Cherish Them While You Can

Happy CAMPER (Van Beethoven)

I wasn’t supposed to find another cat. It was too soon after the loss... but there he was... this big, handsome, orange fella sharing his space with a young tuxedo companion. He was kind and grandfatherly to the little guy, and I immediately had a sense of his good nature and his compassion. He looked at me and I at him, and there it was... a silent click, a palpable connection and I couldn’t look away.

His name was Angel Boy, and he had been found on the mean streets of East Oakland... well, really, the not-so-mean boulevards of the Oakland foothills where he had been part of a feral colony that ruled the Safeway loading docks. It was there that, among other things, he developed a penchant for chicken, chicken of any sort... fried, broiled, boiled, baked, grilled, sautéed... preparation mattered not because he could pick out its scent in milliseconds from vast distances. The reason he was where I found him involves a fairly long story, but the abbreviated version is that during the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) effort that ICRA conducted with the colony, volunteers recognized an unexpected degree of socialized behavior in Angel Boy. He was skittish but also seemed to long for attention. A few months later I was meeting him. A few days later he was being (slowly) introduced to our feline family.

He really was an Angel Boy, but he would soon be known by a new name: Camper... Happy Camper initially... and eventually Happy Camper Van Beethoven because any amazing (and happy) cat deserves at least four names. Though he was quickly and clearly content in his forever home - and adored by us – he was still apprehensive. It took a good amount of time and patience as we grew to understand each other. He loved attention but only on the floor and only under the right circumstances. I pined for us to be closer, but he wouldn’t allow me to pick him up and wanted no part of lap time. I had to respect these boundaries.

One pivotal evening, however, while my partner and I sat together on the floor, he slowly crept up and climbed into her lap. HER lap?! All of my time and devotion and he chose her! I couldn’t believe it and felt mildly betrayed. The next night brought a similar scenario but this time, amazingly, he chose ME... The honor! The jubilation! And he stayed there, stretched out and purring that calming purr until my legs fell asleep... and even after. I dared not move and destroy the magic. It was just too good. From that moment on all I had to do was sit down and my buddy would be there.

Camper was thought to be about six years old when he entered our lives and stole our hearts. His time with the Safeway crew had earned him some rotten teeth, a clipped ear, and a kink in his short little tail, but he endured those trials and a few others in stride. He really was, in many ways, the most gentle and sweet creature I’ve ever known.

We were lucky enough to have had quite a few years together, and his calm demeanor, loyalty and devotion gave me true happiness and such peace. Of course, I wish that he were still here. And, of course, I wish that I had had more time to spend with him.

– Peter Andrea
Dedicated to

- A feral named **Buddy** from Ellen Lynch
- **Buffy** from Lisa Johnson
- **Cecilia Trost** from Christine Cahill
- **Cecilia Trost** from Cynthia Withrow
- Thanks to **Gail** from The Carder Family
- **Gary Wendt** from Beka Lee-Wendt
- Thanks to **Gail** from The Carder Family
- Thank you so much, **Gail Churchill**!
- **Luanne Ridgley** from Chelsea Hacker
- For the **Matabuena-Lev** Family from Angela Remington
- Thank you to **Merry Bates** from Diana Marie Hanna
- Thank you **Nel O’Neil** from Jasna Dugorepec
- **Pat Lloyd** from Anonymous
- **Sherbie** and **O Cat**, my strays from Teri Sandholdt
- **Sherlock** and **Watson** from Shelly Linton
- Our ICRA rescue, **Simone** from Michael Gray
- **Thor** from Paul Gumpel
- **Tony Littman** and **Shoop** from Allison Ellman
- Thank you for all the follow up with **Twiggy** from Bobby Feehan
- **Winston** from Selina Watson

