ICRA Celebrates 20 Years  Helping Community Cats

ICRA began in 1994 with a small group of Alameda residents. Individually, they were helping stray or feral cats here and there, through trap, neuter, return (TNR), socializing, and finding homes for kittens. After running into one another at local vet clinics time and again, they decided to pool their resources and begin a non-profit dedicated to helping cats. Our primary mission was and remains to alleviate the suffering of free-roaming, semi-feral, and/or abandoned cats – otherwise known as community cats – by focusing on spay/neuter. We quickly developed an adoption and foster program in 1995 to assist our efforts in finding homes for the cats that could be rehabilitated and adopted into permanent homes. ICRA began as a 100% volunteer organization and remains so today. Because we are all volunteer run, we consistently keep administrative costs low (6-7%) to allow the majority of every donation dollar to be spent directly helping the cats.

As our resources grew over the years, so did our ability to expand beyond spay/neuter. Our effective service area also expanded beyond Alameda into Oakland, San Leandro and Castro Valley. In addition to facilitating thousands of spay/neuter surgeries, we have funded a substantial amount of non-routine veterinary care, to include dozens upon dozens of fracture and wound repairs, dental and eye surgeries, and long-term veterinary care for chronically ill cats (and a few dogs and bunnies), in addition to preventive care for the socialized and rehabilitated cats destined for adoption or those we return to their neighborhoods after spay/neuter surgery.

Over the past 20 years, despite never having enough resources to meet community demand, we are proud to promote two of our major accomplishments:

› Nearly 15,000 cats spayed or neutered!
› Over 4,500 cats adopted!
   (via our adoption program and transfers to no-kill shelter partners)

We could not have accomplished any of this without the hard work and countless hours put in by our volunteers, the partnerships with community veterinarians who provide us medical services at costs that allow us to stretch our dollars further, and the private and corporate foundations who support our work through matching funds and grants. In addition, we cannot overstate our debt and gratitude to ICRA’s many loyal individual donors over the years!

We extend a huge thank you to all of our volunteers, veterinary partners, and donors! With your continued support, we look forward to helping many more community cats in the years to come.
We first met Jake on Alameda Point more than four years ago. It would take a 9-year-old boy named Oliver who lives in New Zealand for us to realize just how special this otherwise ordinary looking brown tabby really is.

We found Jake during a trap, neuter, return project in a housing area on Alameda Point. We quickly realized that he was tame, and we learned that he had been abandoned by a family who had come and gone from the housing unit leaving Jake to fend for himself. Jake was doing a good job of that. He had already found an elderly man who was feeding several of the semi-feral cats in the housing unit, and Jake joined the group. He seemed happy there, so after his neuter surgery we returned Jake to the kind, elderly gentleman.

Sadly, Jake’s caretaker died a couple of years later. When an ICRA volunteer learned of his passing, she plucked Jake from Alameda Point and put him into our foster care program.

Jake was in foster care for about three months and was showing at our adoption site at Petco in late June 2013 when a family from New Zealand contacted us about volunteering to foster a cat. Dad Bob was affiliated with one of the America’s Cup racing teams, so the family was living in Alameda for the summer. They missed their cat, who remained in New Zealand being cared for by a relative. Their son, Oliver, was going to choose the cat or kitten to foster. I recall the day that Oliver and his mom came to Petco and remember thinking that a child would most certainly choose one of the cute fuzzy kittens. Instead, Oliver walked straight to Jake’s cage and confidently stated that this was the cat he wanted. The two formed an instant bond — one that grew stronger as the summer weeks passed that. The entire family fell in love with Jake.

As the America’s Cup races wound down, Mom Louise began researching the possibility of taking Jake back to New Zealand with them. She was shocked to learn the cost involved. They simply could not afford the fees. It was now September and, sadly, they notified us that they would have to return Jake to another foster home as they prepared to leave the U.S. On the day of their flight, they stopped by the adoption site for one final good-bye with Jake.

Surprisingly, we were able to raise money in record time via an online fundraising effort. But the job of getting Jake overseas proved much more challenging as we worked our way through the mire of requirements and restrictions for moving a cat from the U.S. into New Zealand. Due to more than one mix-up, Jake’s travel plans were delayed until April 21, 2014. All along the way, Louise and family remained patient, assuring us that they definitely wanted Jake. Despite the setbacks, we were determined to get Jake back to the family who loved him so.

