The ICRA Catalyst
A Publication of Island Cat Resources and Adoption
Summer 2009
www.icraeastbay.org
(510) 869-2584

ICRA’s Long-Term Foster Cats
Good Things Do Come to Those Who Wait

Anyone who wonders what happens to the cats in ICRA’s adoption program need only read Amber and Opal’s story to understand that we stick with them as long as it takes to find the right homes. This sweet mother and daughter duo spent 7½ years in foster care before being adopted in January to a wonderful home in the Oakland Hills that would make any cat envious. They were very lucky to have found someone willing to take them both, especially since they had formed such a close bond over the years. Amber has always been the bolder of the two, with Opal content to follow mom’s lead – which remains the case as these middle-aged kittens carve out a new life under the watchful eye of guardian Thalia D. and her cat-friendly, 12-year-old pit bull named “Shadow.” Like many of our foster cats, these two endured so much, not the least of which were countless stressful days at the adoption site and a gentle slide into obscurity as they lost precious cage space to cats and kittens who show better in public. It’s frustrating and it’s sad to see such beautiful little souls essentially grow up in foster care simply because they are ‘too something’ to so many people – too shy, too imperfect, too ordinary, too big, too small... too old. But Amber and Opal are proof that the right people are out there for all of our long-timers, people like Thalia who will give them the love and patience they need to adjust to a whole new world. Thalia knew her girls were completely at home when she found a cat toy in the water dish they now share with ‘Shadow.’

Toby and Sydney were rescued as feral kittens in 2001. Toby is such an easy going, playful, bouncy, and increasingly cuddly kitty. He sleeps under his foster mom’s arm at night, snuggling and purring. Toby loves attention and loves to be with his person. Mild-mannered and gentle with new people, he’s also a drop-and-roll kitty who will throw himself at your feet to be petted. Toby will need a buddy like his brother Sydney and probably would be OK with a dog. He needs a calm household with children 12+, as he’s a bit of an escape artist.

Sydney is such a quiet, gentle, and good-natured kitty. He’s a happy little kitty despite his perpetually worried expression. Shy to start but warms up quickly. He loves attention and back scratches and will “trill,” head butt, and pace back and forth until he gets his fill. He likes other cats and would probably be OK with a dog. He will need a buddy like Toby and a calm household. Sydney does require daily medication that’s inexpensive and easy, but he’s a healthy guy. We will discuss details with interested adopters.

Merry, merry and support ICRA

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Works! ... Contact Us for Information & Resources

‘Tis ALMOST the Season ...
Why Not Let These Three Beauties Help
Spread Holiday Greetings to Friends and Family?

ANGEL Bio# 1828 DJ

The photo doesn’t do this six-year-old Siamese mix justice. Playful and affec-
tionate, Angel needs a friendly cat pal, like her littermate, Sydney. Shy to start but warms up quickly. Despite her beauty, she needs a quiet home with kids OK, too.

SISTER Bio# 1829 DJ

What a wonderful personality! Sydney adores everybody and is especially fond of her sister, Angel. Easy going, social, and so good natured, Sydney will make a great family cat. Children 10+ should be OK.

SADIE Bio# 1989 MB

Sadie is a calm, sweet-natured girl. Found near Jack London Square, this 12-year-old ‘tortie’ loves to sit on your lap and purr contently when petted. Shy to start with strangers and new situations. She would prefer a quiet home and could be fine as an only pet, but she gets along well with other cats.

$5 for 10 cards with envelopes
GIVE THE GIFT OF A GIFT

To purchase ICRA Holiday Cards, e-mail us at info@icraeastbay.org or come by Petco on Saturdays 12-4pm

We need CAT FOOD and LITTER more than ever!!
Our foster homes are struggling. Also, we are receiving many more requests for food assistance from caretakers who simply want to continue their work. Every donation helps. Thank You!!

Care - Learn - ACT - Set the Example in Your Community!!

