



# The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

P.O. Box 526, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

(805) 549-9228 [www.felinenetwork.org](http://www.felinenetwork.org)

Summer 2013

## How Three Black Kittens Survived Hard Times

A Nipomo couple awoke one morning in April to find a mama cat with six brand-new kittens that she had delivered on their porch. Lynn and Ray Arensdorf set up a cozy carrier with warm bedding on the porch. They contacted the Feline Network and asked us to take the kittens. Because they were newborn, we encouraged the couple to leave them with their mama for a few weeks. No one does a better job of feeding and caring for kittens than the mama.

Over the course of a couple of weeks, Lynn and Ray were dismayed when two of the kittens died. When another kitten died the following week, they were worried about the welfare of the others and they called and asked us to take them. The kittens were now three weeks old, and volunteer Christine Collie made room for them.



*The little blacks - Casey, Carmen and Cricket*



*Casey has a lot to say about leaving his mother.*

Lynn and Ray brought the kittens to Christine and then trapped the feral mama so she could be reunited with her kittens.

Two of the kittens were very underweight and sickly. Dr. Ken Hallock diagnosed upper respiratory infections in both and a urinary tract infection in the little boy (the runt of the litter). The kittens needed to be medicated, but the mama cat was very protective of the kittens and would swat at anyone that dared to approach her little darlings, making this very difficult.

Volunteer Pamela Werth took the two sick kittens to her home, and the third kitten was left with ma-

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## The Black Cat - A Symbol of Good Luck and Great Fortune

The Feline Network is fostering many black kittens that need homes. Black kittens and cats are frequently passed over at adoption time. Sometimes a black kitty, full of personality and fun, will dance and play up at the front of a cage, and adopters may not even notice, focusing instead on more colorful kittens hunkered down in the back. It is sad but true that overcrowded animal shelters will euthanize black cats first because it is harder to find homes for them.

Three superstitions prevalent in our society are that the number 13 is unlucky, walking under a ladder is

unlucky, and if a black cat crosses your path you will have bad luck. Actually, over the centuries and in many cultures black cats have been viewed as bringers of **good** luck and as guardians. Some examples are: fishermen's wives kept black cats as pets while their husbands were at sea to ensure their safe return; in Australia, Britain and other parts of the world, where black is the color of protection, it was believed black cats had the power to ward off negative forces; in Finland, black cats were thought to gently carry the souls of the dead to the other world; in

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ma. Pamela began the demanding around-the-clock ritual of infant kitten care, including bottle-feeding and medicating the kittens. Fortunately she was able to take them to work with her. Many people there grew to love the kittens and continue to this day to ask how they are doing.

The little boy gradually began to feel better, and as he felt better he started to cry, and to cry loudly, a non-stop, high-pitched cry every waking hour, between eating and sleeping, keeping Pamela and her family awake at night.

She returned the kittens to their mama at Christine's house after two weeks of medicating, bottle-feeding, and sleepless nights ("well worth it, mind you," she said). Once the little boy was reunited with his mama, he stopped crying immediately. His health continued to improve, and we were all delighted to watch this very plucky kitten, when he felt well enough, climb up on his mama's back and knead her with his tiny paws.



Casey accepts the bottle from Pamela Werth his foster mom.

Christine named the kitties Casey, Carmen and Cricket. The little boy, Casey, still did not gain much weight, even though both his sisters did. Concerned that the mama might not have enough milk, Christine supplemented their milk with wet kitten food as best she could. The mother would growl, hiss, whack and sometimes lunge at her if the kittens cried out while she was feeding them. When the kittens were old enough to be weaned, the mother was spayed and returned to Lynn and Ray in Nipomo where she is being fed and cared for.

The kittens seemed happily on the road to recovery when they all unexpectedly developed diarrhea and needed to be medicated again. This condition was eventually resolved, and the health of all three kittens then began to improve steadily and rapidly. Even Casey began gaining weight.

Casey, Carmen and Cricket are now four months old and perfectly healthy. As a matter of fact, they are quite rambunctious. They are affectionate and loving in their quiet time, but mostly they just want to play, play, play. Casey doesn't cry anymore, but he is a very vocal and entertaining boy who meows for attention when he wants to be petted. They will make great pets, and if they are adopted as indoor-outdoor cats they show signs of being excellent mousers. Please come and see them at our Adopt-a-Cats on Saturdays at PETCO between 11:00 and 4:00, or call Christine at 544-6138.

(Continued from page 1) **"Good Luck"**

some cultures, brides are given black cats on their wedding day for a lifetime of good fortune, while in others many believe them to be the mystical reincarnations of fairies; in Scotland, it is believed if a black cat crosses your path it will mean good luck and a black cat on your porch will bring prosperity; King Charles I owned a black cat that he treasured so much he had his guards watch over it 24 hours a day (as luck would have it, the day after the cat died the king was arrested); and seeing a black cat in your dreams is considered a sign of good luck and forthcoming great fortune. The list goes on.

People who own black cats will testify to their ability to amaze, delight and inspire us with their beauty and grace. They are little black panthers. There were many black kittens born in our county this year that need loving homes. Please consider adopting a black cat. It just may bring you good luck and great fortune.

