



# THE CAT PEOPLE News

4120 East Drive, PO Box 13610, Bakersfield CA 93389  
(661) 327-4706  
thecatpeople.org

Volume 29, Number 3

Summer 2019

## Sanctuary News

Hot summer days have left the many sanctuary felines, (numbering close to 80 as of mid -August), lazing around. Volunteers and visitors laughingly comment that it is hard to find an unoccupied chair or small place on any of the futons.....As they say, "The lazy days of summer."

Summer is always heartbreaking in rescue with so many unwanted adult cats and kittens left everywhere, including the park. During the summer months we house close to 45 kittens and 35 adults at the sanctuary not counting many more in foster care. Thankfully, in the past five months, we have been fortunate to find homes for several of our rescues up north.

In late July, we rescued two nursing moms and their babies. All are resting comfortably upstairs. Park coordinator Carol brought in eight kittens from the park, in just a two-week period. Five of our felines were adopted locally in July, including one of our adult cats. We continue to explore out-of-the-area similar rescue groups to partner with in hopes of finding more homes for the many sanctuary felines. Of course, unlike a "kill" shelter, no Cat People rescue will ever be euthanized due to lack of space. Some of our rescued park cats have been so traumatized and are still shy around visitors. While we would love to find special homes for all of them, they are now safe and cared for by our many helpers.

This summer also brought us some new super volunteers, and this is crucial to keeping our cats social and the cat areas clean. As always, a special thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers. If you would enjoy hanging out with some precious felines, we welcome you any morning, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. You may want to help clean or just sit, brush and cuddle some of our cats. Unlike many shelter programs, you are not obligated to come on a regular basis if that does not work for you.

Continued on page 2



Volunteer Deena in the Catio scooping and holding one of the felines.

### Save the Date

October 21 & 22nd - Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

November 16 - Sanctuary Open House

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## Food Assistance Program

*Sanctuary News continued.....*

We appreciate all and any help. If you have questions you can email me at [barbarah@thecatpeople.org](mailto:barbarah@thecatpeople.org) or leave a message at (661) 327-4706.

On a sad note, in June, longtime member Beverly Banks died. I had the honor of taking in Go-E, her 18-year old cat. Go-E passed away this last week from health issues and I really believe, just missing her Bev. I was privileged to have Bev's friendship for over 35 years. Her compassion, patience and support carried me through some traumatic events in my own life. She was always a sounding board when dealing with cat issues and our many plans for the sanctuary. I know that in Rainbow Bridge, Bev is enjoying a good book with Go-E sitting on her lap.

Barb Hays



Kittens enjoying one of the cat trees

Through our Food Assistance Program in May, The Cat People gave out 325 lbs. of dry cat food, 72 cans of wet food and 34 containers of litter to 13 families who are having trouble feeding their kitties regularly. The following month, we distributed 700 lbs. of dry food, 168 cans of wet food and 68 jugs of litter to 28 households in need. In July, we handed out 325 lbs. of dry food, 78 cans of wet food and 32 cartons of litter to 13 recipients. Keep in mind that program participants pick up three months' worth of cat food and litter at a time now.

During the months of May, June and July, The Cat People received 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, Dave Clark, Madelyn Holtzclaw, Pam Miller, Marleen Ray, Laura Stockton and Nancy Thompson. As always, we are very grateful to our supporters for their donations to help Kern County kitties.

Under our Spay Today and Community Cats Assistance programs, we issued 79 \$25 vouchers from May through July to help people get their kitties altered and to control the growth of the homeless cat population in our area. Since the start of summer, we've seen demand for our spay/neuter vouchers spike. We regularly receive requests for help to alter stray and feral cats in neighborhoods and businesses. In response to such requests, we offer to help defray the cost of getting these kitties altered through our Community Cats Assistance program. Also, we let them know about our trap rental program. 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 to use the traps.

The Food Distribution Center is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays at 4120 East Drive. We're in the former auto mechanic's garage on Fairhaven around the corner from the front entrance to the sanctuary. You can also drop off your donations of cat food and other supplies when the center is open.

By Marleen Ray



Look for us on Facebook or Instagram!