Jake was more than a trooper, marking time for six more months in foster care before his exciting road trip to Los Angeles to catch an exhausting 12+ hour flight to Auckland. His last hurdle was a 10-day quarantine before going home. Jake made friends every step of the way, but he remembered his family instantly when they visited him at the quarantine facility. We will fondly remember his unique, affectionate personality and want to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and supporters for making Jake’s fabulous journey possible. Jake is now making himself at home in New Zealand with Bob, Louise, Oliver, and cat Chinky...his forever home, AT LAST! – Merry B.
Dory Ryan: In Loving Memory

Dory Ryan was a loyal and cherished ICRA volunteer who lost her battle with cancer in January 2014. She began volunteering with ICRA in 2009 as an adoption assistant at our Petco adoption site in Alameda. She loved the cats as much as they loved her.

Dory spent a lot of time talking with potential adopters and was successful at matching the right cat with the right home. One of her last placements occurred just a few months before her death when she helped to find the perfect home for two 9-year-old siblings that had been returned to ICRA several months earlier. One of them was FIV+ and didn’t like other cats (but loved his sister). Dory helped match them with an adopter who had no other animals and was able to take both siblings into a wonderful, forever home.

Dory was a fabulous mom to her feline friend, Cocoa, who was with her until the very end. A friend and neighbor adopted Cocoa after Dory’s passing.

Spay/Neuter Efforts in Alameda

Funded by PetSmart Charities®

ICRA will be able to spay/neuter over 350 free roaming cats in Alameda this year thanks to funding made possible by a grant from PetSmart Charities® through their Free-Roaming Cat Spay/Neuter Grant Program.

Through this program, PetSmart Charities® funds trap-neuter-return (TNR) projects that aim to spay/neuter a substantial percentage of cats within a targeted geographic region to a point where the numbers of free-roaming cats there will naturally and gradually decline.

Populations will cease growing exponentially and fewer cats will be brought into animal shelters. Organizations like ICRA, as well as and local animal control agencies, will receive fewer complaints and calls for assistance regarding stray and semi-feral cats.

ICRA has been targeting the island city of Alameda since its inception with extensive efforts to respond to community calls for help with free-roaming cats. Our volunteers work throughout the city and neighboring areas to conduct TNR projects and respond to requests for spay/neuter assistance. At the same time, ICRA volunteers strive to educate the public at any opportunity and to support members of the community who are willing to foster adoptable cats or act as caretakers for feral colonies.

A feral cat in a humane trap (meaning no injury to the cat) ready to be spayed or neutered, for a longer, and much better life.

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Our Sincere Appreciation

Dedicated to

- April Miles from Maria Eberstein
- Bingo Lorenz from Andrew and Sally Lorenz
- Bob from Michael Wright
- Chris Flaningam Fund from Margaret Baldwin
- Chris Flaningam Fund from Mary and David Yamamoto
- Claire Tauber from Lanonda Moseley
- Cliff and Dovey Neth from Dorene Neth
- Cookie from Valda Bindi
- Derryl Zeller from Jody McKeveit
- Gracie and Marti from Joanne Judt
- ICRA staffers and rescuers, THANK YOU! from Julia Ilescas
- Jake from Ming Hui Wu
- Jody McKevitt from Katrina Ancar
- On behalf of Kate Gamble from Phyllis Diamond
- All the kitties ICRA has saved from Anonymous
- Thank You to Merry Bates from Peter Andrea and Gretchen Whittier
- Sarah Vetter from Anonymous
- Sid Justice from Gail O’Connor-Justice
- Sisters Houdini and Sweety (formerly Chow and Tiger) from Lurlal Bostus
- Ziesta and Joe Mathews from Mark Showers