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One Person CAN
Make a Difference

Last year, West Oakland resident Ron was feeding strays in his neighborhood. With little money and nowhere to turn for help, Ron soon had a lot of cats and kittens on his hands. They were unfixed and unvaccinated...some were dying from distemper. An accidental meeting with a friend of an ICRA volunteer alerted us to Ron’s situation. Within two months, over 30 cats were spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and put up for adoption. Some were nursed back to health.

Ron continues to feed strays but has an edge because of what he learned through ICRA. He is humanely trapping new cats, which we help him spay, neuter, and vaccinate. Adoptable cats enter our adoption program, while the ferals (those too wild to be adoptable) are returned to live out their natural lives under Ron’s care. This collaboration has helped over 70 cats and kittens to date, all because one person cared enough to learn and get involved. No. Ron couldn’t do it all by himself, but with ICRA’s help he gained control of a sad and potentially overwhelming situation, giving many innocent cats a fighting chance to lead healthier lives.

Thanks to people like Ron, feral cats can have a better place to call home. Unfortunately, many of you may find yourselves as overwhelmed as Ron once was. Our website is filled with information you can use to help one cat or dozens. Don’t wait for your problems to multiply…literally! Strays need much more than food. They need your help to stop producing more unwanted kittens who end up sick, dead, or wallowing in overcrowded shelters where they stand a good chance of being euthanized before finding a safe home.

Anyone with a heart and a desire to help can make a difference. It doesn’t have to be a huge one. Maybe one cat or one litter. After all, it all started with one person.
New Venue, Same Spirit Spark Silent Auction...Thanks for Making This Our Best Ever!

Over 200 cat lovers, adopters, and supporters gathered for ICRA’s Champagne Silent Auction on April 26th to help us celebrate 15 years of helping stray and feral cats in the community. Our fears about changing the venue for the first time, on top of a shaky economy, were allayed quickly by a fantastic turnout and everyone’s enthusiasm in the face of a potential disaster. First, we owe a huge vote of gratitude to Alameda’s Elks Club and Dearie and Pete, who made it possible for us to use their large event space and kitchen. The elbow room was a breath of fresh air for our guests and our workhorse food prep volunteers DeAnne Jarvis, Kecia Leonard, Rachna Rajan, and Frances Sharpe. Our hats are off to Dan and Ginger Roberts for donating the lovely wine selection for which we received many compliments this year. We owe a special thanks again to Terence Brewer for the ambiance provided by his unique jazz guitar stylings.

BUSINESS DONORS
Acme Chophouse * Alameda Athletic Club * Alameda Ballet Academy * Alameda Bicycle * Alameda Civic Light Opera * Alameda Theater * Applebee’s Aroma Restaurant * Baci Restaurant * Bay Cafe * Bette’s Oceanview Diner * Bop’s Bistro * Boudin Bakery * Bistro Boudin * California Canoe & Kayak * California Shakespeare Company * Camino Restaurant * Chuck Corica Golf Complex * Citizenz Cafe * Curves for Women * Dig’s Bistro Dog Bone Alley * Dr. Cynthia Boyd * DrSymmetry Chiropractic * DuVine’s * Farmstead Wine & Cheeses * Gold Coast Grill * Grand Lake Theater * Hannah’s Lake Tahoe Infineon Raceway * Julie’s Coffee & Tea Garden * La Pinata Restaurant * LaVr’s Pizza * Lauren’s Closet * MyJewelrySource.com * O’Spa * Oakland Athletics * Oakland Raiders * The Waffle Shop * Pacific Heating & Sheet Metal * Park Centre Animal Hospital * Piedmont Grocery Pier 39 & Aquarium of the Bay * Pillow Park Plaza * Rebecca at Salon 1322 * Grand Lake Theater * Havana Station * Kenney’s Cat Bistro * LaVida’s Pizza * Lauren’s Closet * MyJewelrySource.com * O’Spa * Oakland Athletics * Oakland Raiders * One’s Waffle Shop * Starbucks Coffee * Steve Kurtz Photographics * Tiki Tom’s * Tomatina Trader’s Joe’s * Virago Theater Company

