

The ICRA Catalyst

Summer 2015



We created our Garden Cat program for cats that, despite our efforts, are too uncomfortable with people to become house cats. Not socialized to people when young enough, they are labeled “semi-feral,” and while most often they can be returned safely to their original trapping location and caretaker after spay/neuter, there are sometimes unfavorable circumstances preventing it. That is where our Garden Cat program comes in – to find safe outdoor spaces where these cats can live out their natural lives.

A “semi-feral” cat may sound wild or aggressive, but the stories in this newsletter prove otherwise. Garden cats may start out very shy and unwilling to be touched, but most develop a strong bond with their caretakers to the point of enjoying regular petting and verbal interaction. Sometimes, they even like to be held and cuddled. Regardless of the rules of human engagement different garden cats establish, our caretakers unanimously attest to the wonder and enjoyment of having these beautiful animals in their lives.

If you love cats and have a protected garden or yard that would make a sanctuary for a semi-feral cat or cats in need, please contact us. Find out more about our Garden Cat program on our web site. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading about the experiences of some who already took the plunge.

– Merry B.



Ginger



Fred

Garden Cats: A Different Kind of Pet

Roadmap to a Successful Garden Cat Relationship

In early 2013, two of several outdoor semi-feral cats in Alameda were left without a caretaker after their elderly guardians passed away. When their property was about to be sold, the realtor enlisted our help. One buff tabby and one orange and white cat found a new garden home in Alameda with James and Laura, who aptly named them Fred and Ginger. Photo updates over the past two years prove that these lucky kitties are in heaven! We asked James how he went about helping Ginger and Fred settle into their new environment.

ICRA: What interested you in becoming a garden cat guardian?

JAMES: I honestly just love cats. My wife has an indoor-only cat that she’s had since before we met. I love Numa and we get along great, but she’s very clearly my wife’s cat. I started wanting a cat of my own, but we knew that Numa wouldn’t tolerate it. My wife saw your Garden Cat flyer in town and it just seemed perfect.

ICRA: How did Fred and Ginger initially respond to you in the first few days of their relocation?

JAMES: Fred was clearly terrified. When I approached the (relocation) cage he would retreat to the farthest corner to watch my every move. Ginger kept her distance but was much more interested in what I was doing. She'd sit on an upper ledge of the cage and watch as I fiddled with food, water and litter.

ICRA: What are some of the things you did in the first 1-5 days that you believe helped the garden cats most to begin feeling comfortable with you while they were acclimating in their cage?

JAMES: What I think does work is following a routine, being consistent, and letting the cats drive the interaction. Because Fred and Ginger spent their first weeks in a cage in our backyard adjacent to the kitchen, they got to see and hear many aspects of my routine: the water heater, the coffee grinder, the clinking of dishes. These sounds preceded me showing up with cat food.

When my hands were in their cage, I never reached toward them. I followed the same pattern each time. If they were in an area that I needed to access, I moved very slowly toward them so they had plenty of time to get out of the way. Ginger pretty quickly figured out that I was harmless and began rubbing up against my hand or arm when I brought food. If she bonked my hand with her head, I'd give a pet. Fred never tried to interact with me while I reached into the cage, but he did realize I was harmless and stayed in places he knew I wouldn't attempt to reach.

ICRA: Once you released the cats from their relocation cage after the three-week acclimation period, what did you do to encourage them to spend time in your yard and continue bonding with you?

JAMES: I kept up my routines. The sound of us doing our morning thing was like a dinner bell. It was clear that they were hiding somewhere out of sight, but within earshot. Consistency even comes down to things like how I approach them when they're outside waiting for breakfast. I stand in the same spot. I crouch low to make myself as small as possible. I make the same sounds in the same tone. I don't move toward them but let them come to me. They know what to expect from me and I try not to violate that.

Ginger continued her habit of coming right up and stuffing her head into the bowl even with my hands there. Fred sat a few feet away waiting for me to leave. Day by day, week by week, he sat closer and closer until he even began to approach the bowl with me next to it. Eventually he went for the food while my hands were over the bowl. In time, I extended a finger to *accidentally* touch him. At first he was startled and retreated, but I stayed still and continued doing exactly the same thing. In time, he mimicked Ginger, letting me gently stroke him while he stuffed his face... ignoring me. The same tactics worked on both cats, but they bonded with me at different speeds based on their personalities.

