

# CAT TALES

## FRIENDS OF CATS, INC.



Vol. XXXXIII No.3

San Diego County, CA

Fall 2015

## Rescued Cats from Riverside County at FOC

Following an emergency appeal by Riverside County Animal Services, Friends of Cats has taken in six cats that were part of a rescue situation in Cathedral City, where an elderly person had died, leaving a house full of 78 cats, as well as a dog, duck, and hen in need of help. Although Friends of Cats is currently at full capacity, the Shelter reached out to offer assistance after determining it would be able to take five cats with the best adoption potential.

On Tuesday November 10, Board members Terry Hogan and Karen Hansen drove to Riverside. They were given a tour of the new shelter facilities, and then met the group of cats available to animal welfare agencies. Since cats destined for FOC were not preselected, Terry and Karen had the difficult decision of deciding which cats to take. They chose the five that were most aggressively vying for attention. As they were leaving, a small black long-haired cat was determined not to let them go without her, and she became the sixth cat.

Before departing, the cats were tested for FELV and FIV, and all came up negative, so they were packed into carriers and readied for the two-hour ride to San Diego in the FOC van. Once at the Shelter, the cats appeared content to be placed in the relative quiet of the kitten cottage, with the three boys on

one side and the three girls on the other. Terry noted that they appeared to relish the wet cat food they were given, as though they had never before tasted moist food.

The cats, pictured here, are all gentle and affectionate, and have very sweet personalities. They will be available for adoption in approximately a month, following routine quarantine.



Nathan



Nelson



Ned



Nanette



Nibbles



Nova



Six cats ready for their journey from Riverside to San Diego.

## Friends of Cats



### Our Mission Statement

To maintain a Shelter for homeless and unwanted cats with the goal of placing all healthy cats into loving, adoptive homes while providing a sanctuary for cats that are terminally ill, considered unadoptable, or whose owners have prearranged for their continued lifetime care. In a nurturing, rehabilitative environment, we ensure the health of all cats entrusted to our care, promote spaying and neutering, and resort to euthanasia only as a matter of compassion for cats whose terminal illness causes suffering.

### Board of Directors

**President:** Terry Hogan

**Vice-President:** Lydia D'moch

**Treasurer:** Open

**Corresponding Secretary:** Chris Degurse

**Recording Secretary:** Jean Foster

**Member at Large:** Angela Asuncion

**Member at Large:** Gayle Kane

**Member at Large:** Karen Hansen

**Member at Large:** Edward Kane

**Member at Large:** Julie Tirpak

### Cat Tales

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Julie Tirpak, Jean Foster

*Cat Tales* welcomes your photos, letters, and stories, as well as queries regarding ideas for articles. Please send to us at:

cattales@friendsofcats.org.

Images should be high-resolution for publication. We reserve the right to edit or condense content due to space limitations or for clarity.

# 'Tis the Season for WHISKER WONDERLAND



**Friends of Cats, Inc.**  
You Can't Buy Love...But You Can Adopt it

## Whisker Wonderland

**Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 4 to 6 PM**

**Bring a gift of unopened cat food for our cats**



[www.friendsofcats.org](http://www.friendsofcats.org)  
(619) 561 • 0361  
15587 Olde Highway 80, El Cajon, CA 92021  
Exit on Lake Jennings Park Road from Interstate 8  
2.9 miles East on Olde Hwy 80

- ♦ Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies
- ♦ Enjoy the festive lighting around our courtyard
- ♦ See the lighting of the angel tree in our courtyard
- ♦ Shop at the holiday cat boutique
- ♦ Listen to holiday music
- ♦ Give a toy mouse to a shelter cat
- ♦ Give a gift membership to FOC
- ♦ Sponsor a cat
- ♦ Spend time with the cats and meet cat people like yourself



Take the *purrfect* break from your hectic holiday chores and join us at Friends of Cats to celebrate the season with festive good cheer on Saturday, December 12th from 4–6 pm. Cookies, hot chocolate, and holiday music await you, as well as the lighting of our beautiful Angel Tree. Explore the many treasures available at our Holiday Cat Boutique, where you might find all the gifts you need for the cat lovers on your list. Another gift suggestion: a membership to Friends of Cats will ensure that your recipient receives the Shelter newsletter *Cat Tales* and becomes part of our community. Your donation of an unopened can of cat food would be greatly appreciated by our friendly resident cats—they hope you will spend some time with them, too, and look forward to your visit!

