Two Are Better Than One
Adopting Littermates Together is Always an Excellent Idea

It’s been 11 months since my kittens Pepe and Sally were born and eight months since I adopted them, and my life has been turned upside down in the happiest possible way.

This is the first time I’ve had littermates, and the dynamic is different from anything I’ve ever known before. For the first time in my life, I am not the most important relationship in my cats’ lives. Their most important relationship is with each other.

It warms my heart to see how much they love each other. They eat together, they sleep together, they play together, and they patrol my home together, sashaying through the room side-by-side as if they own the place, which, of course, they do.

Don’t get me wrong: They have plenty of love left over for me. It’s just that they’re not dependent on me for emotional security, as my other cats were. They’re dependent on each other. The love they give me is purely because they feel like it, not because they have to. It’s the highest possible compliment.

I see now that I was crazy not to adopt two at a time before. Believe it or not, two cats are less work than one. I don’t have to worry about entertaining them; they’re happy entertaining each other. I don’t have to feel guilty about leaving them at home because they’re perfectly content with each other’s company.

And I don’t have to let them outside for exercise, as I did with my previous cats, because they get plenty of exercise chasing each other around the apartment. They’re blissfully happy, and they’ll live a lot longer. – Martin Snapp, Columnist

** The above item is excerpted from an article originally published in the Contra Costa Times on April 25, 2013. The author’s observations about the mutual benefits of adopting more than one kitten – in this case, siblings - are particularly noteworthy for anyone thinking of bringing kittens into their homes this time of year…the ’kitten season’ of all ’kitten seasons.’
Daniel’s Story:
Rusty’s Death Match

It’s 1:30 p.m. and I’m unaware of the death match that is about to unfold in glorious Kitty Land. I go into the kitty foster room, stepping quietly but quickly, so I don’t startle anyone, and more importantly, let anyone escape.

My eyes scan the room, and I find the lightning fast door darters Nora and Rosita, lounging in their kitty cubes. There in the center of it all is Miss B. aka Miss Bunny. She is relaxing in her open cage nibbling on some straw. I get Nora to come and sit on my lap with, “kitty, kitty, kitty”, and I pet her for a while. Rosita isn’t here for small talk. She is here to rip the feather toy limb from limb by furiously batting it into oblivion. Nora joins in; they are both young and full of energy, so the feather toy doesn’t stand a chance. In the end, the room is sprinkled with little red feathers. I gather them into a small pile, and then I move into the main foster room.

Everyone is quiet. Some of these cats were rescued from the streets as feral cats and kittens. I look up to the catwalk, which is close to the ceiling, and there sit Peek and Boo, both a little paranoid. They watch me as if their lives depended on it. In the window box sits Frank. He is a massive 20 pounds of love and the King of the Room. I sit down, and Frank slowly but determinedly makes a full jump tackle into my lap. He settles in and I give him the expected pets down his massive body. He slowly gets up, and I go to the other side of the room where sweet Colette is waiting. It appears as if she has just one ear, but ear mites damaged one ear, leaving her with only a flap of skin where the ear used to be. I pet her long, orange fur, and I know she is happy. Sitting close by is Buffy. She is shy, one-eyed, and as soft as a rabbit. I pet her, but she remains quiet. I play with Lucy Lou, who is always ready for an adventure. As I swing the feather toy around, Rosita darts into the room, intercepts Lucy Lou, and the play begins.

Rusty, a 15-pound orange and white cat, recklessly pounces on the feather toy. The whole room shakes with a thunderous roar, and the match begins. It is Rusty vs. the Red Feather. The Red Feather can only run away with fear from the pounding he is getting from Rusty. It is like a Mini Cooper being chased by a Monster Truck. Everyone is watching. But all of a sudden, Rusty starts panting heavily and ceases his pounding. He is exhausted and now the chances of a win are slim. I think to myself, “What am I going to do if he loses? What will the other cats think?” As his manager, I can’t let my client lose. “Yes I’ve got it!” I exclaim, “Catnip!” That is sure to inspire him. Rusty’s eyes widen to the thrill of destruction as he strikes his final blow. The Feather is out cold or dead, lifeless on the floor. The match has ended. After a few good-byes, I make my way to the door. I know I will soon be back to watch the rematch of Rusty and Red Feather.

