



# Catalyst for Cats

A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Altering the Future for Ferals

## NEWSLETTER

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### Our Mission:

*As a feral cat organization our primary purpose is to spay and neuter feral and abandoned cats, and to socialize and find homes for rescued kittens. These services are designed to address the feline overpopulation problem and to prevent cruelty to animals by preventing the birth of unwanted and uncared for cats and kittens. Catalyst for Cats, PO Box 30331, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 is a free newsletter published four times a year by Catalyst for Cats, Inc.*

### From the Founder

## Kitten Season 2013: Delayed But Not Avoided

**W**hat started out as the best year ever, didn't last, but both the delay and fewer reports of kittens earlier this year encouraged us.

We welcome good news, though, however it comes.

I attribute the fewer numbers of kittens and the delayed kitten season to the combined spay/neuter efforts of Animal Services, the Humane Societies and *Catalyst* taken early in the year. Spay a female and there is no need to find "forever homes" for her kittens; neuter a male and it will curtail their aggressive and wondering instincts. Prevention is by far, the best approach on all levels.

The challenge for our trappers and fosters in the North County continues on a daily basis, seven days a week, day and night. We do the best we can to capture the kittens young enough for socialization. Our volunteers feel the emotional stress of returning kittens to their outdoor homes, but sometimes that is the best we can do.

At least they are given a clean bill of health, spayed and neutered, given vaccines, a flea treatment and worming before being released to become part of a stabilized colony with food, water, shelter and usually

lots of other felines to socialize with. Since it is the only life known to them it is the life they prefer. To view a stabilized colony is a satisfying sight.

On the organizational side, our Cat's Meow Raffle in honor of National Feral Cat Day will be held on Oct. 16. Watch for your raffle tickets in the mail. You might be one of the lucky winners, and if not, it's a great cause. The cats *always* win.

Once again we ask for your financial support as we continue our work to lessen the number of unwanted kittens and improve the lives of hundreds of community cats each year

with our program of TNR. We need your help.



**Ready For a Home:** Sparkle was trapped with her Mom in Santa Maria, but is now looking for a home to brighten up.

photo by Debbie Merry

*Randi Fairbrother*

# In Appreciation

**O**ur volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They are absolutely essential to our work and we applaud and thank them for the hours and time spent away from their families and personal sacrifice dedicated to *Catalyst for Cats*. It is indeed a labor of love.

**Sharon Betzeldorfer** – for the many kindnesses and love shown over the years to all animals.

**Belinda Burns** – our relocation coordinator who uses her weekends to relocate feral cats as mousers, thereby saving their lives. We enjoy progress reports on how they are maintaining rodent-free areas for only the price of safe room and board. If you are interested in these services of rodent control give us a call.

**Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society** – for their spay/neuter services.

**C.A.R.E. 4 Paws** – for their generous assistance with spay/neuter services in the Santa Ynez Valley.

**Brenda Forsythe, DVM** and her staff at **Orcutt Veterinary Hospital** for helping not only with spays and neuters but in caring for our sick and injured felines. Their kindness and assistance is much valued.

**Lavi and Monica Gonzales** – our long time trappers, feeders and fosters. They pass out food monthly for the many colonies of cats we assist with food in the Santa Maria area. Monica is always ready to help in a pinch and never refuses to take on another litter or cat in distress. She's especially good with handling ferals and socializing kittens.

**Barbara Hilaire** – for her unwavering and generous

support of our TNR program.

**Marci Kladnik** – She is gathering quite a following with her bi-weekly columns in the Lompoc, Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Valley newspapers.

**Maureen Lynch** – for consistently dropping off food for our Valley feral cat colonies.

**Reisa** – for her most generous help with supplying us with food for our Adoption Program as well as our feral cat colonies.

**Jeffyne Telson** of **RESQCATS** – for her willingness to help in a variety of ways, such as advertising our adoptable kittens, and for her many other kindnesses.

**Our Feeders:** Our appreciation to the dozens who feed colonies not only on their property but to those who faithfully leave home to be sure the waiting felines get their daily meal.

