A New Way to ‘Go Green’... Adopt a Garden Cat

Meet handsome Gandalf. He’s one of an increasing number of ICRA’s ‘garden cat’ success stories. The last kitty pulled from a West Oakland relocation project with which ICRA assisted, Gandalf went to his new ‘green’ home in June 2011.

Sponsor a Cage at ICRA’s Adoption Site!

With every $100 cage sponsorship donation we will engrave a brass plaque with your personalized message and display it on a cage for one year. After that, it’s yours upon request. Commemorate almost any occasion – the adoption of a new pet, a birthday, an anniversary... whatever you want. Be creative! It’s also a nice way to make a donation in memory or honor of a beloved pet, person or group.

Just fill out the form in the ‘Support Us’ section of our website and send it with your $100 donation to: ICRA, P.O. Box 1093, Alameda, CA 94501.

Get Ahead of the Kitten Curve this Winter...

QUICK REFERENCE for LOCAL SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

**East Bay SPCA**
- Free Feral Program
- Feral Fix / Feral Hotline (510) 563-4635
- http://eastbayspca.org/resources/
  - Trap/Neuter/Spay
  - Cats must be in humane traps
  - Right ear will be notched

**East Bay SPCA**
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Appointment required
- Call the clinic directly
  - (510) 639-7387

**Island Cat Resources & Adoption**
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Call ICRA (510) 869-2584 or e-mail info@icraeastbay.org
- ICRA provides funding for low cost spay/neuter through private donations

If you have a vacation rental or condo stay to donate for the event? Please contact us! Of course, the kitties need your help!

**January 30, 2012**

So What’s Happening?

* Call ICRA at (510) 869-2584 or e-mail info@icraeastbay.org
* Visit the website for more information on ICRA’s ‘Garden Cat Program’ (www.icraeastbay.org/gardencats.php)

**Where Your Donations Go**

Only a Collaborative Labor of Love Saves Lives

Why rescue cats? It’s a simple enough question. For those of us who’ve experienced the joy of living and bonding with a cat (tame or feral), we appreciate their unique personalities and the many ways they communicate with and express their kindness for us. We are amazed at their ability to wrap us around their little toe pads, impressed by their athleticism, entertained by their antics, and appreciate their love and soulful ways of helping to lower our blood pressure. Many of us would never live without a cat under our roof or in our garden. We are the same people who are stunned beyond disbelief when we learn that a cat who loved its family is left behind inside a foreclosed home without food or water. We are equally appalled when we learn that a pregnant female cat is abandoned at railroad tracks where many like her were abandoned before – the reason given: “She keeps having kittens.” We’ll push through a week of sleepless nights to tube feed newborn kittens found in a dumpster at a local high school – cold to the touch and too weak to suckle from a bottle. Our compassion moves us to rescue the feline foundlings...whether as ICRA volunteers or not. For anyone who has rescued a kitty off the street, you know that there is often significant cost involved in making that cat healthy or adoption ready. More and more, ICRA tag teams with individuals in the community on this front, and your donation dollars remain critical to the effort!

**Timothy**

Timothy was living as a stray in Alameda, surviving on food from cat-caring neighbors. When he suddenly disappeared after being hit by a car, they made every effort to find him. Finally, he was spotted droppin...
Home Is Where the Cat Is
How to Find (or Create) a Pet-Friendly Rental

By Elvise Couvillion

According to USA TODAY, approximately two out of every three Americans have companion animals, and 76% consider them family members. That’s why it’s surprising that the growing supply of companion animal-friendly rental housing is being outpaced by demand. Even more surprising many landlords don’t realize that making their property pet-friendly is the better choice business-wise.

The following information is taken from the 2005 FIREPAWS study based on a survey of 250 landlords (http://www.firepaw.org/Comp_anionAnimalRentersPetFriendly.pdf) and informal interviews with 12 local property owners and building managers.

Tenants with pets stay longer. On average, 23 months longer than tenants without pets. This translates directly to income, not to mention less time, effort, and money expended to fill empty apartments.