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Donations In Memory Of...
Akbar from Naida Verbeek * Baby, much loved kitty of the Temple Family from LD & YA Temple * Bad Day the Cat from Meredith Florin * Caylee Anthony from Julila Ann Illescas * Cel Wood from Michael & Margaret * Shaune from Tricia Robertson * Crystal & Sandy from Margaret Wehinger * Dave & Peggy’s precious Patches from Gail, Natasha & all your friends at ICRA * Domino from Robert & Debbie * Emer from Bruce & Jean Elneric * Mr. Gregory Watson from Scarlet Ho * My brother, Helen K. Margolid, from Jane Margolid * Irving and Henry from Ellen McGinn * Irving and Rose from Haylin Traynor * Jerome from Robert Hagedorn * Jim Ashley, late husband of Linda Kay Ashley, from Arthur & Patricia Still * Lovey, RIP 9/30, from Jo Bodmer * Mattie from Michael Neessen * Max, for Gretchen and Peter, from Heath Hanly & Dan Purcell * Mona from Margaret Baldwin * Nancy Regan from Rebel, Red & Rascal * Princess from Merry Bates * Raj, Mary Spur’s kitty, from a far away place, from Margitta * Rontal from Billy * Julie Weese * Riley, Debbie & Gary’s kitty, from Margitta * Robert Millican from Bingham McClutchen LLC * Smokey from Thomas & Peternelle Smith * Teddy from William & Robyn Jagust * Tiffy from Leslie Kronold * Valery from JoAnn Holman * Zooey from Kathryn M. Caulfield

Donations In Honor Of...
Anne Montgomery from Deborah Mazzolini * Bradley Anderson from Kathleen Hughes * Bruce & Gary & Stella Moser * Catherine Pagano from Jen Wolseleg * Charlie from Sheryl Martin-Moe & Gregory Moore * Joanne Turman’s birthday from Margitta Gardner * Kristi’s birthday from Kristi Soo * Kristi Soo’s birthday from Danielle Fernandez * Kristi Soo’s birthday from Mary A. Taylor * Kristi Soo’s birthday from Alexandra Dang * Lucy, Gary, and Molly Saugeles from Allann Minnigall & Brin Latch * Lisa from Christine Geoghegan * Lisa Haage from Madeline Field * Mamba from Catherine Vetters * Marian and Dave Kolm from Frank Colligan * Mary Spur from David Radri * Maverick, Goose, and Monkey from Clay Chan * Moms from Suzanne & Donald Lueser * Nancy Brand from Julie & Chris Van Buhler * Nicholas Sher & Monica Lundy from Gavin Tett * Ranya from George & Larry Ford * Ron Kamangar from Dolores Kelleher * Stewie from Ray Ortega * Sugar and Magic from Jacqueline E. Heyward * Rocky Bobcat from Mary Ellen Bauer * Terry Lang from Christine Baer * Tim, a wonderful black cat, from Donna Hanly

Donations With Thanks...
To Gretchen & Peter, for doing TNR for 11 cats, from Carlos Martinez * To Heather, et al., for your work looking after kitties on Lusk Drive, from Kevin Dwyer * To ICRA, for all you do, from Mohammed & Donna Khat * To ICRA, for all you do, from Susan Cornell * To ICRA from Selda Sangol & Scott Heavner * To ICRA, with gratitude for your caring and support, from Kathleen Pelayo * To ICRA from SBH * For our forever home! from Stewart and Hermes, fostered by Gail Churchill * To Sue Covello from Marilyn Saunders

All the handicapped, abused, neglected, unwanted, needy cats from Sandra Ramois

In Memory of Mattie
“Was a beautiful, sweet, and loving companion for 9 great years before succumbing to breast cancer. Thank you for what you do and bringing Mattie into my life.” - Sincerely, Michael Neessen (Boston, Mass.)