**Our fosters: Gail Brett, Arrianna Daphne, Monica and Lavi Gonzales, the Hawkins family, Marci Kladnik, Deanna Koens, Rose Koller, Debbie Merry, Melissa Muñoz and Melinda Siebold.**

New Santa Maria volunteers: **George and Minnie Schecker** – for help with transport. And **Teresa and Tom Hall** – for taking on several feeding stations.

Thanks to those who know about our services and call us when they first see a stray or hungry cat. This summer we were overwhelmed with calls from people who knew about our services yet waited to contact us. What should have been easy became difficult and expensive and we ended up with litters of kittens. Please call us early in order to prevent that from happening.



*A Fine Family: Trapped in Santa Maria by Monica Gonzales, a wide-eyed tortie mom (right) and her colorful litter were fostered by Tina Hawkins and were adopted in June from the adoption cage at Buellton Veterinary Clinic.*

# BoBo's Adventure, or All's Well That Ends Well

*Lost in unfamiliar territory, a smart house cat learns the ropes of life in a feral colony*

**M**y name is BoBo, and I am just the cutest, smartest and most athletic young, all-black male kitty that you could ever know. Best of all, I am quite modest. Anyway, I had trained my Orcutt family so that everybody understood and fulfilled their BoBo responsibilities of feeding, loving and cleaning up after me quite well.

As a valued family member I was given a collar with a tag that had my name and home address just in case I were to get confused on one of my many “walkabouts”— as if that could ever happen!

Life was pretty purrfect until the day my house was completely rearranged and packed up. I was helped into my carrier—usually not a good sign—and found myself in the car with the two adult human girls who kept assuring me that everything was fine and that I was OK. After traveling for a while the girls announced that we’re had arrived at our new home in Guadalupe.

My family kept me locked in the house until, on the third day, I was let outside. I wandered away looking for something familiar. Not only couldn’t I find my old home, but I suddenly realized I couldn’t even find my new home —I felt confused.

I called to the girls, but I guess they couldn’t hear me. Some people stopped and called to me, but I was told not to trust strangers, so I kept going. The barking dogs and the yelling children scared me, so I kept going. Now I was getting very hungry and being mostly an indoor kitty, I wasn’t having much luck catching birds or rodents—just a few bugs that weren’t even the good “desert bugs.”

After what seemed like forever, I ran into a friendly cat that told me about a couple of people that would put food out for any cats that didn’t have a home or a safe place to stay. Being pretty desperate I followed him across the railroad tracks and over a tall block wall. What I found was a whole bunch of cats.

Even though I was confused and scared I was very hungry, so I stayed in the shadows and watched. There was a general air of excitement and anticipation with many of the cats running around, some chasing each other and the big males seemingly grouching at each other but not fighting. After a while a man came out of



*photo by Dian Poudrier*

**Lost Boy:** *Originally of Orcutt, BoBo wandered from his new apartment in Guadalupe, but had the good fortune to fall in with a well-tended colony in the neighborhood. Bearing a name tag, he was eventually reunited with his owner with the help of Mark and Dian Poudrier of Guadalupe and Lisa Kenyon of Santa Barbara County Animal Services. Bobo's adventure lasted two stressful months altogether, but ended happily for all.*

his house and some of the big male cats came to him to be petted and stroked.

I watched as the man took the near empty water bowl away and returned with it full. The man then went back in with several cats following him. They were gone for a while and then came back out with 4 or 5 bowls of food which the man put in different places.

After a while the traffic at the food bowls slowed a little so I approached and to my surprise none of the cats stopped me from eating their food. Of course whenever the man would come out, I left. It wasn't home, but with fresh food and water, and a walled in yard with no dogs or scary children, this wasn't bad.

After a few days, I was curious as to where the food was coming from, so when the man wasn't looking, I followed him and some of the cats into the building. They all went into another room with a table. I could hear the man talking and the cats purring. Shortly I heard a strange noise, then I could smell wet cat food.

*Continued on page 4*

# Even a pleasant colony is not quite as good as home

*From page 3*

I just had to see what was going on. I found something to climb up to the ceiling beams on and walked over to that room. I watched the man making the food, but when I moved I must have made a noise because he looked up and smiled at me. He finished making the food and took all but one bowl outside to feed the cats that had stayed in the yard. A couple of cats remained in the room to eat. When they finished, I jumped down to the table and ate and ate. When I saw the man coming back to the room, I left – just in case.

