

The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

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

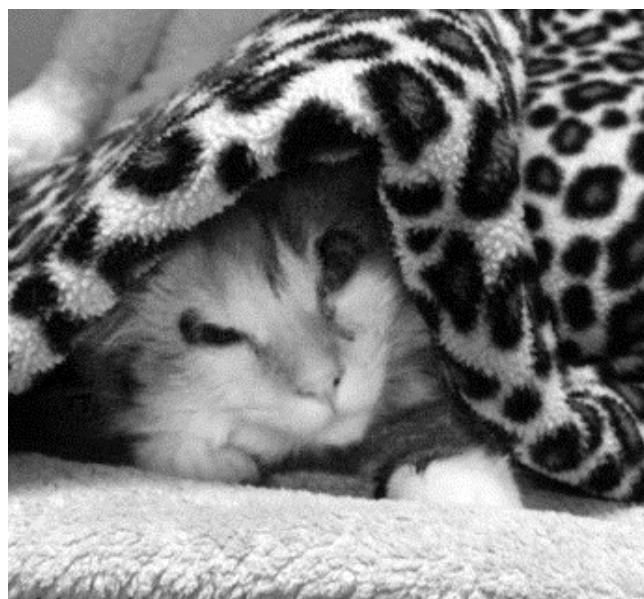
(805) 549-9228 www.felinenetwork.org

Winter 2013

The Power of Generosity

The Feline Network took in an adorable three-month-old Balinese kitten this summer, a stray kitten that is perfect in all ways except that she was born missing most of her eyelids. Her foster mother, Julie Coleman, named her Luna and described her as a dream kitten with outstanding manners, gentle, playful and cuddly, with beautiful, non-matting, long, super-soft fur. But Luna endured her days with constant irritation and pain because her eyelashes and the hairs surrounding her eyes would scratch her eyes constantly. Because she was unable to blink, her eyes were not hydrated with tears, which caused her corneas to burn and, untreated, could lead to ulcerations.

Local veterinary ophthalmologist Kristiane Schmidt estimated that it would cost approximately \$1200 to surgically repair Luna's eyelids. Luna's story won the heart of the editor of the South County Times Press Recorder, which ran a lengthy article about Luna, and Julie pled Luna's cause on internet social websites. Generous donations



Luna peeks out at the world in comfort as she recovers after her eye surgery.

poured in for Luna, and enough funds were received to pay for the surgery.

The day surgery was performed on Luna's eyelids, Julie picked her up at the vet office, took her home and settled her comfortably by herself to recover. Julie was fostering other kittens in addition to Luna, and that evening Lisa Porter from Morro Bay went to Julie's to see the kittens and potentially adopt one. While she was with the other kittens, Lisa heard Luna meowing loudly from another room. Julie told her about Luna, and she was curious to meet her. The two bonded instantly. It was truly love at first sight. Lisa adopted Luna, along with another of Julie's kittens, and after several days of recovery Luna was placed in her new home, where she will be pampered and adored. Lisa said she is very happy to have found Luna.

From start to finish, Luna's story has been a miracle of kindness and love. Thank you to everyone who has supported Luna and helped bring about this happy ending.



Lisa and Colten Porter welcome the loving Luna to her new home.

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Leslie Jarvick: President

Members of the Board:

Ira Alpert, Mary Buehnerkemper,
Christine Collie, Ann Garrett,
Debra Holt, Randal Husk,
Darrell Sisk

Newsletter Editor: Ann Garrett
Co-Editors: Christine Collie,
Debra Holt

Adopt-A-Cats
Most Saturdays at
PETCO
Madonna Plaza
San Luis Obispo
11AM—4PM

The Feline Network Store at the Café Press



For a variety
of fun Feline
Network items to buy,
click the "Shop Our
Store" link on the Fe-
line Network website!



Greetings from the President

I am proud to say that for over a decade the Feline Network has held fast to our mission to better the lives of feral and abandoned cats in our community through rescue, spay or neuter and adoption. And we are still going strong. Our extraordinary volunteers give tirelessly of their time and these enthusiastic and hardworking individuals dedicate their special talents to fill the many needs of our organization. All have one overriding quality -- they do what they do with a heart full of love for the felines they help. We are so thankful for them!