ICRA: It's been about two years since Ginger and Fred came to live with you as garden cats. How do they currently interact with you?

JAMES: I used to mark on a calendar when I saw them, mostly for my own peace of mind to stay objective about how long I'd gone without seeing them and to allay panic. Now, marking the calendar is a formality because they show up every day. Ginger sitting on the railing of our back stairs staring in the kitchen window is what I see when I get out of bed in the mornings. Fred is usually right below her on the landing.

They're both very affectionate and rub up against me while I'm fiddling with their food. I think they're as protective of me as their food source as I am of them.

We have well established routines. If it's raining, I feed them on our patio table to keep the food dry under a canopy. They expect this.

Fred comes right up to me at feeding time if he's in the mood for contact. If not, he'll sit a short distance away waiting for me to go back inside. He knows I will. Fred is especially attentive to my moods. If I'm having a bad day and thinking about work stresses, he is much more skittish and reactionary to each thing I do. So I try to focus 100% on the cats while I'm with them. It helps me as much as it helps them.

Ginger loves to supervise when my wife works in the back yard, grilling or gardening. Sometimes when she's enjoying some scratches and rubs, she gets cozy enough for me to pick her up and cuddle her. I approached this process slowly. The first time I crouched nearby to scoop her up on to my knees, being careful to keep her pointy bits (teeth and claws) directed away from me. I moved her smoothly but quickly to my knees and then took my hands away. She sat there for a few seconds and then hopped back down. Eventually I got bold enough to cradle her in my arms and stroke her head and back.

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GREAT CATS: When is it My Turn for a Forever Home?

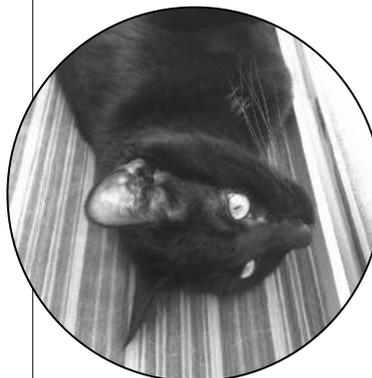


MARTIN

This guy is more handsome up close. Martin is sweet, curious, playful with an easy-going nature. He is affectionate and when he knows you, be ready for head butts! Martin gets along with most cats and can be found snuggling with buddies. He can be dominant so best paired with a cat who is confident and mellow. He would do fine with a cat-friendly dog. Martin may do fine with gentle kids 6+. Born in April 2008.

WILSON

This big bundle of purrs loves to be brushed and petted while lounging in a sunny window perch. He enjoys the company of another cat (or two) although he's not into chase games. Wilson prefers hanging out. He has a sweet-nature and would do well in a quiet home with adults or gentle kids age 12+. He is lovable but timid with new people/situations and prefers not to be picked up and held. He may do fine with a cat-friendly, calm dog. Born in Summer 2007.



MURPHY

Looking for a kitty to adore you? His wish is to find a person with savvy and patience to bring him out. He asks for affection while at other times he's timid. He submits easily to being held for short periods suggesting that if he feels safe he'll stay for good. He does well with cats but he can be dominant. He would probably do well with a passive cat or a cat-friendly dog. Not a good candidate for young kids. Give him a chance, and he'll repay you with affection and love! Born in April 2008.

Love and Appreciation for Your Support



Dedicated to

- **Andy** from Lani Knowlton
- **Antonio Robles** and **Cecelia Theis** - My Cat Sitters! from Christine Riedell
- **Cupcake Ancar-Ebron** from Rita Hao
- **Cyrus** and **Ethan** from Vanessa Lindler
- **Jake** from Ming Hui Wu
- **Old Man** from Grace Helu-Lara
- **Sandy Sher** from Anonymous