In Honor of

- **Beth Summers** from William Wharton
- **Buster** and **Posey** from Marion and John Cowee
- **Dimond** the cat from Marie Clare
- **Fernando** from Linda and Russell Honeyman
- **Fluffy** and **Coco** from Lori Nelson
- **Gail Churchill** for her devotion and love from Deidra Jow
- **Gail Churchill** and **Zeus** from Emily Holtz
- **Ginger** from Mary Abbott
- Gracie’s mom, **Susan Criccio**, Happy Retirement! from Peggy Harding
- **Heather Hanly** from Jim and Jean McNamara
- The work of **Heather Hanly** from Charles Dirksen
- **Heather Hanly** and **Dan Purcell** from Sallee Purcell
- **ICRA Staff** from Pat Mosley
- **Julio, Ellie, Mozy, Kate, and Raul** from Brette Johnson
- **Katie Savin** from Jaclyn Chambers
- **Kattiss** and **Eberdeen** from Martin Scheir
- **Kristyn Temple-Robinson**
  - for her birthday from Colleen Moore
  - for her love of rescues, especially cats, from Lynne Beard
  - from Maria Serrano
  - from Terry Baker
- **Lil Hobbit** from Roger Humphreys and Cecelia Voeller
- **Merry Bates** for helping with garden kittens, Calico and Butterscotch 15 years ago, from Elizabeth Moress
- **Mister Softee** from Steven Wood
- **Molly** the cat from Denise Mauldin
- **Nel O’Neil** from Joan and Harold Lewis
- **Pattie** and all the volunteers from Edmund Clausen
- **Peggy’s Crew** from Michael Mombrea and Marion Bayard
- **Peggy Harding** and **Panda** from Susan Criccio
- **Peggy Harding** from Michael Barrick
- **Pippa** and **Marlowe** from Christy Kotowski
- **Ranya** from Georgia Ford
- **Ruby** and **Ellen Lych** from Mary Perusina
- **Sarah Vettres** from Catherine Vettres
- **Seal** from Rowena Taylor
- Shelly **Patterson** from Gail Justice
- **Vicky’s cat** from Karen McMahon
- **Wally**, so happy to have you in our daily life! from Heathar and Dan
- **William of Orange, Pixie and Shiloh** from Linda Retta
- **Zack** and **Zuli** from Merilee Fisher

In Memory of

- **Annie**, the Mendoza’s precious dog, gone too soon – from Peggy Harding
- **Babycat** from Lori Nelson
- Rena Fourkas’ **Blaze** from Gail and Natasha
- **Bobbies**, the dear cat of Dan and Heather from Peggy Harding
- Our beloved **Bobbies**, taken way too soon and missed forever, love Heather and Dan
- **Boo** from Beverly Zia
- **Chico** from Dawn Graeff
- **Chris Flanigam** from Peg Baldwin
- **Christopher** and **Sky** from Patricia Santos
- **CoCo** from Russell Lee
- **Coco** and **Sunami**, Liz and Russ’ two precious torties from Peggy Harding
- **Colleen Kaye** from Kenneth and Diane Kaye
- **Cry Baby** from Margaret Cronin
- **Danny Boy** from Walter E. Turnquist Jr.
- **Diane McLean** and **Diane Shinn** from Les and Yvonne Temple
- **Domino** from Barbara Krauss
- **My Mom, Donna Hanly**, who knew the intense love of cats from a young age and shared it with me. Love, Heather
- **Ernie**, a little golden soul who owned us all the years we gratefully served him. We miss you so much, Bernest. Love from Dan and Heather
- **Felix, Zooey, C.P.**, and **Sylvester** from Linda and John Waldman
- **Fredo** from Mari L’Esperance and Steve Keightley
- **Gabby** from Robyn and Bill Jagust
- **Garfield** from Marilyn Dunn
- **Goose** and Maverick **Chan** from Clayton, Rosa, and Emma Chan
- **Jack M. Hurtle** from Candace Mathewson
- **Jesse, Marty, and Mikey** from Jimmie and Victoria Tatum
- **Dr. John Sper**
  - Mary Sper’s father from Gail Churchill
  - Mary Sper’s father from Margitta Gardner
  - Mary’s dad from Peggy Harding
  - My nephew **Johnny Ellis** from Carolyn Teets
- **Leo** from Lyn Gladstone
- **Lily** from Kathleen Condron
- **Lolly** from Meredith Florian
- **Loraine Russo** and **Rocky Bobcat** from Mary Ellen Baur
- **Lucky** from Rita Price
- The Ng Family’s **Marty** from Gail
- **Marty**, a special tabby, from Heather Hanly
- **Methuselah, Pyewacket, and Brando** from Michael Barrick
- **Mikey** and **Romeo** from Patti Hirko
- **Debbie’s Mouse** from Rena Fourkas
- **Nikki**, the grumpy pumpkin, from Tracey Rhys
- **Debbie’s Mouse** from Rena Fourkas
- **Oreo, Whisper, Lacy, and Bucky** from Elizabeth Lao-Scott
- **Oscar** and **Venus** from Ruthann Z. Cohn
- **Patches** and **Peanut** from Lani Knowlton
- **Patty Cake** from Laural Busto
- **Pooh Bah, the angel cat** from Jane Margold
- Mike and Barbara’s Rosewood from Gail
- **Ruthie** from John and Nancy Rice
- I still miss you **Sami** from Judy Jacobs
- **Sandy Sher’s father**
  - from Gail Churchill
  - from Margitta Gardner
- **Patty Rose’s Sargent Rambo** from Gail Churchill
- **Schatzie** and **Rumba**, Mike and Rachelle’s sweet Berkeley cats from Peggy Harding
- **Smokey** from John and Deborah Rego
- **Spaz** from Amy Aubuchon
- Gary and Debbie Damele’s **Sunny** from Gail Churchill
- **Thor, Isis, and Zeus** from Janet Kahle
- Denise Cahalan’s **Timothy** from Gail Churchill

