

The ICRA Catalyst

Volume 2018 Edition II



Ursula and Dolly



Smudge



Dolly and Bowie

Got Kittens?!

Act fast or you will have more and more!

Many trap-neuter-return (TNR) projects end rather uneventfully. Cats recover for a few days post-surgery and, if otherwise healthy, are returned to their outdoor 'homes' under the watchful eyes of a caretaker who feeds them and monitors their safety and well-being. One recent project in Oakland's Dimond District, however, highlights how a seemingly simple situation can become a protracted effort to keep a localized cat overpopulation situation from spiraling out of control. This is the story of the Georgia Street cats.

You never know how a TNR project will begin...

When an Oakland couple's beloved cat went missing, a friend and ICRA volunteer advised them to post flyers in their own neighborhood and an adjacent one to better their chances of finding him. They responded to a call about a potential Felix sighting, what they found instead was a yard full of well-loved but unfixed cats and three very sick kittens. They reached out to ICRA again to ask if we could take in the kittens and have the adults fixed.

The kittens were underweight, anemic, and showing symptoms of severe upper respiratory infection. The smallest was in particularly bad shape with what appeared to be permanent eye damage from the infection. All were on their way to what turned out to be a two-month sojourn with ICRA for care, treatment, and socialization. After two weeks of hissing and general resistance to handling and medicating, they let down their guards with some loud purrs and limited romps outside of their socializing cage. Leading the pack was the blind kitten, now named Ursula. Even bumping into things and swiping at air didn't diminish her *joie de vivre*.

The Oakland couple took over the kittens' care, offering them more real estate and toys for play and growth. Healthy and happy, Siamese mix Smudge and his shiny black sisters Ursula and Dolly were soon ready for spay-neuter. As recommended by the eye specialist at PETS Referral Center, Ursula would also have both of

her eyes removed to avert long-term cancer risk associated with serious damage the upper respiratory infection already inflicted. Smudge and Dolly sailed through their surgeries at 9 Lives Foundation Clinic, as did Ursula at VCA Bay Area in Oakland. In fact, she acted as if nothing had happened only hours post-surgery, characteristically calling for her siblings and looking for toys.

Meanwhile back at Georgia Street...

Determining how many cats we were dealing with was difficult because all were black with golden eyes except for three Siamese mixes. Bad weather and increasingly trap wary cats were among the factors hampering our TNR efforts. A drunk driver who roared down the street one night, bashing into dozens of cars along the way, sent the cats to ground for a week. Every visit seemed to uncover new health issues, such as patchy fur from flea allergies and drippy eyes from herpes. Educating the caretakers on how to monitor and manage the colony's health became an additional task.

It took more than two months and three volunteer teams to trap and fix 14 adult cats. Bringing up the rear were the colony's two patriarch tomcats, one of which was taken in after his surgery by a neighbor, and one elusive black male with a pronounced limp. With hopes trapping him all but gone, Jimmie walked up on a porch and under a drop trap to eat. Something was seriously wrong given the amount of fresh blood on the newspaper. A trip to Oakland VCA revealed that Jimmie had a poorly understood allergic or auto-immune disorder known as "puffy pad disease," which causes disintegration of the paw pads. Jimmie, feral and in pain, recuperated under ICRA's care for two months – with the invaluable help from VCA Bay Area – receiving steroid shots, antibiotics and lots of soothing talk to make his stay as pleasant and stress-free as possible. While Jimmie was on the mend, Smudge, Ursula, and Dolly found forever homes.

Smudge found a wonderful family in Walnut Creek who graciously provided him an instant big sister in Bailey, who caved to his

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A New Fundraising Effort

Crafts for Cats

Coming to the 2018 ICRA Holiday Boutique

Crafts for Cats is a new year-long effort launched by two creative volunteers to bring an array of thoughtful, affordable handmade and up-cycled goods to ICRA's annual holiday fundraiser.

The idea originated at the 2016 boutique, where ICRA volunteer Karalyn Buchner saw a lucrative niche for handcrafted items as a perfect complement to the event.



