

The ICRA Catalyst

Volume 2019 Edition I



Murray Wants YOU, and only you!



Miserable Murray, February 2018

contracted Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), and added insult to injury with skin mites, sometimes referred to as mange. He needed dental work to boot.

Over the next few months, we worked with partner vets to rehabilitate Murray. He ate up the attention, almost literally, with love bites, hoarse meows, and cherishing every bit of food – which included convincing us that he always needed a little bit more than was initially served. He remains food motivated so much so that I believe he could be taught to do tricks, despite his apparent couch potato prowess.

Several pounds later and his luxurious long-haired coat grown in, Murray is ready for a permanent home. Not just any home. Due to some jealousy, he'd prefer not to share human affection with any other four-legged beasts. Could you be Murray's new guardian?

Some cats appear old when they're not. Murray was one of them when I first met him in February 2018. He was lying in a box on top of a dirty blanket in a dark cellar. I shined my flashlight on him for a better look. He raised up slightly, responding positively when I patted the top of his mite infested head. I sensed that he was hoping that I was not there to oust him from his sheltered spot back out into the wintry night. Murray was weakened from the combination of an advanced skin mite infestation and two nasty abscesses, one on his chest and the other on his shoulder. He appeared to be missing his left eye, but we would later learn from the vet that the eye was there but badly damaged from infection. We estimate he was born in 2013.

Murray was the classic unneutered Oakland street stray who, in the course of surviving on the street, had been battered in cat fights, picked up an upper respiratory infection that damaged his eye beyond repair,



– Merry B. *Much Improved Murray, October 2018*

CHARLIE

Charlie spent his first years as a street cat on his own, but he left that chaos behind and has come to love life where it's safe and quiet! When rescued, he had a leg wound that was seriously infected. It took many visits to the vet over a two-month period for the wound to heal. Charlie is a low maintenance guy, preferring to find a safe, comfortable corner to curl up in all day. He likes being petted and is very relaxed when held, but he will do best in a quiet home with a patient person committed to spending time to coax him out of his shell for good. His street life challenges have made it hard for Charlie to warm up to new people, but once he falls in love with you it's for keeps! Favorite pastimes include gentle chin scratches and sitting on trusted humans' laps. Charlie's fine with other cat-friendly cats and calm dogs. He is FIV+. We estimate he was born in 2014 or 2015.



Kitty Health Corner: Do You Know About FIV+?

- 1) FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. FIV typically causes a weakening of the cat's immune system, making them more prone to infections such as upper respiratory infections and dental disease.
- 2) FIV is not transmissible to humans or dogs. It is a species-specific virus that **only affects cats.**
- 3) FIV is not easily transmitted from one cat to another. The primary means by which an FIV+ cat transmits the disease to another cat is through deep bite wounds where the blood of the infected cat mixes with the blood of the bitten cat. These kinds of fights are much less common when cats are spayed/neutered. Casual, non-aggressive contact does not appear to be an efficient way to spread the virus. As a result, cats in households with stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk of acquiring FIV infections.
- 4) FIV+ cats can live normal lives, both in quality and duration. With good care, it's not uncommon to find FIV+ cats over 10-15 years of age.
- 5) FIV+ cats do, however, require special considerations to monitor them for infections and dental issues. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) recommends the following:
 - FIV+ cats should see a vet twice a year for a physical exam and at least annually for some lab work, i.e., a complete blood count, chemistry panel, and urinalysis.
 - Seek immediate care when an FIV+ cat is abnormally weak or uncomfortable.
 - Always spay or neuter FIV+ cats, keep them indoors, and minimize their exposure to infectious diseases, for example, avoiding raw food diets.

FIV+?

Please get acquainted with a few of our young, adoption-ready FIV+ cats.

Charlie, Marzipan and Murray are featured in this newsletter.

They all have many years of love, spirit and companionship to offer a caring forever home.

All we ask is that you protect and cherish them as much as we do – LOVE is the best drug of all for keeping them happy and healthy!



PLS ADOPT ME!

MARZIPAN Every bit as sweet as his almondy namesake!

