1,000th Adoption

1995 1997 1999

STARDUST 1st Adoption Paws of Life Newsletter 1st Adoption

Name change Island Cat RESOURCES and ADOPTION

Margitta and Debbie Transporting Cats

Island Cat Rescue Association Founded

early rescue BASSETT annual vet expenses $440

Adoption Program Established College of Alameda TNR program

Mary and Gail Alameda 4th of July Parade

Former Alameda Naval Air Station TNR Program
THANK YOU for your donations

in honor of

- Lovely Annie from Vic and Izzy Sapphire
- Arthur, Grace and Madeline from Michael Carney
- Benton Goodyear from Mary Abbott
- Bert (Declan) from Donald and Gene Fogelsanger
- Caitlin Tulloch from Samantha Campos
- Callie from Linda Brown
- Dr. Carlos Yang and Thornhill Staff from Michael Barrick
- Chardonnay, Petite Syrah, and Debbie Sharp from Jeannine and Kazu Sano
- Corso, Sienna, and Ella, ICRA kittens from Toni Walker
- The Anniversary of Dusty and Pip from Betsy Massar
- Gunther, our neighborhood angel, from Lori Naslund
- Hamilton Taylor and the Taylor Family from Atlantis Langowski
- Happy Kitties! from Sandra Wayner
- Heather Hanly from Charles Dirksen
- Heather Hanly, ICRA, and Alfie from Sheryl Servina
- Houdini (Hooty) and Sweety Flynn from Laurel Bustos Flynn
- Julia Griswold from Judith Giardina
- My mother, Kerry Mehling, for Mother’s Day from Chris Mehling
- Kristen Barrick from Michael Barrick
- Kizzie and Biskit from Merv Hoberg
- Linda Retta’s Birthday from Estella De Anda
- Mango and Max from Janet Kahle
- Maybelle and Velvet on their 1st Bday from Robert and Kathleen Zoehfeld
- Merry Bates and Peggy Harding from Elizabeth Summers
- - from Meredith Florian
- Mindful Bento from Emily Woollum
- Minerva McGonigal’s 17th birthday from Michael Budd
- Muffy and Tuffy from Joe and Victoria Machado
- Onyx from Gail Murphy
- Onyx’s 20th Birthday from Kanwal and Himagauri Chaudhary
- Our kitties from Anna Rich and Colin Schatz
- Nel O’Neil from Joan and Harold Lewis
- Nemo from Trish Roque
- Pat McCall from Edmund Clausen
- Peggy Harding - from Michael Barrick
- - from Nicole Folletta
- - from Staci Markos
- Rita Herb from Susan Hughes
- Russ and Liz’s 30th anniversary, Congratulations to a wonderful couple from Peggy Harding
- Dr. Susan Hughes from Cynthia and Amanda Moser
- Sweetie from Jim and Joyce Stanek
- Sweetie, Jim and Joyce’s beautiful garden cat, from Peggy Harding
- Willow from Susan Lynne Heeley
- Zeke from Barbara Cassens

in memory of

- Althea from Heather and Jeffrey Lamb
- Alvin, the most handsome of kittens, from Andrew Booty
- My dear sister, Anne Dunn, and her precious cat, Riley from Marilyn Dunn
- Bijon from Johanne Duffy
- Bones from Katrina Ruiz
- Boo from Beverly Zia
- Buddy, aka Pumpkin, aka Peaches - from Nancy Becker
- - from Vicki Martinson and all his neighborhood friends
- Charlie Daly from Doris Neuberger
- Chico from Dawn Graeff
- Chloe from Dawn Ross
- Chris Flamingam from Peg Baldwin
- Daisy, a dear ICRA cat, from Leslie Hood
- My friend and neighbor, Ed Adamo, your presence is missed everyday from Peggy Harding
- Mrs. Edna Ho from Scarlett Ho
- Gabby from Robyn and Bill Jagust
- Ginger Roberts - from Debbie Damele
- - from Elaine Farge
- - from Heather Hanly
- - from Linda Flock
- Goose and Maverick Chan, always in our hearts, from Clay, Rosa, and Emma Chan
- Hazel Eandi from David Winckoski
- Huckleberry Barnhill from Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Barnhill
- Jasmine from Fred Heckendorf
- Jerome from Robert Hagedorn
- DeAnne Jarvis’ Jet from Debbie Damele
- Josie from Peter Brennan and Marion Sticht
- Yvonne Jansky’s Kash from Debbie Damele
- Kisa from Lois Leverone
- Linda Alvoid from Suzanne Leonardi
- Lisa from Donna Nishijima
- Mamie from Robert Everingham
- Manju and Frodo, ICRA alums from Marie L’Esperance and Steve Keightley
- Cat known as Mao, Whitey, Smudge from Theresa Lee
- Midnight from May Arndt
- Midnight Louie, Autumn, and Ebony from Lark McMullin
- Mimi, the beloved cat of Staci, Craig, and Natz, from Peggy Harding
- Miss Rover from Diane Granger
- Sweet Molly Mauldin from Judith Giardina
- Molly Mauldin from Nancy and Walter Baker
- Monty Chan from Alicia Von Fleteren
- Murphy, our sweet, beautiful boy, from Mary Dyan
- Petey from John and Nancy Rice
- Randy Meader from Ruthanne Cohn
- Rena’s Dad from Heather Hanly