Adrian and fluffy supervisor, Lanai

She reached out to her friend and fellow Island Cat supporter, Adrian Hern, with a challenge. Buchner explains, "I pitched that if we each made 100 items during the year that sell for at least \$5 each, we had the potential to increase our success by \$1,000." While Buchner fell short of her 2017 goal, Hern cranked out well over 100 items that sold like hot cakes.

Explains Hern, "I'm a creative person and have been all my life. I make something from nothing just about every day - that energy needed an outlet. It was a natural fit to direct my creative spirit toward helping Island Cat." Her inaugural effort, included harnessing a knitting hobby with block print artistry to create fingerless mittens, greeting cards, and tea towels for the cause.

The duo formalized their efforts this year, researching a variety of fun crafts for groups and scheduling get-togethers throughout the year. Three crafting parties and a small network of fellow volunteers later, Hern couldn't be happier: "The level of TLC everyone brings to the workshops shows in each exceptionally unique handmade item." So far, the team has created glass bead air plant hangers, cooking aprons from deconstructed men's dress



Felted soaps

shirts, and colorful felted soaps. One regular, Martha McWoodson, particularly likes that some of the craft items repurpose materials that might otherwise wind up in a landfill. She also feels strongly that people like purchasing locally handcrafted items that also make great gifts.

Next on the agenda is an afternoon of creating hypertufa planters for succulents, as well as plans to add aromatherapy eye pillows, bracelets, shower melts, and pine cone bird feeders to the mix. Buchner is ecstatic to see this fundraising initiative come to life: "It's been a great way to combine a lot of my interests - cats, creativity and throwing parties! It's a fun excuse to experiment with new craft ideas, and the get-togethers give Island Cat volunteers a new way to connect."

Beware closet crafters - the Crafts for Cats recruiting net is being cast well beyond the workshops! Hern has tapped her parents' embroidery and woodworking skills for some special items, and Buchner was delighted when her handy husband presented a prototype mason jar LED lantern for the cause.

ICRA's Holiday Boutique is a two-day event typically held the first weekend in December at the Elks Lodge in Alameda, featuring a wide variety of holiday decorations, cards, gift wrap, jewelry, clothing, serving ware, handcrafted items, and baked goods. Keep an eye out for the dates, and we hope to see you there shopping like crazy for the cats!



Aprons made from men's dress shirts

Thank You for Your Support

Dedicated to

- **Blondie** the Cat from Donald Keleher
- For **Bonnie's Babies** – May they all find homes from Linda Barrett
- **Buffy** from Lisa Johnson
- **Coco** from Russell Lee
- **Gail Churchill**, love from Dash and Cowboy from Deidra Jow
- **Gary Wendt** from Bekki Lee-Wendt
- **Levi Mudnigh** from Anonymous
- **Maria and Jeremiah Burger** from Anonymous
- **Sarah Vettters** from Catherine Vettters

In Honor of

- **Barbara Krauss** from Susan Hughes
- **Beth Summers** from Deborah Raphael
- **Boogie** and **Tony** from Nelson and Jackie Kirk
- **Cats of Chapman and Derby Streets** from Richard and Susan Cochran
- **Chimmy** from Tim and Cassandra Owyang
- **Cinnamon Stillwell** from Mara Wallis
- **Debbie Mouw** of Continental Western from The Oshay Family
- **Debbie Ruth** from Jennifer Ching
- **Dooley** from Carol Dvora
- Remembering **Ellen Lynch's** rescue of **Ruby** in 2014 from Mary Perusina
- **Faye Keogh** and **Ellen Lynch** from Marie Fiala
- **50 Shades of Spay** from Kristyn Temple-Robinson
- **Gail Churchill** for all her help from Cecilia Trost
- **Gail Churchill** from Linda Shock
- **Gail** adopting **Bertie** from Sandy Sher
- **Ginger** from Fred Paxton
- **Hank's** surgery/aftercare from Amber Marsh
- **Baby Hank's** medical care from Clare Minges

