Summer 2012

Making a Case for Trap, Neuter, Return

...What If We Could Save Lives AND Money?

What if animal shelters stopped taking in feral cats? What if, instead of feral cats being euthanized in shelters, these cats are trapped, neutered and returned to their habitats? Trap, neuter and return (TNR) is not only a humane solution for the feral cat population, it saves lives and money.

Rich Avanzino of Maddie’s Fund urges a paradigm shift in his recent editorial “Expanding Lifesaving Despite Slashed Budgets” (maddiesfund.org). A key element of this shift is no longer allowing the public to drop feral cats at shelters. This would help alter peoples’ misconception that these cats are adopted. Only 2% of shelter cats in California are reclaimed by owners and just 30% are adopted, but these figures apply to stray cats, not ferals.

An adult feral cat is not an adoptable cat. They avoid human contact and have never experienced human companionship. Feral cats at shelters are housed — unhappily — and eventually euthanized. Housing these unadoptable cats and killing them drains resources that could be better spent on stray, adoptable animals.

TNR is the best humane option for cats and is the least wasteful of existing limited resources. ICRA continues to work to educate the public on TNR and to help people in communities take charge of feral cat populations they want to get under control. We will see a reduction in the number of feral kittens and unadoptable cats as more people understand and undertake TNR.

On a limited basis, ICRA fosters very young feral kittens. With the right mix of attention and patience, we successfully socialize them for adoption. If we trap a feral cat that cannot be returned to its colony with a caretaker for health or safety reasons — as returning them to their original location is highly preferable — we will foster the cat until he or she can be placed through our “Garden Cat” program.

Join ICRA in supporting a paradigm shift that will help all cats benefit in a face of increasingly limited resources. As the editorial states so well, “In this time of economic crisis, we have to narrowly focus our scarce resources on saving lives.” Please help fund ICRA’s volunteer efforts to trap, neuter and return without taking up shelter space and resources. Educate friends and coworkers on the value of TNR. It is a humane solution to a difficult problem that makes economic sense.

A very versatile and curious girl, Queen Quinn quickly proved to her new person that she knows how to bring the outdoors in when the spirit moves her. Of course, we’ll have to hire a legal team now to confirm that seeking out nature-inspired artwork as a backyard still qualifies Quinn as an ICRA ‘garden’ cat. Guardian: Ruth S., Berkeley.

Garden Cat Musings

These two lovely ladies, Lucy (left) and Ethyl, enjoy a little daytime nosh together on their deck. Absolutely no splashing to do here. They are so lucky to have a safe place to call home. Guardians: Lauren & Kathryn B., Pinole.

Do you have a protected garden or yard area that could provide a safe home for a cat (or two) who, despite our best efforts, just aren’t comfortable enough with people to become indoor house pets? If so, we would love to match you up with one of them! These cats are not wild or aggressive — just extremely shy. And all they need from you is a safe outdoor space with places to hide, a shelter from the elements with bedding, daily food and water, and to be loved and treated like typical household pets who are all very members of your family. With minimal effort, you can make a huge difference in a garden cat’s life...and gain infinite satisfaction from knowing what a special thing you have done for a beautiful animal in need.

Please contact us for information on becoming a garden cat guardian. Visit our website at www.icraeastbay.org/garden_cats.php for available kitties.

QUICK REFERENCE for LOCAL SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>East Bay SPCA</td>
<td>* Call (510) 563-4635 or e-mail <a href="mailto:feral@eastsbayspca.org">feral@eastsbayspca.org</a></td>
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<td>Free Feral Program</td>
<td>* Cats must be in humane traps</td>
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<td>East Bay SPCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Cost Spay/Neuter</td>
<td>* Call at (510) 639-7387</td>
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<td>Fix Our Ferals</td>
<td>* Go to <a href="http://www.fixourferals.org">www.fixourferals.org</a> for new spayneuter clinic details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Cost Feral Cat Spay/Neuter</td>
<td>* Call ICRA at (510) 869-2584 or e-mail <a href="mailto:info@icraeastbay.org">info@icraeastbay.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Cat Resources &amp; Adoption</td>
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<td>Low Cost Spay/Neuter</td>
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...And They Won’t Stop Coming.