Note about this story:
Daniel was a young ICRA volunteer who was in 6th grade when he wrote this piece. He spent countless hours getting to know and socializing a large group of our foster cats (and one sweet rescue rabbit). Nora, Miss B, Frank, Colette, Rosita and Rusty all eventually were adopted into loving homes. Years have passed, and Daniel is at the end of his junior year in high school. Thanks to his work, these animals enjoyed many years of love with their guardians, but sadly Nora, Miss B, Frank, and Rusty died just last year. They will all be remembered, and their legacies remain in that pleasantly hectic foster room.
Anya’s Story:
Give (Former) Ferals a Chance

I read the Winter 2012 newsletter story on feral kitties (“Carol the Feral”) with great interest and understanding. I don’t claim to be an expert on feral cats or their rehabilitation into a loving home, but I did want to share my story, in case someone considering adopting a previously feral cat was wondering what it might be like to do so.

Anya was feral for several years; at one point she had been trapped, spayed, and had her ear clipped so that others would see that she was fixed.

Anya spent some time under the loving foster care of Merry Bates, worth mentioning as an invaluable step in this story. We adopted her in conjunction with quintessential lap kitty, Chloe (formerly Cloudy). When Anya came to our house, she exhibited what my husband and I thought of as “feral behavior,” such as running for cover if we walked into a room and only coming out for food, etc. This continued beyond a few weeks.

Some people might have been a bit disappointed to have a kitty that wasn’t really being very affectionate, and I confess that this was our first reaction since we had intended to shower our cats with much loving care—but at the end of the day, we figured that Anya caused no trouble, and that our adopting her and caring for her would open up room for another cat to go into foster care in her place. For the first several months, she mostly kept to herself. We let her “do her thing” and were happy simply to provide her with a safe home, even if she didn’t seem to want to engage very much or very often.

After a few months, she stopped sleeping in a corner and began sleeping on chairs or the sofa, which we saw as a step toward her becoming more social. She still didn’t particularly want to be petted and mostly kept to herself, but she wasn’t aggressive in any way.

Much to our surprise, after almost a year of being in our home, with us just letting her “do her thing,” Anya changed. She began actively seeking out attention and affection. She’s been with us now for 18 months. In the mornings when I come downstairs, she runs over to greet me, and flops down in front of me to roll around in the hopes that I’ll scratch under her chin. She actually allows me to pick her up now! Anya loves to be brushed and, if there is a sun patch coming through a window anywhere, she luxuriously stretches out her body right in the middle of it.

In every way, she now acts like a “normal” cat. I thought I’d share this because I imagine that some people who are considering adopting might worry about this “feral” label and think that cats who have spent many years on the street can’t ever return to normal.

I admit that I was a bit apprehensive about this label, too. However, Anya is such a loving and affectionate member of our home now, and she brings us so much joy. I’m so glad that ICRA, and especially Merry, didn’t give up on her and paved the way for her to be the fully expressed kitty that she is today.

If you’re considering adopting a previously feral cat, please just give it (lots of) time and (lots of) patience. I imagine that there are many other wonderful kitties like Anya who just need a forever home where they can just “do their thing” and keep to themselves until they are ready to engage more. Many thanks to Merry and ICRA for your love and care!

—Kate

Feral no more! This is Anya’s favorite position for getting petted under the chin.