- For **Hank** with love from Ebon the three legged wonder cat
- **Hank** from Erica Rudolph
- For **Hank's care** from Frances Hammond
- For **Hank** ♡ Isabella Cantillo
- For poor **Hank's surgery** from Karen Paolini
- For **Hank!** from Kevin Cho
- For poor **Hank's surgery** from Laura Koch
- For **Hank's surgery** from Liz Aswegan
- **Hank's Surgery** from Penny Baxley
- For little **Hank** from Robert Radecke
- **Heather Hanly** and **Dan Purcell** from Sallee Purcell
- **Heather Hanly** and **Dan Purcell's Birthdays** from Jim and Jean McNamara
- **Hootie** and **Sweetie** from Laural Flynn
- **Jerry Doodle** from Nancy Hart Servin
- **Jimmy Capes** and **Marlowe** from Christina Kotowski
- **Joan Turmaine** from Debbie Damele
- **Junior** from Mary Perez
- **Kat the Dog** from Marion Bayard and Michael Mombrea
- **Levi** and **other deserving felines** from Christine Buck
- **Levi** from Elizabeth Rogers
- **Levi's care** from Kristin Bowers
- For helping **Levi** from Skyli McAfee
- **Linda McCormick** from Jennifer Courter Delucchi
- All the forgotten and discarded **little ones** from Sara Moore
- Our cat **Lucky** and all the hard wonderful work you do! from Allison Martin
- **Lulu** from Gail O'Connor-Justice
- Semi-feral friends **Mama, Squeakie, Fussy, Monte** from Charlene Gray
- **Mango** and **Max** from Janet Kahle
- **Martin Snapp** from Patricia Swartz
- **Merry Bates** from Linda Barrett
- **Michelle and Jim's 25th wedding anniversary** from Michael Barrick
- **Minerva McGonagall's 16th birthday** from Michael Budd

- **Miss Kiwi** and for all you do, **ICRA!** from Suzanne Ragghianti
- **Muffy** from Joe and Victoria Machado
- **Nathan Wellsfry** is donating his allowance again this year, Alison Wellsfry
- **Onyx's 19th birthday** from Ken and Hima Chaudhary
- **Orion** from Ronald Schaeffer
- **Pat McCall** from Edmund Clausen
- **Peggy Harding** from Michael Barrick
- **Peggy Harding** and **Panda** from Susan Ciriclio
- **Satchel** from Rebecca Swagelok
- **The Staff at Thornhill Vet Hospital** from Michael Barrick
- **Sunny** from Leslie Hood
- **Ursula's care** from Arden Hoffman
- **Ursula's vet expenses** from Julia Illescas
- **Zeke** from Barbara Cassens

In Memory of

- **Amber** from Thalia Dorwick
- **Bingeaux** (Bingo) from Sally and Andy Lorenz
- **Blackstone** from Jolene Ignowski
- **Blighty** from Lonn and Lorene Miller
- Heather and Dan's beloved **Bobbles** from Sallee Purcell and John Murray
- **Boo** from Beverly Zia
- Jody McKeivitt's **Cassie** from Gail, Debbie, and Tosh
- **Chico** from Dawn Graeff
- **Chris Flaningam** from Margaret Baldwin
- **Christine Flaningam** from Mary and David Yamamoto
- **Cliff Fallow**
 - from Alison Nell Finlay
 - from Daphne Markham
 - from Gail Truman and Colleen Long
 - from Margitta Gardner
- **Cynthia Salcedo** from Scarlett Ho
- **Darlene Silva** from Kim and Tom Pastore
- Debbie Sharp's **Foxy** from Debbie Damele
- **Domino** and **Coonie** from Barbara Krauss and Lito Micheli
- **Dusty** from Barbara Newell
- **Dylan** from Patricia Santos
- **Freddie** from Deirdre Terry
- **Freddie**, Deirdre's first born beloved cat, from Peggy Harding
- **Ginger** from Jeff McRory and Enjel Eckart-McRory
- **Ginger** from Leslie Krongold and Jessica Nussbaum
- My beloved **Gracie** from Sue Ann Schultz
- **Hank** from Donna Nishijima
- **Holly** from Joan and Harold Lewis
- **Isabella** from John and Nancy Rice
- **Isobel** from Brian Pearson
- **Jasmine** and **Pretty Kitty** from Walter and Nancy Baker
- **Jerome** from Robert Hagedorn
- **Joanie Turmaine** from Cathy Jones
- **Joanie Turmaine** from Gail Churchill
- **Joanie Turmaine** from Sandy Sher
- Yvonne Jansky's precious **Kasha** from Debbie Damele

In memory of

JOAN TURMAINE

All of us at ICRA were deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and ICRA supporter.

