

THE CAT PEOPLE News

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Sanctuary News

The world may be operating under “stay at home” directives, but our faithful park feeders, foster caregivers and sanctuary helpers continue with our daily routine of caring for the many abandoned and rescued cats and kittens. With the shelters closed, few options currently exist for unwanted pets. As a result, volunteers are working overtime with the aftermath. Like all groups, we are limited to rescue based on available space, volunteer help and finances, but I wanted to share with you just a few emergency rescues we could not turn away during March and April.

Monty, our three-legged super affectionate young cat, now lives upstairs after his amputation. He was nearly killed after his owners were cautioned about the dangers of letting him run on a busy street. He underwent hours of a very complicated surgery but is now recovering nicely. Thanks to several donations, some of his surgery cost has been covered.

Blue, an eight-year-old male with physical limitations was brought in when his cancer-stricken owner could no longer care for him and the shelters could not take him.

If you follow us on Facebook you have no doubt watched Carol’s video of the nursing mom and her few-day-old babies, found at the bottom of a large trash can. Thanks to a compassionate park maintenance worker, “Zoe” and her babies are now loved and cared for by our hard-working sanctuary volunteers.

Lots of other moms and babies are with us:

- Abandoned Cali and her five babies joined us after she was left to give birth in the gutter on a cold rainy day.
- Next, came Chelsea and her three babies after her sibling was killed on South Chester.

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These guys have super energy and love to run up their cat trees. Mom Cali was a special rescue who would have died if left in her situation.



Poor eight-year-old Blue, considered morbidly obese, is now on a special diet and has lost 3 pounds. He is happy and loves brushing.

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Sanctuary News continued.....

- Ember, our other mom, was rescued from a homeless camp along with her six babies. They are all doing well. Now that the babies are eating on their own, Mom was altered and will go to the couple now that they finally were able to get into housing. The babies will be adopted.
- Baby, a nursing cat arrived with her babies, and they are now in foster care thanks to Greyfoot Rescue. Mom is now altered and back to her caregiver.
- Two week- old babies left in a box with a cup of cat chow were found by a dog rescuer, and they are now in foster care with volunteer Rita until old enough to adopt.
- Nala, a very pregnant super friendly Calico is now safe after being left at the park.

In the meantime, another 85 once-abandoned park cats, never able to trust people, continue to live out their lives in foster care with some very dedicated members.

We invite you to visit us and meet some of our wonderful felines when we are able to accept visitors. In the meantime, follow us on Facebook, and enjoy a great video composed by John Harrer for our website.

Saving lives is a seven day a week commitment, taking emotional, physical and huge financial tolls on an organization and those "front-line" volunteers. Your support through donations and membership help make all this possible.

On a lighter note, we were alerted our septic system is in serious need of repair so we will add that to our March and April events.

Barb

Special Thanks

*Auburn Animal Hospital
Carol Ewing
Nestlé Purina
Simi Valley Spay & Neuter Clinic
Stiern Veterinary Hospital
Southwest Veterinary Hospital
Walmart*



In spite of major surgery, this amputee, Monty, never stops exploring and waiting for someone's lap.



Zoe is super friendly in spite of being abandoned with her kittens. She is also a wonderful mom.



Look for us on Facebook or Instagram!

Park Report

During January, February and March of this year 23 cats were taken to Kern County Animal Services for adoption. Four cats had to be euthanized and one cat died at the park. One cat was removed by a park visitor. A total of 29 cats were removed from the park. Thirteen cats were TNR'd back to the park.

There have been no meetings with General Services and Animal Services since January 22nd, and park maintenance has not installed the metal troughs we wanted to use instead of the cement troughs. Since March 17th, park maintenance has been on a reduced schedule.

About March 17th, KCAS closed as well as Critters without Litters due to the serious concerns about the Corona Virus pandemic. These were our major resources for getting our cats adopted and getting feral cats fixed. At this point, I don't know when they will open back up but it looks like they will be closed for quite some time.