Anyas Story: Give (Former) Ferals a Chance

Feral no more! This is Anya’s favorite position for getting petted under the chin.

jet sleek, shiny sweetheart
An all-around wonderful young girl – bubbly, affectionate, and playful. She will crave your family’s attention, so beware of wet nose kisses from this little panther!! Her good nature makes her a great companion for other cats and cat-friendly dogs. Born: 2009

Spay/Neuter Update:
The Chris Flaningam Fund
One year ago, ICRA established a spay/neuter fund in memory of ICRA volunteer, Chris Flaningam. Her generous donation in death got the fund off to a roaring start in 2012 and we are proud to announce that ICRA broke a record last year by having 1,040 cats spayed/neutered.

This is the first time we broke the 1,000 mark in one year!

Thank you Chris and John!
Alumni Mews

We reserve the right to use your photos and comments to update the community on our work.

BEAR

Bear found his forever home with his foster mom who just couldn’t bear to part with him. He is a fabulous puff of fur with gorgeous blue eyes! Adopted February 2012 by Debbie S., San Leandro.

HOWDY

I’m diggin’ the festive floral motif and all, but this had better not be my new litterbox! Howdy shows us that a battle with kidney disease isn’t stifling his kittenish curiosity in the least. Adopted July 1999 by Gail C., Alameda.

MR. BINGLEY & OLIVER

Back off – the little orange dude’s MINE! ‘Mr. Bingley (f. Keanu) (top) and Oliver (f. Carroway) are still best buds. They make a good Halloween combo, too!’ Adopted April 2005 and August 2009, respectively, by Julia G., Berkeley.

CAMPER & BUTTERS

According to his guardians, Camper (l) is never far from kitty Butters. Mom & Dad: We kept Butters for MY well being. Adopted June 2009 and June 2013 by Gretchen W. & Peter A., Oakland.

JOEY

The way Joey sees it, what home would be complete without a dapper little tabby to run things? His family reports that Joey and fellow ICRA alum Nikita are getting along fine. “He’s so smart and fun and affectionate … I’m really glad we had a weak moment that day and added a fourth cat to the rescue brood.” Adopted August 2012 by Jennifer L., Alameda.

OBIE

Obie (f. Buckley) is a testament to the lengths (literally) we will go to find forever homes for our black foster kitties. This adorable little guy quickly became best buddies with his new big brother Jack and enjoys the affections of an extended human and kitty family in The Wolverine State. Adopted June 2012 by Jennifer G., East Lansing, MI.

MEOWY

Hmmm. Shall I rest on or off the couch cover thingy my person felt compelled to provide for me? Perhaps a bit of both … decisions are so exhausting. Meowy’s new guardian reports that she ‘brings such joy into her life and is a wonderful kitty.’ Adopted November 2012 by Fawn M., Alameda.

PEETY & SHERRY

Well, Sherry - you’re practically invisible except for that big tail fluff and huge head sticking out. It’s a good thing we’re stealthy indoor cats, huh? Sherry (f. Chardonnay) and Peety (f. Petite Syrah) “livin’ it up big.” Adopted May 2012 by K.S. & J.Y.S., San Francisco.
SAMMY
Sammy’s people sent us this photo of him ‘doing what he loves best, getting a tan!...He’s so good natured, we love him!’ We understand that new ‘sister’ Emily doesn’t share the sentiment at the moment. Sammy’s assessment: the girl cat needs to chill – she won’t be able to resist my charms forever. Adopted August 2012 by Suzanne & Robert T., Larkspur.

PILGRIM & PUMPKIN
Pilgrim and Pumpkin ... Double trouble and, undoubtedly, double the fun! Adopted February 2013 by Marguerite T., San Francisco.

REVLON
Revlon is another shy but sweet kitty progressing well in the adjustment to her new home and companions. Her guardian reports that ‘she is becoming a well-loved part of our family...she is still rather skittish but then can surprise us.’ Apparently, she is okay with sharing the couch with her new dog, Yoso, and has become fast friends with Cheeto the cat. Adopted January 2013 by Suzanne S., Berkeley.

POP-TART & STELLA
Pop-Tart gets a real big hug from her new ‘sister’ Stella. An anonymous source tells us that ‘They’re best friends’ and have been known to lick each other for hours at a time. Really, Mom? Lies, all lies! The humiliation. I’ll never live this down. Adopted January 2013 by Elizabeth O., Oakland.

