



The Cat People news

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

www.thecatpeople.org

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Summer Sanctuary News

I am out under our wisteria-covered patio at the Sanctuary. It's an absolutely beautiful, uniquely cool Bakersfield summer afternoon! All the cottage cats and kittens are fed, house cleaned, and our fantastic volunteers are just leaving. Part of our ritual often involves a cup of coffee while visiting and sitting with the cats.

Thanks to a nice donation, we have our beautiful security screens in front of the cottage French doors so the kittens can enjoy early morning sunshine and late evening breezes. Soon our new windows will be installed and we are looking forward to that. Off the adult/blue room we will soon build another north facing catio to expand the play areas. Everyone who sees the cottage is absolutely blown away with the design and colors. Our volunteers all state that this is such a happy place to be.

Our vetting area will be upstairs above the garage. Norm and Andi are transforming the area into cat suites. New flooring will complete the makeover and this should be finished when you read this. Artist Judy will be adding some finishing touches to the walls. This area will be used to house our new rescues for up to 10 days immediately after rescue and a vet visit to ensure the cats are in excellent health before moving into the cottage for adoption, or longer term care.

In late May we hosted an active volunteer get-together, giving all of our volunteers from various programs a chance to see one another and tour the renovated cottage. Hopefully, we can do this a few times a year. We also have plans to bring community rescue groups together and hold some good fundraisers here, but first we have to get our required county permits. A few plans have been modified as we have a better feel for what will better accommodate the cats here, and with all of that, new proposals have been submitted. In the end, we will have created a very special home for both bequeathed and special rescued cats.

Your help is needed in a variety of ways in order to ensure a quality sanctuary. Please cut out the boxed WISH LIST on Page 3. This will be ongoing!

We are so grateful for our current cottage volunteers. Fiona Hamilton is here several times a week to tidy up and play with the cats, often joined by her daughter Emma when she can make it to Bakersfield.

Joining her are Beth Stark, Amy St. Amour, Candy Bunes, Judy Long and LeAnn Meeks. I don't know who has



Faithful Cat People volunteer Leann Meek plays with Conner, an 8 month old cutie at the Sanctuary. Do you have a bit of time to spare? The kitties would love it!

more fun: the volunteers listening to music, having coffee, and visiting, or the cats, often on a lap or two!

We encourage any member to contact us to see what we have accomplished thanks to the efforts of all our hard-working volunteers.

We are still working on our actual intake and bequest policies and hopefully we will have those completed soon. In the meantime, we are planning on a more public open house in the late fall, providing the required parking structure, disabled bathroom, and new septic tank is in. Like the sanctuary itself, we promise this will be an unusually unique event!!

Lastly, visit our Facebook page as we are putting up some cute pics/videos thanks to the efforts of Fiona and her son Alex.

Give us a call and plan to drop in to the Sanctuary: the kitties would love to see you!

by Barb Hays

Food Assistance Program

In March, The Cat People distributed 344 lbs. of dry cat food, 168 cans of wet food and 76 jugs of litter to 43 families having trouble feeding their kitties regularly. In April, we gave out 336 lbs. of kibble, 168 cans of wet food and 44 containers of litter to 42 recipients. Lastly, in May, we helped out 29 households with a total of 232 lbs. of dry food, 116 cans of cat food and 27 containers of litter.

Our Food Assistance Distribution Center is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and is located on Fairhaven around the corner from the sanctuary's front entrance. Besides accepting donations of financial support and supplies for our programs, our staff members give out spay/neuter vouchers to families in need and to colony caregivers on request. We'd like to express our appreciation to the following supporters for their recent donations of supplies for our programs to improve the lives of Kern County kitties: Diane Ackley, Michelle Antonell, Michelle Beck, Dennis Bookman, Janet Kenney Poteet, Marleen Ray and Laura Stockton.

by Marleen Ray



Volunteer Fiona and daughter Emma help provide companionship to the cottage kids, plus help with cleaning and all the things that must be done to make new arrivals welcome. If you would like to just sit with cats, or roll up your sleeves and clean, we have jobs for you! Just give us a call.



Liberty Lawrence's kitty, Kheekhee

Eighteen years ago my mom and I walked into the Cat People store where I saw the most beautiful kitten! Apparently he had been left in front of a Petco. At home we had 3 cats, so when I asked my mom for him I never dreamed she would say yes. But she did. We waited a week for him to come home because he needed his shots. I was only 14 at the time and this was the longest wait ever! Cyd Walker brought him to us. We named him Kheekhee and he was terrified of our cats but he eventually settled in and became my best friend.

I moved away from home and of course he came along. We traveled to Alaska and he never did know what to think of all that snow. Eventually we ended up in Oregon, which he liked a lot. After my daughter was born, he loved to sneak into her bed but only if she wasn't looking. If she saw him, he threw his tail up and ran out fast! In his senior years he loved to smell the fresh Oregon air from his patio chair, and he didn't like my wife Whitney until the last couple years of his life. I always tell her it's because he was senile. He was my baby. A few weeks ago, he curled up in my arms just like he had done every night for 18 years, and we said goodbye.