Joan felt a deep love and passion for all animals. She adored her ICRA cats and her canine companions.

Joan co-founded K9for Care, a dog ministry at Three Crosses Church.

She will be missed by many friends, and we are honored to be counted among them.



Joan and her dogs Arlo and Kale

(continued)



MARZIPAN

is a big, sweet, lovebug!

Named for his almond-colored coat, he is an energetic cat, who loves to explore, snuggle, and play. He loves a good window seat, toys with feathers, boxes, and anything that rolls, dangles, or tinkles. He likes a peaceful hiding spot when it's time to rest and have a moment alone.

Marz is a great cat. He will do best with a human who showers him with lots of interactive evening playtime. He needs a peaceful kennel or separate room overnight so humans can rest. He can get wacky overnight and needs his play space.

Marzipan is FIV+. FIV+ positive cats can live normal lives both in quality and duration. Like all cats, he needs regular vet checks for good health. Marzipan is good with adults and older kids, but needs to be the only cat in his home. His foster family adores him and wants to find a purrfect permanent family to shower him with the love, attention,

(Got Kittens continued)

charms after some obligatory, bossy hissing. The new best buddies reportedly teamed up to nurse the family's son back to health as he battled a winter flu.

Allaying our competing fears about splitting up a bonded pair of fosters and passing on an opportunity to find a home for a special needs cat (and black cats in general), fate intervened for Ursula and Dolly in the form of an animal-savvy couple seeking a special needs companion for their deaf cat, Bowie. Once they met the girls and considered what separating them would mean, they decided to adopt them both. The duo quickly became a happy trio, and of resilient Ursula her new guardian reports, *"Ursula is the commanding presence on the battlefield. She summons her sister and, in turn, Bowie with a small squeak whenever she needs to. We thought we needed a ramp, but we were wrong. Ursula is quite nimble and unafraid of hopping up and down beds and couches!"*

Six months and a lot of persistence and community teamwork later, we were able to bring the cat population on Georgia Street under control. Navigating the project's twists and turns was worth it in the end - 17 cats are now healthy and in safe hands in one way or another.

With kitten season in full swing, this project serves as a critical reminder that time is of the essence when you see cats and kittens proliferating and roaming around your neighborhood. Rest assured that problem will not resolve itself, so please commit to DO SOMETHING to keep the felines and humans happy. ICRA stands ready to provide education and equipment!

– Beth S.

- **Kit Kit** from Judy Castillo
- **Koala** aka **Kobra**, Gretchen and Peter's beautiful garden cat from Peggy Harding
- Sweet shy **Loki** girl from Pat Mosley
- Rena's **Louie** from Gail Churchill and Natasha Leschinsky
- **Lucile P.** from Brette Johnson
- **Mama**, a brave mother, and her son **Marty**, a mischievous orange boy, from Cynthia Ng
- **Manju** and **Frodo** from S. Keightley and M. L'Esperance
- **Mickey** and **Sophie** from Frederick and Manya Casto
- **Molly** from Karin Seritis
- Tom J's **Mr. Ricky** from Allan Massingill and Ann Bracci
- **Naren Jackson** from Judy Bertelson
- **Norma McCormick** from Jennifer Courter Delucchi
- **Oreo**, **Whisper**, **Bucky**, and **Lacy** from Elizabeth Lao-Scott
- **Porter Kawamura** from the Kawamura Family
- **Princess** from Lisa and Roland Williams
- Peggy's sweet **Piper** from Heather and Dan
- **Piper**, Peggy and Panda's cat from Marion Bayard and Michael Mombrea
- **Piper**, my first ICRA cat and Panda's best friend from Peggy Harding
- **Piper** from Zuni
- Percy Alejos and Rachna Rajan's **Sunshine** from Debbie Damele
- **Randy Meader** from Ruthann Zazeela Cohn