SABA, MAKI & IKA
Hey! I love you guys and all, but THIS arrangement is just not working for me. And don’t pretend like you can’t hear me over there, Mr. Johnny Come Lately. Saba (f. Sun), Maki (f. Sly) and Ika (f. Pip) demonstrate that three definitely can be a crowd at nap time. Apparently, this chair is the ONLY place these kitties can get some shuteye. Adopted August 1999 & January 2012 by Sandy W. & Ken R., San Leandro.

SIDE
Cats worshipping sunny spots – there appears to be a trend for kitties seeking a bit of solitude. ‘Sid (f. Wyatt) is doing wonderfully. He has brought so much joy to our home...We just wanted to thank you for what you do – and for bringing this wonderful animal into our lives.’ Adopted November 2012 by Patricia L. & Casey O’C., San Francisco.

ZEUS
How did they ever get by without me? His guardians report that Zeus (f. Griffin) has ‘adjusted so well and is such a sweetheart. Bellatrix is much happier having a friend again and Zeus is the perfect buddy.’ But, of course. Adopted July 2012 by Emily H. & Danny B., Emeryville.

PUMPKIN
Ugh...Can’t...Fight...Evil Forces...ooo, ugh...of Gravity...Must nap harder. Poor Pumpkin. His guardian comments, ‘If only he knew how to relax.’ Adopted June 2012 by Robin B., Alameda.

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

MAKE ME AN ALUM-ADOPT ME

our mission:

quenby
amazing senior kitty

Her playful nature is more kittenish than matronly. She equally cherishes just hanging out with you and ‘helping’ with computer work. She loves and trusts people despite coming to us left behind by her first family and left to fend for herself with a severely injured paw. She isn’t so fond of other cats, however, which makes her purrfect for someone looking for one cat truly deserving of a second chance at a stable home life. Cat-savvy children and a mellow dog should be OK. Born: 2002
Our Annual Silent Auction Didn’t Disappoint!

Hosting our largest crowd ever, ICRA’s Champagne Silent Auction on May 4th - honoring black and black & white kitties - was a PURRFECT success. Over 200 people engaged in fur-flying but friendly bidding wars on a variety of items, fueled in their efforts by a bounty of complementary hors d’oeuvres, desserts, wines, and champagne. Jazz guitarist Terrence Brewer came to our rescue again this year, creating a soothing and stylish atmosphere for the fierce competition (terrencebrewer.com). Art Lenhardt, our MC, kept the busy bidders on-point throughout the evening, proving that there just might be something harder than herding cats.

Thanks to the undying generosity of our loyal supporters and volunteers, we raised nearly $21,000 during this year’s event – our best auction total to date. Because we rely heavily upon donations to host this event at minimal cost, almost all of this money will go directly toward helping many more feral and stray cats and kittens out there who deserve a second chance for a better life through our rescue, spay/neuter, and adoption programs. Never taking our good fortunes for granted, we have many dedicated individuals and businesses to thank for making this possible each and every year.

Finally, without a venue there would be no silent auction. Accordingly, a very special round of thanks again goes to everyone at the Alameda Elks Lodge. We would especially like to recognize Pat McCall and Bill Lawrence, who give tirelessly of their time to help us make this event a success.

Thank you to all of our business and private donors, who truly outdid themselves this year.

