



The Cat People news

1930 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 • 661-327-4706
www.thecatpeople.org

Volume 25, Number 2

April 2015

Top Ten Reasons Why People Don't Spay

1. Just one litter won't hurt. Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation problem stems from the "just one litter" mentality. Every day, kittens are turned into rescue organizations and pet shops because the owners couldn't find homes for them. Just one litter does hurt.

2. A cat should have at least one litter for health reasons. This argument is indefensible - both medically and ethically. There are absolutely no medical advantages to having a litter. While pregnancy is a natural process, it is not without stress and effort and risks to the mother's own health. There is a great deal of physiological stress on the mother when the babies are finally taken away from her.

3. But I have a male cat -- he won't leave me with any kittens. That's just irresponsible. Since he is likely to leave them with someone else, you're just leaving the problem in someone else's home. Besides that, when he prowls for mates, he is more likely to suffer injuries and the risk of getting lost. As an entire Tom cat he is in the highest risk group, for getting and spreading FIV (Feline AIDs virus), and other diseases.

4. My mother cat is so special, we can find "good" homes for the kittens, and we could even sell them to make money. You may have one or two friends who mentioned they'd like a kitten - what will you do if your mother cat produces 7 babies? Take the left-overs to the pet shop? What about all the kittens and cats already there hoping for good homes, do you want to take their chance away?

5. My cat is so cute and unique; there should be more of her. People often think their pet is the best in the world. That's great! But what makes you think her kittens will be the same?

6. I want my children to witness the miracle of birth. Oh yes? Are you also going to take your children to the vet clinic or animal control so they can witness the tragedy of death?



Chip is a 9 month old loving neutered male who is ready to go to his forever home. Maybe yours?

7. It's not natural to neuter animals. Street or feral cats are not naturally occurring wild animals like sparrows or lizards. There hasn't been anything natural about these cats since they were domesticated.

8. I just couldn't look my male cat in the eye if I had him castrated. You're anthropomorphizing (i.e. giving the animal, human feelings). This is your problem, not his.

9. Early spay/neuter will stunt my pet's growth. No. Your puppy / kitten will develop normally. In fact, young animals also tend to recover from surgery more rapidly than older animals. Male cats neutered at a young age will avoid "tomcat jowls" and the undesirable behaviours associated with intact males, like spraying urine and fighting.

10. Neutering my pet will change its personality and make him / her fat and lazy. No. The primary influence on an animal's personality is the care with which it is raised. As for getting fat, the number one cause is a simple imbalance between diet and exercise!

Be part of the solution, not the problem! Do your part and spay/neuter and urge your friends to do the same!

Gift Shop News

When you're out enjoying the spring weather, don't forget to drop by our Gift Shop to see what's new. We have a great selection of supplies to keep your feline companions active and happy. Plus, we carry the best variety of reasonably-priced collectibles sure to appeal to cat lovers. Also, we have a fine assortment of greeting cards and "Cat People" sportswear.

Our Gift Shop is located at 1930 18th Street in downtown Bakersfield. We're in the HP Sears Building just west of the Masonic Temple. We're open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. By the way, if you're interested in working at the shop, contact our volunteer coordinator. You can download an application from our website.

by Marleen Ray

In Memoriam: Kay Kidd

This past February the world lost a devoted cat lover in the person of Kay Kidd. Kay passed away in Bakersfield at the age of 93 after a life of loving and helping cats. Kay was a staunch Cat People volunteer from the day the organization was formed back in 1990, and continued until her health failed in the late early 2000's. Kay did a lot of the administrative work back in the "old days" – getting the mail, keeping the membership list up to date, taking our mailings to the P.O. and "personing" our office when we were in the little house on Brundage Lane. Kay always had cats, and we know that when she went over the Rainbow Bridge there were a lot of cats waiting for her. Here is a poem that Kay asked be printed when she passed away:

Do not weep for me when I am gone
For I have friends in the great beyond.
All the little ones I used to feed
Will come to me in my time of need.
They will purr and bark in great delight,
And I will hold and hug them tight.
Oh what a great day that will be
When my furry friends all welcome me!

