Community Action for Cats
Where Your Dollars and Our Passion Meet

ICRA Support Emboldens Caregiver as a Feral, Trap-Neuter-Return Advocate

Carol is a beautiful long-haired calico-tabby with golden green eyes and an incredibly sweet demeanor. She was the only female of a three-kitten litter born about a year ago to Little Wing, a member of our feral colony in West Oakland who was hit and killed by a car on the very day we planned to have her spayed.

Carol and her brothers already were too old to socialize and relatively skittish by the time we first met, so we left them outside to be absorbed into our garden colony. Unfortunately, they also were old enough to have learned Little Wing’s dangerous habit of roaming and crossing busy streets. One of them, Orange Crush, was also hit by a car and injured beyond what seemed recoverable (and affordable) at the time. Diagnosing the kitten with a shattered hip and hind leg, the veterinarian vehemently recommended that he be euthanized. Sadly, this little family was whittled down to Carol and her surviving brother, Gambier.

About six months ago, a new tenant moved into the other house on our lot, which features a shared driveway and garden area. He soon adopted an unfixed pit bull mix without any warning or discussion with us and told me that he didn’t plan on having the dog fixed. The dog was allowed to run around the lot off-leash and soon began chasing our colony cats. When I spoke with him about this, he insisted that he would rigidly monitor and supervise the dog while outside. We had booked three-week travel and left friends in charge of tending to the colony in our absence. Upon our return, two cats were missing—one of them was Carol. In three years, no cats—even the sick and injured ones—had ever disappeared.

I suspected the dog had frightened the cats off for good, or worse.

A few weeks passed. Then I came outside one morning to feed the colony and there was our Carol, completely emaciated, with open puncture wounds on her hip and dragging a hind leg. She meowed frantically and rubbed against my legs, something she had never done. Completely devastated, I realized that she most likely had been attacked by the neighbor’s dog while we were away. It was safe to assume that she had run off terrified, fending for herself on the streets while dragging her crushed leg in excruciating pain. Perhaps only starvation made her return to the very place she was attacked. Carol was desperate and it was clear

More Feral Advocate page 3

QUICK REFERENCE for LOCAL SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay SPCA</td>
<td>* Appointment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Cost Spay/Neuter</td>
<td>* Call at (510) 639-7387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix Our Ferals (“FOF”)</td>
<td>* Spay/neuter for tame or feral cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Cost-SPay/Neuter Center</td>
<td>* For reservations call, 510-215-9300 or e-mail <a href="mailto:forreservations@yahoo.com">forreservations@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Cat Resources &amp; Adoption</td>
<td>* E-mail ICRA at <a href="mailto:info@icraeastbay.org">info@icraeastbay.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Cost Spay/Neuter</td>
<td>* For advice and to borrow traps, call 510-433-9446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAVE THE DATE!!!
ICRA’s Champagne Silent Auction
May 4, 2013

Have fun helping us continue doing what we do for the kitties in our community who need us the most.

Garden Cat Musings

“When should we turn this concrete sink into a fountain or allow our garden kitty to claim it?” Crispin Glover clearly has made his position known on the matter and wonders what this “ALLOW” business is all about.


On the Inside

Putting Your Donations to Work........p. 2
Cat Mentors Middle Schoolers........p. 3
Alumni Mews........................................p. 4
Adoption Plea.................................p. 5
Purebread Health Battle......................p. 5
Joy Shared with a Rescue Cat...........p. 6
Holiday Safety: The Cat Ate WHAT?.....p.6
Memorials & Dedications.....................p. 7

Please ADOPT!!
Putting Your Donations to Work FOR the CATS!!

As you read the community action and alumni updates contained in this holiday issue of The ICRA Catalyst, keep in mind that NONE of this could have happened without YOU, our generous individual donors and adopters. With the ‘new normal’ of learning to do more with less in the face of increasingly scarce low-cost spay/neuter community resources and rising veterinary costs, it is no small feat to have provided access to spay-neuter surgeries for over 800 cats so far this year. This brings our total to almost 13,000 spay/neuter surgeries since the program began in April 1994. Because of you, our core mission of reducing the suffering of abandoned and feral cats by controlling overpopulation though Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) remains intact.

ICRA prides itself in keeping annual administrative expenditures, i.e., those not directly related to cat care, as low as possible year after year. So far in 2012, 92 cents of every dollar donated have gone toward providing spay-neuter surgeries and routine and emergency veterinary care for cats in our foster program and for community cats in need.