# Choosing a Cat Wisely

Some people think a cat would make a fine gift, especially during the holidays—after all, what could be better than a furry companion for a friend or loved one? Think again. Choosing a cat for someone else is not necessarily the best idea. What appeals to the giver about a cat's personality or appearance may not match the recipient's ideal, setting the stage for conflict or indifference. Mutual connection is an important aspect of creating a strong bond between feline and human companions.

Recently, a woman named Sandy came into Friends of Cats planning to adopt a cat she saw on our website. However, upon arrival, Sandy was instantly drawn to a different cat, and the cat to her. Sandy is now the proud and happy owner of a beautiful, loving cat, and although it is not the one she intended to adopt, she knows she made the right choice. The immediate mutual connection they had has become even stronger, and her cat has bonded with other family members, too, especially her young granddaughter, with whom it loves to cuddle.

Sandy's experience is a perfect example of how important it is to have the potential cat owner choose his/her own pet.

In addition, lifestyle and home environment also play a key part in determining the likelihood of successful pet adoption. Some considerations are:

- Are there any other pets, and how will they react to a new cat in the household?
- Is the current residence suited to a cat?
- How will social life or work obligations affect the owner's ability to care for a cat?
- Is there a plan for the new cat during vacations and/or work travel?
- How do other people in the household feel about having a cat in the house?
- Is anyone in the household allergic to cats?
- Does anyone in the household have other health issues that may be affected by a cat?
- Is there someone in the household that can be ultimately responsible for the cat's care?
- If wanting to adopt a young cat, does the potential owner have the time and patience to work with the pet through its adolescence, taking playing, training and energy level into account?
- Would a younger or older cat be the better match?
- Can the owner train and handle a cat with behavior issues?
- Does the potential owner need a cat who will be reliable with children, or a cat that can travel well?
- Does the potential owner want a clingy cat who is a constant buddy, or one with a more independent personality?

Friends of Cats recommends as the ideal giving solution to issue an "I Owe You" as a present, and allow the recipient to choose the specific cat that they truly want.

And if adding a new cat isn't feasible at this time, the giver may consider a donation to FOC in the recipient's honor.



**Mutual connection is a key component in choosing a feline companion to ensure a close, lifelong bond.**



# Our Special Needs Cats:

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

*One in a series of occasional profiles of shelter cats with special needs—those whose long-term treatment could benefit from your donations and/or whose circumstances present unique challenges for placement in a new adoptive home*



**POE** is a four-month-old kitten born with a rare cleft palate, which has required special feeding techniques and foods for proper nutrition. She was born approximately July 21, 2015 in the Ocean Beach neighborhood of San Diego, and was found with her five littermates, all of whom are normal. They have been fostered since they were two days old. Poe was the runt of the litter, and it was obvious from the start that something was not right. At the age of five weeks, weighing just five ounces while her littermates were triple her size, she was diagnosed with cleft palate.

Poe currently weighs two pounds, and began eating on her own for the first time in early November—with much difficulty, but still a major milestone for this little one. Syringe feeding remains her primary source of nourishment. Surgery is in the cards but cannot be performed until she is a year old, so until then, Poe requires special care at the Shelter as well as frequent vet visits as she grows. Friends of Cats would greatly appreciate donations towards her surgery—which will make her an adoptable cat—as well as for her ongoing care.



Poe in August 2015 (left) and today—growing, but in need of surgery to correct her cleft palate.

## Busted!



Office cat Gus, caught red-handed after breaking into a jar of catnip mice.

## Catoberfest 2015



Our favorite emcee Coe Lewis displays the Catoberfest raffle's Grand Prize—a lovely cat-themed quilt made by Christine Hogan. Catoberfest was great fun and brought visitors to the shelter for tours, food, our kitty boutique, and more. Mark your calendars for Cinco de Meow next May and Catoberfest in September!