The results of many hours of trapping have not been all that encouraging. Ten cats were trapped and relocated to an existing trough, and 6 have returned to their home turf.

Also, three pesky raccoons interfered with trapping at the west entrance. With some effort, all three were trapped and relocated and by the end of March, all three had returned.

The most successful trapping was during January and February, but by March it reached the point of diminishing returns. Since the county was shutting down due to the pandemic it seemed like a good time to take a break from trapping.

In December 2019 the cats were counted over several days in the mornings and evenings. There were 131 cats in the park.

During March 2020 the cats were again counted and the number went down to 97 cats.

We are making progress in reducing the number of cats in the park.

So far in April, we were able to rescue a beautiful long-haired pregnant dilute calico. She will be able to have her kittens at our sanctuary.

I want to assure everyone that we have continued to feed the cats daily and care for the cats at Hart Park. We practice social distancing and are very careful.

This is a very difficult time and we are all doing our best to work together for the lives of the cats.

Carol Lair



Park cat, Mr. T with his crown of flowers submitted by Wally Haulman. Flower crown was made by Julie Brown's daughter.

Wish List

Cat Carriers
(new or gently used, medium size & top loading style)

Friskies Poultry Platter Canned Food

Full Size Fitted Sheets

Paper Towels

Pillow Cases

Purina One Indoor Advantage Dry Food

Towels

Gift Cards from: Amazon
Costco
Home Depot
Lowes
Smart & Final

Makita CT226 12v Max CXT Lithium-Ion Cordless
2-Pc. Combo Kit (1.5Ah)

Community Outreach

MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC



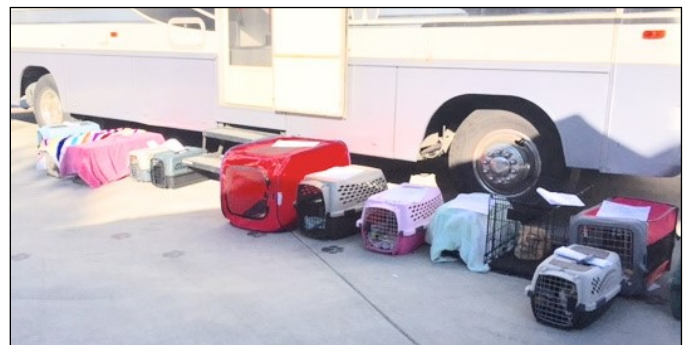
Our March 2020 spay/neuter clinic, with the help of our partners at Simi Valley Mobile Non-Profit Spay and Neuter Clinic, was a rewarding success. During the three-day event, 153 cats were altered. So far, this year, 320 cats have been fixed through our mobile clinics.

We are overwhelmed by the determination and sincere love and dedication shown by owners and colony caregivers. They bring their cats on the bus, walk in the rain and transport cats on their bicycles. Every clinic is always booked and hundreds are turned away.

Each clinic costs us \$2,500 per day and we always expect to meet a quota of at least 50 cats per day. The clinic is free to the public with your ongoing support and contributions. We appreciate everyone's financial assistance in helping to keep this service available.

Unfortunately, due to social distancing and the warmer weather, our next clinic may not be until the fall of 2020.

Brenda



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

Carmen Carpio
 Jamie Jemmett
 Cindy Joslyn
 Carol Lair
 Tony Odisho
 Anthony Powers
 Robin Tinsley
 Jill & Jeff Turner
 Jerry & Penny
 Whittington