He is full of curiosity and energy. While he adores snuggles, a good window seat, or a peaceful hiding spot for some "me time," Marzipan won't pass up an opportunity to explore and play, whether it's running through a cat tube, deeply analyzing the inner workings of a box, or engaging anything that rolls, flutters, dangles, or jingles. Those who cherish uninterrupted sleep may have to negotiate terms with the young lad, who exhibits some wacky nocturnal tendencies with trademark feline indifference to selfish human desires for comfort. Like many active cats, Marzipan needs multiple vertical and horizontal scratching options (and human redirection from furniture, as needed) to satisfy his stretching and muscle toning needs. We'd love to find Marzipan a *purfect* solo-cat family to shower him everything he craves - love, interactive playtime, and a grain-free wet diet for a most enthusiastic eater! Marzipan is FIV+. We estimate he was born in 2015.

SUE CIRICLIO With great sadness we say goodbye to a generous ICRA supporter who passed away unexpectedly on August 19, 2018.

She will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and passion for animals, especially horses and cats. She was an artist, photographer, teacher, and writer.

Sue adopted two ICRA cats, Emzy (f. Whimsy) and Gracie (f. Ruby). The two girls and their brother, Bohdi, were her beloved companions for the last years of her life. She wrote an article for this newsletter about adopting Gracie in 2015.

Sue lived a full and rich life, and will be missed by many friends, neighbors, and her California College of the Arts students. We are honored she engaged with us, adopted, and supported us.

We are forever grateful.



with gratitude for your donations

Dedicated to

- **Buffy** from Lisa Johnson
- **Coco** from Russell Lee
- **Mr. and Mrs. Edward Damrose** from Lisa Kumagai
- **Gary Wendt** from Bekki Lee-Wendt

In Honor of

- **Alfie** from Heather Hanly
- **Alley** from James and Joyce Stanek
- **Dr. Carlos Yang and staff** from Michael Barrick
- **Cheryl Hurd** from Susan Hughes
- **Dashiell** from Linh Nguyen
- **Debbie Sharp**
 - from Barbara Jones
 - from Claire and Randy Ashby
 - from Joan and Harold Lewis
- **Eric and Hiroko Jorgensen**, JD's loving Guardians from Johanna Woolley
- **Erin McEwan** from Madeleine Castillo
- **Gwyn Johnson** from Gus/Buddy from Saheema Rawat
- **Handsome's CAT scan** - from: Angie Pena, April Miles, Carol Cole, Heather Hanly, Joanne Chen, Julia Griswold, Karin Spirn, Liz Aswegan, Tammy Miller, Teresa Carlisle, Tracey Rhys
- **Kathy Park** from Michael Barrick
- **Kristen Barrick** from Michael Barrick
- **Merry** from Sandy Sher
- **Merry** Bates from Sharon Hogan
- **Mr. Foxtail** from Amy Elyn Kessler
- **Murray** - may he find the loving home he so richly deserves, from Nancy Huneke
- **Nathan Wellsfrey**, who donated his allowance, from Suzanne Renne
- **Nel O'Neil** from Joan and Harold Lewis
- **Paul Morris** from Ruthann Zazeela Cohn
- **Peggy Harding** from Michael Barrick
- **Shadow** from Ginger and Dan Roberts
- **Swze-Blue** from Barbara Anderson
- **Yvonne Hays** from Joanne and Dave Archer

In Memory of

- **Joan Turmaine (Joanie)**
 - from Debbie Sharp
 - from Denise Cahalan
 - from Judy Johns
 - from Katina Ancar
 - from Park Centre Animal Hospital Staff
 - from Robert Mack
- **Bailey**, dearest companion to Danielle, Rick, Olivia, and Julia, from Peggy Harding
- **Buffy, Bill, and Catalina**, Merry's sweet foster kitties, from Peggy Harding
- Amanda's gold girl, **Butters**, from Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
- **Carol Quintal** from Dennis and Cindy Hopken
- **Charlie** from Kenneth Cado
- **Clarence** from Michael Barrick
- **Cougar (f. Jerry)** He was so sweet!! from Julia Ann Illescas
- **Daisy** from Janet Dawson
- Janet Dawson's special **Daisy Kitty** from Diane McFadgen
- **Denzel** from Rebekah Eppley and Carmen Cortez
- **Emmett Hanly-Purcell**
 - from Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
 - from Katina Ancar
 - Emmett, Dan and Heather's precious boy, The house is empty without you, from Peggy Harding
 - from Sallee Purcell
- **Fur and Comet** from Chris Shaheen
- **Gracie and Charlotte** from Sue Schultz
- **Henry** from Rebekah Eppley and Carmen Cortez
- **Jamie**, Mike and Rachel's angel kitty, from Peggy Harding
- **Kiki and Sissy** from Emerito and Eileen Lopez
- **Maryanne Homa** from Monica Beary
- **Mister Mittens** from Lois Leverone
- **Mister Softee** from Steven Wood