Risk of damage is statistically small. Crime-inducing scenarios of pet damage and disruption make good stories, but it’s important to know that on average the additional cost of damage caused by pets is $40.00, an amount more than covered by the average $150.00 pet deposit. Tenants take better care of rental property when it feels like a home, and home means family, including the furry and four-legged.

Tenants with pets are usually nicer people. Local, experienced professionals Jan Mason at Mason Management (23 years) and Ellen Purdy with Harbor Bay Realty (13 years), as well as every other person interviewed, share this observation. Is this attributable to the kind of person who adopts an animal or the widely documented health benefits of having pets? Who knows? Probably a bit of both.

Tenants with pets enjoy a sense of community. From sharing information on cat food, dog trainers, and local veterinarians to offering pet-sitting services when someone goes out of town, pet guardians bond easily with each other. Studies prove that a sense of community is one of the most important elements of happiness. Happy people make better tenants.

Home Is Where the Cat Is continues on page 4

Donations In Memory Of...

- Comet from Christine Shaheen
- Jasmine from Fred Heckendorf
- Ellen McGinn’s much loved cat ‘Penny’ from Gail Churchill
- ‘Penny’, my Sunshine sweetheart from Ellen McGinn
- Leigh and Bob Logfren’s adopted rescue kitty ‘Miss Scarlett’ from Gail & all at ICRA
- The Post’s sweet ‘Lex’ from Gail Churchill
- Sarah Rasmus’ beloved kitty from Gail Churchill
- Leslie Cobb’s sweet ‘Dominique’ from Gail & all at ICRA
- Elizabeth McDonald from Linda Gibbonby, Nelda Ann O’Neil, & John Martin Manon
- Gertrude Stevenson from Peggy Witherow & Mary Sofatzis
- Alie, Molly, Nemo, and Sammi from Karen Sterns

Donations In Honor Of...

- Bob the Tabby’s one-year anniversary from Christine Shiple
- Wesley Thompson from Penny Scott
- Troy Benschoter from Craig McCauslan
- Help Adrienne Celebrate her milestone birthday from a Group Donation

Donations Dedicated To...

- Tiny and Spot from Michael & Sandra Poland
- Simon’s 10th Anniversary from Victoria Klum
- Virginia’s Purr-fect Girl from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
- Miss Scarlett’ from Leigh & Bob Logfren
- Merry’s beautiful grey ‘Gracie’ from Peggy Harding
- Big Tuxedo ‘Goo Goo’ from Michael Gong & Barbara Wong

Many Ways to Make Holiday Kitty Wishes Come True!

SUPPLY WISH LIST

- Bath-sized Towels
- Cat Beds (New or Disinfected and Gently Used)
- Cat Food (Wet and Dry)
- Cat litter (clay, pine, wheat or corn)
- KMR/Kidsilk Replacer - unopened
- Paper Towels
- Garbage Bags
- Envelopes (#10 size)
- Postage Stamps

Donations Dedicated To ...

- Merry Bates
- Virginia’s Purrfect Girl from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
- Miss Scarlett from Leigh & Bob Logfren
- Merry’s beautiful grey ‘Gracie’ from Peggy Harding
- Our Big Tuxedo ‘Goo Goo’ from Michael Gong & Barbara Wong

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The ICRA Catalyst Winter 2011/2012
Layout Editor - Mary Sperr

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ICRA Cat Resources and Adoption
P.O. Box 1093
Alameda, CA 94501
Tel: (510) 869-2584

Island Cat Resources and Adoption (ICRA) is a 501(c)3 all volunteer non-profit humane organization. ICRA’s federal Tax Exempt number is 94-3225519. All contributions, donations, and gifts are tax-deductible. ICRA does not sell, share, or rent names, addresses, or mailing lists to any other organizations or affiliates.

Visit us Online: www.icreastbay.org

Web Administrators
Rena Fourkas and Heather Hanly

Visit our Adoption Sites
Saturdays (except holidays) at PETCO in Alameda, CA 94501, noon-3pm.