With the Holiday Season fast approaching, it's helpful to keep safety in mind for ourselves and our family—including our cats! Here are some helpful tips for a happy, healthy holiday season for your cat:

- Set up your Christmas tree securely, so it doesn't fall. This can prevent possible injury to your cat, as well as to help keep tree water from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria, and your cat could become ill if it ingests it.
- Avoid mistletoe, holly, lilies and poinsettia. Holly, when eaten, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. Poinsettia can result in vomiting, drooling and diarrhea. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats when eaten. Keep these harmful and sometimes fatal plants completely inaccessible to your cats.
- Kitties love tinsel; they see it as a toy that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But swallowed tinsel can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, and dehydration.
- Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Cats may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Make sure candles are on a solid base to help prevent them from falling over, and always blow the candle out if you have to leave the room.
- Keep wires inaccessible. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock.
- Make sure kitty doesn't have access to batteries—a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus.
- Avoid breakable ornaments. If your kitty ingests broken pieces of an ornament, it can cause major damage to its mouth and digestive tract.

### **Avoid Holiday Food Dangers**

**Skip the Sweets:** Do not feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol. Be warned: cats will go to great lengths

# Holiday Season Safety Tips for Your Cat

to get to goodies. Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

**Leave the Leftovers:** Fatty, spicy and “no-no” human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your cats. Find other fun ways for your cat to join the festivities that won't lead to costly medical bills.

**Careful with Cocktails:** If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

**Selecting Special Treats:** Surprise kitty with non-edible playthings such as a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy, or the interactive cat dancer. (Some cats can even have hours of fun playing in a cardboard box or bag—but make sure the latter doesn't have handles that can get caught around kitty's neck.)

### **Other Considerations**

**Put the Meds Away:** Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.

**A Room of Their Own:** Give your cat his own quiet space to retreat to. (And don't forget the water bowl.) Shy cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.

**New Year's Noise:** As you count down to the New Year, please keep in mind that strings of confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, and, if ingested, may necessitate surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify cats and cause possible damage to sensitive ears. And remember that many cats are also scared of fireworks, so be sure to secure them in a safe, escape-proof area as midnight approaches.

Friends of Cats wishes you and your cat a safe and happy holiday season!

# Thank You!

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## Monetary Donations

Jeri Acevedo; Dana Apodaca; Art Laboe Foundation; Yazin Aziz; Robert Beard; L.H. Benton; Patricia Berry; Anthony Bianchini; Sally Ruth Black; James Bouchonnet; Stan Boyer; Lillian Burt; Lesa Carroll; Elizabeth Childress; Elizabeth Comer; Fred/Donna Dawn/Mancuso; Suzanne Dollar; Patricia Donovan; Dianna Drake; Linda Dye; Janette Elliott; Ann Ellis; Phyllis Enfield; Kathi Farrow; Susan Finger; Gretchen Geib; Shari Gittleman; Merrily Goff; Lori Gowie; Rebecca Graul; John Hairabedian; Michael Hercbergs; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoffman; Coleen Holding; Jeffrey Jaeger; Paul Jarosz; Marie Jennings; Lorren Jensen; Mary Johnson; Kevin Judkins; Laurene Kallstrom; Glendella Karl; Krista Katz; Sheila Kennedy; John Kern; William Jesse King; Hedy Kleinsorge; Faith Kleven; Gisela Koestner; Kroger Supermarket; Edward Krosky; Sheila Laurenson; Kenan Lindsey; Dorothy Little; Melissa Ludwig; Birgit Luehrsen; Jacquelin Maize; Ann Mendez; Catherine Meyer; Roger & Betty Montanus; Michael Moore; Sandra Morgan; Susan Neumeyer; Mary Panzer; Laura Pederson; Dolores Perricone; Pet Hospital of Tierrasanta; Don & Carol Plath; Paul Plotts; Martin Rath; Wiltrut & William Richman; Diane Roll; San Diego Cat Fanciers; Lauren Sanders; Eva Sandvik; R. Schwab; Elaine Skelly; Al Smithson; Steele Canyon Veterinary Clinic; Corey Stein-Plummer; Ivana Strnadova; Al Swalla; Laura Telles; Carol Thompson; Evin Thompson; Gary Toomer; United Way; Susan Valle; Barbara VanHorne; Margaret Vincent; Margaret Walker; Dorothy Ward; Leslie Ward; Mary Wasemann; Jean Weibush; Sally Whitlock; Malka Winograd; Nathan Workman; Harriet Zale