DONORS

Sandra Akers
 Nancy Allred
 Stacey Augustson
 Patricia Basset
 Brenda & Art Bynum
 Benevity Community
 Impact Fund
 Rita & Larry Bright
 Darrell Burgess
 Melinda Burrage
 Connie Cohen
 Carole "Lee" Cole
 Lanna Crowson
 Dee Daniels
 Phyllis Denison
 Ray Draper
 Rena & Jimmy Embry
 Rebecca & Ken Ennis
 Marilyn Fisher
 Thomas Frank, D.D.S.
 Lucas Froschheiser
 Randy Garrett
 Paul Gennaro
 Susan Gilbert
 Global Impact
 Veronica Gutierrez
 Barb Hays
 Michael Heiser
 Melba Henderson
 Heather Holland
 Vanessa Howard
 Italian Catholic Feder-
 ation Branch #281
 Patricia James
 Louise Jasper
 Ann Justice
 Carol Lair

Vincent Lau
 Marianne Laxague
 J.A. Lehmeier
 Cheryl Lewis
 Dorothy Line
 Jane Loranger
 Joyce Macy
 Dinah McHone
 Peggy Miller
 Venessa Miller
 Linda Mumford
 Nestlé Purina
 Barton & Tracy Palmer
 Donna Supal
 Panasiewicz
 Vernon Pennington
 Jamy Garcia Persel
 Karen Price
 Plumb This Plumbing
 Primetime Signs
 Carol Raupp
 Muhammad Rizvi
 Jodi Rowe
 Bob & EJ Rutledge
 Kathy Schaeffer
 Gaye Siemon
 Carol Smith
 Peggy Smith
 Beth Stark
 State Farm
 Deborah Stevenson
 Alecia Thornton
 Elaine Tragesser
 United Way
 Vortek, Inc.
 Diane Wall
 Katherine Walters
 Jaime Weyand

AUTOMATIC GIVING DONORS

Pam & Ed Ames
 Jane Ansolabehere
 Andrea Anthony
 Michelle Antonell
 Elizabeth Barnhart
 Virgie Bloodworth
 Jay Bresee
 Candace Bunes
 Carol Ewing
 Donna Goins

Sandra Goins
 Barb Hays
 Freida Jackson
 Rae Ann Kumelos
 Carol Lair
 Tami Lumpkin
 Mary Martin
 Alexandra Matic
 Diana O'Neil
 Pet Matchmaker
 Carol Raupp
 Marleen Ray
 Vickie Rose
 Rebecca Scott
 Claudia Sobel
 Christy Solari
 Amy St. Amour
 Beth Stark
 Anna St. Clair
 Joan Tambosso
 Gloria Vega
 Bill Walker
 L. Y. Warrick
 Marie White
 Debra Wingo

FOSTER PARENTS

Dani & Jay Bresee
 Carey & Jim Keene
 Melissa Stewart
 Rita & Rob Wolosz

SANCTUARY HELPERS

Nancy Allred
 Shelley Ash
 Shannon Berkowitz
 Logan Berkowitz
 John Beyerbach
 Brenda & Art Bynum
 Keith Clark
 Pam Clark
 Amy Daniel
 Ray Draper
 Suzanne Edwards
 Carol Ewing
 Lori Gifford

Donna Goins
 Sue Grant
 Sofie Hay
 Barb Hays
 Cali Hoover
 Elaine Horn
 Frieda Jackson
 Debbi Jensen
 Barbara Kitchen
 Jackie Lugo
 Lynn Onsum
 Deena Pedroza
 Marleen Ray
 Murtaza Rizzo
 Jodi & Jack Rowe
 Amy St. Amour
 Beth Stark
 Laura Stockton
 Jacob Strange
 Stephanie Whisler
 Penny & Jerry
 Whittington
 Sarah Wilson

Who We Are

PRESIDENT	Barb Hays
VICE PRESIDENT	Brenda Bynum
TREASURER	Pam Ames
INTERIM SECRETARY	Ranae Harrer
AUBURN RESCUE ACCOUNT	Barb Kitchen
CORRESPONDENCE	Ranae Harrer Amy St. Amour
FOOD ASSISTANCE	Marleen Ray
GRANTS	Kate Mackey
MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER	Shelley Ash
PARK COORDINATOR	Carol Lair
PETFINDER/ADOPT-A-PET	Ann Lariviere Stephanie Whisler
SPECIAL EVENTS	Ranae Harrer
TRAP RENTAL COORDINATOR	Carol Ewing
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Barb Hays
WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA	Ranae Harrer Barb Hays Taya Treulieb-Kolostyak Alisa Davies
THE CAT PEOPLE FOUNDER	Linda Wright