Help Us HELP YOU
do TNR Now!!!

(UNWANTED) KITTENS, KITTENS EVERYWHERE!!

From life on the streets to a 3-story, custom garden condo, this colorful and cozy trio has made in the shade. From top to bottom, Scribbles, Mama and Vinyl don’t seem to mind the intrusion on their nap. Guardians: Gretchen W. & Peter A., Oakland.

The ICRA Catalyst
A Publication of Island Cat Resources and Adoption
www.icraeastbay.org (510) 869-2584
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We Finally Did It! 2012 Champagne Silent Auction a Purrfect Success

ICRA raised the roof and finally broke the $20K ceiling at our annual Champagne Silent Auction on May 9th in Alameda. We’ve edged over so close for so long, but 2012 was destined to be our year! We’re so thrilled without all of the individual and community support that has kept us going strong – financially and emotionally — over the years, even through difficult economic times. All of you RESCUE US year after year, and for that we are eternally grateful. At last, over 57% of the money raised went directly toward helping people give a voice to homeless and cats and kittens in need. To put this event in perspective, $20,400 will go a long way in helping us facilitate spay-neuter and medical care for over 400 community cats this year alone.

We thank our volunteers who put in so many hours soliciting bids items throughout the year, preparing food, decorating, and working the event. It is amazing how much a few people can do when the cause is dear to their hearts! We are indebted to the Alameda Elks Lodge - especially Bill Lawrence and Patty McCall for their time, help, and support. They made this night happen.

We extend very special thanks to Mark Peters for entertaining us for the first time this year with his wonderful vocals and acting as our Master of Ceremonies. Mark flew in from Seattle for the event, graciously donating his time and talent.

Last but certainly not least, many thanks to all the businesses and individual donors who contributed over 200 bid items this year.

Alameda Bicycle • Alameda Theater • Amber Thomas • Angie Pena •
* The Animal Nursery • Ann Lauber • Annette Wilson • Aquarium of the Bay SF • ASFA Restaurant • Barbara Krauss • Barbara & Ted Strand • Beau Facial & Massage • Beth Summers • Bruce & Jean Elerick • California Canoe and Kayak • California Shakespeare Theater • Celeste Hutchinson • Chuck Conca Golf Course • Citizen Canoe • Coco 509 Restaurant, SF • C. Pilone • Chris Lao-Scott • Chris Shaheen • Creative Framing • Curves of Alameda • Deana Lornan • Deanna Morris • Delanne Jarvis • Debby & Gary Damele • Debbie Phelps • Debbie Sharp • Delanie Cahan • Diane/Cammy • Dog Bone Alley • Dragon Rouge Restaurant • E.J. • Ellen Lynch • Ellen McGinn • Erin Garcia • Extreme Body Fitness, Shawn O’Connell • Frances Sharp • Gal Churchhill • Gold Coast Grill • Grand Lake Theater • Gretchen Whittier & Peter Andrews • The Hair Studio Alameda • Hanah’s Lake Tahoe • Harvey’s Lake Tahoe • Heathly Hardy • Dan & Purcell • Infusion Raceway • Irene Mezco • Island City Cafe • J. Lopez • J. Sahadi Jewellers • Jamie Reily • Jean Turmanee • Joddy McKevitt • Karolyn Buchner • Aaron Morris • Kate Sullivan • Katie Jones • Kingdom Kirkwood Ski Resort • Kristen DeLauer • Lauren’s Closet • Laurie Lair • Leslie Cobb • Linguins Restaurant • Liz Haag • Lois Cantor Lori Jeffcoat • Lynna Wong • Marilyn Dickinson • Mark Peters • Mari’s Place • Matt Abbey • Montgomery Bay Wines • Mr. & Mrs. Greecmezli • MyJewelrySource.com • Nannette Reily • Nel O’Neil • Nell Ferrera • Nob Hill Foods • Oakland Athletics • Oakland Raiders • Oakland Zoo • One Market Restaurant, SF • Park Centre Veterinary Hospital • Pasta Pelican • Pat McCall • Pat Still • Patricia Hinz • Peets Coffee • Peg Janosch • Peggy Harding • Pet Food Express • Piedmont Grocery • * Pillow Park Plaza • Prokction Athletics • Regal Wines • Radio Elmwood Theater • Rock Wall Winery • Rosemary McShane • Rumbo At Sur Restaurant • Ruth Silverman • Ryan Braby • Safeway • Sandy Sher • Scoop Dot Run • Sehla Heavner • Skin Cares by Lucy • Sophie Minus • Stacy Pirtt • Starbuck’s • Tao Cat Grooming • Trader Joes • Urban Island Furnishings • Virginia Catara • Vella Peters • Veronica Vodopich • Vino • Watch Hospital • Wilie Morales

