

# CAT TALES

FRIENDS OF CATS, INC.

Vol. XXXXIV No. 2

San Diego County, CA

Spring 2017



Friends of Cats  
will be at the  
San Diego County Fair  
on Saturday June 24



## SCENES FROM Cinco de Meow

Cinco de Meow, Friends of Cats' annual spring event, serves as an open house for supporters and the community to visit the Shelter, see what we do, and meet our staff, volunteers, and cats—all while enjoying a Mexican-themed party. This year's celebration on May 6th was cooled by an overcast sky and light rain, but that didn't put a damper on the enjoyment or enthusiasm of those who attended. Coe Lewis of KGB 101.5 served as our master of ceremonies and kept the day's events moving smoothly. We would like to thank all individuals and business owners who contributed items and services as prizes to make our opportunity drawing a success.

Here are a few images that capture the day.



Cinco de Meow attendees enjoyed a full day of fun—shopping at our Kitty Boutique, sampling great Mexican fare, touring the Shelter, and enjoying the company of our many cats.



## PROFILE:

# Meet New Shelter Manager Rachel Filtz

Please welcome our new Shelter Manager, Rachel Filtz. Rachel has worked in the animal welfare field for over 15 years. Her experience includes positions at various animal shelters, veterinary clinics, and a wildlife rehabilitation center where she helped implement the San Nicolas Island feral cat program. Rachel has also spent several years teaching a veterinary program at PIMA Medical Institute and the Helen Woodward Animal Center, where she instructed children how to care for and connect with animals. Rachel's dedication and passion to help both people and animals has also inspired her to acquire her M.Ed. in Humane Education, with an emphasis on creating early childhood programs that develop and foster empathy towards animals. When Rachel is not snuggling cats at work, she is spending time with her husband, four-year-old son, and their furry family.

### • How did your passion for working with animals develop?

I've always been around animals, and have had a special connection with them since I can remember. While growing up, it was not uncommon for me to bring home a dog that I had found wandering around the neighborhood, or save snails on the sidewalk from being stepped on. It didn't matter what kind of animal it was, I was going to help them.

• **Did you know about FOC prior to accepting the manager position?** Yes. I actually toured FOC while I was working with feral cats at the Fund for Animals. I had heard about the amazing work that FOC did with cats, so I decided to get as much information as I could on the best ways to house a large number of cats together. I remember being very impressed. We even ended up getting some great information that we brought back to the SNI program.

• **Can you tell us a little more about your work with the San Nicolas Island Feral Cat Program?** I worked on the San Nicolas Island (SNI) Cat Program for almost four years. There was a colony of 62 feral cats; the colony had been there since the 1950s, and over the years the cats had used the indigenous local wildlife as an easy food source, which decimated the local population. The plan was to exterminate the remaining cats, but when the Humane Society heard about the plan, it stepped in to rescue the remainder of the cats and relocate them for permanent sanctuary at the Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Ramona, CA. I worked with the feral cats and created a program which would allow them to live out their lives comfortably. Some of the cats were adopted out to

loving homes, and the rest were placed on a consistent schedule full of socialization and lots of love. The SNI program is ongoing, but by the time I left my job at the Fund for Animals, most of the cats had completely shed their feral dispositions, and were affectionate and loving with people.

### • Can you elaborate a bit on your M.Ed and the early childhood program you developed to help foster empathy for animals in children?

I developed a program for my master's thesis that was ultimately implemented at (and is currently in use by) the Helen Woodward Animal Center, which reaches over 10,000 children in the San Diego area annually. My thesis concluded that, through early interaction with animals, children will not only be more likely to develop empathy toward animals, but they will also be more likely to develop emotional intelligence (the cornerstone of empathy), and become pro-social as they grow in to adulthood.

### • Do you have any particular goals as shelter manager that you can comment on?

One of the most important goals I have is to ensure that the level of care the cats receive is top-notch, and that the operation of the shelter runs as smoothly as possible. On average, FOC has 250 cats at any one time, and we are ultimately responsible to provide optimum health and well-being for each of them. In addition to this, I would also like to expand the volunteer and foster programs at FOC. We rely so heavily on the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, which ultimately allows us to care for more cats in need.