YOU, our individual supporters, choose to donate to us because you WANT TO HELP THE CATS. Rest assured, we know that -- and our solid commitment to you is to do whatever it takes to continue making that happen.

A simple ‘thank you’ never seems remotely adequate to reflect the depth of our gratitude for the support you have shown us over the past 18 years, especially during times when we know that everyone’s budgets are tight. It is our humble hope that the sampling of stories we are able to highlight in our newsletters, both happy and sad, do a better job of communicating just how valuable you are to us and to the countless feral and stray cats in our community who still need help and a voice.

IF YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT WE DO, PLEASE PASS THE WORD... and

HELP US GET OUR MANY WONDERFUL CATS ADOPTED into FOREVER HOMES!!!

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/icraeastbay or search Island Cat Resources and Adoption (ICRA) within Facebook
to me that she was begging for help despite her previous wariness of us before her disappearance.

I brought Carol inside. She ate and drank everything we put in front of her for about 20 minutes straight, all the while purring loudly and periodically rubbing against us. Meanwhile, I was beside myself thinking back to when I had to put down her brother for a very similar injury, essentially due to a lack of funds and knowledge of any support or resources available to me. Still emotionally raw from that experience, I felt very strongly that I had been wrong in agreeing to let the veterinarian euthanize him. One of the first reasons given to me was that the cat was feral and, therefore, couldn’t be brought inside to recover. But, here at my feet was Carol the Feral, proving that cats can understand and even ask for help! This time, I decided not to be led down “the euth path,” a phrase coined by a fellow feral advocate, Billy Lovci. Just because a cat is feral doesn’t mean they don’t deserve a second chance at life.

So, I reached out via Facebook for advice. Complete with a story about Carol’s late mom and brother and my determination to become a no-kill advocate for feral cats, I started a Chip-In fund to raise money for Carol’s inevitably costly care. I was deeply touched that people known and unknown to me, from far and near, came out of the woodwork to donate to Carol’s cause, and we were able to raise about $800 in one week!

Billy also suggested I contact ICRA, explaining that they are a very dedicated organization that offers support to people like me who advocate for feral cats. With all of the inclination and none of the means to save Carol, I called Merry Bates, ICRA’s president, who immediately eased my fear of being unable to help this cat. She told me where to take Carol for treatment, what to expect, and explained that ICRA would cover the remaining cost of Carol’s treatment that Chip-in funds would not cover and to support us in giving her the extended care required. So relieved, I cried into Carol’s fur. There is no better feeling than to have the support you need to end the suffering and save the life of a helpless, innocent creature who is depending on you.

Carol’s leg had to be amputated since the femur had been broken for too long to ever heal properly. The veterinarian also explained that the jagged edge of the bone was poking into Carol’s hip and that the surgery would alleviate her pain. The unbelievably powerful gratitude Carol showed us after surgery—through chin nuzzles and endless purrs—eclipsed any I had ever seen. She had put her trust in humans who ultimately did help her, and she knew it.

Carol is now a fully recovered, capable, and playful “tripod” who can jump up to her favorite comfy chair for a nap and to her favorite sunny windowsill to call the birds and say hello to her old garden friends. She still purrs each time we fill her bowls to the brim and give her her ear and chin scratches. She has a lustrous coat, bright eyes, and a demeanor that is just as sweet as can be despite the trauma she has endured. I have nothing but the deepest admiration for her.

ICRA helped crystallize my advocacy for feral cats and how to conduct outreach on this sensitive issue, particularly with those who may be less than receptive to the cause. ICRA also provided me with a highly effective drop-trap to finish the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) work in my feral colony.

Though not without its rewards, feral advocates have a difficult job to do. We often contend with doubt, criticism, and anger. We are easily dismissed as “crazy cat ladies” and “cat hoarders,” and sometimes our very sanity is questioned all because we want to help feral cats whose predicament stems from generations of human irresponsibility and indifference. Their predicament is not the cats’ fault but ours. They deserve our help and we owe it to them! One way to start is by taking responsibility into our own hands through TNR and by working with groups like ICRA who recognize the value of what we do and offer the support and encouragement we need to continue.