- **Timmy, Bobbie, Freja, Silky, Gabby, Sibling** my wonderful cats! from Pamela Senegal
- **Sweet Pea**, Holly and Richard's beloved pig from Peggy Harding
- **Toby** and **Murphy** from Dolores Kelleher
- Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell's beloved **Wally** from Sallee Purcell and John Murray
- **Wally**, precious companion of Donna, Heather and Dan from Peggy Harding
- In loving memory of **Velvet** from Michael Barrick
- **William D. Anderson** from Adrian Hern

Thanks

- For the **amazing work** you do from Elisa and Larry Poynter
- For your help and **Anna**, she's so special from Rebecca Wildman
- For your help and time with the **Bengal in Alameda** from Karen Pahler
- We greatly appreciate **everything you do** – Angelique Charef, Kamal, Kyo and Sachiko
- **Debbie Sharp** from Terri Puetz
- For helping the **Fruitvale Four** from Kitty Corner Cat Sitting
- **Gail** and **Cecilia** for help with the Channing Way yellow stray from Helene Ciarelli
- Thanks for **helping the cats** from Carl Butler
- From **Linda** and **John Waldman**
- For your **great work** from Marilyn Saunders
- **Merry** for helping with Kitty Boo from Amy Harbin
- **Merry** and ICRA for making the world a better place for cats and kittens! from Sharon Hogan

introducing

MITSU



Do you have a soft spot for amazing but weird cats? This strikingly handsome shy guy is looking for a patient, cat-savvy person with a robust ego and low expectations who will meet him where he is emotionally.

In many ways Mitsu's a typical cat—he loves to frolic and play, sit in the window, nap in the sun, and be in the company of other cats—but he prefers not to be the center of attention. In fact, he's more comfortable about approaching for pets and lap time if you kind of ignore him. Please give Mitsu the chance to delight! We estimate he was born around August 1, 2017.

Alumni Mews



BELLA

Bella does not see this as a case of divide and conquer but rather more like two great humans, twice the love and fun for me! Adopted March 2018 by Alagia C., Berkeley.



FLYNN

Who'd ever believe that this big, demanding (look at that face!) orange tabby is really nothing but a combat cuddler at heart? ... except for those of us who have lived with one or two. There are almost no lengths to which Flynn (*f. Crawley*) won't go for comfort (mainly HIS!) and companionship – face or paws squished against his human's face or furry body draped over senior pal Beau like a bear-skin rug. Says his person, "Flynn definitely has a knack for discovering the most annoying ways to cuddle, but we all put up with it." (Of course they do. Just look at me.) Adopted in 2014 by Lauren F., El Cerrito.



BUNNI

Delightfully and ever so slightly cross-eyed Bunni (*f. Machiko*), perched up high, doesn't seem phased that her new sister, Koko, has appointed herself the star of this photo shoot. Adopted in December 2017 by Gloria Y., Alameda.



FRED + EARL

"Fred and Earl (*f. Ned*) continue to delight and are still best buds. They are both big boys in that they are huge and weigh quite a bit. They boss the dog around and were good companions while I was off my feet recovering from a foot surgery this year... Thanks again for 2 great cats!" Apparently, mom missed the memo about weight = big bones. Adopted in December 2013 by Cynthia T., Petaluma.



GIZMO

Her guardian reports on Gizmo, pictured left with Butterscotch: "She's doing great! They're buddies. He's not as socially skilled as she, but they're friends. We're so happy to have her!" Adopted in 2017 by Maura G., Berkeley.



LENA

We're very happy to hear that Lena's adjustment to life with her new family is going well. She and Bae (left) show how lasting friendships can be built upon even the simplest of common interests, like taking in a big garden view from the comfort of a nice, warm window-sill. Adopted in December 2017 by Rhiannon L. & Maria T., Mill Valley.



PETEY + COOPER

Little angels?? Their guardian was able to catch new arrivals Petey and Cooper in one of the more tranquil moments that does not involve them galloping and jetting through the house. She tells us, "I wish I could videotape them when they are playing, but they are too fast and I am usually part of the game." Adopted in January 2018 by Fong C., Oakland.



