



# The Cat People news

1930 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301. 661-327-4706

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

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## Just One litter

Julie forgot the apartment repairman was coming to fix her sliding glass door that day. Later at work, she realized she also forgotten to confine her seven month old kitten, Kali, in the bedroom. When she arrived home, Kali was waiting for her outdoors, under the pine tree. "Thank goodness you're okay," she said to the kitten.

Two weeks or so later, Julie noticed that the kitten was putting on weight. She felt disappointed when she realized Kali was pregnant. She had been waiting for Kali to go through one heat cycle before spaying, which she'd always heard was best. But she hadn't been in a hurry. After all, Kali never went outdoors. With Christmas coming, Julie didn't worry about finding homes for Kali's kittens. She would just take them into the store where she worked and put them in the window.

The four kittens, when placed in the window at work, all found homes within one week. Six months later, Kali's kittens had matured and their stories went like this:

1. A striped female went to live with a mother with two children. No longer kitten cute, the kids paid little attention to her anymore. She was left outside most of the time. When she delivered five kittens, the family put a "free kitten" ad in the paper. A man showed up, interested, and took all five, to be mousers in his barn, he said. Actually, he sold the kittens to a local dealer, who sold them to a research facility. The family did not have the mother cat spayed.

2. Another family took the black male kitten. They said he was a great cat, and they let him out periodically. When the cat was eight months old and sexually active, he spent a great deal of time roaming the neighborhood looking for receptive females. One day his excursions took him across a highway where a car struck him. The family discovered their dead pet, and the parents told their crying children that those things happened and they would get another cat. In his short life, this cat fathered eight litters, totalling 50 kittens.

3. The young woman who took the black female kitten lived in a no pets apartment. Her landlord discovered the cat and ordered her to get rid of the pet or be evicted. Unable to move and unable to find anyone to take a mostly grown cat, she took the animal to the country and abandoned her. In the year and a half before this cat died of distemper, she had four litters of wild kittens.



*Kristy, about 2 years old, is a sweet and playful tuxedo girl looking for her forever home.*

4. The young man who adopted the striped female had her spayed when she was six months old and has kept her indoors at all times. This cat was a healthy, wonderful companion for him for years.

In the fifteen months after Kali had her litter, 83 kittens were born. Julie found "good" homes for Kali's first four kittens, but she didn't consider the other 79. The sad fact is that every single litter, planned or accidental, adds to pet overpopulation. The cycle must stop before it starts; before that one litter. And consider this: no county animal shelter nowadays, let alone the local SPCA, or rescue organization, can cope with the yearly springtide flood of kittens and cats. Sadly, the solution to the turn-in of unwanted cats/kittens is euthanasia. But you can do your part to help by spaying or neutering your cat -- and doing it today!

*We like to run this story every couple of years (it first appeared in the ASPCA news) to give people a clear idea of the consequences of letting your cat have "just one litter". A whole lot of unintended events branch out from that one litter, and not only the female offspring are affected -- think about the male offspring, too! So don't neglect this very important surgery, please. And if you need, help, call us.*

## Gift Shop News

To welcome the return of Spring, The Cat People Gift Shop is having a sale on all canisters and treat jars. From now through the end of May, these items are 25% off. Discounts will be taken at the cash register. Come to the shop and check out our unique selection of collectibles and gifts for cat fanciers. Don't forget to pick up something for kitty as well from our selection of cat care supplies. We even have things to keep Fido healthy and happy in Carolyn's Canine Corner.

The Cat People Gift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. We're located at 1930 18<sup>th</sup> Street in the HP Sears Building in downtown Bakersfield. We're just west of the Masonic Temple near the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and F Streets. Visit us soon and meet our friendly and helpful staff of volunteers. If you'd like to work at the shop, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator. You can call us at 327-4706 and leave a message. You can also go to our website and fill out an application. We especially need volunteers who are free to work on weekdays.

by Marleen Ray



Cute little Hester was adopted by Calais Plater recently at Petco.

## Food Assistance Program

In January, we gave out 660 lbs. of dry cat food and 264 cans of wet food to 66 families in need. In February, we distributed 690 lbs. of dry food and 276 cans to 69 households. In addition, thanks to the generosity of the Bakersfield S.P.C.A., we've been able to give these families small cartons of wet cat food to help feed their hungry kitties. Since it was started several years ago, the Food Assistance Program has become a key part of efforts to improve the lives of cats and kittens in our community. In recent months, we've been adding about one participant a week to this program.

As always, we're grateful for your donations of cat food, supplies and other items for this much-needed program and for our Hart Park cat care program. We'd like to thank the following supporters for their donations in January and February: Lou Ann Bowen, Tiffany Del Rio, Dorian Goya, Clara Greenberg, Edith Lyons, Pam Miller, Britt Page, Deborah Stevenson and Laura Stockton.

by Marleen Ray



A few of the lovely canisters on sale at our Gift Shop.