- **Monster and SingSing** from Pat Mosley
- **Pancito** from Maria Isolete Doral
- **Patricia Joralemon** from Kathleen Peach
- **Peggy's Pearl and Piper**
 - Amy and Clyde (aka Tater Tot)
 - Anne Katherine Kim and Kim Pratt
 - Carla DiGiulio
 - Letitica and Family
 - Shira, Reuben, and Bunny
- **Peggy and Panda's Piper** from Marion Bayard & Michael Mombrea
- **Peggy's Beloved Piper** from Michael Gong and Barbara Wong
- **Piper** from Peggy Harding
- **Ranya** from Georgia and Larry Ford
- **Reuben**, Shira's beloved cat, who will always be, "The King of Damuth Street" from Peggy Harding
- **Smoky** from Diana Marie Hanna
- **Steve Coulston** from Kathleen Peach
- **Sue Ciriclio**, with great fondness, from Peggy, Bohdi, Emzy, and Gracie
- Lynette Webb's precious **Sylvie** from Diana McFadgen
- **Valentino** from Lynette Pang and Michael Man

Thanks

- Thanks for everything from **Billy Lovci**
- Thank you **Carly** (the kitten whisperer) for helping with Calliope! from Caroline Hoxby
- Thank you **Christina, Naida, and Merry** from Marissa Ohira and Stewart Knox
- Thanks **Debbie Sharp and Eric Bohr** from John Giles
- Love Them Save Them Help Them, just a little gift from **Heather Chapple**
- **ICRA**: Thank you so much for the constant support, above and beyond, we sincerely appreciate all you have done for us, from **Sean and Beth O'Brien**
- **Nel Rules!** from Rick Burrows

On Becoming: A Cat Person

OK, I'll admit it: I didn't always like cats. In fact, I used to hate them. After all, they're aloof and unfriendly, right? **Wrong.** That's the telltale sign of somebody who's never met a cat.

But all that changed 40 years ago, when I fell in love with a woman who had a cat, a pretty little tuxedo female named K.C., short for kitty cat.

For the first six months we lived together, I refused to let poor K.C. into our bedroom. But one day she decided enough was enough, and she proceeded to seduce me.

Wham! It didn't take her 24 hours to have me wrapped around her little paw. By the time my girlfriend and I broke up a few months later K.C. and I were so tight, she offered to give her to me. I declined because I knew K.C. would be happier with her, but the damage had been done: I was hooked. **Moral:** There's no zealot like a converted sinner.

Two weeks after I moved into my new place, there was a knock on the door. Standing on the front step were four little kids from the elementary school across the street, holding a tiny gray tabby kitten they found abandoned on their schoolyard.

"Mister, did you lose this kitty?" they asked.
"No," I said, "but I'll take her."

I named her Eliza Doolittle because the first thing she said to me was, "Aaowwww!" We were together for almost 17 years, and she was the love of my life. I'd look into her eyes, and I knew what she was thinking, and she knew what I was thinking. It was the most intimate relationship I've ever had in my life.

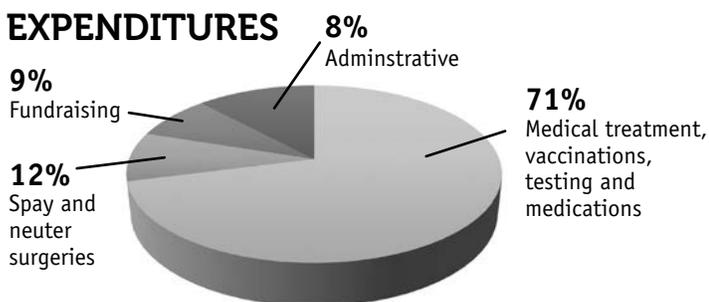


Because she was an outdoors kitty before she met me, I let her come and go as she pleased. She guarded her territory ruthlessly against any other cats who had the temerity to enter – except for two kittens who lived a few doors down the street. For some reason they brought out the mothering instincts in her, and she groomed them and protected them until their family moved away and took the kittens with them.

In the evening, Eliza could hear my car coming when I was still blocks away. She'd dash across the backyard, jump into my bedroom window, and race the length of the apartment to the front door, where she'd be waiting for me when I walked in.