## Who We Are

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Barb Hays	<b>PETFINDER/ADOPT-A-PET</b>	Ann Lariviere
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Brenda Bynum		Stephanie Whisler
<b>TREASURER</b>	Pam Ames	<b>VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR</b>	Courtney Clerico
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Stacey Augustson		Barb Hays
<b>AUBURN RESCUE ACCOUNT</b>	Barb Kitchen	<b>WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	Ranae Harrer
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	Ranae Harrer		Barb Hays
	Amy St. Amour		Taya Treulieb-Kolostyak
<b>FOOD ASSISTANCE</b>	Marleen Ray	<b>TCP FOUNDER</b>	Alisa Davies
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Shelley Ash		Linda Wright
<b>PARK COORDINATOR</b>	Carol Lair		

## Special Thanks

*Auburn Animal Hospital  
Southwest Veterinary Hospital  
Stiern Veterinary Hospital*

"There are two means of refuge from  
the misery of life — music and cats."

— **Albert Schweitzer**

## Special Friends

In memory of Ann Cierley – Laura Stockton  
In memory of Jack, feline companion to my friend, BG Zasoski, for 17 years – Mindy White  
In honor of Tish Landers – Stella Rous  
In memory of Sandra Howard – Jessica Gehle  
In remembrance of Beverly Banks, a lifelong cat lover – Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Krause  
In memory of Beverly Banks – Laddie Kumelos  
In honor of Cindy Joslyn on her birthday – Becky Erisman  
In remembrance of Beverly Banks – Barb Hays

## Upcoming Events

### **Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at the Sanctuary**

Throughout the year The Cat People and other rescue groups receive countless requests to take in unwanted adult cats and kittens. This takes an emotional toll on all of us. Overcrowded shelters are forced to turn owners away, leaving horrible alternatives. Over the years we have provided discount vouchers to cat owners wanting to alter their pets.

Unfortunately, few if any clinics are available to those trying to do the right thing.

These unwanted felines are found behind shopping centers, roaming neighborhoods, and of course, Hart Park. We have all shed many tears when finding innocent little kittens stuffed in boxes, thrown in dumpsters or quivering under bushes out at the park. These are the few that are found. Yes, we are proud of the help we have tried to provide cats and their owners over the last 30 years, but we know this alone will never be enough. Spaying and Neutering is the only long-range answer to preventing the needless suffering, overcrowded shelters and mass abandonment faced by these animals.

On October 21 and 22, we will host our first Spay/Neuter Mobile Clinic to be held at our sanctuary. Cat owners will be able to make appointments for two cats (either their own, community or feral) directly to the Simi Valley Non-Profit Spay Neuter Clinic. Our goal is 100 cats in the two days at no cost to the caregiver/owner. More details will be listed on our Facebook page and under Events or Blog on our website, thecatpeople.org.

If we can fund the \$5000 two-day clinic cost, we hope to sponsor the clinics six times a year at no cost to cat owners. We are actively pursuing grants and sponsorships to help fund these clinics. If you would like to help defray some of the costs for this project, please contact us.

## Park Report

Things have been very busy as kitten season is in full swing.

Many cats and kittens continue to be abandoned at the park. During May, June and July 43 cats and kittens were removed from the park. They either went to Kern County Animal Services or were able to come to our sanctuary. A few cats and kittens were taken home by park visitors and one kitty killed by a car.

Since we began partnering with Animal Services and General Services approximately 190 cats and kittens have been removed from the park. Pretty impressive. Most of the recently removed cats have been recently abandoned; they are not what I would call older resident cats.

We have a wonderful group of kittens waiting for adoption. I would like to mention a couple. Minnie Mouse was found by a park visitor on a Sunday afternoon cowering under a picnic bench and we were called. She was picked up and fostered before coming to the sanctuary. While she was in foster care she was quite a little terror. I was worried she might not be adoptable. However, since coming to the sanctuary and being around lots of kittens and people she has become a very sweet girl and is ready for adoption.

Park maintenance alerted us to a kitten trapped in a metal drainage pipe. There was a four-inch round hole in the top of a metal cover and a curious kitten fell in and was in several inches of cold water. The maintenance crew was all hands on deck and lifted the heavy cover enough for a young man to reach down and pick her up. She was dried off, fed and went to a foster home where she thrived. We decided to call her Lilly. We considered naming her Aqua Girl but thought better of it.

Water poppy is an invasive water plant which is taking over especially the south canal and is spreading to other canals and the lake.