But the truth is I am so very grateful that I was able to meet him at all, and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to share my life with him. I wasn’t looking for another cat, but an amazing cat found me.

– Peter Andrea
Building Community
To Help More Cats

Late last summer we received a request for help from Nina and Julian, a young couple in North Oakland. They had been feeding a small, black and white cat they called Oreo in their back yard. They were worried that she was pregnant. Oreo promptly disappeared, and when she returned several weeks later she had four black and white kittens in tow.

Our volunteer resources are limited, especially for trapping, but thankfully Nina and Julian were willing to do a lot of the legwork themselves with some guidance and equipment loans. The kittens looked to be about six weeks old, an ideal age for socializing and old enough to eat solid food. The little family found shelter under an old car, and the kittens would cautiously follow mom out to the food bowl when the coast was clear.

On the first day, we were able to catch one kitten with gloved hands. We set him up in a dog crate inside and showed Nina and Julian how to handle an unsocialized kitten. Little Claudius, thanks to his youth, came around quickly and was easy to hold within a few minutes. Over the next few days, following our guidance, Nina and Julia were able to trap or grab the rest of the kittens and trap Oreo to be sent for spay surgery. By the end of the week, with the kittens safely indoors and on the road to being socialized, we were able to transfer them to another local animal rescue for adoption.

We returned Oreo, who was not socialized to humans, to her back yard home, which left us with dad, Milky Way, who was only an occasional visitor. He was trap shy so it was difficult to know when to set up the traps because he didn’t show up consistently. We advised Nina and Julian to start feeding some tasty canned food daily so that Milky Way would make a habit of coming by, and we eventually loaned them a drop trap. It took over a month, but their persistence paid off, and Milky Way was trapped, neutered, and returned to their back yard.

We wouldn’t be able to help as many cats as we do or stretch your donations so far without the participation of engaged community members like Nina and Julian. The story doesn’t end there, either. Nina saw that we weren’t active on Instagram and volunteered to manage our account for us (Check us out: @ICRAEastBay). Apparently, we gave them the kitten bug, too, because they adopted a sweet black and white kitten from us in the fall. They are now training to become trapping volunteers so they can help other people to improve the lives of community street cats.

Win-win-win!

– Julia Griswold
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, your families, and stories of your ICRA kitties with us!

DANNY CAT
Sir!!! Dial 1-800-CatFood and make it quick! Danny Cat (j. Reuben) thinks he’s finally cracked the code on how to overcome that lack-of-opposable-thump thing when those nasty post-nap time cravings kick in. Adopted May 2015 by Grace A. & Kristophe G., Berkeley, CA.