RADCLIFFE

If we could only read their minds: The cat is annoying me. YOU annoy me – you're a dog and you breathe...

...This whoooooole house and you're right on... I'm nowhere NEAR you! Oh, yeah? Your messy hair is. At least I HAVE hair ... and lots of it. Stupid cat. Stupid dog. Buddies. Adopted in 2015 by Erin M., Sacramento.



TALISKER + CILANTRO

It was hard choosing a photo of this duo in which they weren't almost joined at the hip! Handsome brothers Talisker (*f. Nick*) and Cilantro (*f. Orin*) reportedly are "closer than ever" and spend most of their time wrestling, chasing, snuggling, or cuddling up with their human companions. "They truly are the soul of our home and family... Thank you again for letting us bring them into our lives." Adopted January 2017 by Coleman R., San Francisco.



ZIGS + ZELDA

Of shy kitties Zigs (*f. Kona*) and Zelda (*f. Archie*), their humans report: "They have completely adapted to city life and our apartment. Zigs (the belly-up sprawler) still loves his belly rubs and is very cuddly and affectionate when it's calm. He's not as big of a social butterfly as his sister is when we have company, though! He would much rather relax with us... We are so very grateful and happy to have them in our family now!" Adopted in May 2017 by Beth & Patty, San Francisco.



2018: 50 Shades of Spay Silent Auction

ICRA is so very fortunate to have great supporters, loyal friends, adopters, and dedicated volunteers who turn out every year to celebrate our largest fundraising event, and 2018's 50 Shades of Spay evening was no exception. From the wonderful food made by our volunteers, to wines and champagnes, music from jazz guitarist Terrence Brewer (*Thank you, Terrence!*), and a bevy of auction items, it was a great night for the kitties all around. With donations still trickling in, we raised over \$15,500 to continue helping our free-roaming community cats and kittens with spay/neuter surgeries, veterinary care, and finding their forever homes.

An event like this takes a team effort. We thank the Alameda Elks Lodge for hosting us, as well as Elks members Pat McCall and Teresa Carlisle for going above and beyond to ensure things went off without a hitch. To the many ICRA volunteers who provided transport of supplies, decorations, kitchen help and clean up, we salute your hard work and enthusiasm. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Frances Sharp who came all the way from Mississippi to head up the kitchen, in addition to making some of the delicious food for our many guests.

We would like to acknowledge the local businesses who generously donated bid items to us this year: Alameda Theater and Cineplex, California Academy of Sciences, California Shakespeare Theater, Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Grand Lake Theater, Grgich Estates, Hanger One Vodka, Honey Hair Salon by Jone, The Oakland Zoo, Pier 39 in San Francisco, Pixar Studios and Raphael Suter, Rialto Cinemas, Seaglassfineart.com, Six Flags Marine World, Sonoma Raceway, Thomas Fallon Photography, and Trader Joe's of Alameda.

And a huge thank you to our private donors, supporters and volunteers: Adrian Hern, Beth Summers, Cecilia Stolzer-Grote, Deana Lorman, Debbie Damele, Debbie Sharp, Diana McFadgen, Francesca Suzio, Frankie Johnson, Gail Churchill, Gretchen Whittier, Gwen Johnson, Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell, Jean Edwards, Jocelyn Haybittel Gibson, Joyce Chang, Judy Lawrence, Kara Buchner, Karen Lovtang, Katie Gilmartin, Keri Spaulding, Lisa Gregerson, Mary Abbott, Megan Cieri, Merilee Fisher and Michael Doyle, Merry Bates, Mia Wijssen, Mike Milioto, Nannette Reilly, Nel O'Neil, Patty Rose, Peggy Harding, Rita Walker, Sandy Sher, Shari Stepnick, Stacy Barr, Stefani Gandolfi, Stephanie Taylor, Teresa Carlisle, Tony Sauler, Yvonne Temple, and Vanessa Contillo, and YenSeng Gan and YongLong Tan. **Hope to see you all next year!**

– Gail C.