In Memory of

- Beau rescued from the streets by Ellen Lynch from Naida Verbeek
- Beth Summers from Carmen Cortez and Rebekah Eppley
- Beth Summers from Glenda Ruth
- Bodhi from Kathleen Rolinson
- Cathy Keesee from Debbie Sharp
- Charlie from Patricia Prinz
- Deanna Ohe from Alyce Proctor
- Donalda Murphy’s Birthday from Cilla Devries
- Dupree and Jane from Ruthann Cohn
- Gail Churchill with love from Cowboy and Dash (Deidra Jow)
- Heather Hanly’s birthday - from Donna Hanly
- - from Sallee Purcell and John Murray
- Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell from Sallee Purcell and John Murray
- Katie from Audrey Atkins
- Maverick, Goose and Monkey from Clayton Chan and Rosa Won
- Merry Bates and Peggy Harding from Elizabeth Summers
- Mr. Kitty, thanks to Sandy and Gail from Betty Marvin
- Nel O’Neil from Joan and Harold Lewis
- Onyx and Sunshine’s 15th Birthday from Kanwal and Himgauri Chaudhary
- Opal and Daisy (Amber) from Thalia Dorwick
- Pat McCall and Gail Churchill from Allison Bliss Consulting
- Peggy Harding from E. 31st Gang
- Sarah Vetter from Catherine Vetter
- Shefali Alejos from Barbara Ann Knutson
- Sugar, Mickey and Lily from Meredith Florian
- Valdez from Glenda Lewis and Keith Gomes

In Honor of

- Beau rescued from the streets by Ellen Lynch from Naida Verbeek
- Beth Summers from Carmen Cortez and Rebekah Eppley
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- Bodhi from Kathleen Rolinson
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In Memory of

- Never tired of being sweet Agent 99, from Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
- Allied Pico from Theodore and Barbara Simon
- Amy, rescued kitty of Naida Verbeek from Mark Reed
- Amy Lou (Black Cat) from Patricia Dewolk
- In honor Joan Nelson’s Angel passing on 1.13.14, from Hiromi Kodama
- Bev and Bob Brun from Judy Bertelsen
- Bobbi, Sugar, Silky, and Peanut from Pamela Senegal
- Boo from Beverly Zia
- Carole Bibeau (Nel’s Friend) from Linda Gribbon
- Cleveland and Calico from Ria Di Costanzo
- Clint Arndt from Mary Arndt
- Comet from Christine Shaheen
- Dory Ryan - from Crystal Higgins
- - from Angela DiSanto
- - from Debbie Sharp
- - from Christine Smith-Barton
- Elroy, Jade and Laverne from Merry Thomas
- Esha and Imp from Pat Mosley
- Fluffy from Karin Seritis
- Freddy soul-mate kitty to Diana from Kathryn Caulfield MacFadgen
- Howdy and Yoshi Churchill - Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
- - Michael Gong and Barbara Wong
- Howdy, Yoshi and Jenny Churchill from Debbie and Gary Damele
- Irving, Henry, Mousse, Leonard and Patience from Ellen McGinn
- Jake, Rusty, Chuckie, Yohteh and all our beloved furry friends from William Dash
- Jim Churchill from James and Kathleen O’Shea Newman
- Joan Fong, a cat lover from Scarlett Ho
- Kacinta from Sandra Berger
- Logan, Landon, and Dylan from Patricia Santos
- Peggy Harding’s Luna - from Heather Hanly and Dan Purcell
- - She lived a charmed life in her final years in your garden from Merry Bates
- - from Michael Mombrea and Marion Bayard
- Midnight Louie and Autumn from Lark McMullin-Ramirez and Jon Lee Ramirez
- Old Doll from Pat Smyklo
- Oscar from Peggy Kass and Helen Krayerhoff
- Peanut and Beppo from Larry and Camille Rau
- Peanut from Christopher and Diane Penn
- Rhapsody from Bennie and Marylee Martinez
- Rika (Paprika) from Susan Cricitio
- Rosie, my dear sweet little cat of 15 years from Anne Dunn
- Precious kitty, Rosie from Marilyn Dunn
- Sam and Chester from Lois Moore
- Schroeder Mommie Sugar from Harold Ziese
- Sera Bilstad-Meyers from Debbie Sharp
- Sheila Johnson from Shirley Dean
- Sumo from Deborah Walker
- Tilla Bones from Robert and Linda Smith
- Tony and Charlie from Marilyn Ann Dunn
- Verna Humphrey from David Humphrey

Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days a Huge Success

It would be an understatement for us to say that the Maddie’s Pet Adoption weekend was anything but a major success for ICRA cats! On a good weekend we might place 6-8 cats. Over May 31st and June 1st, 2014 we had 54 cats and kittens adopted which means Maddie’s Fund will provide a substantial gift in grant funding to ICRA to help more cats. Thank you to everyone who adopted and thank you to Maddie’s Fund for its generous support of ICRA! To learn more about Maddie’s Fund go to www.maddiesfund.org
We reserve the right to use your photos and comments to update the community on our work. Thank you for sharing your images, families, and stories of your ICRA kittens with all of us!

