



# The Cat People news

4120 East Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308. 661 327-4706

[www.thecatpeople.org](http://www.thecatpeople.org)

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## Summer Sanctuary News

After a year of delays, added regulations, countless frustrations, and runaway expenses, we are pleased to announce that we finally passed all of the county and fire department requirements and have our final permits in hand! I know all of us felt the stress of asking, "What next??" as each week brought some unforeseen new requirements. Our contractor, Carly Ulman, owner of CBME construction company, had to listen to my many rants for months. I cannot praise her and Brian, her acting work supervisor, enough. Carly and Brian were our advocates during the whole process and followed through on every concern. All of the subcontractors were equally as nice and while the whole process was lengthy and frustrating, we were always treated with respect, patience and humor. Many of the various workers were amazed at the felines and told us how much they appreciated our rescue efforts. We really want to thank volunteer Andi Anthony, also, for her creative sanctuary designs.

In the last two weeks, Norm, Jack and Steve finished our blue room catio and the cats are really enjoying the larger area. The volunteers are now working on a catio for our senior Purple Room cats. In a few weeks we start a smaller kitten catio. Hopefully, if funds permit, we hope to complete the large one off the patio by fall. This opens our door for what we hope will be our own unique version of a cat café. Ranae, Steve and John just finished the back-breaking job of filling in our parking lot sides (a county requirement) with rocks, and if we can get some donated plant holders, will have them filled with some drought resistant plants.

Fundraising plans are underway, but all of our activities will depend on both membership and community support. The excess summer heat, however, has made us put some ideas on hold until it is a little cooler. Members will be notified by mail when an event is underway, and we do hope to have monthly activities here. In the meantime, volunteer Le Ann is working on the sorting donations for the October Rummage sale. We will accept donations up until October 1 so please keep us in mind as you do any downsizing or simplifying. We will also be working with California Pizza Kitchen for a fall event-more news on that in early fall. Members do not have to wait for an event to drop by. Many members have dropped by to see the felines.



*Greta, a pretty Siamese cross, dumped at the park with her babies, is looking for a home.*

We have an incredible group of volunteers but could always use more! If you can spare an hour of two in the mornings, contact me or fill in the volunteer app located on our website-[thecatpeople.org](http://thecatpeople.org). You may enjoy watering the plants in our beautiful gardens, brushing or just sitting with our felines or helping us clean- no job is too small.

This past month we lost Cathy Black and Don St. Clair, two very special friends to The Cat People and animals everywhere. Cathy, a neighbor and friend, a faithful and generous donor, wanted to ensure we could help seniors in need and did so with her yearly Xmas donation. Husband Randy now cares for a special feline abandoned at one of the hospitals Cathy was in. Don and Anna St. Clair have been generous Cat People members for several years. Don was forever finding and rescuing cats and a few dogs along the way. No stray was turned away, and his wife Anna now cares for their many rescues. I know both these compassionate friends have crossed the Rainbow Bridge and are surrounded by many furry friends.

*by Barb Hays*

## Food Assistance Program

Through our Food Assistance Program in May, The Cat People gave out 456 lbs. of dry cat food, 114 cans of wet food and 48 containers of litter to 31 families who are having trouble feeding their kitties regularly. The following month, we distributed 480 lbs. of dry food, 116 cans of wet food and 52 jugs of litter to 33 households. Keep in mind that most of our recipients pick up two months' worth of cat food and litter at a time. In response to recent requests for help, we've added more families to this program.

During the months of May and June, The Cat People was fortunate to receive generous donations of cat food, towels, bedding and other supplies in support of our programs and the Pawsitively Cats Sanctuary from the following donors: Dennis Bookman, Alice Chapin, Luca Foresti, Patricia Hamilton, Pam Miller, Donna Panasiwicz, Elizabeth Peterson, Marleen Ray, Maiya Shaw, Kevin Sinichko, Laura Stockman and Nancy Thompson. In addition, we've received donations of items for our October Rummage Sale from Cindy & Jim Joslyn and many other members. As always, we are very grateful to our supporters for their donations to help Kern County kitties.