First Saturday of the month at Petfood Express on Blanding Way, Alameda from Noon-4pm.

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The ICRA Catalyst
Winter 2011/2012
Memories of Buddyboy and Betty
Little Furry Souls Leave Behind Unbreakable Bonds

My 20 years with Buddyboy began in 1992 during a snowy December in Burlington, Vermont. I was attending graduate school at the nearby three years of service in the Peace Corps. A neighbor complained to me about a stray cat whom I met one day, his fur striking against the fresh snow. I imagine he was around six months old, with huge paws and a sweet, open personality. Buddyboy was quickly named and quietly loved. A year later, Buddyboy, another beautiful black kitty, joined us. Buddyboy and Betty were a study in opposites. She was quiet; he had a lot to say about his Siamese heritage. He could always eat, having known hunger. She picked and nibbled when so inclined. They were the best of friends, tumbling, running, and chasing into all kinds of trouble. Winter was cold in Vermont, where they found shelter under the covers, burrowing in and creating a space in my heart that was theirs alone.

Our next home in San Francisco had a little porch that caught the afternoon sun. Buddyboy was on the top step to watch the tiny yard. Buddyboy wandered, sometimes staying out later than I liked. I turned 30, met my husband, and made sure the cats made it into all the Christmas news I sent back.

Buddyboy loved our brief stay in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Los Gatos. He followed the redwoods, the wildness. He never wanted to come inside and protected when put into a moving crate six months later. Betty worshiped the wall heater in our new Marlo Park apartment. She stretched extra long to soak the heat deep into her bones. Buddyboy gazed out the windows into an old oak to monitor the comings and goings of a gang of squirrels, mostly with the content with the shift back to a more civilised existence.

Tom, Leo and I got married and moved to Alameda where Buddyboy and Betty were joined by Manzy, a shelter dog who was with us for nearly eight years. Two stray cats joined the ranks. Six years ago our son Leo was born. Three years ago Betty started losing weight, fading quickly. Leo and I took her to the vet and when the tech took Betty to the back, Leo protested: “She can’t take our cat. Tell her she can’t take our cat. Why is she taking her?” She was in congestive heart failure. We decided together, in a stilled conversation meant to not scare, that it was best to have her euthanized that day as breathing was a struggle. I was unprepared for any goodbye and started to cry.

Meanwhile Buddyboy was aging, losing weight for the first time in his life. He was completely deaf and started peeing in a corner of the living room and needed thyroid medication daily. The best medicine for him was Viola, a breeding dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind. He improved dramatically when she joined us in January 2009. He gained weight, stopped peeing in the wrong places, and was more social. When Viola was gone for six weeks to have her puppies, he missed her…sleeping on her bed and walking around the yard looking for her. When she returned, Buddyboy was more settled.

Buddyboy was nearly 20 years old, slowing down and sleeping more. I waited at the door of his room with a blanket, litter, and cat food my neighbor shared with me. I went online to research local cat rescues and reached out to ICRA, and cat food my neighbor shared with me. ICRA provided his medications and periodically checked on his progress. All involved with this cat were angels who saved his life.

Linda (foster mom):...Fernando… what a dream boy! I didn’t think I could be one to take in a cat and then let him go, but I did, although I do keep a photo of Fernando on my office desk this day. He thrived on yummy rubs that could (and did) go on for hours. I put him in my lap while the kids were at school and on the bed while I read. He would lie on his back and take whatever love he could get. He sort of adjusted to the cage but was always ready to be lifted out for more attention. I found myself in his room a lot! I took Fernando to the vet on one of his last visits. The folks there recognized him immediately and spoke to him fondly. He made his way into their hearts, too. I was out of town when he left for Sunrise. That was the best way to have him. I appreciated all folks at Sunrise as have photos sent to me to know he has a wonderful home… and receiving lots of love.