(cont’d pg. 7)
Kitty Health Corner:
Male Cats with Urethral Blockage

If Kitty Can’t Pee, It’s a Life-Threatening Emergency!

A urethral blockage in a male cat is the most urgently life-threatening condition along a spectrum of relatively common conditions, known as feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD), that affect the bladder and urethra, the tube that carries urine outside the body. Both female and male cats can experience FLUTD, but the latter are much more prone to blockages from crystals or stones that form in the urine and mucous plugs because their urethras are so long and narrow. Any cat suspected of having a blockage requires immediate veterinary evaluation and treatment. Left untreated once symptoms are observed, a complete urethral blockage can lead to kidney failure and death within 24-48 hours.

Know Thy Cat and Spot the Signs Early

Cats are masters at masking illness and pain, so they may already be in grave danger by the time symptoms of a urethral blockage are obvious. Early detection is key to favorable prognoses for most cats affected by a blockage, and this is where YOUR role as cat guardian comes in. Seek veterinary care immediately if your cat—especially a male—exhibits any combination of the symptoms.

As with any medical condition, being attuned to even the most subtle change in your cat’s daily routine and behaviors (e.g., energy level, appetite, and litterbox habits) and acting quickly will help your veterinarian diagnose and try to clear a blockage well before doing so becomes a majorly intrusive (and expensive) procedure … or comes too late. Even if the diagnosis is not a urethral blockage, it’s better to be safe than sorry if FLUTD is suspected. Your cat’s life is well worth the cost of an exam, blood and urine tests, and an X-ray.

– Mary S.

Zina is bold and sweet. She wastes no time in investigating anything new. Tux is more laid back, but doesn’t hold back when playing with his toys or his sister. When Zina is sleepy she loves to laze around and ooze out of her kitty bed with her paws up in the air. Tux is quite sociable and would love to spend days and nights living with his sister, Zina. They would both be okay with gentle kids over 5 and maybe a cat-friendly dog. We estimate they were born in April of 2018.

Adopt: Tux + Zina

2013

Mother/Daughter PEARL + CLEO 3,000th + 3,001st Adoptions

2015

Bottle Babies NEO and NOVA to Adolescents

2018

annual vet expenses over $265,000

2019

Thank you Volunteers, Clinics, and Supporters!

25 YEARS Island Cat Anniversary
**Alumni Mews**

**BUTTERS** Yes, I am up here again, and you KNOW what I want. Human resistance intrigues me. Apparently, “Butters will climb his dad like a tree to get to his shoulder or he’ll jump on him as he’s walking by. It amuses his mom to no end. Dad is less thrilled.” Adopted by September 2012 by Stephanie T. and Michael H., El Cerrito.

**GINGER + GUINNESS** *(f. Artemis)*
You’d think they’d have learned this by now but, he or she who interrupts these precious resting periods is asking for payback in the form of totally justified nocturnal mayhem to be conducted at the most inopportune moment. Adopted May 2018 by Laurie M., Alameda.

**KT (f. Kinky Tail)** Made you look!! KT tests a theory that the familiar nail-plucking sound sometimes incites mild panic in humans who are blessed with even the most well-trained feline companion like him. His happy family reports: “We just love having him as part of our family. When he isn’t chasing his older sister around, he likes to snuggle with us, play with peacock feathers, his favorite, and chase anything else that moves.” Adopted July 2018 by Darlene A., Berkeley.