From our Spay Today and Community Cats Assistance programs, we issued 30 \$25 vouchers in May and June to help people get their kitties altered and to control the growth of the stray cat population in our area. We regularly receive requests for help to alter stray and feral cats in neighborhoods and businesses. In answer to these requests, we offer to help defray the cost of getting these kitties altered through our Community Cats Assistance program. We also tell them about our trap rental program to catch these cats. To borrow a trap through this program requires a \$75 cash deposit per trap. People can borrow up to two traps at a time for up to two weeks. Their deposit is returned to them when they return the traps to us in good condition. Essentially, there is no rental fee. Plus, our program coordinator will show them how best to use the traps to catch cats.

The Food Distribution Center is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays at 4120 East Drive. We work out the former auto mechanic's garage on Fairhaven around the corner from the front entrance to the sanctuary. You

## The Great Rummage Sale: Oct 6

Save the date! Leann Meek, Cat People member and Rummage Sale Coordinator, needs your help. **October 6** is when we're having our Rummage Sale! Specifically, Leann says we need:

**Working**, recent electronics and small appliances  
All sizes of **clean** clothing, men's or women's  
Hangers needed to hang clothes  
Racks for clothes  
Household items like dishes, pots, pans  
Large and small children's clothes  
Tools  
Gardening items  
Camping items  
Decorating items

Donated items can be dropped off at the sanctuary any Saturday morning from 9-12. Large items will be collected closer to October. Call us about those at 327-4706 or email Leann at [leann.meek@gmail.com](mailto:leann.meek@gmail.com) if you have questions or would be willing to sort. With your help, we can make this a success!

can also drop off your donations of cat food, supplies and rummage sale items when the center is open.

There's good news for Bakersfield residents who are interested in preventing the increase in populations of so-called community cats in their neighborhoods. Best Friends Animal Society is operating a free TNR (Trap; Neuter; Return) service for stray and feral cats in city neighborhoods. Through this service, trapped kitties are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and ear-tipped. Best Friends even has a limited number of volunteers to help trap strays in neighborhoods. To participate in this program, call the Bakersfield Community Cats hotline at 661-440-6946 or email [BakersfieldCats@bestfriends.org](mailto:BakersfieldCats@bestfriends.org). You can also contact them if you are interested in helping residents trap unaltered community cats.

*by Marleen Ray*



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***We commend the efforts of The Cat People.  
They turn forsaken felines into furry friends.***

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## Who We Are

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Barb Hays
VICE PRESIDENT	Brenda Bynum
TREASURER	Pam Ames
SECRETARY	Stacey Augustson

### CHAIRPERSONS

SHOP & OFFICE MANAGER	Marleen Ray
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Courtney Clerico
CORRESPONDENCE	Dianna Knapp
WEBSITE/PETFINDER/MEDIA	Courtney Clerico
MEMBERSHIP	Shelley Ash
AUBURN RESCUE ACCOUNT	Barbara Kitchen

To contact any of the above personnel please call  
327-4706

## Photo Gallery



*Bixby, about 4 months old, was rescued from the park. He would like to come and make YOUR place his home. And could he bring his brother Boo?*



*Boo is Bixby's brother. They are both sweet and playful and would love to be adopted together.*



*Victory, a cute 9-month-old, is a park rescue who would love to come and purr at your place.*



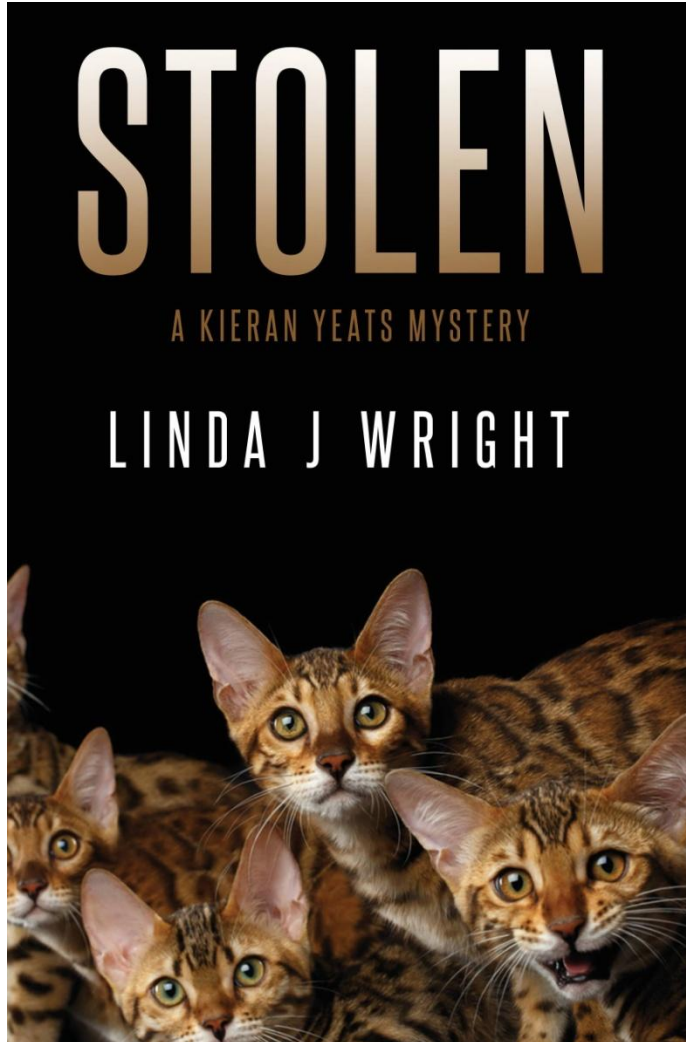
*Aardvark, our 7-8 year old park rescue, is ready for his new home.*