But one day while I was petting her, I felt a lump. It was a pellet from a pellet gun. She had been shot. And she carried it with her until the day she died at the age of 17. *(cont'd pg 7)*

EXPENDITURES

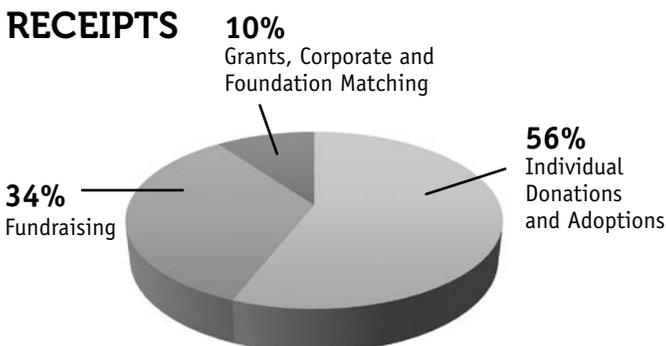


20,000+ spay/neuters!

2018 was a busy and productive year as we exceeded 20,000 spay/neuter surgeries since our formation in 1994. This milestone was achieved through the collective efforts of our volunteers, collaboration with community members, and the community veterinarians who partner with us by offering low cost spay/neuter surgeries.

Spay/Neuters in 2018 = 1,200
Total spay/neuters since 1994 = 20,560

RECEIPTS



Equally as important, we could not achieve this work without generous donations from you. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors. With your continued generosity, we look forward to putting your donations and support toward helping many more cats in 2019!

We do everything we can to keep our expenditures not related to cat care as low as possible. We are a 100% volunteer group with no office, no shelter, and very little overhead.

Spread the word to others about Island Cat. We need you to help get our name out to the community to fund our programs and to find adoptive homes for foster cats.

An honorary donation makes a great gift for any occasion. Go to www.icraeastbay.org and click on **DONATE NOW**.

Data reflects ICRA receipts and expenditures in 2018

If you believe in our work, please give what you can!



BLUE Our cats NEVER get up on the table, right? Here's handsome Blue riding high in his new digs in Seattle by way of San Francisco. You've come a long way, buddy!
Adopted February 2015 by Jacqueline O., Seattle.

Alumni Mews



CHARLIE (f. *Charlotte*) Welcoming a human hand into the furry belly zone must mean that Charlie is putting her shy days in the rearview mirror with a loving, patient family who took a chance on her. They write, "[Charlie's] been doing so well with us! ... We love Charlie so much! We even built some shelves so she could have high places to climb and hang out. Thanks for bringing her to us."
Adopted July 2017 by Kate A. & Tom G., Richmond.



CHARLES (f. *Charlie*) There's nothing quite like a good snuggle with an accommodating chin. Charles is very lucky to be the fourth ICRA kitty over the past 14 years to find a loving home with Andrew and David. Please don't tell the others that David told us, "P.S. Charlie is the best :D"
Adopted June 2017 by Andrew B. and David Y., San Francisco.



DASH Is this bonding or polite indifference to the dog's obvious intrusion into the sacred feline lounging sphere? Although he'll never admit it, Dash is warming up to his new "brother," who holds deep respect for the sharp claws Dash could bring to the negotiating table.
Adopted September 2018 by Anna L., Oakland.



GUS (f. *Teddy*) Need more convincing about FIV+ cats? Ask Gus and his family. "After one year with our sweet boy, Gus, we can confidently say he is the silliest, smartest, best kitty in the whole wide world. He loves playing fetch, learning new tricks, and snuggling with us every night. While an FIV+ confirmation was intimidating at first, it offered a tremendous learning experience for us. We knew instantly that Gus belonged in our family when we met, and we look forward to the lifetime of joy we will share with him."
Adopted October 2017 by Kelsey M. & Jeff A., Oakland.



HAPPY Having transformed into a lap cat, bringing his reluctant human along for the ride, "Hap" appears to be moving on to higher pursuits here. Why lounge about on all of that boring floor space when on top an armoire will do? Hap's mom writes: "I love him so much and feel so fortunate to be his person. Thank you for letting him be my forever boy. We are a perfect fit."
Adopted July 2018 by Wendy E., Alameda.



JETHRO What's cooler than a former street cat with looks, an attitude to match, and his own line of schrag? His person reports: "I am crazy about Jethro! You might remember he wasn't good with other cats and was super shy? He has come far. He is fine with our other two cats (ICRA brothers), and we've had a couple of fosters in the last three years as well."
Adopted October 2010 by Stephanie T., Oakland.