Here's the great news -- the past year has been one of our most successful ever! We have witnessed a significant drop in the numbers of feral and abandoned cats and kittens throughout the communities we serve. Much of this success is due to our Fix a Feline certificate and feral TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) programs. We share our success with two new collaborative partners in our spay/neuter efforts -- Woods Humane Society and the Animals in Need Fund through Nipomo Dog and Cat Hospital. Through our programs and in partnership with Woods and the AIN Fund, we have altered an amazing 1,042 cats in the past twelve months!

There are challenges the Feline Network faces in the coming year. Several of our trappers in the South County have moved out of the area and will be sorely missed. Their positions must be filled now to keep up with feral populations that can quickly multiply. This adoption season has been slow despite our weekly Adopt a Cat events and we still must find homes for our kittens, many of which are now "teenagers".

In reflecting back, none of our successes would have been possible without the goodness and generosity of you, our donors. As a non-profit organization, we rely on your continued support. None of our work would be possible without you and we are continually grateful. Together we are making a difference!

Appreciatively,
Leslie Jarvick

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR VERY GENEROUS DONORS

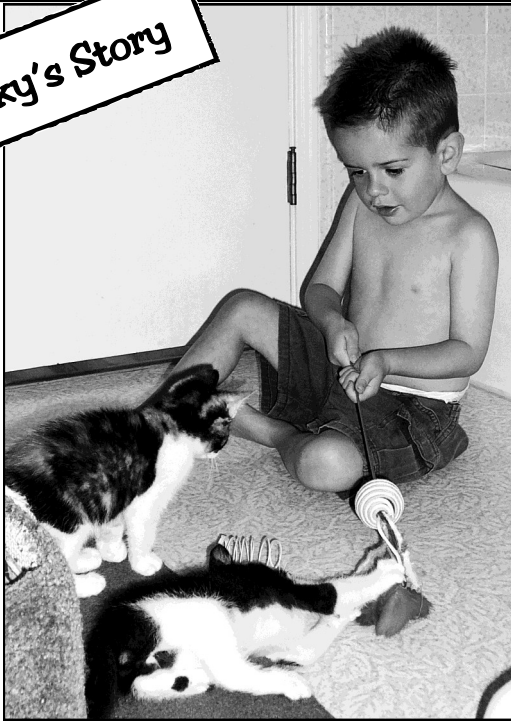
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Petco
Woodward Fund
The Estate of Barbara Mori
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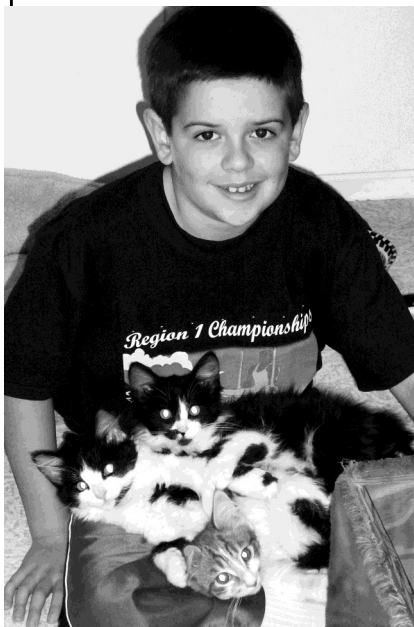
Feline Fostering Pros Brothers with Lifetimes of Experience

Ricky's Story



Could you imagine having seven kittens running around your house all day and night! Often it sounds like stampedes going around the living room, sliding past the corner to go down the hallway. Sometimes it seems like the house belongs to the kittens more than it belongs to you.

My name is Ricky Nett and I am almost 10 years old. I've been fostering kittens since I was one year old. One of my favorite things about fostering kittens is that



you don't have to choose one kitten, which would be really hard for me to do. Once my dad and I were playing Monopoly, and Snoopy (one of my favorite kittens) climbed all the way to the top of the Christmas tree!