In Honor of

- **Asilomar, Peralta, Tilden** and **Wheatley** from Janet Gore
- **Beth Summers** from Denise Matthews
- **Bodhi** from Kathleen Rolinson
- **Cali** from Gail Justice
- Another year with **Charlie Darlin** from Patricia Prinz
- **Danity the Cat** from Michael Riggsby
- **Derryl Zeller** from Jody McKeivitt
- **Ellen Lynch** from Eveyree Sharon Kain
- **Ellen Lynch** from Heather Hanly
- **Ellie** from Brette Johnson
- **Erin Daruszkas** 40th birthday from Clay FS Van Batenburg
- ICRA's support of **Feral Change** from Caitlin Safradin
- **Fluffy** and **Coco** from Lori Nelson
- **Gabriela Crane**, who has helped so generously with Pooh Bah from Jane Marigold
- **Gail Churchill**, a cat's best friend! from Mia Wijzen
- **Gail Churchill** from Sylvia Rosenthal
- **Gail Churchill**, with love from Cowboy, Dash and Deidra Jow
- **Ginger** from Fred Paxton and Jennifer McKenna
- **Gingerbread** (*ICRA rescue cat*) from Rebecca Perata-Rosati
- **Heather Hanly** from
 - from Donna Hanly
 - from Edward Purcell, Jr.
 - from Sallee Purcell
- **Heather Hanly** and **Dan Purcell** from Sallee Purcell
- All the hard working, dedicated **volunteers at ICRA** from Scarlett Ho
- **Ivan** adopted from ICRA 15 years ago from Karen Peel
- **Jennifer and Kevin's Wedding** from Julie Gaynett
- **Katie** from Audrey Atkins
- **Keri Spaulding** from Levon Reposa
- **The marriage of Laurie & Marion Schiff** from Art and Pat Still
- **Louie, Autumn, Ruby** and **Ellen Lynch** from Mary Perusina
- **Maggie** from Patricia Kubo
- **Marlene Johnson** from Ruth Smiler
- **Martin Snapp** for his birthday from Deborah McCaskey

- **Maverick, Goose, Monkey** and **Emma** from Clayton Chan and Rosa Won
- **Maxine** and **Polly** from Cecilia and Adelaida Mesa
- With thanks to **Merry, Heather**, and **ALL the Saturday Petco volunteers**, from Jerry cat and Nancy Servin
- **Merry Bates** from Susan Ciriclio
- **Muffy** and **Fluffy** (*adopted in February 2010 from ICRA*) from Vicky Machado
- **Murphy** cat from Dolores Kelleher
- **Nutmeg**, my sweetheart feral of Lusk Street from Heather Hanly
- **O.G.** from John Wood
- **Our wedding guests** from Jennifer and Kevin Compau
- **Pat McCall** from Edmund Clausen
- **Paulie** and **Panther** (*adopted from ICRA July 3, 2010*) from Barbara Cooper
- **Pei Ling** from Robert Everingham
- **Pirate** from Patricia Swartz
- **Ross and Gloria McMullin** and **Midnight** from Lark McMullin-Ramirez
- For care of **Ruby** by **Peggy Harding** and **Merry Bates** from Elizabeth Summers
- In honor of **Ruby** and **Peggy Harding** from Michael Barrick
- For **RUBY:** from Brian Metcalf, Dolores Kelleher, Heather Blackmore, Heather Stewart, Irene Nexica, Jane Smith, Jenna Hua, Jennifer Lucas, Joanne Chen, Sara Moore and Teri L. Sandholdt
- **Sarah Vettters** from Catherine Vettters
- **Shefali Alejos' 1st Birthday** from Barbara Ann Knutson
- **Sidney** from Susan Garris
- **Sierra and Matt's Wedding** from Wendy Hengen
- **The Silent Auction** from Larry and Elisa Poynter
- **Simon** from Stacy Baar
- **Susan Isaason** from Anna Davis
- **Susie-Blue** from Barbara Anderson
- **Sweetie** and **Hooty** (*f. Chow and Tiger*) from Laural Bustos
- **Todd, Luz, Ziggy** and **Katman** from Krista Paine
- **Tony Toppano** for your kindness and generosity from Heather and Nutmeg
- **Zelda** (Lauren) from Mary Ann Mertz

In Memory of

- **Abbie** (*adopted from ICRA in 1997*) from Mary Ann Nybakken
- **All my previous feline children** from Dr. Lin Zucconi
- **Sweet kitty Art** from Marilyn Ann Dunn
- **Asmo Marsh** from Debbie Sharp
- **Bad Boy** from Meredith Florian
- **Bean Hanly-Purcell** from Debbie Sharp
- **Betty Grice** from Howard and Susan Manipis
- **Betty Kennedy** from Billy and Janet Hiebert
- **Bill George** from N.A. Christin