HENRY + STELLA
The purrfect picture of peace and tranquility! Not until these two tabbies realized what a good gig they had scored in their new home. Their guardian writes: “Henry (f. Archie) and Stella (f. Lucky Penny) are not related and were not thrilled at their first introduction (lots of hissing!), but look at them now!” Adopted June 2016 by Karen L., Danville, CA.

LOUIE
Once a “super shy” kitty, Louie is living proof that all they need is love. According to mom: “He is such a sweet boy. I love him so much!!... He’s so affectionate and smart! We just love seeing how a shy kitty can blossom in a loving home.” Adopted August 2015 by Michelle C., Richmond, CA.

OMAR + JUAN CARLOS
Alum Omar (r) questions the utility of these things they call yoga mats beyond keeping humans occupied and out of his hair for a while each day. Yeah, I don’t know about this, Juan Carlos. My core and chakras feel pretty good already... how ‘bout yours?? Adopted December 2015 by Liz & Sean O., North Carolina.

SNICKERS
Peekaboo! It’s hard to camouflage that unique face! Her family reports: “Snickers thinks it’s pretty sweet that her three new humans can’t seem to keep their hands off her, and she’s decided laps are a pretty cool thing too!” Adopted April 2016 by Carol C., San Leandro, CA.

TIC TAC + DOMINO
Yeah, yeah, yeah. I’ll go check out the situation while Ol’ Two-Eyes just sits there claiming to have my back! Some shy cats have a terrible time at adoption events, making it difficult to convince adopters of their potential as good companions. Tic Tac (l) and Domino were just those kinds of kitties. Adopted November 2014 by Lindsay R. & Chris P., Alameda, CA.

SACHIKO
Big, burly tabbies make THE BEST buddies and pillows!! Of Sachiko (j. Gigi), her mom says: “Kitten loves her big brother very much, follows him around... and they cuddle and play. It’s adorable and she has worked out to be a wonderful addition to our little family,” Adopted September 2016 by Angelique H., Alameda, CA.

SACHIKO & ANGE
Brothers Sachiko (l) and Aneg (r) show off their sweet dispositions! Adopted November 2016 by Cheryl G., Berkeley, CA.

FRANKIE + LEO
Frankie (l) and his new pal, Leo, make one gorgeous masked duo! Adopted December 2016 by Lauren V., Dublin, CA.

KIRBY + DIANA
Kirby swears that he COULD speak for himself to tell you what he wants but is content just to hang back and let new gal pal and big boss – Diana, handle it. Some of you may remember alum Kirby, who was rescued on Thanksgiving in 2015 having been left outside a local shelter after hours, suffering from bite wounds and a broken jaw. Clearly, he has made a full recovery! Adopted February 2916 by Kelly G. & Andre R., Alameda, CA.

LUKE + LEIA
Youngsters Luke (j. Milky Way) and Leia (f. Twix) demonstrate one of the many ways they quickly became the heart of their new family, which reports: “They’re doing well and growing fast! Their favorite spot is the couch in front of the fireplace, either on our laps or on a blanket. They also love their cat tree. We’re working on training them to come when we call. Our girls love them (a little too much – they are tolerant cats!), and we can’t imagine life without them...” Adopted December 2016 by Jennifer L., Castro Valley, CA.

LUKE + LINDY
Whatever it is, we absolutely did NOT do it! Adopted January 2011 by Karen B. & David K., San Francisco, CA.

PEPPER
This mysteriously stimulating bag of olfactory goodness MADE me wad up the rug... HONEST!! Pepper’s mom writes: “It’s hard to believe that nearly five years ago Pepper and her sister were deathly ill kittens, abandoned on a porch in a cat food bag. Pepper’s with us today thanks to the wonderful, caring volunteers at ICRA. We’re forever grateful to Erin G., Merry B., and all the folks who named Pepper back to health. Her two mommas love her very much.” Adopted January 2012 by Shelly L. & Heather B., Alameda, CA.