*Buster was adopted by the Ogle family.*

***“A thrilling animal rescue story!” “A nail-biter!”***

***“Five stars!”***



Animal crimes investigator Kieran Yeats has 72 hours to pull off a miracle. Twenty-six animals have disappeared from an upscale Vancouver Island neighborhood, stolen by shadowy animal thieves called bunchers. The animals' destination? A university laboratory where they will become the unwilling test subjects for a new drug or medical procedure. Imagine giving your body to science while you're still in it.

With the animals already missing for two days, the distraught pet owners hire Kieran. But bunchers typically hold stolen animals for only three to five days before they move them. So what chance does Kieran really have? Suddenly she gets a break: two of the more valuable animals, two Bengal cats, are listed online for sale. When Kieran discovers this, she sets a trap intended to snare the buncher and lead her to the remaining animals . . . if only she can get there in time.

Linda J Wright is an award-winning Canadian author. Her Kieran Yeats novels are set in Victoria, British Columbia, on beautiful Vancouver Island.

A lifelong animal advocate, and sometime activist, Linda has been involved in animal welfare for nearly 30 years. In 1990, she founded the rescue organization The Cat People, and served as its first President. Since then, she has served on the Boards of several animal welfare organizations and has been a consultant to dozens of animal rescue/welfare groups.

Linda now lives in Oregon, where she shares her life with her partner and their spoiled rotten cat.

STOLEN is available from amazon as a print book or an ebook, or from your local bookstore.

Visit Linda's website at [www.lindajwright.com](http://www.lindajwright.com) to learn more about her and to read the real-life story behind STOLEN.

## The Park Report

In the entire year of 2017 we trapped/rescued 85 cats from Hart Park. In just the first 6 months of this year we have trapped/rescued 70 cats. Considerably ahead of last year. On the one hand it shows we are on our toes in helping more cats but there is a troubling future ahead.

We are seeing more and more dropped-off cats, including mother cats with kittens, pregnant cats, and kittens all by themselves some as young as 3-4 weeks. There is hardly a day that goes by that we don't see new cats showing up.

The most immediate problem is the number of kittens we are seeing at the park this year. Our sanctuary is full of park kittens. At the park now, there are approximately 30 kittens dumped or born in the park. It will take a lot of hard work to deal with this.

I don't want to be all doom and gloom because there are some truly bright spots. We have rescued some really adorable cats and kittens.

The month of May was very busy. We helped 32 cats and kittens. Three kittens were taken from the habitat to foster care and the sanctuary. Four kittens were spotted by the park ranger Cindy and are at the sanctuary. Three 4 week old kittens were found nearly dead and one did have to be euthanized but the other two are in foster care and made a remarkable recovery. A mom cat and 4 kittens were rescued and are at the sanctuary. Our park feeder Cindy brought in 5 adorable kittens to the sanctuary on a Saturday morning. Ten cats were spayed or neutered.

One of our favorite cats—Aardvark was taken to Auburn Vet for treatment of a severe dental situation. He is now safe and happy in our purple cat room at the sanctuary. Buttons was a 3 week old kitten left on the side of the road with a bad upper respiratory infection. With the help of an antibiotic and bottle feeding he recovered and I nearly wept for joy when he could finally eat solid food and use the litter box. He is now thriving in foster care with the family who adopted Maxwell The Wonder Dog.