- **Bingo Lorenz** from Andrew and Sally Lorenz
- In loving memory of **Bob** and **Irene Park** from Michael Barrick
- **Bobby, Freja, Pookie, Silky, Sugar, Gabby** and **Peanut** from Pamela Senegal
- **Boo** from Beverly Zia
- **C.P., Zooney** and **Felix** from John and Linda Waldman
- **Cece Franklin** from Debbie Sharp
- **Chief**, the Coastie Cat from Ann-Marie Doherty
- **USCG Chief** from Charles Bret
- **Chris Flaningam**
 - from Margaret Baldwin
 - from Mary and David Yamamoto
- **Cleo aka Grampy** from Merry Thomas
- **Cleveland and Calico** from Ria Di Costanzo
- **Comet** from Christine Shaheen
- **Cuba Hawryluk** from Debbie Sharp
- **Dupree** and **Jane** from Ruthann Cohn
- **Edward** our ICRA kitty from Leigh Kjeldsen
- **Emma Heaven-Hathaway** from Debbie Sharp
- **Fast Eddie** from Nadia Verbeek
- **George Barretta** and **Tuxedo** from Linda Barrett
- **Gracie, Bosco** and **Marti** from Joanne Judt
- **Henrietta** and **Kelsey** from Janet Gore
- **Isabel Naeve** from Debra Naeve
- **Jenna, Sam, Landon, Logan, Dylan** and **Suber** from Patricia Santos
- **Jerome** from Robert Hagedorn
- **KitKat** from Judy Castillo
- In Memory of **Larry**, our 13 year-old bunny from Corinne Regan (Feb. 2015)
- **Laura Vanderlaan** from Anonymous
- **Little Art** from Martha Anne Dunn
- **Lucy** from Susan Cornell
- **Mama Kitty Carlisle** from Debbie Sharp
- **Marley** from Krista Paine
- **Max** from Maria Rocchio
- **Mocha Rajan-Alejos** from Debbie Sharp
- **Nikki Rhys** from Tracey Rhys
- **Our parents** from David Barkley and Peggy Nice
- Our sister, **Mary Shannon Foster** from Ellen Foster
- **Pablo** from Cynthia and Keith McLeod
- In Loving Memory of **Pablo** from Lisa Trost
- Peggy's cats **Zoe, Quincy, Grey Goose**, and **Luna** from Michael Mombrea and Marion Bayard
- **Rhapsody** from Ben and Marylee Martinez
- **Rosie McCarty** from Debbie Sharp
- **Ruth Ann** from John and Nancy Rice
- **Sasha** from Daniel and Virginia Roberts
- **Scooter Sharp** from Debbie Sharp
- **Stash Crosby** from Debbie Sharp
- **Susan D'Amours** from Debra Seglund
- **Sulphur** from Pat Mosley
- **Taka Garner** from Debbie Sharp
- **Tazio Toland** from Debbie Sharp
- **Tiny** from Naida Verbeek
- **Toby** cat from Dolores Kelleher
- **Valdez** from Glenda Lewis and Keith Gomes
- **Verna Humphrey** from David Humphrey
- **Wicked** (*who died too early*) from Jo Bomser
- **Winky** from Michael Wright

Alumni Mews

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 kitties with all of us!



A.J.
WHAT to do today? **A.J.** appears resolved to sleep on it for awhile. Thirteen years after he was adopted his mom reports. "He is an amazing companion. He is so incredibly loving and affectionate and drools when he gets excited! He loves to snuggle and will sleep with me all night." *Adopted 2002 by Yvonne Jansky, San Francisco.*



ANJELI
"Just close your eyes," **Anjeli** tells herself, "and the human with the flashing box will go away and leave you to your nap. Ommmm." *Adopted February 2015 by Jennifer H., Alameda.*



CHIP + SEAMUS
Co-dependency détente. Pacifists **Chip** and **Seamus** demonstrate the outcome of every low-speed nudge & hug battle for precious cat bed territory. It's too amusing to end it all by simply getting a bigger bed. *Seamus adopted July 1999, Chip in May 2009 by Mary S., Herndon, Virginia.*



ELLA+SIENNA
Of **Ella** (*f. Li'l Bit*) & **Sienna** (*f. Christine*) their person writes: "Just wanted to say hi from the girls...we are having a sleepy day, as you can see...They are growing into sweet, gentle and playful girls, loving their big brother and devoted to each other. A good day to be thankful once again for our good fortune." *Adopted November 2014 by Toni W., San Rafael.*