I love the fact that we are helping kittens that were either abandoned or found without a mother get warm, cozy homes. It's also very fun! Also, the

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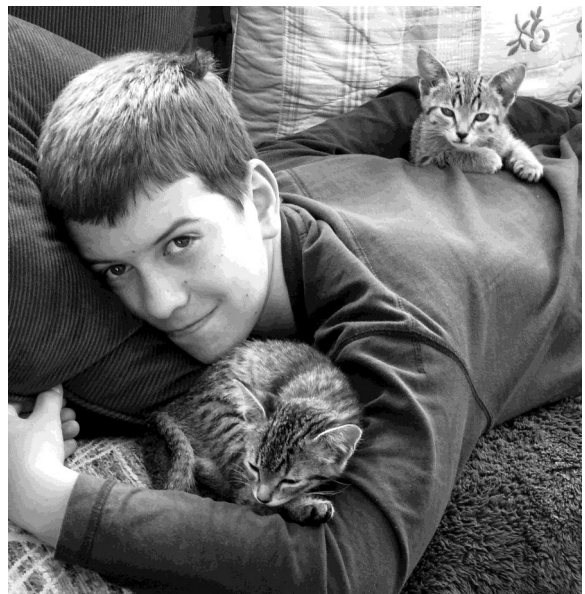
Ryan's Story



If you know anything about kittens, you know having five to seven of them running around your house is a lot of fun. It can also be a bit trying, especially when they insist on getting into everything. It almost seems like they own your house!

My name is Ryan Nett. I'm 13 and have been fostering kittens since I was five. My favorite thing about fostering is that we get to have all these little, funny kittens running around our house.

There is no way I can choose an all-time favorite litter, but I can tell you about a few of my favorites. The litter with Pudge and his brother Polaris, and their adopted litter mates, Pepe and Frisky Lady was defi-



nately one of them. Pudge was a bit of a glutton. He could never get enough to eat. Once he chewed a hole in the bag of extra food. Frisky Lady was very hyper, hence her name. Pepe was the runt of the litter and was always stepping in his food. Polaris, the most relaxed,

(Continued on page 7)

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

PROVIDERS OF DISCOUNTED SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES FOR FERAL CATS AND OUR FOSTERS

Animal Hospital of San Luis Obispo, Cat & Exotic Care of the Central Coast, Five Cities Veterinary Hospital, Homeward Bound Mobile Veterinary Care, Los Osos Pet Hospital, Bear Valley Animal Clinic & Woods Humane Society

ADOPT-A-CAT HELPERS

Our coordinator, Benita Smith, and her set-up crew of Eric Curzi, Betty King & Carol Martinez, plus Ira Alpert, Jamie Bain, Annie Burns, Lynette Crane, Randal Husk, Rebecca Roybal, Laura Sisk, Craig Smith, Pamela Werth

FOSTER HOMES

Jamie & Matt Bain, Annie Burns & son Russell, Michelle Butz & daughter Jenna, Lynette Crane, Carol Dee & daughters, Annie Dreizler, Christine & Randal Husk, Carol Landry, Rhonda Myers & sister Connie Dugan, Briana Shean, Benita & Craig Smith, Anna Stewart & daughter Allison, Pamela Werth & husband Kevin McCracken, Jeneale & Jim Nett and sons Ryan & Ricky, Rebecca & Chris Roybal, Julie Samuelson-Coleman, Jane Schram, Kathy Schwanitz & husband Hugh Smith and daughter Julie Mei

FERAL CAT FEEDERS

Eldra Avery, Jim Denton, Annie Dreizler, Connie Dugan, Marilyn Forselles, Franny Fox, Christine Freytag, Carol Goldberg, Jean Henry, Cheryl Heppell, Joe & Tammy Herz, Lisa Hillsinger, Jennifer Hilty, Savana Lopez, Rhonda Myers, Laurie & Pete Olson, Benita Smith, Charmaine Taylor, Lucy Taylor

TRAPPERS

Bob Andrews, Jim Denton, Annie Dreizler, Connie Dugan, Carol Landry, Rhonda Myers, Lucy Taylor, Alice Welchert

NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

Iris Alexandra, Vicky & Craig Johnsen & Chula, Judy Michener, Buzzy & April Stokes

OTHERS

Sally Adam, donating & delivering feral cat food
Shelby Bohl & Karl Von Kries, website editing & design

Vanessa Brandt, for turning her many volunteer hours into \$500 in grants for the Feline Network through the WalMart Foundation's Volunteerism Always Pays program.