During June we helped 11 cats. Someone dumped a beautiful cat with 2 adorable kittens that are now at the sanctuary. We rescued a calico kitten with a cut lip who is in foster care and a sweet orange and white cat who is also in foster care. Six cats were spayed or neutered.

So now let's take a trip back in time to a morning about 6 years ago when I ran into Bob Rutledge feeding cats at Hart Park. I had just joined The Cat People and told him I was looking to do more than give money. He said, "We always need cat feeders here". Wow!! I could get to feed the cats and come to Hart Park, which I love, every week! Sign me up! Then I rode around with Barb and saw all the stops and the number of cats and thought Oh my . . .

As time went on, though, I got comfortable with the ebb and flow of the cats and the wildlife in the park and the rhythms of the seasons. The park is an important part of my well being. For those of you who haven't been to the park in a while, or ever, consider taking a drive in the early morning or in the evening. Stop and turn off your car and take in the peacefulness and the silence. And of course please become a cat feeder at the park!

*by Carol Lair*

## Automatic Giving Donors

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# The Cat's Meow

Every issue, as space permits, we make every effort to gratefully thank the generous people who have helped us.

## PARK FEEDERS

Andi Anthony  
Shelley Ash  
Barb Hays  
Roberta Isbell  
Cindy & Jim Joslyn  
Frieda Jackson  
Dianna Knapp  
Carol Lair  
Judy Long  
Bob Rutledge  
Sylvia Simms  
Jake Strange  
Jill Turner  
Jerry & Penny  
Whittington

## DONORS

Nancy Arslan  
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Cecilia Nelson  
Helia Corral  
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Wanda Dadds  
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Cheryl Lewis  
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Sylvia Simms  
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Karen Warrell  
Margaret Watkins  
Tracy Weddell  
Jaime Weyand  
Liane Whitson  
Rosellyn Witer

## ADOPTIONS

John Corral & Bertha  
Sanchez ( Levi &  
Gabby now Ricky &  
Lucy)  
  
Frank & Annabel  
Garza (Nancy)  
  
Carey Gutierrez &  
Helen Morin (Binky  
now Ella)  
  
Nelson Family (Sarah  
& Felix)  
  
Ogle Family (Buster)  
  
O'Meara Family  
(Mimo & Momi)  
  
Cindy Speigle  
(Conner & Lola)

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

To honor Tish Landers – Stella Rous  
In honor of Maxx & Dinah McHone – Ginger &  
Bob Smith  
In honor of my friend, Elaine, on her birthday –  
Frieda & Leann  
In celebration of Carol Lair's birthday – Barb  
Hays  
To honor Carol Lair on her birthday – Andi  
Anthony  
In memory of my trusted colleague and friend,  
Don St. Clair – Bruce & Susan Farmer  
In memory of Don St. Clair – Joan Ver Heul  
In memory of Don St. Clair, long-time friend  
and great animal lover – Bob & Ellen Bennett  
In memory of a wonderful man, Don St. Clair –  
Dennie Meinke  
In celebration of the birthday of Cindy Joslyn –  
Becky Erisman



*Binky (now Ella) was adopted by Helen and Carey.*



*Cat trees like these are desperately needed at our sanctuary. Our present trees are worn out! The trees are \$366 each at Amazon . . . and if you could sponsor even part of a tree (a branch?), the kitties would love you for it!*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Count me in! I'd like to help THE CAT PEOPLE provide services to Bakersfield homeless cats. Enclosed is my check for: \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied to:

\_\_\_\_ \$15 Junior (under 18)      \_\_\_\_ \$100 Sustaining member      AND an extra donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied to:  
\_\_\_\_ \$15 Senior (65 & over)      \_\_\_\_ \$500 Supporting member      \_\_\_\_ Senior Citizen's Asst. Fund      \_\_\_\_ Sanctuary Fund  
\_\_\_\_ \$25 Basic membership      \_\_\_\_ \$1000 Lifetime member      \_\_\_\_ Park Cat Care Program      \_\_\_\_ Food Pantry Fund  
\_\_\_\_ \$50 Contributing member      \_\_\_\_ SPAY TODAY Program      \_\_\_\_ where needed most

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to THE CAT PEOPLE and mail to P.O. Box 13610, Bakersfield, CA 93389 [www.thecatpeople.org](http://www.thecatpeople.org).

THE CAT PEOPLE is a registered non-profit organization 501(c)3. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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THE CAT PEOPLE  
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