Help us REPEAT in 2013!! Watch for our mailing and web updates!

Thank You!! -- The Kitties of ICRA -- Past, Present & Future

Donations In Honor Of...

• Elton from Randy Armstrong & Catherine Green
• Natasha from Amanda & Anthony Gregg
• Ethel from Michael Wright
• Louie and Leslie Hernandez from Bob & Susan Jarelia
• Onyx and Sunshine’s 13th Birthday from Hima & Ken Chaudhary
• Heather Hanly from George & Loyce Robinson
• Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell from Sallee Purcell & John Murray
• Heather Hanly from Lisa Hanly
• Our girl Shisoo and for all ICRA does! From Sandy Wada

Donations Dedicated To...

• The efforts of Ariene Southern from Renee’s Garden, LLC
• Beth Summers from Kim Cole
• Betty Groce from Sue Manpis
• Bodihi from Kathleen Rolinson
• Bonnie Rilee from Wendi Borges
• Bonnie Rilee from Judith Fox
• Bonnie Rilee from Wendy & Rud
• Bonnie Rilee from Leonard A. Cisternino
• Bonnie Rilee from Morgan Hoagland
• Bonnie Rilee from Jennifer Pilkennor
• A beloved pet, Chloe, from Anthony Sauler
• Danyl Zeller from Judy McKevitt
• Our ICRA Fosters: Ella, Oliver, Tucker, Beazuz, Emma Minou and Paddle from Amina Moho
• Foot-Foot from Debra Nave
• Heather Hanly’s Birthday from Donna Hanly
• Landon, my beloved cat, love of my life, and Dylan – gentle sweet girl from Patricia Santino
• Lily and Clint, ICRA Garden of Pent, from M Kathleen Condon
• Mark Cray from Anonymous
• Marlowe (formerly Kuma) from Christina Kotowski
• Sarah Vettets from Catherine Vettets
• Sundance Kitty (Sunny) and Butch Catsby (Bubu) from Adee Louis Buntin
• Terri Hayes from Andrew Booty
• The cast(s) most needy from Sandra Ramos

ICRA Board Members

President • Vice President
Mary Bates • Gail Churchill
Secretary • Directors-At-Large
Mary Spier • Heather Hanly
Treasurer • Gretchen Whittier
Rachna Rajan

ICRA Is a 501(c)3 all volunteer non-profit humane organization. ICRA’s federal Tax Exempt number is 74-2325519. All contributions, donations, and gifts are tax-deductible. ICRA does not sell, share, or rent names and mailing lists to any other organizations or affiliates.

Visit us Online
www.icraeastbay.org

Web Administrators
Rena Foukas and Heather Hanly

Visit our Adoption Sites
PetticoAlameda South Shore Center
Saturdays (except holidays)
Noon-5pm (July 1- October 30)
Noon-4pm (November 1 - June 30)

First Saturday of the month at Petfood Express on Blanding Way, Alameda from Noon-3pm.

For more information e-mail ICRA at info@icraeastbay.org or call (510) 869-2854.