*"Black cat, cross my path  
Good fortune bring to home and hearth  
When I am away from home  
Bring me luck wherever I roam."*

*-Old English Charm*

## A Convenient Way to Give

You can easily help the cats and kittens in your area by purchasing cat food or other cat-related items and dropping your donation into one of the pretty aqua blue Feline Network barrels that have been set up in six stores. There are barrels at three stores in Arroyo Grande: Lemos Feed & Pet Supply, Albertson's and CD's Pet Emporium. There are also barrels at California Fresh Market in Pismo Beach, Von's in Grover Beach and PETCO in SLO. We thank all these businesses for their generosity and support.



Scott Bratcher of Lemos Feed & Pet Supply displays one of our cheerful barrels delivered by volunteer Buzzy Stokes, who designed and crafted the barrels.

## *To Honor and Remember*

### In Loving Memory of:

**Barbara Lynne Mori,**

The Feline Network is extremely grateful for the generous bequest we received from the estate of Barbara Lynne Mori. Her brother, Bill Rowland, writes, "My sister was truly a cat lover and it was her wish that this small contribution will benefit your program". We will use her gift to further our mission of reducing cat overpopulation through spaying and neutering and rescuing lost and abandoned cats and kittens.

**"Doc" Lyons,** "his missy misses him," by Linda Burris

**Bruce D. Powell,** by Irma Powell

**Susan Rutherford,** "A Random Act of Kindness to Celebrate Susan, who was a lover of kitties," by Paige Rutherford

**Judy Schulz,** who for many years helped to care for Feline Network rescue cats

**Michael Soulé,** "our dear cousin who loved cats, playing his harmonica and singing the blues," by Annie Dreizler & Jane deGoede

**Halo Corbin McLean,** "2/1/2000 – 10/19/2012; She apologized for chasing kitties her whole life," by Connie McLean

**Nicki,** by Laura Price

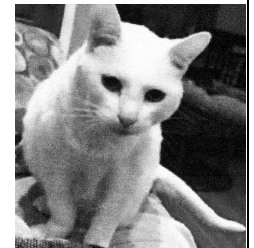
**Pauz,** "our son and daughter-in-law's kitty," by Clark and Diane

**Punky,** Benita and Smitty's beloved black and white tuxedo kitty, by neighbors Debbie and Dan Barrios. "We 'share' kitties in that Smitty and I love on their kitties and they love on ours. Punky hung out at their place a lot. Mooching food from them. They are great neighbors and we share the joys and the sorrows of our combined pet families."

**Seamus, aka Shamedoggy, and Colin, the Tiny Fun Guy,** Debby and Herb Holt's beloved dog and cat, by the Michener and Stokes families



Halo



Pauz

### In Honor of:

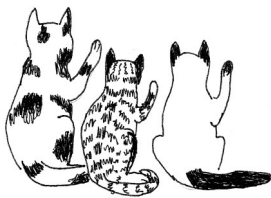
**Lynette Crane,** for helping us adopt Sammy, who is VERY happy in her new home, by Sheila & Gary Kircher

**Annie Dreizler,** by Patricia Dreizler

**Sue Kuykendall,** "who recently adopted a cat from the Feline Network. You could not have found a better home for one of your babies," by Jane Pahlman

**Lucy Taylor,** "a gift to honor her work and dedication, and in memory of Lucy's mother, **Margery Taylor Miller,** who passed recently," by Frances Toki

**Pamela Werth.** "A big thank you to our neighbor Pam and the Feline Network for catching the three kittens and today the mother cat. Hooray! We appreciate all you do for the feral cats in San Luis Obispo," by Kathleen & Robert Copeland



### A Fond Farewell to Minnie and George

We are sorry to lose our trapper, George Schicker, who is moving out of the county. He started trapping for us in the South County in 2004, when he and his wife Minnie moved to Shell Beach from Florida. George, with Minnie's help, took on every situation presented to him, no matter how difficult, and he was always patient and courteous. The Schickers then moved to Nipomo, and did we ever keep them busy! George continued trapping what seemed like an endless number of feral cats. We can't thank George and Minnie enough. They will be sorely missed by all of us at the Feline Network!

### Meet Chula, the Feline Network's Postmistress Pussycat



Chula oversees as Feline Network volunteers Vicky and Craig Johnsen ready our newsletters for mailing.



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## **Fourth Time a Charm?**

Sammy and Shiloh are brother and sister. This is the fourth time they have been featured in our pages. It is hard to believe they are now two years old and still looking for homes! They have been in foster care since they were kittens. They have not found homes because they are shy. Sammy is a short-



haired orange tabby, cute, friendly, affectionate and playful. Shiloh is a very gentle long-haired tortie that wants to love and be loved but she needs help coming out of her shell. They will make great indoor/outdoor cats and loving pets in the right home. Please call Christine at 544-6138.

## **Cat Trappers Urgently Needed**

Trapping cats is an extremely rewarding volunteer opportunity, one where you can make the difference between life and death for homeless cats in your community. Caring trappers ensure that these felines are spayed or neutered. That means fewer homeless and more happy kitties in the long run.

We need trappers in Nipomo and elsewhere in the South County as well as the city of SLO. Traps and training are provided. For information about trapping in Nipomo and the South County, please call Lynette at 556-0717, and in SLO call Christine at 544-6138.

Send an email to [info@felinenetwork.org](mailto:info@felinenetwork.org) if you'd like to receive our newsletter online.