As for Carol, we wish we could keep her, but we have a brood of our own who can’t tolerate more siblings. We continue looking for a perfect home where she can live the quiet, calm life she deserves with loving, caring people. A few have shown interest, but most are at their cat capacity like we are. We brought in her surviving brother, Gambier, to keep her company and hope they can stay together.

I cannot speak highly enough of ICRA and what they did to help save Carol’s life! I seek their advice on a regular basis and feel so fortunate to have such an important and helpful resource available to those of us doing something about the feral cat issue in our community. – M.D.

---

Sweetie Pie: The Scholarly Stray

By D. W., Student

Sweetie Pie is our class pet. Whenever we get a break, we can pet her while she takes a nap in her comfortable bed. She’s been with us in our classroom for two years. She used to be very skinny and small until our teacher started feeding her. Then she began staying in the classroom and eventually let the students pet her. Sometimes she meows and rolls in her bed. She walks in our room every morning to eat her breakfast and then jumps in her bed to sleep. At night, she follows our custodian around and hunts mice in the field next to our building. We all like Sweetie Pie, the school cat, because she is really cute and friendly to everyone.

Note: Sweetie Pie’s teacher contacted ICRA with this nice story because the kitty reported to class sporting a surgically notched ear, meaning that she had been spayed -- possibly with our help. True or not, somebody did the right thing for her!
ALUMNI Mews

Holiday time is the best time to read about our former fosters who are among the 2,708 to date lucky enough to have found loving, forever homes since the adoption program began in April 1995. Here are some of the many updates sent to us.

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

Annabelle and Sherman (f. O'Malley) are a serenely poetic, uninhibited (and very bendy) composition in spots and stripes. Adopted June 2012 by Jyn P. & Tim S., Richmond.

Put the camera down and “Brrring me my royal squeaky mouse!” Some people are SO easily distracted by the enormity of my elegance--understandable, but really...I have needs. Lenore (f. Beppo) was adopted February 2012 Romney F., Alameda.

Pumpkin (left) and Julio are two water-crazy alums “kickin’ it poolside” --literally, until one of them gets pushed out. This is what they do when not chewing on coffee tables (we prefer to call it “fine woodworking”), and shredding paper products...to include $20 bills. It’s ALL for your enjoyment, mom! Adopted June 2012 by Robin B., Alameda.

“Well-mannered” Hemingway (right) and Tom “are still figuring their way around each other” but seem to be totally in synch here. You just can’t help but wonder what kinds of life stories these creatures communicate to one another in new adoption situations. Hemingway has, however, communicated to us that he wishes mom and dad had refrained from blabbing about his allegedly “messy” drinking habit. Adopted July 2012 by Tyson & Jie L., Emeryville.

Sally and Pepe demonstrate their strict adherence to Feline Behavioral Directive #1: NEVER admit that you don’t fit in the lounging spot you’ve so carefully chosen. Gut it out until the humans aren’t looking anymore. Adopted August 2012 by Martin S., Berkeley.

Big, handsome Gentle Ben enjoys a bit of well-deserved lounging but somehow musters the strength to show us that gorgeous mug of his. Adopted July 2012 by Susie & Ryan G., Alameda.

Cal proved that a ‘leopard’ can change his spots. “The once feral kitty has come a long way and is such a love! Here he is looking regal.” Adopted June 2011 by Kevin C. & Amanda M., Oakland.

Here’s another big, handsome boy, Frankie (f. Frank), looking as cool and lovable as ever. Adopted August 2008 by Lynda C., Alameda.
LOSING BANGOR...

Foster cat’s battle teaches hard lesson on purebreed vs. mixed-breed

Let me introduce you to Bangor, the 6-year-old purebred Maine Coon. Bangor came to ICRA when his owner died suddenly. Although Bangor was well loved, his “person” was unaware of the maladies from which purebred Maine Coon’s can suffer.

The first thing we did was take care of his glaring cosmetic issues – the enormous amount of mats in his fur. Bangor was so badly matted that he suffered from razor rash for several days after his shave. He was also underweight at 20 lbs. (his ideal weight would have been 25 lbs.). But he had that sweet, loving personality for which Maine Coons are so well-known. He would look longingly at you with those big green eyes, just begging to be petted.