Every day I would search for my family, but each evening I would go back to that walled yard and climb up to the ceiling beams to watch the man prepare our food.

After a few days I decided not to wait for the man to leave before jumping down and joining the other cats on the table. The man came over and after petting the other cats, he gently petted me and looked at my collar and tag. He called me by my name, BoBo, which I hadn't heard for a long time. It was nice to hear my name. But even though the man, his wife and all the cats were nice, I still missed my family and the attention that they gave to me.

So you can imagine my surprise and horror when a few days later the man tricked me into a cage during feeding time. I scrambled around and tried and tried, but I couldn't get free. The man talked calmly and kept assuring me that everything was OK, but I wasn't so sure. Later that night, the man brought me outside to the front sidewalk. I was confused when several of the big males came out and said goodbye to me.

A few minutes later a car pulled up and stopped. A woman got out of the car and came over to me. "BoBo!" Her voice sounded familiar, and when she bent over so we were nose to nose, I knew she was part of my family. She was as excited to see me as I was to see her. She kept thanking the man and said the family was now complete and that I would be sleeping in her bed.

Now that my forever family is finally back together, I plan on making sure that they never get lost again. And I'd suggest other cat lovers who move keep fellas like me indoors for three weeks rather than three days and make sure our tags have up-to-date information.

*Mark and Dian Poudrier are the feeders/caretakers of a large, 24 – 30 member colony, a mixture of ferals, strays and abandoned cats in north Guadalupe. In the more than years that they have been there, the couple has TNR'd over 80 cats on their property and assisted with many more area TNRs.*

*Mark and Dian now have a stabilized colony and no longer need to TNR kittens – just the occasional stray/abandoned adolescent or adult cat.*

*Due to allergies, Mark and Dian are unable to keep cats in their house, but feel that as many as nine of the colony's cats are adoptable to good families. These nine cats are socialized and are able to be treated for fleas. For additional info, please contact Catalyst for Cats at 685-1653.*

*Bobo's story has been told with the help of ghost write Mark Poudrier.*

## *Another Happy Reunion – a Carpinteria Story*

A few weeks ago a Carpinteria resident found a cat in her backyard, and because she was unable to get the cat to move, she called upon a neighbor, who brought the cat to Animal Medical Clinic on Casitas Pass Rd. Upon examination Dr. Scott Smith determined the cat was not only old, but blind as well.

That's when David Morris and Reisa Guiliani, our most kind and generous volunteers stepped in. Reisa fostered the cat and David placed an ad in the paper. It was not long before the daughter of the cat's guardian responded. Somehow the cat had escaped from the house. To the delight of everyone (not least of all the cat) she was back home that evening.

Finding a home for an old and blind cat would not have been an easy task. As it turns out the cat's elderly caregiver had volunteered for *Catalyst* 17 years ago, back in the old days when Carpinteria was over-run with stray and intact felines. It's good to have reminders that things have improved.

# Updates: Catalyst Action & Related Issues

## Estate Sale Fundraiser

Several years ago I received a call from Sandy Pray, who lives in Riverside. Her sister had referred her to *Catalyst for Cats* for help several years ago when a mom and a litter of kittens appeared in her backyard. Following my suggestions, she succeeded in getting the entire feline family fixed, and they now all live as indoor cats.

Then a few weeks ago Sandy called again, saying her mother, Norma, who lived in Santa Barbara, had passed at the age of 90. It seems her mom had always loved cats and enjoyed our newsletter.

Sandy proceeded to tell me that she had decided to donate the proceeds from her mother's estate sale to *Catalyst*. The estate sale was held the weekend of June 20 - 21. What a great fundraising idea!

*Catalyst* would like to thank Sandy for her most kind and generous way to both "pay it forward" and to honor and validate her mother's love for cats.

Our rewards are more often than not in the "doing," so this was a big bonus as well as a morale booster for all of us. We very much appreciate her kindness to us as well as to her feline family. Many, many thanks.