Maxx - A Life Well-Loved



Twenty years ago, we rescued a little four-month-old starving kitten. After nurturing him back to health, we took him to our weekly adoption room at Petsmart. One day a retired teacher came in, saw him and knew this was the kitten for her. Over the years she would share pictures and stories, always thanking us for bringing this special feline into her life.

When Maxx was about 13, his owner passed, and we gladly took him back. He came to my house, which also served as a foster house for many unadoptable park and other rescued cats. Maxx, depressed and terrified of the other cats, promptly fled under the bed and finally inside my kitchen cupboard. I did a short article on Maxx hoping a member would take pity on a senior-cat and provide a quiet, loving home for the rest of his days.

Our longtime member, Dinah, who had recently lost her older Cat People siblings, read the article and came by to see him. It took me a while to pry him out of the cupboard, but in honor of her deceased cats, Dinah wanted to help him and took Maxx home. With patience and love, she gained his trust and, once again, we saw many pictures and heard stories of how the feline truly ruled the house!

At the age of 20 Maxx lost his fight and quality of life. With a heavy heart, Dinah made that dreaded one-way trip to her veterinarian. Maxx died in the comfort of Dinah's arms. This little cat, once just another throw-away, found two loving homes with owners who valued him. I am grateful we were able to help him. We thank you, Dinah, for the patience and love you gave this special guy.

Barb

Volunteer Spotlight Stephanie Whisler



How did you become aware of The Cat People and when did you join?

I started in December 2017 after I saw a post on Facebook. I researched The Cat People and believed in their cause and vision. I wanted to be a part of that.

What TCP volunteer activities are you involved with?

Just the day to day activities. Cleaning, feeding and socializing. I try to volunteer 3 days a week but my work schedule doesn't always allow that. We, (Primetime Signs Inc.), handle all of the sign needs for the sanctuary and I keep the pictures updated on our Adopted board and Current Cottage Cats board. I also work with Ann Lariviere on updating the cat pictures on Petfinder. I have helped with our Rummage sale, Saturday in the Garden and our Open House event.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at TCP?

I seriously enjoy every aspect of what I do here. Sounds crazy that scooping the boxes, refilling food and sweeping would be enjoyable, but you receive so much love from the cats while doing it. I also find it helpful in learning the personalities of each cat. Which ones are shy, who eats all the time or which cats just like to be in the middle of everything you are doing.

What I really love is working with the shy cats. It is so fulfilling when after sweet-talking to them, taking it slow and showing them love they now trust you and come to you for attention. If you're lucky you might just get to belly rubbing status. It just makes my day when I can walk in and see that cat and start talking to it and it just starts rolling around for lovin! Makes my heart swell!

Any words of wisdom for future volunteers?

Hmm, good question. I would say 'be in the now'. Don't be overwhelmed by the cleaning. It will always be there yet somehow we always seem to get it done.

Use the sanctuary as a place to refresh. Forget what you have going on at home or work. Come in, sit down (furniture or floor) relax and enjoy the cats. Pet them, brush them, sweet talk them, snuggle the ones that allow it, get covered in cat hair, read a book or just sit there quietly and enjoy the show. Have a cup of coffee, tea or just some plain ole water, grab a lap cat, sit down and chat with the other volunteers. Or after chores are done take some time to yourself and sit outside and enjoy our beautiful grounds.

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Junior (under 18) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior (65 +) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Supporting member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Basic membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Lifetime member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing member | |

AND an extra donation of \$_____ to be applied to:

- Senior Assistance Fund
- Park Cat Care Program
- SPAY TODAY Program
- Sanctuary Fund
- Food Pantry Program
- Where needed most

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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