I have a funny story to relate. There is a TV show called Junior Chefs which is a cooking competition for young kids about 10 years old wanting to be professional chefs. There is a rather large cash prize for the winner. One of the little girls was being interviewed and was asked what she would do with the money if she won. She said, "I would buy 19 cats". The shocked interviewer asked why and she said, "I aspire to be a crazy cat lady". Gotta love this girl!

Carol Lair

## Volunteer Spotlight Frieda Jackson



Frieda holding Frieda rescued from Hart Park 5 years ago.

*Frieda, how did you become aware of The Cat People?*

Prior to The Cat People becoming an organization in 1990, I volunteered at Kern Humane Society. I knew Barb from her teaching days out at Shafter High where I started working in 1976 as a librarian.

*What volunteer activities have you been involved with?*

Back in the day, The Cat People had a small gift shop on Brundage Ln. and I volunteered there. I bought my house in 1995 and soon thereafter started feeding at Hart Park until two years ago. I then started volunteering Sunday mornings at the Sanctuary. For a few years, I fostered kittens that had been dumped at Hart Park (some had to be bottle-fed).

*What do you enjoy most about volunteering?*

I absolutely loved fostering the kittens, although it was quite labor-intensive. The downside was letting them go and worrying about them getting to perfect homes. One of my bottle babies is Carl, who is still at the Sanctuary waiting for his forever home and I enjoy petting him every Sunday.

The park feeding could at times be frustrating when I saw sick cats or those dropped off by irresponsible owners or other cats I was used to seeing and then they suddenly had disappeared without a trace. But I loved seeing them all running (Whiskers always jumped in my car) excitedly towards me when they were served their meals.

*Any words of wisdom for future volunteers?*

Our organization depends on volunteers, so for all who read our newsletter, there is something you can do to help and make a difference and save precious lives. You will enjoy it.

*Any information about yourself you would like to share?*

I am an animal lover and love dogs and cats alike. For a person, who grew up without a single pet, I sure made up for it in my adult life. At one time I had 12 cats and 4 dogs; now I am down to 3 dogs and 4 cats (3 adopted from Hart Park) and one a neighborhood rescue as well as one "forever" foster cat from The Cat People.

## 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**

Luca Foresti  
Roberta Isbell  
Jamie Jemmett  
Cindy Joslyn  
Carol Lair  
Judy Long  
Jodi & Jack Rowe  
Jacob Strange  
Robin Tinsley  
Jill & Jeff Turner  
Jerry & Penny  
Whittington  
Dave Wilson

### **DONORS**

Bonnie Abel  
Diane Ackley  
Mary Ellen Agan  
Nancy Allred  
Anonymous donor  
from Hart Park  
Michelle Antonell  
Steve Arre, Jr.  
Nancy Arslan  
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Marilyn Ledesma  
Cheryl Lewis  
Jane Loranger  
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Katherine Mackey  
Dinah McHone  
Carolyn Miller  
Pamela Miller  
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Linda Mumford  
Cecilia Nelson  
Nestle Purina  
Robert Nichols  
Cheryl Nickell  
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Oglesby  
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Petco  
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Jodi Rowe  
Pam Schroeder  
Marvin Seibel

Gaye Siemon  
Sylvia Simms  
Kevin Sinichko  
Shirley Skenfield  
Carol Smith  
Verna Smith  
Southwest Veterinary  
Hospital  
Amy St. Amour  
Beth Stark  
Jacob Strange  
Alecia Thornton  
Patricia Turner  
Linda Underwood  
United Way  
Victoria Vukonich  
Amy Walker  
Walmart  
Katherine Walters  
Sandra Wendt  
Jaime Weyand  
Liane Whitson  
Debra Wingo  
Dorothy Wright  
Tommy Wright

### **AUTOMATIC GIVING DONORS**

Pam & Ed Ames  
Jane Ansolabehere  
Andrea Anthony  
Michelle Antonell  
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Winnifred Davis  
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Anna St. Clair  
Joan Tambosso  
Bill Walker  
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### **SANCTUARY HELPERS**

Nancy Allred  
Shelley Ash  
Michelle Beck  
Emilie Beck  
Shannon Berkowitz  
Logan Berkowitz  
Po Cho  
Angelina Cho  
Sydney Cho  
Keith Clark  
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Marleen Ray  
Murtaza Rizzo  
Jodi & Jack Rowe  
Rebecca Scott  
Amy St. Amour  
Beth Stark  
Laura Stockton  
Jacob Strange  
Stephanie Whisler

### **FOSTER PARENTS**

Dani & Jay Bresee  
Rita & Rob Wolosz

### **Attention Members**

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the Open House at our sanctuary on Saturday, November 16, 2019. If you or a friend are interested in helping, please text Ranae at 661-203-7899 or send an email to [ranaeharrer@gmail.com](mailto:ranaeharrer@gmail.com). We hope to hear from you soon!