## 'Tis the Season—Kitten Fosterers Needed by FOC



Kitten season is upon us, and Friends of Cats has many adorable babies waiting in the wings to become old enough for adoption. But first, they must get off to a healthy start and grow strong, which requires many hands and lots of dedication. At this time of year, the Shelter has pregnant mother cats who give birth at the Shelter as well as orphaned litters in need of immediate neonatal care, and additional foster help is often necessary to nurture newborns and young kittens through their first few weeks. We are always looking for interested and experienced parties to foster kittens, especially during the late spring and summer months of baby season. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Shelter for more information.

# Thank You!

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## Monetary Donations

Nancy Anderson; Michael Armstrong & Donna Ewing; Joan Beck; Susan Berez; Patricia Berry; C. Biele; Inge Bisconer; Paulette Bocian; Stan Boyer; Danene Twyman Brown; Joan Bumpas; Mary Carter; John Cathcart; Jan Charvat; Elizabeth Comer; Lily Cowen; Alex Crow; F.W. Daugherty; Fred Dawn & Donna Mancuso; Renee Differ; Vera Dolansky; Suzi & Johnny Dollar; Diana Drake; Suzane Dupre; Norma Eaton; Janet Fowler; Terry Fraenzl; Linda Garifal; Corrine Geller; Christine Gentel; Merrily Goff; Lori Gowie; George Henderson; Mary Hesselbrock; William Hoermann; Connie Iverson; Juanita Jacobson; Jeffrey Jaeger; Paul Jarosz; Yvonne Kenniston; Bernice & Kathy Klohr; Rebecca LaMar; Michael Lapins; Sheila Laurenson; Susan Lindsey; Dorothy Little; Lynnette Lockwood; Lee Loventhal; Birgit Luehrsen; Elizabeth Manning; Peter Maxwell; Catherine Meyer; Marilyn Mittleholtz; Roger & Betty Montanus; Sandra Morgan; Lynn Noe; Laurie Norton; Laurie & Scott Norton; Pet Hospital of Tierrasanta; Donald Plath; Pat Potter; Michael & Linda Ray; Donald Ridgway; Deborah Robben; Michael & Diane Roll; Karen Santschi; Jean Schevemann; Russell Schnapp; Robert Schwab; Linda Sevier; Trenton Smith; Al Smithson; Sterling Expressions; Laura & Victor Telles; Julie Tirpak; Traci's Paws; Kelly Ty-sick; David Tytler; Barbara VanHorne; Nancy Varah; Kristine Vickery; Margaret Vincent; Zelda Webb; John Westervelt; Stephani Wilder; Cynthia Windsor; Malka Winograd; Nathan Workman; Michael Zacker; Steve Zapoticzny

## Memberships:

**New**—Lisa Capper; Alice Lowe; Carol Ryan; Theresa Scutellaro; Jack Wagner

**Renewing**—Belle Paulsen; Laura Pederson; Mary Ellen Pfleeger; Don & Carol Plath; Michael Radell; Martin Rath; Will Riddle; Douglas Robbins; Edward Rose; Rochelle Rubinstein; Ruth Rudesill; Roland Saulnier; Meredith Scott; Joyce Settle; Sylvia Shaffer; Joelyn Shannon; Christine Sickler; Stacy Sieger; James Skelly; Lucinda Smith; Dennis & Kathryn Stirlen; Chuck & Marty Stultz; Victoria Summers; Joanne Sumption; Jessie Swanstrom; Charles Sweeney; Carol Thompson; Ernest & Beverly Toy; Jan Turner; Marlene Turpin; Barbara VanHorne; Kristine Vickery; Anne Von Benckendorff; Dorothy Ward; Mark Wasemann; Bonnie Weaver; Zelda Webb; Amy West; Judy Wheatley; Valentina White; Julie Whitney; Naomi Williams; Carina Winter; Pamela & Curtis Worrell; Wendy Wright; Lee Young