Our Mission: We are dedicated to reducing the suffering of abandoned and feral (wild) cats and to empowering the local community to aid them in their plight. We provide low-cost spay/ neuter, vaccines, and medical treatment to all of our cats, and resources for people wanting and able to help themselves. We provide foster care for tame or socialized cats until they can be placed into quality, permanent homes through our adoption program. We return feral or unsocialized cats back to their colonies if in 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.

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Donations In Honor Of... Donations In Honor Of... Donations In Honor Of... Donations In Honor Of... Donations In Honor Of...

In Loving Memory of Beau

This stunning kitty (f. Molly) was adopted by Sandy W. & Ken R. in 1999 at 10 weeks of age.

In Loving Memory of Shiso

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.

- Anatole France

Shiso’s family adopted two more ICRA kittens this year to keep their remaining senior ICRA alum, formerly “Pip,” company.

Celebrating Neo’s Life

This sweet little girl lost her battle with cancer, leaving a huge void in the heart of her family’s home. But we know her spirit lives on in the kittenish exuberance of two new baby black and gold ICRA additions, Pismo and Jo, who are rocking the world of Neo’s old buddy Collin.

“...[An] older cat or dog, like an older human being, is worthy of being loved. An older animal adopted and taken into a good home brings a different kind of gift to the person who adopts them - a gift that comes with maturity from having lived a good part of life already, and an appreciation for what life is all about - giving and receiving love. I guess that’s why I didn’t think twice about inquiring after, and ultimately adopting Beau.”

Beau, pictured with his person and dog buddy Pebbles, was adopted in June 2011 at the age of eight by John T.

In Loving Memory of Beau

In Loving Memory of Beau

Leonard

This stunning kitty (f. Molly) was adopted by Sandy W. & Ken R. in 1999 at 10 weeks of age.

Beau was adopted as a senior cat with special needs in February 2009 by Kay B. & Ted T.

This was the day we met you and first saw Beau. Thank you for helping him enrich our lives for the past two years.”

Beau pictured his person and dog buddy Pebbles, was adopted in June 2011 at the age of eight by John T.
Dear I.C.R.A:

Please accept this donation to your agency to save/help other kitties in the community. We thank you all – with a special, special thanks to Gail Churchill, who provided such sensitive, and caring assistance, in gathering/trapping our feral backyard brood together, and providing much needed services (information, support, trapping, spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and follow-up care) that now has enabled us to keep providing these young kitties with an ongoing safe place to live (in our backyard); without them being able to produce additional offspring.

While we lost the “mamma cat” in this process due to [un]healthy issues, the three (approximately 6 months old) will have a life in our little yard, as we can continue to provide them food, care, and playful activities, and shelter from the elements.

We now know our 3 young ones are 2 males, and 1 female: “Moe,” our big, beautiful mack male; “Samm” (now Samantha), a large female; and, “Ping,” a male tiger striped — the smallest of the litter but quite a tough little trooper who is the first to chase away bigger kitties who come around.

While we were not in the market for additional family pets (we have a 15 year old inside kitty, Mr. B., and my young guide dog, Kelso), we could not even think of calling the animal shelter because we were afraid that the kitties would surely be put to sleep.

We don’t like to think what Rocky’s life would have been like if one person hadn’t stepped forward and contacted us to help,

We have our love and gratitude. I hope the kittens will be around at least 20 years thanks to the astounding compassion of your organization. You are all beautiful. Happy Holidays - Merry (West Oakland)

Sincerely,

Chris Flaningam

Community Action:
Where Your Money and Our Passion Goes

Hello!