## Memberships:

**New**—Ame Botha; Jay Ferris; Karen Johl; Cyndy Reynolds; Cathie Robbins; Marilyn Thornbury

**Renewing**—Mary Ann Ball; Alice Cohen; Esther Croteau; Tami Dickerson; Zita Emerson; Jeffrey Kronen; William Laudani; Jacquelyn Longinotti; Beverly Marcum; Dolores Millard; Bettye Neely; Edward Rose; Rochelle Rubinstein; Jackie Short; Mary Ann Sullivan

## Monthly Pledges

*Pledge Club Members are a very strong and important part of our donation program. We are very much aware of all that you do. FOC staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and, of course, our kitties all extend sincere thanks for your generosity:* Rob Abrom; Elaine Barrett; Cecilia Berg; Barbara Blanchard; David A. Bower; Terry Carpenter; Barbara Cefalu; Robert Clay; Kathleen Coe; Carol Culkin; Chris Degurse; Nanette Donnelly; Martha Evans; Richard & Melinda Fisher; Stephen Foreman; Rita Forshey; Catherine Frazier; Cindy Gilbert; Kylie Goode; Carole Harrison; Sue Heim; Helene Hoffman; Christine Hogan; Edward & Gayle Kane; Lynette Kaplan; Johnny & Rose Keene; Mary Kern; Jeannette Landis; Jean Landis; Katherine Lazzaro; Dave & Sally Loucks; Bob Martin; Dolores McPherson; Virginia Miller; Laurie Orange; Eileen & Joe Quarles; Patricia Ray; Sam Shepherd; Charlotte Spahn; Jan Turner; Rene Valencia; Julie & Jeff Walker; Jean West; Darlene Whorley

## In-Kind Donations

Alive & Well Animal Products; Laurie & Mike Bishop; Doris Coiner; Johnny & Suzanne Dollar; William Gore; Laura Griffiths; Lisa Hancock; Steve & Colleen Henty; Terry Hogan; Mary Hurley; Kahoots Pet Stores; Bree Katz; Kathy Kennedy; James Kritz; Rob Mai; Barbara McGeorge; Yvonne Nelson; Jessica Nosal; Laurie Orange; Phyllis Parsley; Rancho Coastal Thrift Store; Belinda Smith; Angela Soriano; Bonnie Stein; Janell Sweet; Renee Thomas; Carol Thompson; Megan Thrush; Julie Tirpak; Meredith Weakle; RJ White; Victoria Williams; Gina Wong; Denise Zimmern, Kimberly Weimer

## Donations in Honor of the Following People:

**Barbara Brenkwitz**—Jordanne Brenkwitz • **Patricia Firkins**—Cindy Firkins

## Donations in Honor of the Following Cats:

**Butterfly & Cricket**—Barbara Stringer

## In Memoriam

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### Donations in Memory of the Following People:

**Lois Jane Smith**—Deborah Downs • **Theresa Erreca**—Employees of Grossmont Hospital Lab • **Betty Thomson**—Carolyn Morrison • **Grace Thompson**—Nancy Salisbury & Peggy Ball

### Donations in Memory of the Following Cats:

**Guido**—June Barron • **Sammy, Maxie, Sara, Marlowe, Buttons, Emma Lou, Kitten, Snow Ball, Honey Baby, PiePie**—Cheshire Feline Hospital • **Billy & CowCow**—Karen Johl • **Oreo**—Rita Maria Kafalas-May • **Cookie, Cleopatra**—Dr. Michelle Mason, Kensington Veterinary • **Tinker, Grim, Sammy, Bella, Lord Percy, Sebastian, Gizmo**—Dr. Patrica Ungar, Kensington Veterinary • **Runi, Rusty**—Kensington Veterinary • **Kitten**—Jane Naimi • **Barley**—Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Rossi





# Letters to Friends

CAT TALES welcomes letters and photos from readers. Because of limited space, we can publish only a representative selection, some of which may be edited or condensed.