FUDGE+OTIS
A sunny spot. A good buddy to share it with. Life was never so sweet. **Fudge & Otis** "do this just about every day. Hard to imagine Fudge out on the streets." *Adopted 2007 and 2009 by Joanne C. and Bob H., Oakland*



GEORGIE + CAMPER
Georgie & Camper remind us that everybody needs a strong shoulder to lean on. Precious. *Adopted 2013 and 2009 by Gretchen W. and Peter A., Oakland.*



LUKE
Luke is up high and happy in his home with his new sister, Leah. "**Luke** (*f. Valentino*) is adorable. We all love him and Leah as well. We think they are pretty happy now, and we are happy to have them. They are definitely part of our family." *Adopted March 2014 by Solange H., Cupertino.*



LUNA
Of **Luna** (*f. Galadriel*), her guardian says: "She's made me very happy." It appears the feeling is very mutual. Otherwise, she wouldn't have lost enough feline decorum to allow in the paparazzi with her tongue sticking out. *Adopted December 2014 by Jenn Z., Alameda.*



MANJU + FRODO
Our two housemates, **Manju** (*f. Mini*) & **Frodo** (*f. Harry*) journeyed south with us and now enjoy the SoCal sun when they can get it. They continue to bring us joy and occasional affection on their terms! *Adopted August 2003 by Steve K. and Mari L., Pasadena, CA.*



MAX
Lighting is good. Check! Photogenic pose is struck. Check! Handsome **Max** (*f. Sugar Ray*) is ready for his close-up. *Adopted March 2015 by Jeanette A.C., San Francisco.*



MAYA
(*f. Sybil*) **Maya** now realizes that she didn't camouflage herself quite enough for uninterrupted beauty sleep. *Adopted June 2014 by Jim M. and Joan B., Berkeley.*



MUNCHIE
Here we see **Munchie** and his devoted canine posse "...all lined up for treats. He's a great snuggle bunny, very social cat. Thanks for the privilege of being his owner!" *Adopted November 2014 by Barbara H., San Leandro.*



SHEEBA
Sheeba sends sunny, peaceful greetings from her new garden sanctuary. Thanks Peggy! *Adopted December 2014 by Fred H. and Fran E., Alameda.*



ROBBIE
Robbie clearly loves his new little person, Sophie...which is the only reason he allowed her to share his spotlight...on "HER" bed (we'll just let Sophie keep thinking that it's still hers). *Adopted March 2015 by Sara L., Alameda.*



RUBY
"**Ruby** (*f. Tessa*) belongs to my family now! She is a goofball and a real talker. She is not much of a cuddler, but we know she loves us, and she loves her sister Charlie! They cuddle a lot! *Adopted August 2014 by Darcy S.S., Concord.*



SAMANTHA + XANDER
Samantha & Xander realize too late that they've fallen for the old "look over here" trickery again. And what do we ever get out of this folly except more exploitation? Dang! You think we'd learn?! *Adopted 2014 by Julie I., San Lorenzo.*



SHERLOCK + WATSON
Psst!! **Watson!** I've heard from many who've bravely gone before us that if we just stick close, act cool, and make no sudden cat-like movements they'll get bored and put the camera away. "They are doing really well, getting big and still best buds." *Adopted December 2015 by Shelly L., Oakland.*



TRIXIE
Thanks for this perfectly cat shaped nap spot in your lap, human! *Adopted September 2013 by Jenn S., Oakland.*

ADOPT HIM

Radcliffe

Boy, does this guy have charisma! He's a friendly, affectionate, playful, and all around lovable kitty. He has a velvety black coat and smokey gray fluff on his underside, giving him a handsome and unique appearance. Found living with a feral colony in Oakland, he was happy to come indoors and he'd clearly known a life with humans before. Radcliffe loves people and he's always happy to greet visitors in his foster home. He's chatty and has the sweetest little peep meow that's a mismatch with his exterior. Favorite activities include interactive play, chin and cheek scratches, laps and being brushed. He is FIV+ but should live a normal lifespan in your loving care with vet visits. Radcliffe loves other kitties and he'll need a friendly feline companion in his home. He might do well with a mellow dog and calm kids of any age. We estimate he was born in 2012. Contact us to meet him – info@icraeastbay.org



Valorie's Cats

Garden Cats: A Family Unexpected

I glanced out the bedroom window hoping to see a deer browsing, maybe even a family, mama and fawns. What I saw was indeed a family but just not the one I expected—a long-haired black cat stretched under a large salvia plant, eyes closed, with two mouse-sized babies nursing at her white streaked belly. A large black cat with a white face napped a couple of yards away, curled up under the picnic table. The scene was idyllic—and one that solved the mystery of the tiny kitten found in my neighbor's garden the day before. After several hours, when it was clear that mama wasn't returning, the kitten was swaddled into a shoebox bed where it took easily to bottles of kitten formula and the coddling of twin girls whose affection for two hamsters was immediately purloined by this helpless, chocolate colored kitten.