—By Randi T. Fairbrother



**Cat Curios:** These symbols of love for cats were just a small part of an entire Estate Sale on the Lower Riviera, the proceeds of which were donated to Catalyst for Cats.

## On the Air

Earlier this year *Catalyst for Cats* founder Randi T. Fairbrother was a guest on "Jim on the Air," a local radio show hosted by Jim Sirianni. She discussed *Catalyst for Cats*' work and how the organization differs from primarily adoption agencies. In ending, Randi was asked what the most important thing listeners can do for their pets. It is, of course, get the pet neutered. The following week *Catalyst* received two phone calls requesting low-fee spay/neuter services available in Santa Barbara.

## Rods and Roses

Vintage car enthusiasts attending the annual Rods and Roses car show in Carpinteria in June were introduced to the work of *Catalyst for Cats* at a booth generously hosted by Charlene Maltzman and staffed by David Morris, Al Orozco, along with Charlene and her niece. The booth displayed informational literature, pictures and raffle items. We are happy to report a relocation site was procured from this outreach effort.

## Hungry, Thirsty and Aggressive Coyotes

Keep your pets in at night. Don't leave food out. Coyotes have been sighted locally even during daylight hours.

**Cat's Meow Raffle for National Feral Cat Day, Oct. 16 at the Coffee Cat**



# Tributes & Memorials

Each one of these names represents a level of love and caring to those remaining. They each have their own story.

## In Honor of:

**Anne Bissell's** retirement as Oncology Head Nurse, Cottage Hospital. Enjoy your morning coffee and paper – by Randi Fairbrother

**Morris #2** – lost for four months and found at Pea Soup Andersen's in Buellton. Morris escaped from a motel room after the Wilsons evacuated their home in Santa Barbara during a fire.

**Randi T. Fairbrother's** September birthday – by Ethel Barclay

**Darren Hall** – by Gloria J. Shepard

**Debbie Merry**, for your great work – by Michael Reno

**Simba** – by Pierce Dowling

Simba's fur is as soft as a blanket  
Simba's collar is as hard as a rock  
Simba's hair is as orange as the sun  
and as white as the clouds

His teeth and claws are as sharp as needles  
Simba's tail is as fluffy as a bush  
Simba's eyes are as gold as a pirate's treasure  
His whiskers are like the strings of a guitar  
Simba's purr when he is loved and happy  
Simba is like a lion when he hunts in our garden  
Simba is an adventurous cat who brings me Joy.



*Pierce Dowling, age five, was asked to write a 10-line poem for his Kindergarten graduation at Crane Country Day School. He wrote about his beautiful cat Simba.*

**Wendy P. McCaw** – for her most generous support of many animal causes

## In Memory of:

**Sarah A. Ball**, beloved mother – by Charlene Maltzman

**Roger Caser**, gifted painter who made the most of his troubled life – by Randi Fairbrother

**My sweet Ming** – by Sharon Kantanen

**Monte and Lil Ms. Mac**, my beloved ferals who slept with me – by Randi T. Fairbrother

**Nutmeg and Princess** – by Rita Fleming

**Rusty, Buddy, Mimi, Bo** – by Michael Reno

**Sam and Snow** – by Richard Salotti Family

**Sam** – by Lois Waldref

**Sparkle and she did!** – by Randi T. Fairbrother

**Our Sweet Spookey** – who died March 5th of Cushings disease by Shirley J. Nelson

**Irene Tapia**, my beloved mother, who loved Grace and all cats – by Irene Kasper

**Karen Quist** – by Barb Evens



## Wish List

*Catalyst* needs the following in order to carry on its charitable and educational goals. If you can help, please call 685-1563:

- Volunteers for the Santa Maria area..
- Cat food for the many, many colonies we monitor and maintain. We prefer meat flavors from Purina, Friskies, or Costco rather than fish flavors. Wet food is a treat. Past donations have been very helpful.
- Our bilingual flyers informing the public of our services are ready for distribution. It's important to get the word out. Let us know if you are willing to do this and we can discuss areas to be targeted.
- Someone who can do metal repair on damaged traps and other equipment.