Dr. Maxwell Conn & Staff at Cat & Exotic Care, generously providing spay/neuter & medical care for many cats & kittens



Dedicated volunteer Annie Burns shows a would-be adopter how to safely snuggle a kitten at an Adopt a Cat event.

Lynette Crane, coordinating trapping, rescues & foster homes in the South County as well as answering several of our phone lines
Anitra Essen, for her ongoing effort to curtail the feral cat problem at CMC, including trapping, transporting for spay or neuter, fostering, feeding and finding homes for many cats and kittens

Christine & Chris Freytag, trapping 10 feral cats at a feeding station in Nipomo, and providing additional trapping and rescue help
Elaine Genasci, media relations services

Mary's Antics in the Village of Arroyo Grande (formerly The Green Bargain Store in Grover Beach), for making Feline Network information available year round & maintaining donation jar

Dr. Kenneth Hallock & Staff at the

Animal Hospital of SLO, generously providing medical care for many cats & kittens

June McIvor & The Law Firm of Sinsheimer, Juhnke, McIvor & Stroh, providing conference room for board meetings

John Michener, hosting website

Petco, providing a site for our adopt-a-cats, storing our equipment and selecting us as their Charitable Partner to receive donations from their humane fundraising programs

Gabriella Schrader, cat care and pet sitting

Laura Sisk, bookkeeping services

Janet Steward, for her enthusiastic efforts in assisting with our volunteer luncheon

Anna Stewart, vaccinating and overseeing medical care of many foster cats in the South County

Buzzy Stokes, screening people wanting to adopt barn cats and putting her creative talents to work decorating our donation barrels

Charmaine Taylor, transporting supplies to the South County

Victoria Wood, picking up & sorting Feline Network mail & doing a tremendous job of coordinating our volunteer luncheon at Biddle Park

The Feline Network's Generous Donors

November 2012 through October 2013

Sally & Jack Adam	Michelle Cavin	Franny Fox	Julia Keefe
Joyce Adams	Susan Cejda	Karen Frair	Frank & Anne Keller
Laurie Aguilar	Judith Childress	Christine Freytag	Judie & Ron Kewish
Myra & Martin Akel	Nancy Chilton	Barbara Frickelton	Dennis Key &
Lorraine Akelian	Barbara Clark	Linda & Laura Galanos	Kay Walgren-Key
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Bradshaw	Jill Denton & Caroline Hall	Donna Herbst	Ada Luedke
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Bruce Brown	Ray & Simone Dominik	Sharlene Hinshaw	Wallis Madocks
Karen Brown	Diane Dotson	Richard Hirschbek	Al & Mary Mager
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Robert Schingler	Annie Dreizler &	Gabrielle Hubbard	Patricia Markcity
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Ginger Bunnell	Raphael Drew	Shelby Hyosaka	Alfred & Linda Martinelli
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Dorothy Burns	Michelle Edgeworth	Vicky & Craig Johnsen	Sandy McComas
Heather Burns	Nancy & Merle Elkin	Charlotte & Marvin Johnson	John & Jennifer McConaghy
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Hal & Pat Buscher	Paula Feducia	Luanne Johnson	Mitzi McCullough
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Cars 4 Causes	Raye Fleming	Grace Kadota	Cheryl McLean
Bob Carter	Nancy Foley	Klara & James Karsai	