So thank you, Cat People. On the days you feel overwhelmed, know in your hearts your impact is bigger than you can imagine. To some Kheekhee might have been just a cat, but to me he was my very best friend.

by Liberty Lawrence



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Who We Are

OFFICERS

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

CHAIRPERSONS

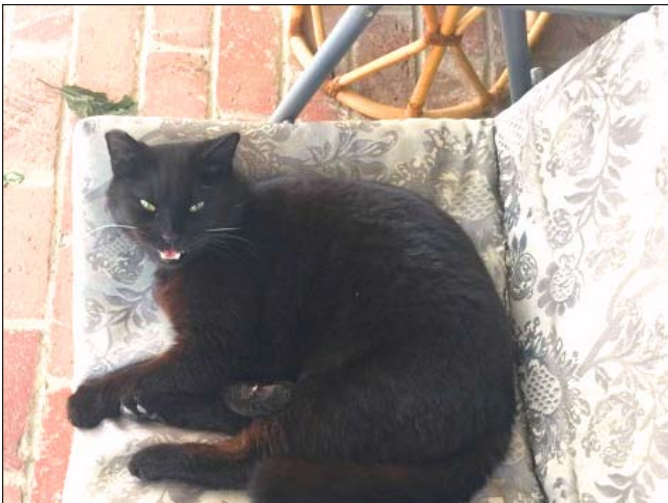
SHOP & OFFICE MANAGER	Marleen Ray
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Courtney Clerico
CORRESPONDENCE	Dianna Knapp
WEBSITE/PETFINDER/MEDIA	Courtney Clerico
MEMBERSHIP	Shelley Ash
AUBURN RESCUE ACCOUNT	Barbara Kitchen

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

Photo Gallery



Some new arrivals, settling in at the kitten room.



Whisker, a lovable big black cat, enjoys a nice afternoon at the Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Wish List

Clean sheets and pillow cases, all sizes
Blankets, small and large
New outdoor pillows (we will cover)
Nightlights
Baking Soda
Sponsor or donate to much-needed items:
-two more security doors
-materials for countless projects (ask us)
-commercial washer and dryer
-additional septic tank!



Uncle Norm takes a break with a bunch of kittens!



Yikes! More kittens at the Sanctuary!

The Park Report

It's the usual summer in the park—hot, dry, and miserable for the cats and for many other species late in the afternoons. Our feeders, dedicated and compassionate, are there early mornings, seven days a week. In early June, four six-week-old kittens were found and are now playing like mad in the cottage green room. At eight weeks of age they will go up for adoption. Unfortunately we know that with kitten season here, it is only the beginning.

Master trapper Carol has been lucky with her fried chicken bait and has trapped and returned eight cats since our last newsletter. Our goal is to catch two cats weekly but at times they just don't cooperate! As mentioned before, each trapped cat is combo tested, de-flead, examined, and given a rabies shot. We can't bring them all in, but at least we can prevent unwanted litters as best as we can. It is satisfying to see all the tipped ears as we drive to the many cat colonies throughout the park. We certainly do thank Carol for her hard work.

If you think you would like to follow a feeder around some morning to see the many cats we care for, contact me. Some of our feeders have been with us many years and being in a quiet park in the early morning is a great stress releaser. We are happy to provide all the food needed and want this to be an enjoyable experience for volunteers. If you have even one day to spare a few times a month we welcome your help. Please email me and I can explain the program and answer any questions. barbarah@thecatpeople.org

by Barb Hays



I don't know if any of you remember my sweet rescue B.O.B. (Big Orange Boy). He stayed back in the grass at the Mill curb, too shy to come forward to eat. I fell in love with him, and tried to get him adopted at a local vet but again, he was too shy, so I ended up taking him home. He hid under our bed for at least a month, then became a normal member of our menagerie. We've now had him for about 4 1/2 years.

by Cindy Joslyn



Wednesday and Sunday, two little siblings, were found shaking from terror after being thrown out at the park. They quickly responded to our loving care and are now enjoying life in the cottage kitten room they share with 7 other kittens.

Automatic Giving Donors

Pam & Ed Ames
Jane Ansolabehere
Michelle Antonell
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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
Margaret Harrison
Barb Hays
Cindy & Jim Joslyn
Frieda Jackson
Dianna Knapp
Carol Lair
Judy Long
Bob Rutledge
Sylvia Simms
Jill Turner
Jerry & Penny
Whittington

DONORS

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Katherine Walters
Peggy Watkins
Jaime Weyand
Penny Whittington
Dorothy Wright
Tommy Wright
Diana Ybarra
Susan Young

SPECIAL FRIENDS

In appreciation of Barb Hays and the entire board. Thank you for all you do! – Mary Martin

In honor of Zoey Rutledge – Robin Paggi

In loving memory of my niece, Judi Tucker – "Nita" Brown

In memory of Simiko Ishihara – Laura Stockton

In remembrance of Darrell Cates – Peggy Watkins

In memory of Kona – a life much too short. Medical problems took him from us. We will treasure the days we had with him – Jean Disney

To honor my sister, Sylvia Howard, on her birthday – Stella Rous

In remembrance of my aunt, Simiko Ishihara – Pat Scherillo

In loving memory of Darrell Cates – Laddie Kumelos

In celebration of my sister Stella Rous' birthday – Sylvia and Tom Howard

In honor of my wife, EJ, on Mother's Day – Bob Rutledge

To honor my husband, Bob, on Father's Day – EJ Rutledge

In memory of Phillip and Marcia Bryson – Jeff Bryson

ADOPTIONS

Carol Lair
(Daisy Mae & Merlin)

TNR PROGRAM

For members who need a trap, our TNR Loan program is officially underway. If you are interested in borrowing a humane trap with the purpose of TNR back to the cat's original location, contact barbarah@thecatpeople.org for details.

There is a \$75 deposit, refundable when the trap is turned in after the two week borrowing period.



Our recent rescues in the cottage, enjoying their morning meal while the summer breezes blow in.

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:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Junior (under 18) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining member | AND an extra donation of \$_____ to be applied to: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior (65 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Supporting member | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen's Asst. Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Basic membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime member | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Cat Care Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Pantry Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing member | | <input type="checkbox"/> SPAY TODAY Program | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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