Sunrise Assisted Living of San Mateo (home): Fernando was timid when he first came to our MarinSight Neighborhood. He ran under the bed and hid for days. Just when we were about to give up, he started to let him explore on his own terms. Many, his roommate, fell in love with him at first sight - they quickly formed a close bond. He gives her meaning and purpose. Fernando was nearly 20 years old, slowing down and sleeping more. I waited at the door of his room with a blanket, litter, and cat food my neighbor shared with me. I went online to research local cat rescues and reached out to ICRA, and cat food my neighbor shared with me. ICRA provided his medications and periodically checked on his progress. All involved with this cat were angels who saved his life.

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Buddyboy and Betty sharing their porch in San Francisco backyard pen

It is so awesome being me that the only thing better would be taking care of pets. My adoptive parents write: “We’re so glad he came into our lives and we can’t thank you all enough for taking care of him for the first few years of his life.” Adapted May 2010 by Christine S., Patrick S., and Leon the Cat, Emerlyville.

Do you want a piece of what these alumni stories reflect in your life? Check our website to query our list of cats available now for adoption or visit us at our Saturday adoption sites.

ICRA (along with Layla, a neighborhood feral cat caretaker) assisted Cheryl A. and Cap K. in neutering two young, stray orange tabby brothers who managed to show up at the door of their purple warehouse in Oakland only 40 hours apart. Unable to take on any more cats themselves, Cheryl and Cap convinced fellow warehouse dwellers Ted and Deborah to adopt the dapper duo of Winston and Ellington so they could stay together after all they had been through.

“As my daughter said when the emergency clinic referred her as a stray, she stopped being a stray when we took her in… Please pass on my deep gratitude to your colleagues and thanks for all of the e-mail support.” - Gwyn J.

“…I am so grateful for [ICRA’s] help in getting Snowball neutered and giving him his shot... I just got the good news from my property management that the folks at [the] complex pay for the shots.” - Cheryl and Cap K.

This gorgeous photo, taken by their new mom and dad, proves that these two strangers, you and me, are not as different after all. The ICRA turned a photography studio moguls certainly seem to be a natural when it comes to working the camera and rocking an outfit for just about any occasion.

2011 Community Action: Putting Your Donations to Work

Lena G. reached out for help getting Snowball neutered.

“...I am so grateful for [ICRA’s] help in getting Snowball neutered and giving him his shot... I just got the good news from my property management that the folks at [the] complex pay for the shots.” - Cheryl and Cap K.

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Home Is Where the Cat Is

continued from page 2
‘Love Me, Love My Cat’

Good news! Demand is increasing the amount of “Pet OK” units. BUT there still aren’t enough. Foreclosures and scarce credit have made the rental market more competitive. Sneaking in your cat is NOT an option because eventually, without a doubt, you will be found out and probably evicted. Then you AND your kitty will be homeless.

But fret not! You will find the perfect pet-friendly rental. How? By selling yourself AND your kitty as good tenants. This also applies when trying to convince your current non-pet-friendly landlord to consider allowing you to adopt.

“No Cats” is often hidden code for “No Careless Tenants With Incontinent or Emotionally Disturbed Cats.” So when you inquire about a rental, try to get a sense of what the “No” in their “No Pets” clause really means. Given any encouraging sign, look at the property with the landlord/property manager and bring a copy of your ‘Feline File’ (see below). If possible, talk to the owner in person. If they are unredeemable, get the property manager on your side and have a request letter for the owner signed and ready for delivery.


The Feline File

If you live in a “No Cat” unit and want to adopt (or a “Single Cat OK” unit and want another cat) a Feline File on your prospective cat(s) can make all the difference. Adoption groups should be able to find you with a cat with good references. Kittens are a little tougher, but cuteness counts. ‘Feline Files’ should include:

