



The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

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

(805) 549-9228

www.felinenetwork.org

Spring 2019

The Kittens are Coming! The Kittens are Coming!

It is that time of year again, and litters of homeless kittens have already found their way into the arms of volunteers. This year we expect to have a very busy kitten season! It seems like when the “weather gods” send more rain they also send more kittens, and we anticipate that we will need more funds than usual to pay for the food, litter, spay and neuter costs and other veterinary care and supplies that are an integral part of our rescue work. We don’t pay any salaries or shelter costs, and all donations directly help the kittens. Thank you for your continued support. We could not do the work without you.



A Sprinkling of Our Kittens.

A Mama Cat's Surprise

We recently helped a woman who had acquired two female cats for her barn in rural Arroyo Grande. She had been told they were feral and that neither had been fixed. We loaned her traps and made appointments for the cats to be spayed at Five Cities Vet Clinic. She trapped the cats and took them to the vet at 8:30 a.m. When Dr. Berg went to retrieve the cats for surgery at 9:00 a.m., he was surprised to find two newborn kittens in one of the traps. The mama and kittens were taken in the trap to a foster home and set inside a larger enclosure.



This mama was full of surprises.

When the trap door was opened, mama casually sauntered out as if to announce to the world that she did not have a feral bone in her body. The two babies were put next to her, but apparently mama was not satisfied

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Sometimes it Takes a Dog

Sometimes it takes a dog to catch a wily cat. Trapper Elaine Genasci was called to help with a feral cat and kittens that were cornered by a dog in a back yard. Mama had made a nest for her kittens inside a tarp that was on top of a storage box. When Elaine arrived, she heard a chorus of angry growls and kitten cries coming from a bump under the tarp. She put a large dog crate next to the storage box. When she tried to slide the tarp, the cat started moving. Fearless Elaine managed to scruff the neck of this moving bump and carefully slid the entire tarp into the dog crate.

Elaine took the crate home and set up a cage in her garage. With the cat partially visible under the tarp, she dropped a towel over her, scruffed her by the neck and moved her into the cage, where she scurried into a box. Carefully removing the tarp



“Foiled by a dog,” mama complains.

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A Mama Cat's Surprise

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with just two and by the end of the day she gave birth to four more kittens! The mama and kittens (four black, one tortie and one white) were placed



Foster mom Deannie Greenelsh has her hands full.

in a more spacious foster situation, where they are thriving. The other cat was indeed feral and she was returned to the barn site, where she will be cared for.

Sometimes it Takes a Dog

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from the dog crate, Elaine gently extricated six tiny kittens, four orange and two grey, that still had their umbilical cords attached. Elaine carefully placed the kittens near the mama cat and, one by one, they were able to find their way to the comfort of her warm body.

This cat had skillfully eluded trappers over the years and returned time and again to have litters in this yard. "But this year the owners had acquired a dog," said Elaine, "and the dog gave them up."

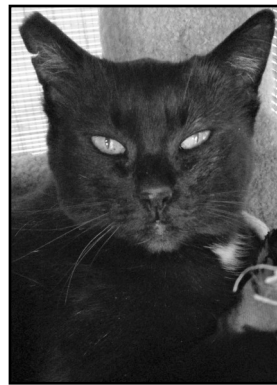
Diamond Girl, You Sure Do Shine!

Seals and Crofts probably weren't talking about a 16-year-old cat when they penned the song, yet so many of the lyrics like "Glad I found you, glad you're mine" are fitting of Diamond Girl, a shiny, pure black cat with a white diamond shaped marking on her chest. She was an untouched feral cat living at a feeding station for 12 years. Feline Network volunteer, Annie Dreizler, trapped her and relocated her to a small walk-in cage. Like with any wild kitten, Annie started



Thanks to Annie, "I'm no longer a diamond in the rough."

petting DG with a back scratcher, then a leather glove, and finally her bare hand risking being attacked. After 6



Never too old to shine.

months, she was moved into a large room attached to the outdoor cage. Fast forward a year, and Diamond Girl is a total lover! She is an affectionate lap cat. The next hurdle will be to move into Annie's house as an indoor only cat and learn to get along with her other cats, and most importantly, to win over the heart of her husband.

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Microchipping

Rhonda Meyers, a Feline Network volunteer, saw an ad posted on the Nextdoor website by a woman (Joyce) who found a lost cat. She called Joyce to see if she could help, and she advised her to take the cat to a vet office to see if it had a chip. Joyce did so, and they discovered that she did indeed have a chip. Joyce contacted the owners, who were ecstatic. They had been looking for "Jupiter" for over two weeks! They asked Joyce where they could pick Jupiter up and were astounded when they found out she lives in Grover Beach. They live in Palm Springs! They figured out that the most likely scenario is that Jupiter hitched a ride in an RV that belonged to people who were visiting neighbors. They had even seen Jupiter go in and check out the RV a couple of times. The visitors left to go to Pebble Beach and planned to stop at a campsite overnight on the way there. Best guess? They overnighted at the Grover Beach Campground, which is not far from Joyce's home, and Jupiter disembarked, perhaps to check out the scenery there. Joyce generously drove to Ventura to meet the owners part way and hand over their adventurous feline.

This is a vivid reminder of the importance of microchipping our pets! Without the chip, no doubt Jupiter's family would never have known what happened to her.

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

In Loving Memory of

Barney T. Rubble, by Carolee Hunt & The Cat's Nest. *"Dear sweet 'Barney T. Rubble' has left us all in tears, but we know he is 'high-5'ing' everyone in heaven!!"*

Robert Andrew Butcher, Jr., by Jackie Wright.

Francie Johnson, by Karen Strasser.