Donations to Aid...
Ara XXV of Almus * Alcatraz Cruises * Aroma Restaurant * Asena Restaurant * Bacar Restaurant * Bette’s Oceanview Diner * Bistro Boudin * California Canoe & Kayak * California Shakespeare Company * Camino Restaurant * Chuck Corica Golf Complex * Citizenz Cafe * Curves for Women * Dig’s Bistro Dog Bone Alley * Dr. Cynthia Boyd * DrSymmetry Chiropractic * DuVine’s * Farmstead Wine & Cheeses * Gold Coast Grill * Grand Lake Theater * Havana Station * Kenney’s Cat Bistro * LaVida’s Pizza * Lauren’s Closet * MyJewelrySource.com * O’Spa * Oakland Athletics * Oakland Raiders * One’s Waffle Shop * Pacific Heating & Sheet Metal * Park Centre Animal Hospital * Piedmont Grocery Pier 39 & Aquarium of the Bay * Pillow Park Plaza * Rebecca at Salon 1322 * Grand Lake Theater * Havana Station * Kenney’s Cat Bistro * LaVida’s Pizza * Lauren’s Closet * MyJewelrySource.com * O’Spa * Oakland Athletics * Oakland Raiders * One’s Waffle Shop * Pacific Heating & Sheet Metal * Park Centre Animal Hospital * Piedmont Grocery Pier 39 & Aquarium of the Bay * Pillow Park Plaza * Rebecca at Salon 1322 * Grand Lake Theater * Havana Station * Kenney’s Cat Bistro * LaVida’s Pizza * Lauren’s Closet * MyJewelrySource.com * O’Spa * Oakland Athletics * Oakland Raiders * One’s Waffle Shop

For more information e-mail ICRA at info@icraeastbay.org or call (510) 869-2584.

Our Mission: We are dedicated to reducing the suffering of abandoned and feral (wild) cats and to empowering the local community to assist them in their plight. We provide low-cost spay/neuter, vaccines, and medical treatment to all of our cats, and resources for people willing and able to help themselves. We provide foster care for tame or socialized cats until they can be placed into quality, permanent homes. We also support our adoption program. We return feral or unsocialized cats back to their colonies if a safe, managed environment. We strive to educate the public about responsible treatment of animals and the need for spay/neuter to reduce the number of unwanted kittens.

Turn your rinsed recyclable plastic soda & water bottles and aluminum cans into CASH for the CATS!!

Drop them off with our Petco Adoption site staff (Saturdays 12-4)
ICRA Garden Cats
continued from page 4

WILSON (White & orange), 13 yrs. "Wilson" is very special and loves to dress himself in yoga-like poses and to slumber in cozy places. He gets along with all types of cat personalities. He is a sweet-natured cat but was born to a feral mom and not captured young enough to tame completely for adoption as a house pet. He will allow some petting once he gets to know his caretaker. Good pairings: Fenn, Fleur, or Mia

MIA, 4 yrs old. Mia is not semi-feral, but she cannot easily be hand-fed or petted. Rescued as an adult, we do not know if her history would explain her paranoia in this regard. She seems to want attention but doesn’t know how to accept it. We think she would enjoy a garden or yard where she could establish a relationship with humans and another cat, but on her own terms.

A Special Plea for Adolfo

ADOLFO (Grey & white), 11-12 yrs old. This handsome senior is all that remains of a feral colony which had called Alameda’s Coast Guard Island home for over 20 years. ICRA trapped, tested, and fixed Adolfo and his colony mates ten years ago to curb a chronic cat overpopulation problem on the island and to improve the quality of life for the existing cats there. Unfortunately, their fate and that of their loyal caretakers repeatedly has been threatened by the misinformed judgments, broken promises, and prejudices of different commanders over the years. Last fall, things took a sudden turn for the worse when the base command decided that all feral cats must be removed from the island. They did agree to stop trapping the cats and taking them to the Alameda shelter - a certain death sentence for feral cats - long enough for ICRA to humanely trap and relocate them with identified caretakers. We need help finding a safe garden environment where Adolfo can enjoy the rest of his natural life. He is okay for now under the protection of his dad’s lap and the companionship of his new four-legged friends. "He is a good fit." Adapted Fall 2008 by Karen R., Alameda.