## 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; Karen Borden; David A. Bower; Terry Carpenter; Barbara Cefalu; Robert Clay; Heather Coate; Kathleen Coe; Carol Culkin; Suzzy Davis; Chris Degurse; Martha Evans; Richard & Melinda Fisher; Stephen Foreman; Rita Forshey; Catherine Frazier; Teresa Haas; 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; Trenton Smith; Charlotte Spahn; Kathryn Stirlen; Jan Turner; Julie & Jeff Walker; Jean West; Darlene Whorley

## In-Kind Donations

Nancy Anderson; Ron Anderson; June Barron; Natalie Bulloch; Teresa Callaway; Ceceilia & Dallas Castro; Arthur Chagnon; Laura Costello; Suzi & Johnny Dollar; Leslie Gabehart; Liz Hartranft; Sue Heim; Christine Hogan; Haydee Hooten; Kathy Huish; Mary Hurley; Joan MacQueen Middle School; Janet Keller; Kathy Kennedy; Michelle LaGrandeur; Donald Lankford; Molly Manner; Michelle Merrill-Long; Maya Meyer; Laura Pederson; Tina Quantrell; Jeanette Rosenberg; Karen Santschi; Terry Scott; Donna Shelton; Sonia Solomonson; Ella Tennant; The Hadden Family; Stefani Wilder; Bonnie Wright

## Special Shelter Needs

**Poe**—Elaine Alvarez; Aki Atoji; Paula Becker; Elaine Burden; Pamela Carlisle; Eleanor Darron; Sherrilyn Dorworth; Karen Dwinell; Madeline English; Martha Evans; Cindy Firkins; Deborah Anne Flint; Marilyn Fulton; Lynn Graham; Alice Gruber; Jacqueline Hart; Jan Howard; Marilyn Hutcheson; Marilyn Kneeland; Ann Mendez; Virginia Miller; Marianne O'Donnell; Karen Peterson; Delia Rose; Stephanie Schumacher; Barbara Stringer; Mary Sullivan; Joanne Sumption; Jan Turner; Julia Walker; Julie Whitney; Darlene Whorley; Steve Yerkes; **Washer and Dryer**—Shirley Dawson; L. Hancock; David Webb

## Donations in Honor of the Following Cats:

**Apollo & Daphne's 6th Birthday** • Donald & Lucille Hodges

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## In Memoriam

### Donations in Memory of the Following People:

**Sandy Lupton**—Patricia Armstrong, Mary-Ellen Barrett, Kim Bidermann, Janice De Spain, James Golper, Maire Hunt, Todd Kaprielian, Steven McCabe, Steven Zapoticzny • **Mary Roof**—Judy Castaneda • **Louis Nozsak**—Nancy Jensen • **Virginia Crepeau**—Dolores & Tony Perricone • **Freya Gordon**—Elizabeth Spillane

### Donations in Memory of the Following Cats:

**Lucky Kitty**—Molly Ball • **Punkin**—Virginia Castillo • **Alexander, Baby Cat, Bella, Butchy, Callie, Cheeto, Chester, Cleo, Cooper, Cybil, Daisy, Dusty, Ezzy, Gemini, Gigi, Grace, Leo, Maddie, Magic, Mai Tai, Mikey, Murray, Ninja, Pookie, Popeye, Princess, Purrl, Rosy, Sammy, Tinker, Verbal, Wynton**—Cheshire Feline Hospital • **Sam**—Janette Elliott • **Kellie**, Forever missed—Cindy Firkins • **Riley**—Jane Potter • **Asher, Boot, Boozer, Cece, Emily, Frances, Maggie, Ollie, Penny, Samu, Sara, Simba, Stella, Terry, Zekee**—Kensington Veterinary • **Betsy**, the talker—Deborah Morrison • **Sammycat**—Jennifer Reichert • **Laguna**—Ron & Karen Santschi • **Benny**—Carol Stein • **Duke & Derek**—Jack Wagner



# 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:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth: \$5       | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting: \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior: \$10     | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting +: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular: \$25    | <input type="checkbox"/> Life: \$1,000       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Friends of Cats, Inc.

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



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