I set up a feeding station for mama kitty and the other cat I had arbitrarily decided was a male. I named them Rosie and Charlie after the incongruous pair from *The African Queen*. Uncle Charlie's role, as the babies began gamboling about, was to play hide and seek and join them in batting and pouncing on pebbles. They made a darling family, and I was surprised to find this refined domestic scene masked the fact that they were not tame. I couldn't get near them. I assumed I'd try to tame the babies when they were weaned, but my friend Peggy, an ICRA volunteer, told me it was already too late by the time I thought that they could leave their mom. It was the right time for spaying/neutering. So ICRA expertise was enlisted to help humanely trap (no injury) Rosie, Charlie, and babies and whisk them to the veterinarian.

Before long Charlie and the boys, now named Willy and Jake, were a tight unit, leaving Rosie to herself in another area of the yard. She began wandering for a day or so now and then, and finally, when I was away for a week with a neighbor feeding them, Rosie left for good. I caught fleeting glimpses of her in the neighborhood. My heart was broken. Didn't she need me as much as I needed her?

That was over six years ago. Today, their yard area includes a glider draped with a tarp for inclement weather and three kitty beds lined up on the cushion. Whatever his relationship to the "kids," Charlie licks their faces in the morning like a proper mom and gently bats them if they tease or bother him. They often curl up together, a pile of sleeping cats. I feed them breakfast inside my studio just off the deck leaving the door ajar so they have an exit. Initially I did this to give them a break from the cold, but it's now the morning regimen.

These years with my cats have been a delight, free of problems or vet visits. Recently Jake went missing for four days, unheard of for him. In the beginning, I had emailed all my neighbors about my dear new pets with the subtly snipped ears (*indicates an altered feral*). I contacted them again when Jake was missing. I canvassed the neighborhood, looked under bushes and in crawl-spaces, and finally found him in a live (humane) skunk trap (*fyi: check all baited and set humane traps frequently!*). When released, Jake dashed home for a special dinner and plenty of water.



The guys are still "fraidy cats," but Jake now takes his time moving away from me—he likes a quick pet. When I tell Willy he's a handsome fellow he talks back. Charlie closes his eyes as if I were stroking him when I praise his sweetness.

These gentle, well-mannered fellows have enriched my life with their joys and playful personalities. I heartily recommend garden cats, and if you're offered siblings it's double the fun for everyone.
— Valorie, Berkeley

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Three Wonderful Brothers ALBERT, CHARLES + HENRY

Mugging for the camera, boys **Albert, Charles and Henry** (*f. the Three Stooges: Larry, Moe and Curly*) "are great cats with big personalities, and I'm so glad to give them a good home." Thanks, Dad!! – A, C & H. Adopted January 2014 by Steve F., Emeryville.

HELP! A Stray Cat Is Living in My Bathroom!

On Becoming a Serendipitous Garden Cat Guardian



BEFORE: *struggling and suffering with parasites*



AFTER: *recovering peacefully with assistance and food*

Deb H. of San Leandro found herself in a bit of a predicament with an untouchable cat living in her bathroom. She had seen the scruffy creature on her street and in her yard often during her morning walks. One day, with very little coaxing, the wayward critter darted into her home.

The cat hissed when humans approached, but he ate a big bowl of food and retreated to a corner for a long nap. By morning, he had taken up residency in a bathroom. After a few days, Deb concluded that she would be unable to pick up or handle the cat.

She needed some assistance in how to best help this creature. A coworker put her in touch with ICRA.

Kara, an ICRA volunteer, stopped by Deb's house to assess the situation. "The cat was crazy defensive, totally untouchable. I suspected he had both vision and auditory issues. If he was sick, that could explain his wildly defensive behavior but would also make any prolonged treatment challenging."