Active, petite Gracie (1.5 months) and black, big-boned Murphy (6.5 months) found their forever home at the Montclair adoption event last summer. "They are such a joy to have around and I am so glad that I found them through ICRA. Just thought you’d like to know they are doing well and are getting plenty of love." Adapted Jul 2008 by Mary D., Piedmont.

See more Long-Term Foster Cats on page 8

More ALUMNI PHOTOS & NEWS
continued from page 5

St. Joseph’s Elementary “Goodies for Good” Helps ICRA

We were truly honored that Mrs. Radecke’s 2nd grade class at St. Joseph Elementary School in Alameda chose ICRA as the recipient of proceeds from their school-wide “Goodies for Good” fundraiser in January. They worked very hard to raise over $450 to help many does, cats, kittens, and many, many thanks to Mrs. Radecke and her students for their generosity, community spirit, and the opportunity to speak to them about our mission. You earned a big A+ from all of us at ICRA, especially the kittens! Missing from the class photo is Hillary Kitten (f. Princess Cleo), who was foster mom Gail Churchill’s co-spokeswoman for ICRA’s presentations to the class. This lucky girl found her forever home soon thereafter with guardian Lacey R. of Oakland, who reports that this kitty’s new favorites include doing laundry and studying for the LSAT — “unlike me.”

Don’t Let Their Size Fool You... KITTENS are HARD WORK!!

Kitten season chugs along, and those little bundles of cuteness are hard to resist. ICRA has many kittens looking for great homes, but our number one concern is making the right match. "Rosie" Churchill was ready to tackle kitten care, but are you ready for kittenmania?!

* Can you have the energy, patience to enforce house rules that ensure kittens grow up to be well-adjusted family members for the next 15-20 years? Kittens require constant supervision and teaching – almost like human babies do.

* Do you have the mind and body handle unpredictable mayhem? Kittens are high-energy! When they want to romp, play, run underfoot, and get into things, your feelings on the matter mean very little to them.

* Do all household members – especially small children – know how fragile kittens are? Rough handling can lead to serious injury (to all parties) and bad human-kitten bonds.

* Looking for a sure thing? There’s no guarantee that your personal kitten-rearing efforts will produce that adoring lap that ensure kittens grow up to be well-adjusted family members for the next 15-20 years? Kittens require constant supervision and teaching – almost like human babies do.

* Is one your limit? Think very, very carefully unless you already have a youthful, well-adjusted cat in your home who is willing to teach the kitten acceptable feline behavior. Care for the mistakes of former skeptics out there who fell victim to ‘single kitten syndrome’ — the seemingly uncontrollable wrestling, running, climbing, ambushing, scratching, toe and hand-biting, pants leg climbing, you name it. Make life easier and adopt two.

If you answered “YES” to all of these questions then kitten adoption may be for you. If not, consider adopting a mature cat as your companion. We have plenty who struggle getting noticed this time of year. We are highlighting some of our long-term foster cats in this issue. You can visit others at our adoption site or search our website under “Adoption.”

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**ICRA Garden Cats Don’t Ask for Much …**

If you can provide a safe yard, shelter from the elements, foods and cronries for hiding and exploring, daily food and fresh water, and the security of ‘home,’ consider becoming a guardian for one of the grateful kittens featured below on page 6. Most were kittens or adolescents who did not socialize enough to be happy as house cats in close contact with people. Although semi-feral or feral, they aren’t aggressive, just very shy... and no less capable of stealing your heart than a lap cat. We’d love to relocate one or more of them to your garden where they can live safely under your caring and watchful eye. We will guide you through the process of acclimating them to their new environment and supporting you if problems arise. Visit our website or call for more information on making a difference for these cats.