Adrian Hern, Alameda Bicycle, Alameda Theater, Angela’s Bistro, Annette Wilson, Annie VanNess, April Miles, Aquarium of the Bay, Asena, Barbara Krauss, Bead Inspirations, The Beaney, Bella Pelle Skin Studio, Best in Show, Burgermeister, California Canoe and Kayak, Carrie Bourdeau (Artist), Cardinal Point, Caryn Wolf, Cat Grooming by Tao, Celeste Hutchinson, Cera Una Volta, Charlotte Cavanaugh, Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Cindy Mulholand, Coco 500 Restaurant, Conscious Skin Care, Curves Alameda, Daisy’s, Deanna Morris (Artist), Deana Lorman, Deidre Jow, Disney Bone Alley, Donna Matheson, Dragon Rouge, Dwan Elevator, Ellen Lynch (Realtor), Encinal Market, Encinal Nursery, Gail Murphy, Gold Coast Restaurant, Grand Lake Theater, Grasshopper Salon, Half Price Books, Helen Krayenhoff (Artist), J. Fein Designs, Jan Saeger, Jean & Bruce Elerick, Jim's Coffee Shop, Jim’s on the Course, Judy Spirn, Julie's Coffee and Tea Garden, Juniper Tree Vintage, La Pena Azul, Laura Seely (Artist), Lauren’s Closet, Le Burget Salon, Leah Scheibe, Linda Rollins, Linguini’s Restaurant, Luna Longstockings, Lynna Wong, MaGee’s, Marti’s Place, Mary Berman, Mezze Restaurant, MyJewelrySource.com, Nannette Reilly, Natasha Leschinsky, Nicole Ferrera & Ryan Braby, Nothing Bundt Cakes, The Oakland Athletics, The Oakland Raiders, The Oakland Zoo, The Polynesian Resort, Pasta Pelican, Pat Still, Park Centre Animal Hospital, Patty Rose, Pier 39, Poppy Red, Restoration Hardware, Rialto Cinemas, Rocket Reuse, Rockwall Winery, Roxanne Graziano Fitness Studio, Salsa with Juan, See Spot Run, Shut Up & Sweat, Silk Road, Sonoma Raceway, Speisekammer Restaurant, Stacy Barr, Starbucks at South Shore, Starbucks on Blanding, St. George’s Spirits, Stephanie Gandolfi, Teresa Carlisle, Teresa Scott’s Skin Care, To Herb with Love, Tony Santar, Trader Joe’s, Tucker’s Ice Cream, Urban Island Consignment, Veronica Vodopich, WesCafe, Whales and Friends, Wilmot’s Books and Zero Zero Restaurant

Our appreciation goes out to the ICRA volunteers who gave of their time, money and sweat to make this year’s auction happen. Thanks to: Gail Churchill, Merry Bates, Mary Sper, Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell, Gretchen Whittier & Peter Andrea, Peggy Harding, Rachna Rajan & Javier Alejos, Karalyn Buchner, Denise Cahalan, Christina Chan, Elyse Couvillion, Debbie & Gary Damele, Claudia De La Rosa, Kristen De Lauer, Rena Fourkas, Erin Garcia, Margitta Gardner, Leslie Hernandez, DeAnne Jarvis, Marge Jost, Chris Lao-Scott, Jody McKeVitt, Martha McWoodson, Nel O’Neil, Angie Pena, Myra Puckett, Akash Rajan, Jamie Reilly, Dory Ryan, Debbie Sharp and her great mom Frances Sharp, Sandy Sher, Beth Summers, and Joan Turmaine.

Eleven months and counting until our 2014 auction! Please come help us put the fun in fundraising! The cats are counting on you.

Our Annual Silent Auction Didn’t Disappoint!
Appreciation

Deductions

• Alexandra Barnhill from Gwen Barnhill
  • Caryn Wolf from Anonymous
  • Clint & May Arndt from Sandra Morey
  • Curt & Ann Poff from Philip Michaels
  • Dr. Stephenson from Rita Walker
  • Ivan from Dan Disanto
  • Lily and Clint, the wonderful garden cats! from Anonymous
  • Mark Kray from Gloria Perry
  • Mia & Jess Morse from Carol Roberts
  • Nancy Bernard & Princess Margaret Puffy Pants from Debra Naeve
  • Owen Hoye from Valerie Peck
  • Wildie, beloved kitty of Christy & Dian