ASTRID

Astrid (f. Lucky) relaxes with her new best friend and compliant head pillow, Frank. Astrid’s guardian says “she’s the queen of the house and she knows it.” Adopted September 2013 by Savannah D., San Francisco

DASH + COWBOY

Oh, for Pete’s sake! Watch where those paws are going there, dude! With her bigshot opposable thumbs, she’ll have these shenanigans plastered all OVER the Internet without our consent before you know it!! Dash and Cowboy adopted March 2012 by Desira J., Alameda

CHARLIE + SIMON

Brotherly love. Plain and simple. Charlie (left) worships August 2001 ICRA alum Simon (f. Piccola), who surrendered to the little spud’s need for comfort and snuggling without losing his own brand of big tabby coolness. Adapted June 2012 by Victoria K., Alameda

FIONA

Fiona, an FIV+ mama cat when rescued, shows nothing but love and gratitude in her eyes for her dad. Adopted March 2013 by Tyler C., Oakland

GREY-GREY

Grey-Grey (f. Rascal) and his new buddy, Ty-Tay (left), look like they’ve been together forever. “It makes my heart happy to see them getting along and having so much fun playing with each other...Little Grey’s such a sweet-heart and a great addition to our family. With great appreciation and thanks for all you do for ICRA and the kitties.” Adopted January 2014 by Leslie W. & David L., San Francisco

KRAMER

Ugh, keeping this family happy, in line, and entertained takes it out of a guy—thinks Kramer. His people report that everyone who visits wants him for their own, “but we’re the lucky ones who get to keep him forever, and we are so happy and grateful we were able to find him through ICRA!” For his part, Max (f. Simba) has patterned his humans into a strict regimen of playing toy bird on a stick....until HE’S tired. Adopted November 2011 by Amy G., El Sobrante

LUCY + RICKY

Mom! Dad! He’s touching me!... Mom! Dad! She’s touching me! Am not!...ARE, TOO!! Am not!! Lucy and Ricky were adopted in August 2013 by Cecil & Steve H., Alameda

NINA

Part of being a self-respecting rescue cat is making your devoted foster parent question their credibility now and then. Nina (f. Charcoal) decided to defy her characterization as a shy snuggler by reinventing herself as a “curious, rambunctious” kitty who “loves to get in trouble” and keep fellow ICRA alum, Papette, and dog Chloe on their toes. Adopted February 2014 by Emie & Veronica G., Richmond

PERCY

According to his people, Percy (f. Bobby) is “the sweetest kitten on Earth” and “loves sleeping right up next to one of us.” What they don’t realize is that I want their blankets! Adopted February 2014 by Barbara W., Piedmont

POPPET

Poppet demonstrates how to set the time-honored, foolproof human trap. Come on...touch it...you know you want to... Ooooooo, sooooo soft and luxurious. Her people (speaking from experience?) report that “belly up is her default position, so we know she feels safe, but don’t let that fool you...there are NO belly pets with Poppet!” Adopted August 2012 by Keller H. & Joe J., McKinney, Texas

We reserve the right to use your photos and comments to update the community on our work. Thank you for sharing your images, families, and stories of your ICRA kittens with all of us!
**Why is spay/neuter crucial to end suffering for all free-roaming cats?**

### Possible Scenario One:

ONE female cat and her offspring can produce between 100 and 400 cats by the end of seven years *(if each has 1 litter per year).*

### Possible Scenario Two:

ONE female cat and her offspring can produce between 2,500 and 5,000 cats by the end of seven years *(if each has 2 litters per year).*

*Numbers from the Humane Society of the United States and Dr. Michael Stoskopf assume a single female cat has six kittens per year with 1.5 surviving (75% kitten mortality, aka non-surviving kittens). So, a majority of kittens do not survive to adulthood or breeding age when born outdoors without human caretakers to assist them. Litters averaged 50% female offspring in the N. Carolina study.*

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**Thank you to a dedicated social media volunteer**

A huge thanks to our volunteer **Julia G.** who has made our facebook page a wonderful place to hang out, share kitty joy, and view gorgeous cat/kitten pics and videos while one gets to know more about ICRA. We just recently reached **500 LIKES!** Help us to get more, share our page at: **facebook.com/icraeastbay**