ICRA arranged a medical appointment; Kara helped the cat into a trap. Under anesthesia, a veterinarian was able to assess that the cat was an unaltered male, approximately 6-7 years old. He had a bad tooth that needed to be removed, but his primary affliction was a severe lice infestation. Deb happily agreed to hold the cat in her bathroom for two more weeks to administer a second dose of medication to eliminate the lice.

Knowing that the cat could be helped, Deb decided to name him Henry. Kara helped administer the second round of medication, but moving the cat from the bathroom and back to the garden soon became problematic. Henry was now incredibly wary of anything resembling a trap or carrier. Rather than force him, Deb took the patient approach. She opened the bathroom door and set food out around the house when she went to work. She knew Henry was moving around the house in her absence because the food was always gone. In time, Henry was willing to eat in her presence in the kitchen. This allowed her to open the exterior doors and give Henry the option to go outside.

Unfortunately, the day Henry ventured outside was more the result of being accidentally startled. "It was tough," reports Kara. "After all of her patient work, Deb had wanted Henry to venture outside voluntarily, confidently. He was gone and she had no idea where."

Within about a week, Deb spotted Henry crossing the street in her car's rear view mirror. She was relieved to know he was okay. It confirmed that Henry was the critter eating the food she was leaving on her porch.

"I was so glad." Deb and her husband, Dave, had been so great to work with," stated Kara. "They were incredibly patient and willing to do whatever was best for the cat's health and well-being. The perfect result here would be for Henry to be able to live as a garden cat with caring guardians."

Nearly two months after a scared and hungry creature darted into Deb's home, Henry is now a regular fixture in her yard. Deb says she still can not touch Henry but that he is "always there when I get home at night, waiting to be fed." He is also putting on weight, and she hopes that he will soon start using the bed box on the porch that she maintains for him.

As a resource-lean volunteer organization, we treasure caring people in the community like Deb who are willing to step up and HELP US make things better for cats in need—particularly those like Henry who enter our lives unexpectedly and don't fit the mold of the easy, warm, fuzzy greeting card kitty which really only exists in our dreams. Feral, semi-feral or tame, they ALL deserve compassionate and safe homes – in any form they may take.



ADOPT HIM

Spike

Spike is a goofy, active, rambunctious kitty. He's into everything and mischievous! He tends to play rough with his kitty friends and needs a cat or dog buddy who can stand up to his antics. Mr. Tough Guy is quite affectionate with people and loves everyone! He's not a lap cat yet – he's too full of energy. Spike loves to play, loves to purr and is the happiest little guy ever! He should be fine with kids. He likes to play and love on the dogs in his foster home. We estimate he was born February 15, 2013. Contact us to meet him – info@icraeastbay.org



Awesome

This handsome boy is extra – super – sweet! He is cautious in new situations, but affectionate once he knows you. He is easy-going and wants to be in the midst of your everything. Awesome is wonderful with cats and may do well with a cat-friendly dog given his docile personality. He should be okay with gentle kids over age 10. We estimate he was born in December of 2013



Dinah

This beautiful black kitty (with auburn tinges) is a sweetie. Dinah has a sweet and loving disposition and she's incredibly soft. She loves to be scratched on the top of her head and be petted. Dinah keeps herself meticulously groomed. She likes chasing after balls and other toys. She loves being with humans and cats. Dinah also loves watching squirrels and birds from her window perch. She enjoys the company of gentle cats. She was named after a cat in Alice Through the Looking Glass. We estimate she was born in 2011.

PLEASE
ADOPT US

GARDEN CATS >

She became a melty puddle of purring fur, kneading the air with her little paws.

ICRA: Any additional words to offer prospective garden cat adopters? Things for them to consider before making the decision to adopt garden cats or tips for establishing a mutually beneficial garden cat relationship?

JAMES: As much success as I've had with Fred and Ginger, they are still much more distant than indoor cats. They live on their own, outside, and they do what they want. They are rarely playful—being an urban outdoor cat is serious business! That said, I do see them bat and pounce the leaves of plants now and then.

They don't always want attention. Sometimes they just want me to put out food and go away. But our bond is there and it's been rewarding for me to care for and watch them transition from terror to comfort and even happiness around me.

If you adopt a garden cat, it might be more social...or less. Fred and Ginger are never going to be the sort of cats that curl up behind our knees in bed or sleep next to us on the sofa while we watch TV. But I know they'll be on the back stairs looking in the kitchen window every morning waiting for me and for breakfast. :)

ICRA: Thank you so much James for taking time to help us make our garden cat program more successful!