**LARRY**
Larry has been settling in well to his new home. He’s bold and confident and is co-existing well with the dogs. He is VERY food motivated and moves to cat perches for treats. He loves to play with mice and thing on a string. We are blessed he has joined our family.” Adopted January 2019 by Susan and Scott, Cupertino.

**MAI TAI (f. Smudge)**
Gorgeous and in charge, Mai Tai is confident that his family appreciates his benevolent household regin. “He has become the top cat in the household and likes to ‘own’ the bed, to the exclusion of stepsister Bailey. They still play together often, running madly through the house. He loves treats and chatting with us. He is playful and handsome as always.” Adopted January 2018 by Dabney L., Oakland.

**MAYBELLE (f. Maybelline) + VELVET (f. Veronica)**
The subtle stiff arms and facial expressions always make you wonder what kind of competitive drama and tussling underlies these seemingly tranquil kitty scenes … posed for human consumption. Complete angels in their human’s eye, Maybelle and Velvet are “…the cutest, cuddliest, goofiest kitten sisters in the world. Thank you all at ICRA for taking such good care of them when they were little.” Adopted June 2018 by Kathleen Z., Berkeley.

**HENRY (f. Archie) + STELLA (f. Lucky Penny)**
Doing a rainy day right, these two tabbies show us humans what true rest and relaxation looks like. Adopted June 2016 by Karen L., Danville.

**MORT (f. Felix) + BINX**
Treats, please! Now! Can’t you see that my buddy here is already passing out from near starvation!?! (Really pour it on thick, Binx. She’s about to cave). Adopted January 2019 and May 2015 by Amy C., Alameda.

**NICO**
Her personal space just barely grazed by this shameless display of unauthorized canine intrusion, Nico’s otherwise pleasant dreams are muddled by the following conundrum: “Man’s Best Friend. WHY?” Adopted June 2013 by Jennifer W., Oakland.

(continued page 7)
Celebrating 25 Years!

Our June 8th Champagne Silent Auction was a great way to celebrate ICRA’s 25 years of helping our community’s cats and kittens in need. We hosted 200 guests and volunteers who took part in friendly bidding wars, a wine toss game, a kitty photo booth, shopping for bargains at the Buy It Now and Crafts for Cats tables, and cat art coloring. In addition, our guests enjoyed wonderful foods and wines all donated by our volunteers, and the musical stylings of Jonathan Sharp.

You helped us raise $18,000 which helps us to continue our outreach, rescue, adoption, and spay/neuter programs. This event was made possible at very little expense due to the generosity of our great supporters and volunteers. ICRA prides itself that at least 93% of the money raised at our fundraising events goes directly to the cats and kittens we help.

A heartfelt thank you to the Alameda Elks Lodge, Teresa Carlisle, and Patty McCall for all you did to make this evening possible. Thanks fundraising committee: Teresa Carlisle, Linda Retta, Peggy Harding, Beth Summers, Gail Churchill, Sandy Sher, Rachael Podgesfinski, Karalyn Buchner, and Adrian Hern. Adrian and Kara, thank you for the gorgeous decorations. Thank you Peggy and Linda for all your prep work! And Beth, thank you for the wines and for heading up the food crew.


To our individual donors, we give you our special thanks: Adrian Hern, Aimee Paulson, Amy Keesler, Anda Bockis, Angela Scott, Bob and Linda Radecke, Charlotte Cavanaugh, Claudia De La Rosa, Deana Lorman, Debbie Sharp, Diana McFadgen, Gail Churchill, Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell, Janice Jagelski, Jazmin Berkleay, Jena Joy, Jenn Zirbel, Joanie Turmaine, John Traglia, Joanne Chen, Joycelyn Haybittle Gibson, Julia Griswold, Karalyn Buchner, Katie Gilmartin, Linda and Susan Retta, Lisa Gregerson, Liz Dodge, Margitta Gardner, Martha Bertelson, Martha McWoodson, Maryann Luschen, Maureen and Meghan O’Neil, Merry Bates, Mia Wijsen, Mike Milioto, Mike Mombrea and Marion Bayard, Nannette Riley, Pat Morrin, Patty McCall, Patty Rose, Peggy Harding, Peter Di Francesca IV, Reyes Briones, Rita Walker, Sandy Sher, SueNee Tan and Kevin Cho, and Teresa Carlisle.

We are planning to do this again in early May, 2020. Look for our mailer in April. We hope to see you there. – Gail C.