Bangor quickly won over the affections of anyone he met. He loved to lie in his bed on the floor in the sunroom – Bangor could not jump or climb due to the lameness in his back leg. The x-rays were so concerning that our next trip was to the orthopedist, who diagnosed him with two broken hips. Many people don’t realize that the Maine Coon breed is prone to congenital hip dysplasia, an abnormality of the hip joint that can cause crippling lameness and arthritis. The best (and most expensive) treatment would have been two total hip replacements; the next best solution would be a Femoral Head Ostectomy, or FHO, whereby the femur head is removed and the bones are allowed to fuse on their own. This procedure also could have alleviated some of the pain Bangor was experiencing.

But before any procedure could be performed, Bangor needed to visit the cardiologist after the detection of a slight heart murmur. Unfortunately, Bangor became very ill before this could happen and was rushed to the emergency clinic where he weighed in at only 15 lbs. After a few days of tests, ultrasounds, and fluid therapy, the diagnosis was in – Bangor was suffering from Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), a disease of the heart muscle. Both IBD and HCM are also common maladies of the Maine Coon breed. Just as a treatment plan was to be implemented for Bangor’s IBD and HCM, he was diagnosed with throat cancer.

A very difficult decision had to be made on his behalf, and Bangor crossed over the Rainbow Bridge – he is now in a place where he is free of pain. I was very lucky to have had Bangor in my life for six weeks, and I learned a lot about the many health issues that can affect purebred cats. Bangor suffered from all of the most common Maine Coon maladies – hip dysplasia, inflammatory bowel disease, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. It was quite an expensive education for me, so when considering whether to purchase from a breeder or to adopt a mixed-breed from a shelter or rescue organization, think adoption first.

- Debbie S., ICRA Volunteer

Make this little panther yours! Mariah is a beautiful and active youngster who loves to climb cat trees and play with foster pal, Lili (Bio# 3233 AP) -- another black & white stunner. When she gets tired, she’s just as happy taking a nap atop that cat tree or curling up next to her people (and she loves having her chin rubbed). She’s quite engaging and rarely misses an opportunity to insert herself into whatever activity the human family is doing. Mariah should be fine with children 7 and up and might be okay with a calm dog. We estimate that Mariah as born around April 22, 2012. She was found as a kitten on the street in Oakland.

Enrich Your Life and Save Another - ADOPT!! E-mail us or check our website under ‘Adoption’ to see profiles of some of our other cats available for adoption now!!
Love & Bittersweet Joy: Life Shared with a Rescue Cat

I watch Carly sleep peacefully atop her favorite perch at the window. Her grey nose is outlined in pink and her long, plentiful, white whiskers—so long that they curl downward at the ends because, I am convinced, their weight cannot withstand gravity’s pull. A white paw is extended – the one graced with a tabby marked toe. A beautiful grey and white tabby with large, soft green eyes. This is a story about the joys of living with my adopted rescue cat, Carly. Bittersweet joy and concentrated because she is dying at the young age of six.

Diagnosed in January with an aggressive form of cancer rarely found in cats, surgery bought us time. Carly’s presence in my life from that point forward would be counted in months not years as I had taken for granted. I am determined to “love her to death,” as the saying goes, but to be mindful of her quality of life. Chemo was out of the question. It would not significantly extend her life and for Carly, a timid cat, quality of life included not stressing her with repeated vet visits.

Found alone in 2006 at seven weeks of age several days after her littermates were rescued, it did not take long for Carly to fill a special place in my heart. Shortly after taking her into my home as a foster, I noticed that she had a tabby spot on her white chest in the shape of a heart. I privately took it as a sign that she was meant to fill the void left in my heart after losing my long living cat and best friend, Cala.

Carly wasted no time working that bond. As a youngsters, she figured out how to open the bathroom vanity drawer so that she could nap inside. One day I saw her stand up against the cabinet, angle her paw to pull the upper drawer open a couple of inches and then chin herself while hanging from the drawer, swinging her body so that the drawer slid fully open. She then calmly jumped inside and settled down for a nap, but not before glancing back at me as if to say, “See how easy that was mom!” After outgrowing the vanity drawer, Carly graduated to daily games of pipe cleaner fetch. Home base was my bed where I comfortably laid back and watched her do the work. She enjoyed the game most if I threw the pipe cleaner behind furniture or among a pile of clothes – the more challenging it was to find it, the more fun she seemed to have. She was not easily distracted from her task and always returned with her pipe cleaner even if it took several minutes to find.