Francie Johnson, by her sister Debi Ryder. *"Francie was passionate about helpless animals, cats in particular. You definitely helped her out on occasion, and we appreciate the work you do."*

Francie Johnson, by John, Jim, Heather and Bob McDonald. *"In loving memory of our aunt, who loved her kitties enormously."*

Francie Johnson, by Kimber Miller.

Barbara Mori & Saki, by Judy Saltzman-Saveker.

Reba Wallenstein, by Kathleen & Jon York, Gillian & Garrett Souza and Jake & Jen York.

Graycee, *"a beautiful and good cat!"* by the McHops Gang.

Isabella, *"Livia Signorelli's cat,"* by Beverly von Kries.

My beautiful Lacey, *"who is missed every day,"* by Rosemarie Miller.

Luke, *"with love,"* by Lynn M. Lane.

Pretty Girl, by Arlene Nunes-Day. *"We miss her so!!!"*

Snuggles, *"our niece's 17-year-old special kitty,"* by Diane & Clark Hendrickson.

Thumper, by James & Sandra Wolfe. *"Thank you for your care of our Thumper. We'll miss him after his life with us for 13 years."*

In Honor of

Roxanne Bohn, *"for all her amazing work!"* by Karen Ellis.

Roxanne Bohn, by Joan Kobara.

Roxanne Bohn, *"who was an awesome foster mom for Marley,"* by Nancy Meddings. *"She has put her days as an unwed teenage mother behind her. She plays with her canine siblings and gardens with me almost daily. She's the best. Thanks so much for saving her and her kittens!"*

Christine Collie, by Lori Birks. *"Thank you for providing me with help for sweet abandoned cat Mittens. If it wasn't for you and the Feline Network, Mittens would not survive."*

Christine Collie & Elaine Genasci, by Alair Hough. *"Thank you for all your understanding and help in getting these abandoned cats healthy and neutered."*

Lynette Crane, By Margo Brock. *"Many thanks for her help with the orange cat."*

Lynette Crane, by Marcia Thornton. *"I so appreciate all the time & effort you spent on my Knuckles. He was certainly a cat unto himself but for some reason, so very special to me."*

Marilyn Forselles, *"for being a long-time feline feeder. This is her Christmas present,"* by Mary M. Leizear.

Carolee Hunt & The Cat's Nest, by Kathy & Alan Henderson.

Dave Richards, by Debora Macie, and **Rascal**, *"who you helped me rescue."*

Kathy Schwanitz, by Isabell & Larry Smith.

Oliver, Abigail & Peaches, by Pat Snodgrass.

Ted & Carol, who are *"still living the good cat life,"* by Alyce Thorp and Bob Mayberry.

In Appreciation of The Feline Network

By Michele Arete. *"Buddy came to my patio very sick, and you helped! He is a loving and healthy pet now!"*

By Sally & Jack Adam. *"Once again we are reminded (no honestly we are reminded all the time in our hearts!) how much you do for the innocent and vulnerable little lives that endure so much suffering, how many you rescue, and how many you save before they even have a chance to be hungry, wet & cold."*

By Judith Bartlett & 'Violet.' *"My lil' tuxedo girl is a happy and healthy four-year-old now and we are an integral part of one another's daily life. I am ever grateful for her and for you."*

By Gail Perez. *"I'm writing to say how much I appreciate all the hard work and dedication your volunteers perform for our feline friends. Best wishes to you all in 2019 and thanks for all your hard work!"*

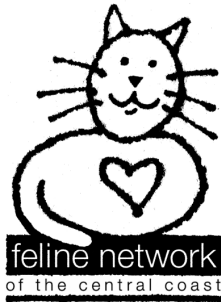
By Elizabeth Woods. *"I appreciate so much all the efforts you put forth on behalf of our local felines. Paisley and Scarlett have been with me 10 years (!) now, are doing well and bring me joy every day."*

TRAPPERS NEEDED

We Need Trappers in South County and especially in Nipomo. It is rewarding work and a very important service. Please help! Call Lynette at 805-556-0717.

County Supervisors Provide Funds

We thank Supervisors Peschong, Gibson and Compton for providing \$1,300 from their District Community Project funds to be used for the Feline Network's spay and neuter program.



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A New Life for Creampuff



"I was savvy enough to find a perfect home."

shockingly comfortable," said Jenica. "A lot of feral cats wouldn't eat or drink, like they're on watch, but she didn't do any of that." Within a short time, Savvy graduated from the cage to roaming freely in the office. She responds to petting and eats from Jenica and David's hands. They are happy with her progress. "She's as sweet as she can be." The door is open to the rest of the house, and there are two old dogs and a small chihuahua that Savvy is curious about. This has been a big change for a feral cat, but Savvy seems to be adjusting quite nicely indeed!

On an overcast and gray day in January, early in the very wet rainy season, a seven-year-old feral cat was trapped to be transported to an amazing new life. It was actually a very sunny and bright occasion for this little cat hunkered down in the trap, although she clearly did not appreciate that at the time.

Creampuff lived alone along a SLO creek bed, where her companion cats had disappeared. Volunteers, worried about her safety and lack of shelter, placed ads to find a new situation for her. Jenica Brooks had recently lost a pet cat and offered Creampuff a home, understanding the patience and work that is required to tame a feral cat. "I thought if I'm going to get a cat, I'm going to rescue a cat. People want a cat that will love all over them, and that's just not what an animal is about. We're here to take care of them, not the other way around."

Jenica and her husband David Bozarth set up a cage for Creampuff by a window in their office. They named her Savannah, "Savvy" for short. "Savvy was



Savvy contemplates her new best friend.