Adopt some **HAPPY!**

Happy is a mellow, affectionate cat who loves having his rabbit-like fur groomed and rubbing up to you for attention. Likely not purebred, he has some of the distinctive markings and traits of a Turkish Van cat.

A favorite pastime is stretching his lanky limbs and dripping off furniture head first. Happy came to us from the campus of an East Oakland school where he was cared for by some cat-friendly staff. He would make a great companion for someone who is home a lot because he enjoys being nearby, but he may be a bit independent and feisty for small children. A cat companion of similar age and even a calm dog would be okay. We estimate he was born August 1, 2016.

We love Sachi!

This boldly striped tabby is so sweet, affectionate, and handsome, but it's tricky to convince potential adopters of that. While super shy for the first few meetings, once things click it's like you've been friends forever. He was surrendered by his loving guardian when she suddenly lost her home. Could you be the one special person to give Sachi back the kind of life he lost? He'd be fine solo or with other gentle pets. We estimate he was born in 2008.



I have never been a cat person, but ...

The first thing you need to know about me is that I have never been a cat person, but as an animal lover, one of the reasons I love living in the hills is the amazing array of wildlife with whom I share my space. Deer, wild turkeys, foxes, coyotes, all types of birds, possum, and even the occasional stinky skunk, including two close encounters with one of my two dogs. She did not learn after the first experience, but I have become adept at removing skunk odor from dogs and my house.



Last year, a cute, brown tabby began sleeping on one of my patio chairs. She would not let me anywhere near her, so I simply admired her from afar. She seemed to disappear for some time, then in the summer, I began to hear little "meows" and discovered a kitten. Then there were two kittens. Over the next few days, I realized Mama Socks had four kittens, bringing my kitty crew to five, with an occasional interloper, whom I suspected to be the father, although he rarely visited. So, yes, I put out a few coffee cups filled with my dogs' kibble, which they happily devoured.

My next grocery list included cat food, and my breakfast club was well in place. They began to wait for me each morning, even allowing me to pet them as they ate. I foolishly thought I could simply pick them up, put them into the cardboard cat carriers I had purchased, but that is another story for another time. One morning, I found this little Gordian Knot of kittens sleeping on my patio chair, (see photo) in which I could not discern which tail belonged to which head, and I suppose I must admit that by that time I had officially become a cat lover. **Meow.**

After numerous requests on Nextdoor.com, I was contacted by an angel volunteer from ICRA, and that Sunday afternoon, Erin came with six traps, which we schlepped and placed behind my house, covered with blankets. Over the next few days, my kitty guests became accustomed to going into the cages to eat their meals, and because their meals often included fresh salmon leftovers from my dinner the night before, they were growing fat and healthy.

Early Friday, we set the traps, and by Saturday afternoon, I had the entire family: Mama, Papa, and the four young ones. By Sunday evening, all six had been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, ear tipped, and treated with flea/tick medicine and antibiotics. The following Wednesday, I was able to release all six, and I am thrilled to report they still come for breakfast every morning, and thanks to the amazing work of Island Cat Resources and Adoption, their propensity for multiplication has been eliminated, and they will be able to live out their lives in my backyard.

Thank you, ICRA. With your unbelievable help, I believe we made a difference.

– Elizabeth G.

This very sweet girl just wants to hang out and watch movies, nap, and snuggle. She loves neck and ear massages and will reward you with the sweetest purrs.

Daisy would do well in a home with cat-friendly kids of any age and possibly a calm, cat-friendly dog. She is fine with other gentle cats. We estimate she was born in 2009.



ADOPT *Daisy*





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ADOPT *Kit Kat* This special senior still has lots of love to give! An adorable underbite just adds to his character and charm. After all these years, Kit Kat's family moved and could not take him with them. He's adjusted well to this this drastic life change and is ready for a new loving home that will shower him with love and affection. Kind of like a little "dog-cat," he's content to follow you around until you sit so he can take the - ahem - large spot right next to you. Kit Kat scoffs at those who claim he's too big to be a lap cat. He'd do well with calm children and dogs. We estimate Kit Kat was born in 2004.

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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 or neuter, adoption, and community education.