LITTLE GRAY + SPOT (*Spot f. Dennis*) Sticking together, these two cuties have totally captured their family's heart... AND their orange chair. Diminished access to furniture aside, their people happily report: "Thank you so much for bringing them into our lives - we love them so much and couldn't imagine life without them... Thank you for all that you do..."
Adopted May 2018 by Sean & Kendall O., Palo Alto.

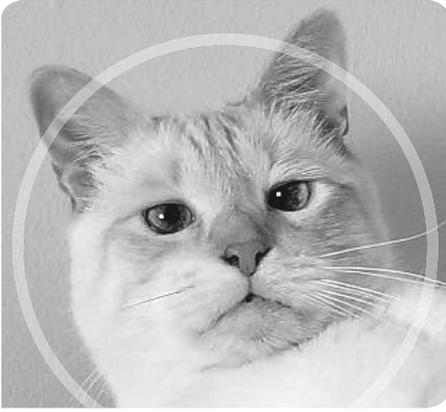
We reserve the right to use your photos and comments to update the community of our work. Thank you for sharing your images, families, and stories of your ICRA kitties with all of us!

(continued page 7)

Along Came Frankie

I had kept a 3-cat household for many years, but in 2015 my sweet Larry left this life. Since Lizzy and Lyle continued to keep me company, I decided that a 2-cat household was prudent. I was getting older and hoped my cats wouldn't outlive me.

Lyle was a Flame Point Siamese with a long, crooked tail, and he dealt with thyroid disease for a couple of years. Last year something else overtook him and he was too far gone before the vet could see us. I was devastated.



Handome blue eyes



Frankie and Lizzy sunning



Frankie inspecting the view

I was down to one kitty, Lizzy. She's a full-figured girl with lots of love to give, but a void persisted. Larry's unconditional love and Lyle's devotion were gone. I held out for months but decided in January that it was time to add another cat.

Since my friend Peggy volunteers at Island Cat Resources and Adoption I searched their website. Peggy would probably know the inside story on any cat on the site. And there I found him! A Flame Point Siamese! Lyle's doppelganger!

I know what you are thinking – it's dangerous to look for the reincarnation of your long-lost pet. I knew that, too, but I had to meet him. Peggy vouched for his good nature, and he was in a good foster home with lots of other cats.

When I went to meet him he was nervous and not eager to make new friends. I learned that he was stressed around that many cats, some of whom didn't like him. But the match felt right. And I picked out his name: Frankie – for Frank Sinatra and his blue eyes. Only Frankie's Siamese blue eyes are just slightly crossed.

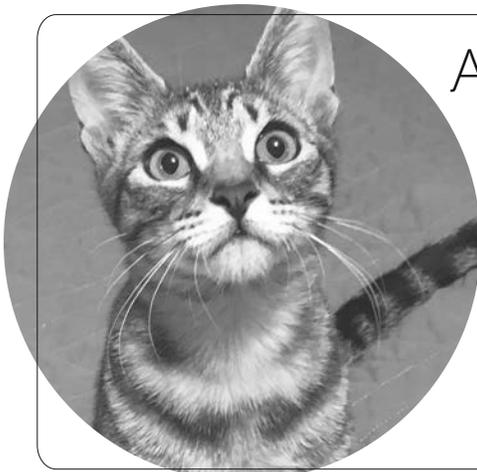
The day his foster mom was to bring him over I slipped and fell on my deck. A short hospital stay and recuperative complications would delay our reunion another two weeks.

We were concerned about how Lizzy would take to him, but she is pretty easy going as long as you stay off her cat tree. So, Frankie got his very own with a window view. They are quite comfortable with each other.

Frankie now sleeps with me every night. When the chill of early morning arrives, he often snuggles under the covers, waking me with his little meow. He loves looking out at the squirrels and the blue jays I feed on the deck. He gets that unpredictable shot of energy that sends him racing up and down the stairs like he has seen a ghost, so I know he is getting his exercise. He will let me spend hours rubbing his tummy while he blisses out.

He is not the reincarnation of Lyle - he is his own man. **And the void is filled with kitty love.**

– Claire C.



Adopt: **Baxter**

This handsome tabby is a very outgoing little guy. Typical interactions with his equally adorable brother, Mr. Purrkins (see page 8), include racing, romping, jumping, and tumbling like only youngsters can before collapsing into a kitten pile for battery recharge. Baxter needs another kitty in his home to channel all of that energy and to help refine his sense of feline etiquette as he grows into adulthood with you. He would do well with gentle children over 6 and possibly a calm, cat-friendly dog. We estimate Baxter was born in March 2018.