In Memory of

• Beth Summers from Gretchen Brooks Nassar
  • Bingo Lorenz from Andrew & Sally Lorenz
  • Bodhi from Kathleen Rolinson
  • Our formerly feral tuxedo cat Celeste from Valerie Sadoulet
  • China (formerly Latte) from Jennifer Stanek
  • Our garden cats Chiquita and Enzo from Leslie Krongold
  • Cleo & her sister Cricket from Leslie Baker
  • Debbie Sharp from Barbara Jones
  • Derryl Zeller from Jody McKeivitt
  • Doris Souza from Sheila Ewart
  • Duncan from Angela Pryor-Nelson
  • Ebony from Lark & Jon Lee Ramirez
  • Fluffy and Coco from Lori Nelson
  • Gail Churchill from Linda Shock
  • Gail Churchill from Deidra Jow
  • Heather from Nancy Servin & Jerry
  • Heather Hanly from Edward Purcell
  • Heather Hanly from Jessica Purcell
  • Heather Hanly from Sallee Purcell
  • Heather Hanly from Sheryl Magzamen
  • Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell from Sallee Purcell
  • Illy from Amy Daultrey Krishnaswamy
  • Janet Harris from Robyn Jagust
  • Katie from Audrey Atkins
  • Kizzie and Biskit from Merv Hoberg
  • My four-year adoptiversary with Lester (now Casaril) from Stacy Hartman
  • Leslie Hernandez from Frances Hayden
  • Lola & Pokey from Kathyn Caulfield
  • Lina Au from David Stranz
  • Maverick, Goose, and Monkey Chan & their new baby sister Emma from Clay, Rosa & Emma Chan
  • Merry Bates’ birthday from Gaylin Bates
  • Merry Bates & Summer the Dog from Nikki Brickman
  • Miss T (Sara), adopted 11/27/04, from Nora Burns
  • Nel O’Neill from Patricia Anne Barker
  • Nick & Nora from Frank & Winifred Ghiğlione
  • Peggy Harding from James Mullins
  • Ranya from Larry & Georgia Ford
  • Selda, Scott, & Musti from Scott Heavner
  • Snowball & Baby from Susan Cohen-Stuart
  • Staff from Gail & Kevin Murphy
  • Sydney from Susan Garris
  • Valdez from Glenda Lewis