Loving and living with a cat includes suffering through their loss. As ICRA approaches its 19th year, we hear from more adopters from our early years who have lost their respective beloved ICRA companions. It hurts to be losing my beloved rescue cat, but I know that I will open my heart to another in the future. I think of the life that Carly was destined to live had she not been rescued, and it reinforces my desire to give another cat the chance at a good life off the street. Each one is special and so many cats are in need of a home – it’s a win-win for everyone to adopt again.

For the weeks that I have left with Carly, I will tell her that I love her often. At night after a long day of work, I settle into bed and it is Carly’s favorite time. She follows close behind and nuzzles into the crook of my arm, her nose tucked against me to keep it warm (she would like a nose warmer for Christmas). Her purr is as soothing to me as it is to her. Before drifting off to sleep, I always give her a gentle squeeze and she returns the favor. Carly will remain forever in my heart.

- Merry Bates, ICRA President

HOLIDAY SAFETY: The Cat Ate WHAT?!?!?!?

The holiday season, with its abundance of fun, sparkle and distraction, is the perfect time to remind ourselves about a year round danger to our feline friends – their variable tendency to swallow odd and potentially life-threatening objects, especially string-like items such as yarn, needle & thread, rubber bands, ribbons and bows, tinsel, decorations, and window blind pulls. Other popular culprits include small, plastic/metal objects that are fun to bat around -- such as tacks, pins, earring backs -- and small pieces broken from unsafe cat toys. The dangers of human medications such as aspirin tablets go without saying. Just assume that if you drop it, misplace it and then either cannot find or see it, the cat probably will.

[Please cover kitty’s bionic ears for this part or prepare to seek legal counsel] Cats, like dogs, do not always know what’s best for them when it comes to what they put into their mouths! As we stress during our adoption process, cats maintain a toddler’s level of sense for their entire lives. So, it’s up to us to protect them – as we do children — from their natural curiosity by keeping irresistible objects off the floor and out of reach. [Uncover ears now]

Despite our best efforts, no amount of prevention is foolproof. Contact your veterinarian as soon as you know (see) or suspect that your cat has ingested a foreign object. It’s always good to know what your cat’s behavioral baseline is in order to recognize clinical signs of trouble that include: vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, abdominal pain, straining to defecate, and pawing at the face or mouth if string or thread has become wrapped around the base of the tongue. Bottom line, act quickly before the object becomes a potentially deadly intestinal obstruction that cuts off the blood supply to vital tissues and requires risky (and costly) abdominal surgery to repair. The sooner your cat receives medical attention, the better his or her chances for a full recovery with fewer complications. And whatever you do, NEVER PULL OBJECTS (sharp or string-like) you suspect that your cat has ingested.

No, our goal is not to add to those wonderful holiday neuroses and stressors we all covet each year by portraying every household object, trinket or toy as an apocalyptic time bomb. Well, maybe it is just a little ... but only because we want you and your furry companions to enjoy as long a life together as possible by being aware of potential dangers we can mitigate. With just a little vigilance at this chaotic time of year, curiosity doesn’t always have to kill the cat.
Donations In Loving Memory Of...

* Debbie Sharp’s Bangor from Rena Fourkas
* Ms. Bonnie Riley from Jim & Jayne Matthews
* Brave possum(kitty), who suffered so courageously and died so nobly, from Michael Barrick
* Cleveland and Calico from Ria Di Costanzo
* Chris Flaningam from Paul & Anne Pancellia
* Chris Flaningam from Paddi & Leon Kaufman
* Chris Flaningam from Walter & Nancy Baker
* My sister Christine Flaningam from David & Mary Yamamoto
* Chris Flaningam from Julia McGinty
* Comet from Christine Shaheen
* Denis from Ruthann Zazeela Cohn
* Martha McWoodson’s Felix from Merry Bates
* Our precious Ginger from Sheila Ewart
* Ginger from Laura Austin
* Jan & Roger Bailey’s beloved Ginger from Gail
* Peter & Gretchen’s Huck from Merry Bates
* Gretchen & Peter’s cat Huck from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Jody McKevitt’s wonderful dog Keeper from Gail & Natasha
* Keeper, the doggie sainst of abandoned kittens, from Stace Goff Johnson
* Keeper from Marie Giambroni
* Merry’s cat Nora from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Merry’s Nora from Rena Fourkas
* Leslie & Louie’s cat Oliver from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Leslie & Louie’s Oliver from Rena Fourkas
* Leslie & Louie Hernandez’s foster cat Oliver from Merry Bates

Donations In Honor Of...