Food Assistance Program

During first two months of this year, The Cat People distributed 890 lbs. of dry cat food and 360 cans of cat food to families in need. Thank you very much for your donations of cat food and supplies for this program and for our Hart Park feeding program. To help feed the cats at Hart Park, we can use 16-lb. bags of kibble and 22-oz. cans of wet food, as well as, packages of tortillas. You can drop off your donations at the Gift Shop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, or at the Petco on Rosedale Highway any Saturday.

A Fostering Story

It's kitten season and I told Brenda I could do a single bottle-baby if needed. Within the week I received a call. A little tuxedo kitten was found all wet and hungry, crying out from in a bucket of water. Her watery origins gave us the inspiration to call her Mazu after a Chinese water goddess said to watch over seafarers.

Mazu took 3 weeks of bottle-feeding. Between work and school, I made her feedings my number one priority. I trained my dad how to feed her in case I couldn't do a lunch break or when my night class ran late.

Taking on a bottle-baby on top of work, school, and my other volunteering commitments has been hard, but it has its rewards. Within a day she bonded to me, recognizing my voice, looking into my eyes, purring and kneading on me as she nodded off. That makes it all worth it ten times over. Foster care is critical to animal rescue, and Mazu would have surely perished without it.

Mazu is eating and pottying on her own as of this week. Like any proud mother I sent videos of her first pee in the litter box to my friends, who were rightfully perplexed.

Mazu's next great adventure will be adoption, which is the bittersweet part for me. She will move on to a lucky family who will make her their forever kitty. And I will say goodbye with a heavy heart and a few tears.

My room will feel empty once she is gone. I will tell Brenda that I am ready for another one, thinking I may have a few weeks to myself. And then, the next little bundle of joy will be dropped off at my house, and it will all start again.

by Courtney Clerico



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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	Shelley Ash

CHAIRPERSONS

SHOP & OFFICE MANAGER	Marleen Ray
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Dianna Knapp
WEBSITE/PETFINDER	Shelley Ash
WEBSITE/FACEBOOK	Courtney Clerico
WAYSIDING	Barbara Kitchen
MEMBERSHIP	Shelley Ash

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

Photo Gallery



Blackula, a sweet little spayed female kitty, is waiting for her forever home after being rescued from the park.



Mama Tree Kitty would need a special adult home. She lived in a tree at the park and had 3 kittens high on a large set of branches. Meanwhile she is at Barb's with other park rescues.

Sanctuary Report

Many of you know of our dream to build a sanctuary/office/gift store/adoption center somewhere in Bakersfield or the immediate vicinity, but some do not. In case you don't know, that's what our "Sanctuary Fund" is dedicated to. We have had some very generous donors in the past and have accumulated a large amount of cash (which is in a restricted account) but we're not quite at the total. We estimate we will need about \$300,000. When we get to half of that amount we can start looking for matching grants -- so you see, we're almost but not quite there!

All of us on the Board, and all our volunteers and supporters, share our dream of a place where adoptable cats can roam free in indoor/outdoor quarters, and where we can run a really spiffy gift shop. In the meantime, please keep those donations coming. Any little bit helps. Our total to date is:

\$144,555.94



December found a home with the DeLaRosa family.



Merissa Escamilla adopted Jack.

The Park Report

One only has to see the park cats frolicking around to know that spring is here! Throughout the park we see ground squirrels playing around their dens and some of the cats act like they are high on catnip. It truly is a beautiful time of year and so quiet during the week. Unfortunately, our weekend feeders often have to go around a few times to avoid the dirt bike racers tearing up the hills and other loud parties. At least the cats know to get out of the way.

Feeder Ann put together a fantastic colored cat location map for us and our feeders to keep all of us apprised of any new cats found. I have had to cancel two different orientations due to large park activities around our feeding spots, but the maps will be helpful to any new feeders when we can resume some training sessions. If you are interested in becoming a park feeder and can attend a weekday orientation, please contact me via the website.