I do hope I’ve thanked you all enough! There is one kitten left after the diaster; but there would be none without you, and definitely a lot more pain. It’s been a long horrible heartbreak month, but the happy bits have been Merry and Martha coming to save the day. They should have copped and utility belts! Thank you too Gretchan. I know I’m verbose and just plain weird, but the kittens shouldn’t have to pay for their poor choice in caretakers. I will do my best to keep my old lady Freyo, my hearty young man Rocky, and all the outdoor cats like his mumma Charlie, uncle Bagheera, and Ghost Face, Mr. LicksA Lot, Lotty, and the multiple other wanderers who’ve figured out I’m a sucker—happy, healthy, and not multiplying. I’ll be keeping badgering online people to love ICRA and Fix our Ferals, and if ever I end up rich and famous you’ll all getting everything I can spare. You have our love and gratitude. I hope the kittens will be around at least 20 years thanks to the astounding compassion of your organization. You are all beautiful. Happy Holidays - Merry (West Oakland)

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Here are just a fraction of the fantastic updates received since our last newsletter. Please keep them coming - we always ensure the newsletters as space allows.

**Summer 2012**

Brought much love to the family. "Adopted"

"It was a great decision to adopt her. She has romped her way into the heart of her new home is just the coolest chair EVER!"

Clancy assmues his new...ehh...throne? THIS "Places You'll Never Find a Dog." Are NY...a beautiful lynx point Siamese mix with large clear blue eyes, not even a year old. She wasn't feral, but she had was terribly shy and given to unpredictable hissing and lashing out with a (closed) paw. Months on the street had taught her this would keep people and other animals away.

"I may be the little here, but I think we BOTH know the who's running the show now, oh Zen old boy! Lela (top) has charmed, wrestled and tugged her way into the heart of her new home with brothers and ICRA alumni Zen and Merlin. "It was a great decision to adopt her. She has brought much love to the family." Adopted November 2011 by Max L., Morro Park.

"Just wanted to let you know that Kari is doing great! She is such a sweet girl. We have recently relocated to Oceanside and she is enjoying the warmer climate and spending time napping in sun patches and looking out the window. She is happy to "help" while my husband or I am on the computer. Thank you for rescuing her and keeping her safe for us to adopt." Adopted November 2007 by Maria S., Oceanside.

**Rescue Kitties: Patience is More than a Virtue...It's a Necessity**

We've all heard that "Patience is a virtue." ICRA volunteers know that with rescue kittens it's a necessity. The more patience we have with them, the stronger their recovery and the more bountiful the lives they have (and us with them).

Take "Daisy" (now Haven), for example. This once hissing, unpredictable beauty has turned into a boon companion, all due to the patience of her foster family and her adopter, Geoff.

Haven was still a very young cat when she was trapped near International Boulevard in Oakland...a beautiful lynx point Siamese mix with large clear blue eyes, not even a year old. She wasn't feral, but she had was terribly shy and given to unpredictable hissing and lashing out with a (closed) paw. Months on the street had taught her this would keep people and other animals away.

Thankfully, her foster mom saw this and felt sure the hissing and swiping was not real aggression but the moves of a loving kitty desperate for safety. For six plus weeks, several times a day, she sat on a footstool in front of the open closet shelf which Haven decided to make her home, talking gently to and stroking her cheek. She retreated when the hiss or swipe came, but returned later for another round. Haven had gradually ventured forth from her cupboard, hissed and swiped less and less, and began purring and showing other signs she enjoyed being petted.

Despite this progress and her beauty, Haven was difficult to place. When anyone came to the front door, she would bolt into the closet. The first time someone came to meet her, she managed to squeeze under a bookcase to avoid being seen. The second time, her foster mom caged her so the prospective adopter could at least get a look at her, but she froze completely, giving no sign she was even alive.

Then Geoff came into Haven's life. He’d seen her on their website, and she “looked very feline...a beautiful lynx point Siamese mix with large clear blue eyes, not even a year old. She wasn't feral, but she had was terribly shy and given to unpredictable hissing and lashing out with a (closed) paw. Months on the street had taught her this would keep people and other animals away."

"I think cats like Haven can do put foster homes and adopters through their paces, but the payoff in companionship is well worth the effort."

"Take "Daisy" (now Haven), for example. This once hissing, unpredictable beauty has turned into a boon companion, all due to the patience of her foster family and her adopter, Geoff."

"It's hard to know who is the luckier party in this relationship — Geoff or Haven."

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