# Debbie Merry—Catalyst Volunteer Extraordinaire!

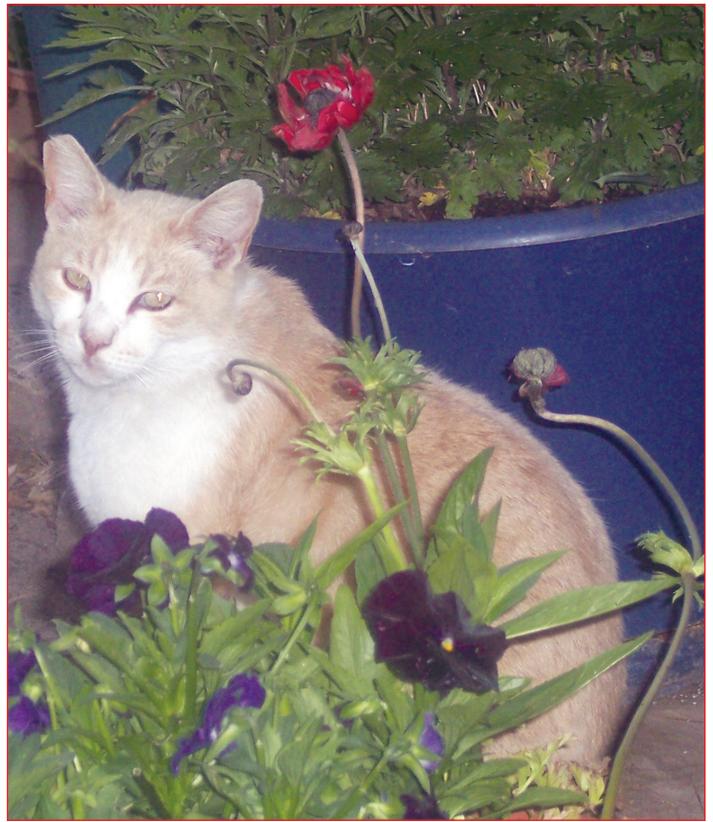
Debbie Merry joined our forces about six years ago when she inquired about help for a mom and kittens she discovered under some bushes in her yard.

She often mentions how her mom spent much of her time providing food and fresh water to hungry dogs and cats in Springfield, Missouri and says she is following in her mother's footsteps.

Her excellent people skills are often put to the test as are her trapping skills. She's out there before and after work checking on sites, trapping, feeding—taking time away from her family. And while at home she's socializing kittens and providing medical care, fostering feral moms and their litters. With her energy and dedication she is a most valuable member of our team.



*Debbie holding Pete, one of several kittens she trapped in Santa Maria and fostered. He's now healthy, tamed, and up for adoption at the Orcutt Vet. See below for a more recent family portrait.*



*Tommy was in the first group of cats that Debbie took on with the help of Catalyst for Cat. She says, "He came from down the street somewhere and never left. He is somewhere between 15 and 17 years, and is a sweet and gentle boy."*



*photos by Debbie Merry*



*Purring Machines: These three beautiful tabby female kittens were found in a box in a place of business. All of them were given a home together after a brief stay in the adoption cage at the Orcutt Vet.*



*Catalyst for Cats, Inc.*  
Post Office Box 30331  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

**Every litter adds to the problem  
Every spay/neuter adds to the solution!**

## Help Catalyst for Cats When You Shop Online

Every time a purchase is made through

***AdoptAShelter.com***

at any one of over 400 top name online stores, 100% of the amount displayed is donated to the animal organization or shelter chosen by the shopper. You can buy just about anything online and earn a donation, all without logging in or remembering a password.

Check us out at [www.AdoptAShelter.com](http://www.AdoptAShelter.com)

No-hassle donating can now be done using **PayPal** or **credit card** using the Donation Form button on our website. Catalyst is also registered with **Cars for Causes**, also accessible through our website.



## Cats come with claws!

**N**ever declaw a cat! Declawing often results in irreversible physical and psychological damage. An excellent scratching post is available from **Felix Company (206) 547-0042**. Ask for their catalog. The **#1** (large) is a good selection.