UELI
Ueli (r) (j. Tucker) shows his friend Mochi what security, warmth and pure contentment feel like in a forever home with him. Adopted November 2014 by Sage W-B., Oakland, CA.

DANIEL CAT
Adopted January 2017 by Betty S., San Francisco, CA.
Dinah

Named after a cat in Alice Through the Looking Glass, this black beauty (with auburn tips) is a sweetie! Her shy, but loving disposition and soft, well-groomed coat will make petting Dinah almost irresistible. Her favorite activities include chasing balls and other toys and watching squirrels and birds from a window perch. She loves being with humans and familiar kitties but will need a patient guardian to help her adjust to her new home. Dinah will hide at first until she feels ready to come out, but she is well worth the wait to have her crawl into your heart. We estimate she was born in 2011.

Fancy

The first thing you’ll notice about this beautiful girl are her big, sultry, green eyes – her weapons for enticing you to pay attention to her or to indulge her with a special treat. She’s not yet a lap cat but loves to curl up close to watch movies or read a good book. Shy initially but full of personality, with love and time she’ll completely warm your heart. Ten years young, she’ll delight you with playful antics, chasing a feather toy or running after a ball. Need good conversation? She’s a talker who likes nothing better than long talks about practically anything. Her longtime guardian was a Vietnam veteran who couldn’t take Fancy with her when it was time to move to a veteran’s home. It’s been a huge adjustment for this sweet cat, but she is ready to find a new home to call her own. A quiet, adult environment would suit her best. We estimate that she was born in 2007.

Ben

Gentle, handsome Ben! He’s a sweet, affectionate and wonderful young cat. Ben may start out shy in a new environment, but he warms up quickly with gentle encouragement. He loves to be picked up and held by his favorite humans. Ben is a sweet boy who loves to play and wrestle with his foster friends, including Petunia. So, he definitely needs a friendly kitty or two in his new home. He should be fine with calm children over age 10 and maybe a calm, cat-friendly dog. We estimate he was born in late-August 2015.

The Impact of 23 YEARS of Your Donations

We are nothing without funds to do our work. We are able to do what we do to help cats because of your support. From January to June of 2017 we have spayed or neutered 701 cats.

That makes our total 18,344 cats sterilized since our formation in 1994!

ICRA does all we can to keep our expenditures not directly related to cat care as low as possible. We have no paid staff, no office, no shelter space, and very little overhead.

We appreciate your support. If you believe in our work, please give what you can.

Please also spread the word to others about ICRA. We need you to help get our name out to the community to fund our programs and to find adoptive homes for foster cats.

Honorary donations make great gifts for all occasions.

Go to www.icraeastbay.org and click on DONATE NOW.
On March 18, the Bissell Pet Foundation partnered with ICRA and more than 20 shelters and rescue organizations throughout Northern California for a single-day Empty the Shelters event to place animals into loving homes by offering free adoptions. On that day, ICRA adopted one-third of the cats available at its weekly mobile adoption site in Alameda. “Five cats in one day is a big day for us,” shared ICRA volunteer Karalyn Buchner, who coordinated ICRA’s participation. “Overall, 472 animals across Northern California found new homes through the Empty the Shelters event. ICRA is proud to have been part of this inaugural effort in California,” Buchner added.

ICRA President Merry Bates commented that the timing and promotion of Empty the Shelters was particularly helpful because “March is typically a slow month for adoptions and increasing them in March frees up space in ICRA’s foster homes before kitten season hits in the spring.”

The highlight of the day for ICRA volunteers was a young family that traveled quite a distance to visit the adoption site. Not only did their daughter come dressed for the occasion in her adorable cat dress but also the family decided to adopt two kittens.

Bissell Pet Foundation believes that every pet deserves a second chance at finding a loving home. In 2016, Bissell Pet Foundation held three Empty the Shelters events in other states that resulted in approximately 3000 adoptions. ICRA extends its sincerest “Thank You” to the Bissell Pet Foundation for bringing their event to Northern California this year.

FIV+ FIV+ positive cats can live normal lives both in quality and duration. They do need special care in terms of monitoring for signs of infection and they have a tendency to have trouble with dental disease which must be addressed with regular vet checks and treatment.