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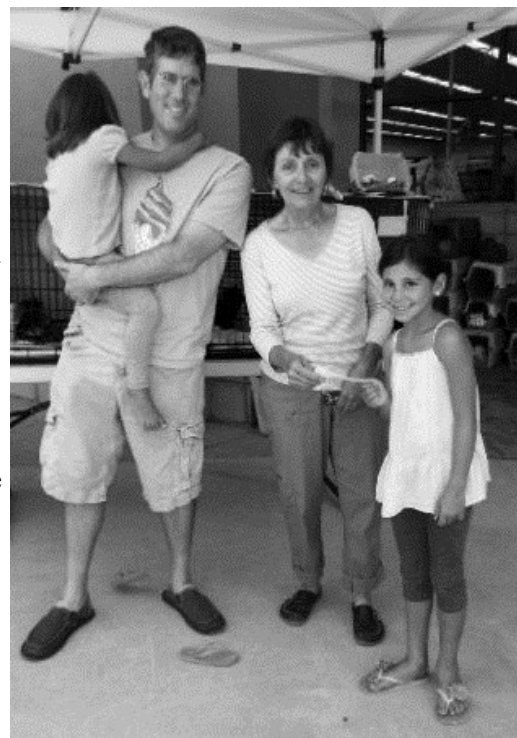
From Lemons to Lemonade to a Sweet Donation

Two shy kittens, Bodie and Tenaya, were not completely socialized when they went to the live at the Nett foster home. The Nett boys, Ricky and Ryan, are very good at working with shy kitties (*see Ryan's and Ricky's story on page 3*), and after two or three months, the kittens were ready for adoption and were taken to our Adopt-a-Cat at Petco.

When Sylvan & Francine Levin and their two daughters, Anisa (8) and Lunabella (4), came to the Adopt-a-Cat, they fell in love with Bodie. Our volunteers didn't want to separate the kittens because they were so bonded, but they thought the Levin family would provide such a wonderful home that they decided to let Bodie be adopted alone.

What happened next is the sort of thing that warms all of our hearts and helps us keep going with our rescue work. After taking Bodie home, the Levins felt bad about separating the kittens so they decided to adopt Tenaya the very next day! They have since told us they are very glad they did because the kitties are so contented and loving with each other.

Anisa and Lunabella decided they wanted to help other kitties in need, so they set up a lemonade stand and raised \$31 for the Feline Network! That's a lot of lemonade and hard work. Thank you, girls!



Anisa and her sister Anabella present their hard-earned lemonade stand money to Feline Network volunteer Christine.

"Generous Donors" (Continued from page 5)

Barbara McLongstreet
Pat McNamara
Jeanne Mello
Rita Mertens
Sandra Mertz
Heidi Mikel
Cheryl Miller
Kristin Miller
Mike & Judy Miller
Susanne & Michael Miller
John Miller Electric
Bryant & Lanyce Mills
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Patricia Mullen
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Chris Shell
Lavonne Shrock
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Marion Skinner
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Joseph St Clair
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Mary & David Steinman
Darlene Stemper

Sally Stewart
Roel & Janet Strzeminski
Anne Studdert
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Sheila Taylor
Sherry Thomas
Bonnie Thompson
Leah Thompson
Richard Tibben
Lynda Todd
Frances Toki
Janell Tyler
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Iva & Robert Wilcox
Beth Williams
Elizabeth Wineman
Diana Wolf
Judy Woodbridge
Liz Woods
Karin Young
Jill Zamek

A Fond Farewell to Lucy



It is with a heavy heart that the time has come to say good-bye to Lucy Taylor, who was a trapper in the South County for about 10 years. To call her anything less than a “blessing from heaven” or “an incredible stroke of luck” would not be worthy of all of her accomplishments.

Looking back, I don’t remember how or when Lucy and I first met. I think of conversations we’ve had about trapping different groups of feral cats; those colonies are still thriving even though they have surpassed the average period of time that ferals are expected to survive. It is a testament to what passion and perseverance can accomplish. Lucy embodies both of those qualities.

Lucy was always there from the beginning, for any of our requests—trapping, fostering, feeding. She saved me and a number of precious little ones I feed by taking over many of my feeding stations when I started a full-time job and could no longer handle them all. She went on spur-of-the-moment calls about sick or injured cats. She spent many early morning hours and late nights trapping, which also included transporting cats to and from vet offices, keeping a watchful eye post-surgery and then returning the cats to their original location. Her compassionate heart

compelled her to take for her own several “throw-away” kitties that had physical or behavioral issues, making them unacceptable for adoption. They are the lucky ones that get to live out their days happy, healthy and loved.

Lucy never said no to a situation where she could make the world a better place for any given group of cats, and the height and depth of her accomplishments will be evident for a long time in the colonies and at the homes where she helped to TNR (trap/neuter/release). It is an understatement to say that Lucy is irreplaceable.