*Ten years ago, our family visited Friends of Cats looking [to adopt]. We wandered through the various rooms and saw countless wonderful kitties. I figured it would be a very tough choice. Then, our nine-year-old daughter saw an orange tabby chasing after a fly and—just like that—the choice was obvious! We learned that this young kitty had recently been rescued, close to starving, from a flooded New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and so we named him Bayou.*

*Our other cat, somewhat older and also adopted from FOC years earlier, was not too happy at first, but they quickly became buddies. Bayou has never lost his playfulness and is still a kitten at heart, even at ten years old. He plays with a feather toy, chases shadows or laser dots, plays soccer with random small objects, and loves to be petted indefinitely. What really sets him apart, though, is his desire to be*

*close, really close, to humans and other cats. He literally climbs on top of anyone sitting or lying down, and I often wake up with his face just inches from mine. He never got the memo that only dogs do that.*

*Another quirk is that he will eat every bit of food he's given, even if he gets sick afterwards; we have to measure his servings carefully. I cannot shake the belief that his lifelong binge-eating habit is tied to memories of his early life when he likely spent days or weeks nearly starving in New Orleans. Ten years of absolutely reliable two meals a day hasn't changed that. He has brought ten years of love and fun into our hearts. And here is to ten more happy years, Bayou!*

*—Jan Charvat & Cindi, Alpine*

## When considering your charitable donations for 2015...



## ...Please don't forget Friends of Cats.

Donations are our primary means of funding our shelter operations. As the cost of food, litter, and medical care increases, your contributions are important to maintaining our cats' health and welfare. Our shelter renovation still has far to go to upgrade our hospital area and adoption center, and funds are greatly needed to complete the work. Your generosity can help. **Remember that you can maximize your donation amount by participating in your employer's matching gifts program!**

Other ways you can support FOC: • **Become a member.** Your membership fee, renewable each February, brings you the shelter newsletter *Cat Tales*, our e-mail blast, and the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a no-kill shelter. • **Join our Pledge Club.** You can show support by giving a monthly contribution (by check, via PayPal, or direct debit) in the amount of your choice. • **Leave a bequest** in your estate plans to benefit FOC. What better way to leave a legacy than to help our feline friends for years to come.

# A Word About Friends of Cats

**FRIENDS OF CATS** is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing shelter and medical care for homeless cats. Once their health is assured, we find homes for as many of them as we can. The cats in our care are never euthanized except as a matter of compassion if they are terminally ill. We depend primarily on membership fees, donations and bequests to continue our work. Inquiries are welcome and we are always eager for new members. If you would like to join us or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please use the coupon at right. When you become a member of Friends of Cats, you will receive each issue of our newsletter *Cat Tales*.

## Shelter Location

15587 Olde Highway 80  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
619-561-0361

## Hours

Tues–Sun 10am–4pm  
Closed Monday

## Mailing Address

P.O.Box 1613  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
E-mail: [info@friendsofcats.org](mailto:info@friendsofcats.org)  
[www.friendsofcats.org](http://www.friendsofcats.org)

## Membership Coupon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Status:

☐ Youth: \$5

☐ Senior: \$10

☐ Regular: \$25

☐ Sustaining: \$50

☐ Supporting: \$100

☐ Supporting +: \$500

☐ Life: \$1,000

☐ Life +: \$10,000

Contribution (non-membership): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Club: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for a minimum of one year.

**Mail to: Friends of Cats, P.O. Box 1613, Lakeside, CA 92040**

Membership does not guarantee acceptance of a cat by our shelter. Please call for details: 619-561-0361

Editor/Designer: Lydia D'moch

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*You can't buy love—but you can adopt it!*

Friends of Cats, Inc.

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