Peaches
This lovely, calm, and sweet-tempered girl adores cheek rubs and being petted, to the point of flopping over with joy for your undivided attention. As many street cats do to survive, Peaches learned to be cautious of humans. We don’t know how long she lived on her own, but we found her pregnant in the Spring of 2016 when she and other cats were being fed by a kind neighbor. Peaches will do best in a quiet home with patient guardian(s) who will help her feel safe and loved. Your reward will be companionship from one of the sweetest ginger tabbies you will ever know. Peaches is FIV+ but otherwise healthy. We estimate she was born around 2011.

Loma
This sweet and docile lady was found dutifully caring for her tiny kittens in a backyard and is ready for a home of her own. She’s a bit shy at first, but that’s nothing a few (or MANY!!!) gentle pets and grooming sessions won’t cure. Loma would be happy by herself, with other cats or even a gentle dog. All she really cares about is sharing a new home with someone who will cherish her. Loma is FIV+ but otherwise healthy. We estimate she was born in 2015.
ICRA off Broadway! Silent Auction a Hit

It’s hard to believe that ICRA is knocking on the door of its 20th Champagne Silent Auction to benefit the cats in our community! As we reflect on our most recent Broadway-themed event held on June 3rd, we realize how much we treasure these annual gatherings not only as venues for critical fundraising but also all too infrequent opportunities to enjoy the company of and to thank the many volunteers, supporters, and adopters who have stood behind us through the years. While pictures are shared, stories are told (and re-told), and tears are shed for those two- and four-legged souls we’ve lost, money is raised to help us continue the spay/neuter, resources, and adoption work at the core of our mission.

The Alameda Elks Lodge annually hosts our event and we thank them for their support and hospitality, especially Bill Lawrence and Patty McCall for all the extras they do for us. We also acknowledge Martin Snapp with a huge THANK YOU for featuring ICRA in his weekly newspaper columns and telling our stories during the run-up to this annual event.

We extend a special thanks to our returning Master of Ceremonies and entertainer, Jonathan Sharp, for donating his time, talent and boundless enthusiasm to keep us upbeat and on-theme throughout a night of FUR-ocious bidding and CAT-tastic revelry.

ICRA is fortunate to have the best volunteers ever, and they came through for us again with their many hours of event preparation, food and wine donations, décor, bid item donations, and sweat equity during the auction – up front and especially behind the scenes. We hope they know how much they are truly appreciated!

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out once again to the businesses that support us:

A Revelation in Fit, Alameda Cineplex, Alameda Bicycle, Berkeley Repertory Theater, California Academy of Sciences, California Canoe and Kayak, California Shakespeare Theater, Casper Landscape Design, Catwoman and Underdog Services, Cera Una Volta Restaurant, Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Concannon Vineyards, Disneyland, Feline Minds Cat Behaviorist, Grand Lake Theater, Hanger One Vodka, Kelly Lux/State Farm Insurance, Mod Cat Hotel, Oakland Zoo, Park Centre Animal Hospital, Pier 39 San Francisco, Pinot’s Palette, Rialto Cinemas of El Cerrito, Rock Wall Wines, Sage Stages Acupuncture, See Spot Run, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Sonoma Raceway, Spa Organics, the Symphony of Silicon Valley, Trader Joes of Alameda, and Yellow Owl Workshop.

To our generous individual donors who make this event what it is every year, we recognize and applaud:


Look for our 20th Champagne Silent Auction coming in May of 2018. Bring your friends to help celebrate the successes and challenges we ALL embrace for the love of cats!
Dalton

Looking for a handsome, huge FLIRT?? Here’s your cat! Friendly and playful! Dalton was born to a street cat, but through a spunky attitude and sweet nature, he has shown true resilience. Dalton would enjoy the company of another cat or a dog. A flirt AND a gentleman, he’s respectful of older cats, too! While Dalton may start out a bit timid, it won’t last long. This sweet boy will make a wonderful companion for almost any forever home. We estimate he was born in May 2016. ADOPT HIM!