JAMES: Thank you so much for giving me Fred and Ginger! I love them both, and seeing them every morning starts my day on a positive note.



2015 Silent Auction Thank You One and All

First we wish to acknowledge the work of our selfless volunteers who prepared all the great vegetarian food for the event and brightened the evening with heart-warming pictures of adopted cats sprinkled throughout the space. Every volunteer worked tirelessly to make it go off without a hitch! All of this allows us to keep our event **overhead at \$500**, which means almost all of the money raised goes directly to the cats and kittens we help.

The Alameda Elks Lodge remains a generous supporter of our efforts. We thank Bill Lawrence and Patty McCall for all they do for ICRA. Jazz guitarist Terrence Brewer provided us with his beautiful sounds that night. Thank you, Terrence! And what would a silent auction be without great bid items?!

ICRA is so fortunate to have wonderful volunteers and supporters year after year! Once again all demonstrated their commitment to ICRA's mission by making our Champagne Silent Auction a big success. With **over \$21,000 raised**, we will be able to continue our life-saving work for our local homeless cats and kittens. These helpless animals will receive vet care, vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries before being placed in quality forever homes, **all because you care!**



We extend our wholehearted thanks to our many business donors for this year's event: Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Marti's Place, West End Crepes, Sunset Magazine, Spa Organica, Wes Café, Revelation in Oakland, MyJewelrySource.com, Bissell, Park Centre Animal Hospital, Oakland Zoo, Grand Lake Theater, California Canoe and Kayak, Trader Joe's, the Oakland A's, Gold Coast Restaurant, El Cerrito Rialto Cinemas, Pier 39 in San Francisco, High Tech Salon and Spa, Rock Wall Wine Company, Sonoma Raceway, California Shakespeare Theater, Holistic Hound, Salt Spa of Walnut Creek, Soaps by Francesca and Starbucks on Blanding Avenue.

And to our many individual donors, your kindness and generosity continues to amaze us. Thank you to: Patty Rose, Debbie Sharp, Stacy Barr, Alan & Dorrene Ross and Aunt Pip, Gretchen Griswold, Selda Heavner, Mike Milioto, Marilyn Rumble, Peggy Harding, Gail Churchill, Jasmine Gonzales & Billy Lovci, Beth Summers, Karalyn Buchner & Aaron Morris, Marg Jost, Ellen Lynch, Pat McCall, Paul & Lisa Gregerson, Annette & Tony Rogers, Veronica Vodopich, Deana Lorman, Leslie Cobb, Robert F. Stott, Fran Estrada, Pam Feack, Liz Dodge, S. & A. Shepherd-Stafford, Z. Taylor, Gretchen Whittier & Peter Andrea, Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell, Teal Johnson, Natasha Leschinsky, Renee Nelson, Megan Lynn Kott, Norma Casey, Joanne Chew, Stephanie Taylor, Mike & Cindy Overmeyer, Donna Khatib, Teresa Carlisle, Steve Schumann, Martha Bertelson, Robert Henderson, Leigh Lofgren, Pat Still, Stephanie Glover, Laurie Poe & Cathy Keese, Sandy Sher, Mia Wijisen, Liz Harris, Vanessa Lindler, Debbie Damele, Terry Millican, Mr. & Mrs. Greczmiel.

This event is our largest annual fundraiser. We encourage you to attend and bring friends next year. More importantly, **the CATS NEED YOU!**
Our next auction — Spring 2016!



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paper towels • scales (human baby, food or postage - up to 3-5 lbs.)
microwaveable heat disks • postage stamps • letter size envelopes
silent auction items – especially travel, restaurant dinners,
gift certificates, wine, jewelry, services, artwork, etc.

NO GLASS PLEASE

We can not recycle GLASS for cash!

Please donate only aluminum
and CA CRV deposit plastic bottles
to our recycling program.

**Thanks for
your help!**



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ADOPTION EVENTS in ALAMEDA

PETCO, South Shore Center, all Saturdays
(not major holidays) 11am - 4pm

PET FOOD EXPRESS, Blanding Way,
1st Saturday of each month, 10am-1pm

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Island Cat Resources and Adoption is a 501(c)3 all volunteer non-profit humane organization. ICRA does not sell, share, or rent names, addresses, or mailing lists to any other groups or affiliates.



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OUR MISSION: 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.