Lucy will be sorely missed, but I guess our loss is New Mexico’s gain. Thank you, Lucy, from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of our crazy cat world and leaving such a deep, indelible mark on our community. I think if I had a dollar for every time in the future we will wish you were still here, I’d become a rich person. Come to think of it, just knowing and working with you has already made me a rich person. Best wishes for success in your new life ahead.

By Charmaine Taylor (no relation to Lucy), Feline Network volunteer

“Ricky’s Story” (Continued from page 3)

kittens never really get old. I love watching the kittens run around and slide on the floor trying to get each other’s tails. Then afterward, I love cuddling with them and making forts for them out of our couches. Right now, we have four little kittens named Rolly, Albert, Bear and Lilly running around our house. The last few nights we’ve been *trying* to sleep with them. One night I had all four kittens between my legs. They love going in containers and jumping out at each other. When they were getting weighed, Bear fell asleep in the scale.

It’s so much fun fostering kittens. You’re always getting new ones, so it never gets boring.

By Ricky Nett

“Ryan’s Story” (Continued from page 3)

was always trying to get in your lap, even if you didn’t want him there. Another one of my favorite litters is the one we have right now. It’s made up of Rolley, Lilly, Bear and Albert. We got these guys right after they were weaned! Lilly is probably the most social. She will come running to you whenever you sit down. Albert is the least hyper and takes his naps in the funniest of places. Rolley, the biggest, got his name from his habit of rolling over whenever you pet him. Bear is the explorer, always getting into everything. He also likes to get into boxes so he can chase his tail. I like all kittens, but these are my favorites.

Being able to change a kitten’s life for the better is an amazing experience. I’m very glad I’ve been able to do it for eight years.

By Ryan Nett

To Honor and Remember

In Loving Memory of:

Homer, “our neighborhood stray cat,” by Annie Burns
Ozzie, “a kitty who was lost too young. We miss him.”
by Ann Travers and Barbara Nordin

In Honor of:

Julie Cushing, “a lover of cats, on her 10th birthday,”
by Hugh & Kathleen Schwanitz
Sue Kuykendall, by Jane Pahlman
Jamie and Matt Bain, “Thank you for being such wonderful foster folks. We will miss you both!,” by their Feline Network friends

Volunteers Needed to Trap Feral Cats

There is perhaps no more important volunteer position so crucial to helping improve the plight of stray or feral cats than humane cat trapping. Feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered and returned to safe feeding locations thus ending the cycle of reproduction and stabilizing feral cat populations. Feral kittens, if young enough, are socialized for adoption. We particularly need trappers in the South County as well as San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Humane traps and training are provided. Help better the lives of cats in your community. Please call Lynette at 556-0717 or Christine at 544-6138.



**P.O. Box 526
San Luis Obispo, CA
93406
(805) 549-9228**

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Return Service Requested



***Our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful
holiday season and a new year filled with peace and happiness.***

**Dog Loving
Orange Creamsicle Kittens
Waiting for You!**

Violet and Robin
(right) are two adorable 7-
month-old orange tabby girls.
Both are ever so affectionate
and love to snuggle up in bed



***Robin nuzzles Nala, the
friendly family collie.***

with you or climb on to your
lap to keep warm. They love
to play with each other and
especially with Nala, the
family collie. It is not sur-
prising to see these kitties
nestled in her fur. We could
be the best part of your life.
Can be adopted separately.
For more information please
call Rebecca at 264-3596.

**What a Spay/Neuter
Deal!**

Residents living in SLO City, the
South County and the coastal commu-
nities who need financial help for
spay/neuter can obtain certificates
from the Feline Network worth \$60
towards a spay and \$40 towards a
neuter. These are redeemable at vet
offices throughout SLO County as
well as Santa Maria Humane Socie-
ty's low cost spay/neuter clinic. In
addition, Woods Humane Society and
the Animals in Need Fund through
Nipomo Dog and Cat Hospital are
partnering with the Feline Network to
offer spay/neuter services for a very
reduced rate. Contact us at 549-9228
Ext. 707, for more information.