A Ball of Fun for the Family



LOLLY

I get it! I GET it, already!! You love me!! Her family reports: "Lolly and her brother, Taco, are BFFs and completely inseparable. Lolly loves giving Taco kisses, napping with him, and playing hide and seek, and we couldn't be happier with our new family member!" *Adopted November 2017 by Barbara & Mike G., Alameda.*



LUNA (*f. Galadriel*) Luna recently celebrated her 6th birthday with her person, who reports that "she is such a wonderful cat. Her favorite activities are play time with wand toys and cuddling on the couch with a good movie. She is such a sweet and mellow girl." **WARNING:** The following clearly was not approved for public release by the cat due to extremely indelicate content ... "Luna is even a weight loss success story. She has lost over a pound since her adoption and is close to her ideal weight." *Adopted December 2015 by Jenn Z., Alameda.*



MISO + MOCHI

(*f. LeFleuf and f. Ashton*) Like Miso, like Mochi. Miso's new guardian adopted Mochi a year ago when she still had her small dog, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Kitten Mochi has helped Miso fill the large companionship void as only another furry creature can. Looks like it's working! *Adopted June 2017 and July 2018 by Kristen G., San Francisco.*



NED

Ned (*aka Noodles*) just turned 12 years young and is doing well after his move to Georgia from the Bay Area. His person is convinced that Ned likes a female kitty across the street because he spends a lot of time looking at her through the window. Seriously, how could she resist the wisdom in these big green eyes? asks Ned. *Adopted February 2007 by Amanda P., Roswell, GA (f. South San Francisco).*



(*Cat Person cont'd.*)

I never wanted it to end. I happily spent a fortune on medical bills, but her time finally ran out. It was a long time before I could even think about adopting another cat.

It was Nelly. She was dead. The best I can figure out is that she got chased by some dogs, got stuck under a fence trying to get away, and died of fright.

So now it was just Phoebe and me. Hers was not a happy life. I don't know what happened before I got her, but it must have been really bad. She was frightened of everyone and everything except me, and she spent most of her time hiding under the bed.

But one thing did give her pleasure: She loved to sleep with her head nestled in the palm of my hand, like a pillow. And I never moved that hand all night for 15 years, not even when my hand got numb. I thought I owed her that. When I finally had to put her to sleep I cried many bitter tears.

A few months later I decided it was time for a new kitten. No, better yet, two kittens. So I called ICRA and adopted a pair of females who were rescued from the streets of West Oakland. I named them Sally and Pepe, and we've been together for six years.

But I never, ever let them go outside. I had to sign an adoption agreement with ICRA that I would keep indoors, and I'm so glad I did. It's for their own safety, but the unexpected payoff has been my peace of mind.

I discovered that letting your cats outside is like hitting your head against the wall: It feels so good when you stop.

In retrospect, I'm kicking myself for letting Eliza, Nelly and Phoebe out. I love Sally and Pepe a lot, as I have loved all of Eliza's successors. But I still think of Eliza every day, and I still miss her. She was my first love, and my best.

– Martin S.

But eight months later I got a call from my vet's office. A tiny gray female fluffball, only a few days old, had been rescued off the street. Would I be interested in adopting her?

Of course I would. I named her Nelly, and she was as sweet as a cat can possibly be. But it became quickly obvious that she needed a playmate, so I adopted another rescue kitten and named her Phoebe.

They got along extremely well. They both needed each other. But one night I let them out for one of their jaunts, and Phoebe returned an hour later but Nelly didn't.

I searched all over the neighborhood for hours until I finally collapsed in bed around 5 a.m. A few hours later my neighbor knocked on my door and said, "I think you'd better look at this."



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Adopt: **Mr. Purrkins**

This sweet little tabby needs a calm household (as far as the humans go) where his little personality will shine. He may be a bit shy to start in a new environment, but with just a little love and attention you'll reap a wonderful long-term companion. Mr. Purrkins loves to be held – his most excellent purrs will tell you so. But don't let his quiet and gentle nature fool you because he's a bundle of energy when it comes to play time. He needs another kitty companion in his life but probably would not do well with young children or dogs. His brother Baxter would be great (see page 6). We estimate Mr. Purrkins was born in March 2018.

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facebook.com/icraeastbay

INSTAGRAM, Nina Coloso
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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.