1. Photos – KEY to the covertly powerful “charm offensive.”
2. Resume – Capture the unique, quirky, wonderfulness of your cat(s) and detail good litter box, scratching post, and grooming habits as well as favorite toys, sleeping places, and tolerance for grooming and routine vet visits. Add a little humor ... this is a cat resume after all.
3. References – Landlords love third-party input. Ask prior landlords, veterinarians, and pet sitters to vouch for good health history and behavior.
4. Blank Pet Agreement – The landlord may have one, but this shows you are serious, organized, and business savvy.
5. FIREPAWS Study – This recent study provides statistical proof that pet-friendly policies mean better business (http://www.firepaws.com/CompanionAnimalsRentersPetFriendly.pdf). Sharing life with an animal is one of the most wonderful experiences we can have. With a little work and preparation, you WILL find that perfect, pet-friendly rental or coax your landlord into becoming pet-friendly so you can make your house (or apartment, condo, duplex or cottage) a home.

We at ICRA are extremely proud of our concerted effort and continued success through the years in keeping annual administrative expenditures, i.e., those not directly related to cat care, between 6-9 percent. That means that 91-94 cents of every dollar you donate goes toward providing spay-neuter surgeries, and emergency veterinary care, and foster cat support.

Where ICRA’s Dollars Come From...

Corporate Match and Foundations, incl. Grants
Funding Events
Individual Donations and Adoptions

53%
13%
21%
5.7%
72.3%

Veterinarian Treatment
(incl. emergency services, medications, vaccinations, FeLV/FIV testing, and more.)

Adoptions

5.7%
72.3%

13%

Data Reflects ICRA Receipts and Expenditures January-June 2011


‘The Feline File’

Even though ICRA has succeeded in broadening and diversifying its targeted fundraising portfolio, YOU - our individual donors - remain the core of ICRA’s revenue base. As such, you are critical to us being able to offer robust spay-neuter and adoption/foster cat programs for cats and caretakers in need.

...and How We Put Them to Work for the Cats!!

‘Love Me, Love My Cat’

Why rescue cats? Because if we can find homes as wonderful as these for even a fraction of them, it’s worthwhile. Best wishes to all of our alumni, many of whom are spending their first holiday season in the warm embrace of a loving family.

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

ALUMNI Mews

Why rescue cats? Because if we can find homes as wonderful as these for even a fraction of them, it’s worthwhile. Best wishes to all of our alumni, many of whom are spending their first holiday season in the warm embrace of a loving family.

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

Cecil (f. Filia) says: “Keep chewin’ on that bone, Buddy... acting like you don’t notice me back here. Someday you’ll learn that what’s mine is mine and what’s yours is mine... even if I could care less what it is. I’m a cat. It’s how we roll. Sooner or later you’re gonna have to go out for a walk... and I’ve got noooootch time. Adopted July 2010 by Chip F., Castro Valley.

Bongo and Taille, rescued as kittens from the Lake Merritt Boat House, look as happy as two peas in a pod (almost literally) in their new home. Adopted January 2011 by Jim B., Alameda.

Merlot has worked his charm on new older sister Eckler, who is either worn out by his youthful exuberance or - through him - has recaptured her kittenish days of care-free power naps. Adopted August 2011 by Willie W., Oakland.

More ALUMNI Mews next page

Beau is patterning his new dog and guardian to his routines and desires. “He is really an exceptional cat, and has added a dimension of joy (the special ‘cat aspect’) that I’ve missed since my last cat, passed away. I really cannot thank you enough. I finally have the exact two animal companions that I’ve always dreamed of.”

Adopted June 2011 by John T., Alameda.

Adopted June 2008 by Karen S., Alameda.

Adopted September 2011 by Jonna B., Alameda.

Adopted January 2011 by Jim B., Alameda.

Adopted August 2011 by Jonna B., Alameda.

Adopted May 2011 by Jonna B., Alameda.

Adopted July 2010 by Char F., Castro Valley.

Adopted August 2011 by Willbe H., Oakland.


Adopted June 2008 by Karen S., Alameda.

Adopted June 2011 by Elyse C., Alameda.

Adopted July 2011 by Nancy T., Alameda.

Adopted August 2011 by Chris S., Alameda.

Adopted January 2011 by Jim B., Alameda.

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