In Honor of

• Alex from Vivian Perry
  • Annie from Julia Illescas
  • Bailey, Debbie & Gary’s beloved kitty, from Merry Bates
  • Gary & Debbie’s beloved Bailey from Sandy Sher
  • Baxter from Dave & Kathy Halliday
  • My beautiful Benny from Penny McClellan
  • Bill Talbert from Karen Talbert
  • Blinksie from Holly Pellerin
  • Bobbie, Silky & Peanut from Pamela Senegal
  • Boo from Beverly Zia
  • Buffy from Millie Moody
  • Callie & Annie from Julia Illescas
  • My dear, sweet Carly from Merry Bates
  • Merry’s Carly from Heather Hanly
  • Merry’s two sweet girls, Carly & Nora, from Peggy Harding
  • Catapaws from Debbie Sharp
  • Catherine Hubbard from Julia Ann Illescas
  • Che, Bopper & Elton from who we lost in 2012 We miss you!
  • Chris Flanagan from John Flanagan
  • Cleveland & Calico from Ria Di Costanzo
  • Cliff Wheeler from Debbie Sharp
  • Comet from Christine Shaheen
  • Gretchen & Peter’s Crispin Glover from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
  • Crispin, Peter & Gretchen’s handsome garden kitty, from Merry Bates
  • Peter & Gretchen’s Crispin, who loved the “family bed” from Peggy Harding
  • Dice from Pat Mosley
  • Elizabeth McDonald from Nel O’Neil
  • Elroy from Merry Thomas Fernando
  • Emma & Gray from Louise Lang
  • Fraidy from Victoria Machado
  • My Frankie from Lynda Compston
  • Hattie Toney from Margaret Toney
  • Hunny from Kanwal & Himgauri Chaudhary
  • Jacky Virginia Hurtle from Candace Mathewson
  • Jane, Joey & Nathan from Sarah Vetters
  • Joan Noble from Scarlett Ho
  • Katie from Martha Anne Dunn
  • Keeper from Henry & Judy Castillo
  • Keeper from Lisa Gregersen
  • Landon, Dylan & Tux from Patricia Santor
  • Les Chan from Kathleen Jung
  • Les Chan from Kristen Nelson
  • Les Chan from Michael Lipsatt & Deena Levine-Lipsatt
  • Les Chan from Roger & Lucy Tom
  • Les Chan from Rona Hampton
  • Les Chan from Stu Ganz
  • Les Tom-Chan from Judith Grether
  • Lorna Nelson from Megan Sandri
  • Lucy Mae & Mr. Molly from Muriel Whitcomb
  • Our cat Lucy, from Anonymous
  • Marbles (aka Lady Luck) from Ann Bracci & Allan Masingill
  • Leslie Cobb’s Midori from Sandra Sher
  • Merry’s Miss B., the best office bunny & banana connoisseur, from Peggy Harding
  • Mr. Higgins from Robin Butler
  • Mollie from Laura Ford
  • Molly from Barbara Cassens
  • Nacho from Jeffrey & Heather Lamb
  • Oscar from Judy Bertelsen
  • Parker Hoag from Richard & Kelley Hoag
  • Barbara & Mike’s beloved Patches from everyone at ICRA
  • Peanut from Amy & Michele Ferro
  • Penny-Sunshine from Ellen McGinn
  • Gail’s beloved Petey, from Peggy Harding
  • Rocky Bobcat from Mary Ellen Bauer
  • Rosanne Thornhill, who died on 2 July 2007, from Sandra Dellafiori
  • Samantha from Susan Cicilcio
  • Shannon the Crab from Rebecca Perata-Rosati
  • Shiso from Sandy Wada
  • Squeak from Ben & Marylee Martinez
  • Stephanie Gorman Lyons, a real cat lover, from Elaine Flynn
  • Teddy from John & Nancy Rice
  • Thor from Janet Kahle
  • Toby Cat from Dolores Kelleher
  • Tony the cat from Fay & Christopher Joyce
  • Tortie Girl, Merry’s beautiful garden cat, from Peggy Harding
  • Tuxedo (my precious gift) from Linda Diane Barrett
  • Twinnie from Thomas Kincaid
  • Zoe, my little purr kitty for 17 years, from Peggy Harding
A Sad but Fond Farewell
To two special ICRA alums

When you write or email us that you’ve lost your ICRA kitty, we share in your loss. We never can be thankful enough to those individuals and families who have adopted our kittens and given them a warm home and unconditional love for the remainder of their lives. We say goodbye with a heavy heart but hold fond memories of all of our ICRA rescues as they pass on to watch over us. Here are just two of several ICRA alumni who passed away since our last newsletter.

RIP NICKY, the first cat ever adopted from ICRA at the South Shore Center Petco.

“On the very first weekend you guys brought cats into the store for adoption, 18 years ago, I snagged Nicholas (renamed Nicky 'The Meatball' Corleone). He was the first cat adopted at the store from your program. Yesterday was his last day, dammit. He was almost 19. I want to thank you. He was the best cat EVER.”

In Loving Memory of big FRANK, or Frankie as his mom called him.

We were so sorry to hear of Frank's passing last November due to an aggressive cancer. We estimate that he was 10 years old. Rescued in 2005, Frank tested positive for FIV. Despite his sweet, easy-going demeanor and handsome presence, Frank remained with us in foster care for three years before he found his permanent, loving home with Lynda in Alameda, where he hit the jackpot being doted on and having his own couch cushion to watch TV in the evenings. He was one of our most photogenic cats and became the poster cat for many of our graphic design pieces. Sweet Frank, your memory will remain with us and all of your fellow foster kittens forever.