* All the ICRA volunteers, especially Erin Garcia & Merry Bates who fostered Pepper from Shelly Lampe, Heather Blackmore & Pepper
* Beth Summers from Deborah Raphael
* Callie and Bootsie from Laura Austin
* Daisey (f. Amber) and Opal. Best cats I’ve ever had! from Thalia Dorwick
* Lori Jeffcoat’s Handsome from Gail Churchill
* Debbie Sharp’s Homerette from Rena Fourkas
* Debbie Sharp’s Homerette from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Homerette from Louie & Leslie Hernandez
* Homerette from Laura Hugel
* Debbie Sharp’s Homerette from Merry Bates
* Jim Harper from Dianna & Woody Orlandi-Wong
* Mandy from Johanne Duffy
* Merry’s Miss B., papaya treat aficionado and the best rescue bunny ever, from Mary Sper
* Catherine Pagano from Jean Wolslegel
* Catherine Pagano from Margaret Sherinian
* Petey Churchill from Les & Yvonne Temple
* Gail Churchill’s Petey from Martin Snapp
* Gail’s Petey from Rena Fourkas
* Gail’s Petey from Merry Bates
* Merry’s Pia from Mary Sper
* Ella Jones’ beloved Precious and Brady from Gail
* Ella Jones’ sweet kittens Precious and Brady from Merry Bates
* Tres Bogda’s beloved kitty ‘Star’ from Martin Snapp
* The Damele’s Tasha from Gail & Natasha
* Tonci from Suzanne Renne
* Katina Ancar’s cat Venus from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Peggy’s Zoe from Peter Andrea & Gretchen Whittier
* Peggy Harding’s beloved cat Zoe from Merry Bates
* Peggy’s cat Zoe from Heather Hanly & Dan Purcell
* Peggy’s Zoe from Mary Sper

Donations Dedicated To...

* Freddie (a.k.a. Handsome) from Lori Jeffcoat
* Joan Turmaine from Anonymous
* John “Spike” McNearney from Denise Jones
* Jen, Keith, Franklin, William and Henry from Anonymous
* Jody and Gail from Mia C. Raaphorst-Wijen
* Margitta Gardner from Howard Swerdloff
* Old Man/Handsome Tom from Grace Helu-Lara
* Robin Borelli and Julio from Anonymous
* Ty and Cobb Herman – “Thank you for years of unconditional love.” from Lisa & Douglas Herman

Birthday Girl Holds Fundraiser for ICRA

Grace Maguire of Alameda did an exemplary and selfless thing for our kitties this year when she decided to hold a birthday fundraiser for ICRA. Thanks to Grace and her guests from the 3rd grade class at St. Joseph Elementary, we were honored to receive $303 that will go directly toward caring for our many foster cats and ferals.

Grace was inspired after attending a friend’s birthday party last year that raised funds for the Friends of Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS). She and her family had been visiting the cats and kittens at our Petco adoption site in Alameda for several years, and Grace decided that she would like to do something similar for them.

ALL of us at ICRA thank Grace, her friends, and family—including two cats and one dog from local shelters—for their kindness and generosity in supporting our cause given that there are so many to choose from in the community.

Because EVERY Little Bit Helps...

Turn your rinsed recyclable plastic soda & water bottles and aluminum cans into CASH FOR THE CATS!!

Drop them off with our adoption staff at Petco (Saturdays 11-4)
This garden family is very lucky to have such an idyllic sanctuary in which to sleep, eat, and just be for the rest of their natural lives. Their compassionate guardians said it best when asked to share their story: “...our hopes would be to encourage others to enjoy these wild things as we do and to save ferals from what we know awaits them when they do not have a home base.” Guardians: John & Sharlene B., Alameda.

Do you have a protected garden or yard area that could provide a safe home for a cat (or two...or more) who, despite our best efforts, just aren’t comfortable enough with people to become indoor cats? If so, we would love to match you up with one of them!

These cats are not wild or aggressive - just extremely shy. And all they need from you is a safe outdoor space with places to hide, a shelter from the elements with bedding, daily food and water, and to be loved and treated like typical household pets who will be forever members of your family. With minimal effort, you can make a huge difference in a garden cat’s life...and gain infinite satisfaction from knowing what a special thing you have done for a beautiful animal in need.

Please contact us for information on becoming a garden cat guardian. Visit our website at www.icraeastbay.org/garden cats.php for available kitties.