New feeder Glen officially joined our park team and also fosters some of our park rescues while they await adoptions. Leah, a beautiful Main Coon cross, was finally adopted in March, thanks to Glen's care. Another friendly guy was fostered, but after the cat showed his frustration at being inside by marking everything, we had him altered and he is now much happier back at the park. Another darling but shy young cat traveled to Oregon with Glen over Easter break for a little more socializing with his family members. Our foster volunteers make it possible to bring in more abandoned cats.

For the safety of our park cats, we test any trapped or rescued cat for feline leukemia and FIV, and this past March three of our park cats tested positive. Unfortunately they had to be euthanized, and at least did not suffer the fate of becoming ill in the park. All Cat People cats are also tested when coming into our system in order to ensure healthy adoptions.

Feeder Judy put a call into the Parks Department to commend George Vasquez and his maintenance crew for the incredible job they do in making the park a clean and safe environment. We are indeed fortunate to have a collaborative, unique program with the Parks Department and the support of the park crew.

We can always use wet food (22 oz cans, no fish please) for the park cats as well as 16 pound bags of kibble. You can drop these off at our Gift Shop. Our thanks to those of you who donate regularly and thanks a million to the park feeders!

by Barb Hays



Park cats happily eat together after a very generous morning meal. Talk about sharing a table!

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

Shelley Ash
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Barb Hays
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Cindy & Jim Joslyn
Frieda Jackson
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Katherine Walters
Sandra Wendt
Jaime Weyand
The Whitsons
Linda Wright

ADOPTIONS

Yvette Cortez
(Tammy Mill)
Diane Edgmon
(Miller 1 & 2)
Trista & Ron Garside
(Hash & Mame)
Sandy Griffith
(Leah)
Ann Lariviere
(Streaks)
Emily Tierce
(Elvira)
Jacob Warner
(Pia)

SPECIAL FRIENDS

In honor of Peggy Sue – Alyssa Divelbiss
In memory of April Swisshelm – Jim & Dianna Knapp
In memory of Bubba, beloved cat of Dale & Mary Nakayama – Jean
Hughes Gutierrez
In memory of Princess, a wonderful companion for 14 years – Diane
Ackley
In memory of Princess, beloved feline companion of Diane Ackley –
Fred & Marleen Ray
In honor of Dinah McHone on her birthday – Barbara McManus
In memory of Patti, my beloved 18-year-old cat who brought me 16
years of love & happiness – Janice Walker
In memory of Michael Anthony La Marsna – The James L. & Tonya
Newby Family
In loving memory of Kay Kidd, a great friend of cats – Linda Wright and
Matha Gilleland
In memory of the Wichita cats – Jean Hughes Gutierrez
In memory of Kathleen Kidd – Beverly Banks
In memory of Mike A. La Marsna, my cat-lover friend – Dona Baker
Best wishes to my husband, Bob, for a very Happy Birthday – E.J.
Rutledge
To wish our daughter, Robin Paggi, a Happy Mother's Day – Bob &
E.J. Rutledge
To wish our son-in-law, Pat Paggi, a Happy Father's Day – Bob & E.J.
Rutledge
To honor my husband, Bob, on Father's Day – E.J. Rutledge
In honor of Carol Lair & Colette Shewcraft – Margaret Reniers

A very special thank
you to our Amazon
Wish List donors!



To learn more, visit:
www.thecatpeople.org/donate

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.

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

THE CAT PEOPLE NEWS is a publication of The Cat People, P.O. Box 13610, Bakersfield, CA 93389 (661) 327-4706. THE CAT PEOPLE NEWS is written by 4 Paws Enterprises. Printing by Pioneer Printing in Newport, Oregon. We are an independent organization dedicated to helping Bakersfield's homeless cats. We are on the web at www.thecatpeople.org and downtown at 1930 18th Street.



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