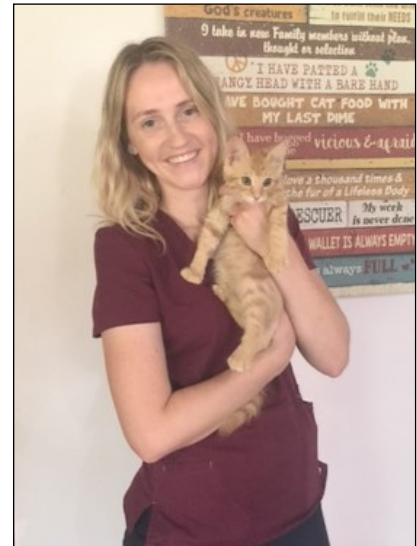
## Adoption Photos



Phoenix adopted by the Heredia family.



Brian & Emily adopted Lilly and Alfie.



Brittney adopted Alvin.



Sherry adopted Wendy now called Daisy.



Bob & Charlotte adopted Paddington now named Booker.

## Adoptions

- Charlotte & Bob Brandt (Paddington)
- Emily & Brian Churchfield (Alfie & Lilly)
- Brittney Harvey (Alvin)
- Misty Heredia (Phoenix)
- Susan McEvelly & Tim Madewell (Harlie)
- Sherry Nickell (Wendy)



Two kittens saved from the park

## Tips for a Healthy Cat

Jill Elliot, D.V.M., ASPCA

### Obesity

- Any weight loss program is best done under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- Play together actively 20 minutes a day.
- First, feed only twice a day as opposed to free-choice feeding. Then, reduce the total amount of food in increments of 10 percent a month.
- Monitor your cat's weight weekly. He shouldn't lose more than 1 percent to 2 percent of his weight in a month.
- Feed a high-quality cat food. Avoid "lite" foods; they have reduced protein and fats - the nutrients cats, especially overweight cats, need.

### Strings

- Many cats are attracted to string and similar materials, but the situation becomes dire when it's swallowed, gets caught under the tongue and continues to be pulled down into the intestines. Since you risk getting bitten by looking under the tongue yourself, check for signs of the cat not wanting to eat and vomiting.
- If you suspect your cat may have swallowed a string, visit your veterinarian immediately.
- Don't let your cat play with string or string-like toys without supervision, and don't leave needles, threads, yarns or shoelaces around the house.

### Hair balls

- When a cat grooms herself, the ingested hair may get stuck in her stomach, resulting in vomiting. Other times, the hair remains in the esophagus, creating irritation and coughing.
- To help decrease the amount of hair your cat swallows, brush or comb her daily. In addition, give her a hair ball medicine or put some Vaseline on the top part of her paw once or twice a week. The cat will lick it off as part of her grooming ritual.

© 1999 ASPCA  
ASPCA Animal Watch – Spring 1999



Volunteer Emily is quite popular in the kitten room!

### Wish List

Cat Carriers - top loading type  
Friskies 14-oz Poultry Platter Canned Food  
Full Size Fitted Sheets  
Paper Towels  
Pillow Cases  
Purina One Dry Food  
Towels

Gift Cards: Amazon  
Costco  
Home Depot  
Lowe's  
Smart & Final



Bruno and Alfie adopted last year by Joyce Treulieb.

# THE CAT PEOPLE



PO Box 13610  
Bakersfield CA 93389

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Bakersfield, CA

Permit #487

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I would like to help The Cat People out. 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 +)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Supporting member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Basic membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Lifetime member

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Assistance Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Park Cat Care Program

\_\_\_\_\_ SPAY TODAY Program

\_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Food Pantry Program

\_\_\_\_\_ Where needed most

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Contributing member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to The Cat People and mail to PO Box 13610, Bakersfield CA 93389. The Cat People is a registered non-profit 501(C)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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