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**RILEY**

Riley (f. Harry), showing his best demure side for the camera, is going strong at 9½ as his artist guardian’s muse. Adopted 2004 by Leslie C., San Lorenzo

**SADIE**

Sweet Sadie. One eye but twice the love for her new forever home. Adopted September 2013 by Katie H., Oakland

**STELLA**

Adopter Sumsum sports the season’s latest craze in ‘round the clock feline chic neckware – Stella (f. Ella). “We are so grateful for Stella.” Adopted January 2010 by Ada B., Gaby C., and Sumsum, Berkeley

**TAFFY**

Alas, my most clever attempt yet to avoid detection by the human’s strange and invasive flashing device has ended in failure. Taffy was adopted in August 2013 by Marnie L., Alamo

**TRUFFLES**

Formerly shy youngster Truffles couldn’t possibly be any closer to or more comfortable with her new mom. Adopted November 2012 by Jennifer N., Alameda

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**UMA**

It would be really hard to believe that Uma and one of her then new Chi-town buddies weren’t up to something here. Adopted December 2013 by Barb S., Chicago, Illinois

**WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday (f. Dixie) gets into the spirit with her Christmas collar. Hobbies include a fascination with water (she prefers to call it ‘expertise in hydrological science’) and hiding under covers (aka just looking for peace and quiet). Adopted September 2013 by Jessica and Michael R., Berkeley

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**Pearl and Cleo**

Why is spay/neuter crucial to end suffering for all free-roaming cats?
Thank You for 20 Years!

We were so happy and inspired by the large crowd of supporters who attended our Champagne Silent Auction on June 7th at the Alameda Elks Lodge. The record-setting crowd came ready to bid on over 200 bid items to raise money for our spay/neuter, adoption, and rescue programs. And bid they did! We are thrilled to report that almost $22,000 was raised! This will help immensely as we approach the height of kitten season during the Summer months – for kittens needing to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and given other important medical care.

This auction event would not have been possible without the generosity of the Alameda Elks Lodge, particularly Bill Lawrence and ICRA’s favorite Elk and ICRA volunteer, Pat McCall. Thank you both for all you continue to do for us.

We are so appreciative of all of our volunteers who worked diligently serving wonderful food, creating amazing decorations, and giving great service to our guests. We also thank Terrence Brewer for providing his beautiful jazz guitar music throughout the evening.

All of our donors deserve special mention for their generosity. We thank: Juniper Tree, Dog Bone Alley, Spa Organica, See Spot Run, Park Centre Vets, La Penca Azul, Marti’s Place, Acapulco Restaurant, Julie’s Coffee and Tea Garden, Gold Coast Grill, Wes Café, Conscious Skin Care, Arterra Landscaping, Grand Lake Theater, Alameda Movie Complex, Burgermeister, CA Canoe and Kayak, Oakland Zoo, Oakland A’s, Holistic Hound, SF Pier 39, Sonoma Raceway, CA Shakespeare, Disneyland, Chuck Corica Golf, Sunset Magazine, and Rialto Cinemas.


We’ll do it all again next year and we’d love to have you come back. If you haven’t yet been to one of our auction events, don’t miss the best fundraiser of the year! Watch for the date and details. - Gail C.

YOU NEED ME!

What’s my personality like, you ask? Well, it’s all in my name. I’m as cool and easy as an Autumn breeze! Do you want to play, let’s play! I’ll jump, run and catch any toy you choose. Do you want to relax, let’s relax! I’ll cuddle, purr and snooze with you all night long. Do you have other cats? Great, I love to play with other kitties, so bring it on! Basically, I’m your all around, all purpose kind of cat. I’ll wait for you when you come home, purring and jumping and ready to go! I would prefer to have a cat playmate, since I have lots of energy. Calm kids over age 7 are good too. My estimated date of birth is April 15, 2012.

I NEED YOU!

This adorable buff tabby cat was living near a creek with her mom and siblings in Oakland’s Fruitvale District. Flower loves to be cuddled and held. She is a super sweet, affectionate kitten. She also loves all types of toys from puff balls to interactive types. Flower likes other kittens and would be happiest in a home with at least one other cat who would like a kitty companion. She may start out shy when she meets new people, but she warms up quickly. She’s a wonderful kitty! She could be okay with calm kids over 10 and a mellow, older dog. We estimate she was born September 1, 2012.
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.