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**BIG RED (Red Tabby), 4 yrs old. Big Red is most handsome and quite large...not fat...just a big boy! Trapped as a feral adolescent, he did not tame enough to be considered an adoptable house cat but has been living in foster care for most of his life. He would love a yard or garden in which to romp and play and call his own. He is quite curious and loves to watch birds and chase bugs. He will make a wonderful and entertaining garden cat. When eating, he allows his caretaker to pet him. Sister Sakura is another garden cat candidate. Good pairings: Sakura or Quinn**

**Sakura (Flame point Siamese mix), 4 yrs old. Sakura is beautiful and, like brother Big Red, a large cat, particularly for a female. She has the typical crossed blue eyes of a Siamese but is clearly a mixed breed. She’s quite timid and did not take enough for adoption as a house pet. Sakura is not as bold as Big Red and will stay close to her garden spot and not venture far. Good pairing: Big Red**

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**JETT, 3.5 yrs old. Jett is not only beautiful jet-black in color but can jet up from the floor to a shelf or from a high shelf to the floor effortlessly. An athletic girl, she also loves to cuddle with a cat companion on cold nights. She is sweet-natured and gets along with any cat personality. Good pairing: Grayson**

**Quinn (Tortoiseshell), 2 yrs old. Quinn is a funny, entertaining, and engaging semi-feral. She’s a gorgeous mix of tortie’ colors. An athletic cat who is curious about her surroundings and the people caring for her. Trapped as an older adolescent, she has not allowed herself to feel comfortable being touched or picked up. But, you can catch her scuffling or eye touching your hand or foot when she thinks you’re not looking. She will make a nice addition to any garden. She enjoys romping with other cats. Good pairings: Big Red or Max**

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**Fleur (1 yr old). A youngster who demands attention and will be a wonderful garden cat, especially to a person or family that spends a lot of time outside. Trapped as a feral kitten in Oakland’s Chinatown, he was one of six in his litter and tamed to the point that he can be picked up at times by his trusted caretaker. Good pairings: Fern, Flour, or Quinn**

**Fern (Tortoiseshell, 1 yr old). Fern is a beautiful (tabby and tortoiseshell) markings. She beds with and looks up to mature male cats, so she would love to have one as her garden cat companion. She is a sweet-natured girl, but quiet and mild. Good pairings: Max or Wilson**

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**ALUMNI PHOTOS & NEWS**

Your humorous and always heartwarming vignettes on the new lives of our ICRA alums keep us going and may inspire others to enrich their lives through adoption. We wish we could fit them all in one issue!! Please be aware that we reserve the right to use your photos and comments in our newsletter or on our website to update the community on our work.

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**Former feral kitten Coco (f) and Zane (m) are a purr-fect pair. Quite a change from Coco’s days as a kitten trapped in a car engine...comatose. Adopted Nov 2008 by Alison T., Oakland.**

**Claude and Chloie (t. Chelsea) are building confidence to move about their new home and enjoying the companionship of their human, Claude may consider legal action, however, to controvert her claim that he ‘meows We a girl’. ‘Cheap shot, Mom! Adopted May 2008 by Dawn R., Oakland.**

**Sakura (f. Chelsea) are building confidence to move about their new home and enjoying the companionship of their human, Claude,**

**Huckleberry (f. Barry) and Henry (f. Zsu-Zsu) (f) aren’t surprised at all that their new humans “love them to bits” Who wouldn’t? Adopted Nov 2008 by Roxane C. & Jennifer H., Alameda.**

**Flashy Marilyn (f. Benny) and Cosmo (r. Andrea) are proof that having cats and babies is a good thing. Happily, both cats have bonded with their human parents; the family’s newest members, daughters Miranda and Zoe. Here’s Cosmo with Miranda and her ‘77 stuffed animals. Adopted Oct 2005 and May 2006 by Laura D., Alameda.**

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**More ICRA GARDEN CATS on page 6**