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## Who We Are

### OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Barb Hays
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Brenda Bynum
<b>TREASURER</b>	Pam Ames
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Stacey Auguston

### CHAIRPERSONS

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

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

## Photo Gallery



*Grey Boy, a sweet and loving 8-year-old, would like to come and purr at your place!*



*Frankie, about a year old, is in the market for a family!*



*Ghost was adopted by the Davis family.*



*Hippy found a great new home with the Pittman family.*

## 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.

The sanctuary and adoption center is a priority for your board. Thanks to the generosity of our members, private supporters, and benefactors, we are closer to realizing this long-term goal. Over the past few months, we have met with County planners, worked with realtors specializing in commercial and industrial properties, and visited several available properties. We are also touring other Feline Sanctuaries and meeting with their representatives.

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

**\$173,854.91**

## The Park Report

Judging by the wildlife antics in the park we certainly know spring is here. Hundreds of squirrels are scampering up and down the trees, hawks are nesting and our cats can be seen stretching out in the sun. Of course, mating season is certainly here and Carol, Penny, Shelley and I have been busy trapping when space is available at Auburn.

Sadly, we have discovered that several of the trapped cats here at the park are friendly and already altered. We know that like so many other public places in Bakersfield, the park is a major dump-off area. This past month, Carol trapped a wonderful Calico only to discover she was already spayed and super friendly. Despite lack of foster care we had to bring her in and after two weeks at my house, she found her new home during one of our Petco adoption events. Ann and I actually saw a man open up a trap and let out a bewildered black cat. The person sped off but we called in his license number and took the cat. During his vet checkup, we found that Dart, as we named him, was already altered. He went to Petco and happily, he found the perfect home with a super Cat People supporter and will spend his days enjoying the views from a lovely RV. Our super friendly Siamese park rescue also found the perfect home!

Our Xmas kittens, rescued by Carol on a rainy, cold day are still in isolation due to ringworm. We hope by the time you read this, they will test negative and can finally be altered and up for adoption. They have enjoyed and destroyed my guest bathroom but are safe, loving and happy. Not too many cats can say they have a 7' cat tree in the bathtub!

Our park volunteers are some of the most dedicated people I have ever met. In the 25 years we have been feeding in the park, the only days missed are Easter Sundays when the police block off the park due to the hundreds of picnickers. We have never missed another day in all these years. What a fantastic, loyal group of feeders!

Your donations, and the assistance of Auburn Animal Hospital, have been vitally important to this program. As we continue to look at property we hope we can save even more forgotten park felines.

by Barb Hays



Heidi and Coco, two beautiful park cats, found a forever home with volunteer Debbie.



Stash, one of the kittens rescued at Christmas, now living in Barb's bathroom. We hope he will be available for adoption very soon.

## Automatic Giving Donors

Pam & Ed Ames  
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[www.vethospitalbakersfield.com](http://www.vethospitalbakersfield.com)



# 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  
Margaret Harrison  
Barb Hays  
Cindy & Jim Joslyn  
Frieda Jackson  
Dianna Knapp  
Carol Lair  
Ann Lariviere  
Judy Long  
Anthony Powers  
Bob Rutledge  
Sylvia Simms  
Jill Turner  
Jerry & Penny  
Whittington

## DONORS

Andrea Anthony  
Nancy Arslan  
Shelley Ash  
Rudy Banducci  
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Marty Barnes  
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Nancy Belton  
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Helia Corral  
Wanda Dadds  
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Mona Wilson  
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Yeager  
Liane Whitson  
Linda Wright  
Dorothy Wright  
Susan Young

## ADOPTIONS

Kimberly & Matt  
Andresen (Jazz Mill)  
Mike & Veronica  
Carballo (Elsa)  
Dena Cottrell (Mattie)  
Alicia Faulkenberry &  
Joel Huff (Nancy 2)  
Miguel Hernandez &  
Melissa Krull (Tillie)  
Lori Howell (Royal  
Palm kitty)  
Benjamin & Jennifer  
Lin (Billy Bob & Corks)  
Haylee Nutter (Anna)  
Sarah Peer (Brion)  
Jim & David Pittman  
(Hippy)  
Calais Plater (Jester)  
Ken & Gina Robinson  
(Bumper & Grayson)  
Alene Smith (Annie  
Oakley)  
Pyper Von Normann  
(Dianna Mill 5)  
Janet & Gerry  
Walbaum (Turtle &  
Charlie)  
Nikki Westervelt  
(Gloria)  
Whitney Yeager  
(Ritchy)

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

In memory of my husband, Jim Giblin.  
We loved feeding the ferals at Hart Park  
– Betty Giblin

To celebrate the birthday of Courtney Clerico  
– Amber Erberich

To honor Dinah McHone on her birthday  
– Barbara McManus

In memory of Ambur & Ginger – Dee Daniels

In loving memory of Sandy, our little, free-  
spirited ragamuffin – Martha Gilleland

In loving memory of Kiki, our sweet, faithful  
tuxedo girl – Linda Wright

To the cat sanctuary in honor of Bob  
Rutledge's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 4  
– Robin Paggi



*Elsa was adopted recently by the Carballo family.*

# 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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