Adopt Brothers: 
**Finn and Fergus**

Golden brothers Finn and Fergus are cuddly, playful, and want to be the center of your attention. Finn is energetic, sweet, and playful. He is high energy and runs throughout the house, frolicking with his brother, Fergus. And they are extremely bonded. Fergus loves toys and wants to lay in your lap for petting. They are great guys and will bring any family lots of laughs and love. We estimate they were born in July of 2018. **Set up a time to meet them!**
RILEY
(f. Atticus) Off to a great start in his new home, Riley shows us two basic, low maintenance “must haves” for pure feline contentment: a comfy couch and a snuggly blanket for spending a busy, BUSY day. Adopted March 2019 by Sarah and Justin T., Alameda.

ROXY
Everything she says about me is absolutely true even if she failed to include the words STUNNINGLY GORGEOUS. “Two years have passed since I adopted my baby, Roxy. She’s my angel and my everything. Thank you for the wonderful job you do.” Adopted April 2017 by Sarina Y., El Cerrito.

SANA (f. Moo Moo)
Sana (left) and her friend Cricket wonder why people don’t just give up on the utter folly of calling and expecting to use these things as “dining tables.” Adopted March 2017 by Caitlin T. and Jamie M., Oakland.

TOPH + SUKI
Friends really are THE BEST!!! Toph (f. Ursula), who ultimately lost her eyes to an upper respiratory infection as a kitten, and littermate Suki (f. Dolly) truly know they are home. Says their mom: “I can’t imagine my life without the girls! They fit right in with their adoptive brother, Bowie, my first special needs cat — he’s deaf.

Whenever he meows, Suki runs to him as if to ask what he needs. And, as you can see from the picture of the three of them in the window, and at their food bowls, they’ve become a family.” Adopted February 2018 by Tatin D., Mountain View.

WILLOW + EVEE
(f. Kiwi - right) Strangers when adopted, these two girls quickly found common ground when it comes to the classic tag team human leg pin at naptime. Their family reports: “We’re happy to say they are doing very well…We love them both so much and we’re so happy to have them join our family.” Adopted February 2019 by Rachel P. and Amanda W., Alameda.

(In Memory cont’d) DONATION THANK YOUS
• Renä’s Father, Pete Fourkas, from Sandy Sher
• Richard Cochran from Geoff and Jeanie Willis
• Seal from Rowena Taylor
• Mary Sper’s Seamus and Marmalade from Debbie Damele
• Suki, Sheba, and Gino from Josephine Cunliff
• Toby and Murphy Cat from Dolores Kelleher
• Tony, ICRA alum, from Amy Mangiaracina

thanks to icra
• from Angela Zawadzki
• from Jonathan Jones
• from Julia Illescas
• from Julie Wunderlich

• from Leigh Kjeldsen
• from Linda and John Waldman
• from Nalungo Mwanga-Conley
• from Patricia Banchik
• from Peggy Newcomer of Maxwell Park

dedicated to
• Buffy from Lisa Johnson
• Thanks to Caitlyn, Charlie!!, and Martin Snapp from Aria White
• Coco from Russell Lee
• Gary Wendt from Bekki Lee-Wendt
• Harlan Margold from Jane Margold
• Meaw-Meaw from Lucy Estrada Quezada
• In Appreciation of Reynard from M. Siegal

Adopt Sisters: Europa + Estelle
These two masked batgirls would make a great adoptive pair.

Europa is vocal and puts herself forward for lots of lap time and petting with insistent little meows. Estelle is a darling tuxedo who is very shy. It takes Estelle time to become comfortable with anything new, but she is worth the investment. Europa likes to play, alone with tiny toys she can throw around or interactive toys like laser mouse or things on a string.

The sisters are close and have complementary gentle natures. Both of them get along with cats, don’t know dogs, and would probably be okay with a respectful, older child. We estimate they were born April 16, 2017. Please ask us about meeting them!
These two are the sleekest, softest kitties you will run across. Henry, the tuxedo, is the bolder of the two. He is smart, curious, and affectionate, rarely able to resist chin rubs or butt scratches. Harper is a sensitive gal, who needs a day or two to trust new people. Once you learn her petting preferences, you’ll have a loyal friend who will come to you for attention. These bonded siblings are looking for a home together, where they can entertain their humans with their playful hi-jinks, mutual grooming, and cuddle poses. Neither needy nor aloof, they strike a nice balance of being both affectionate and independent. They will be happiest in a quiet, adult home without dogs. We estimate they were born in December, 2017.