



Catalyst for Cats

A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Altering the Future for Ferals

NEWSLETTER

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From the Founder

Times change, but our mission endures

We've managed to keep busy in the North County feeding our many colonies. We also continue providing medical care for sick or injured cats countywide from our Tiny Tim Fund, operating a relocation program, and offering active referral services. Add to that the influx of requests we're getting for mousers, due to an explosion of rodents after the welcomed winter rains, especially in the Santa Ynez Valley, and we're hardly sitting on our hands these days. But our work has evolved.

It saddened us to give up our Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program in December of 2015, but as a small organization it was impossible to continue without more volunteers to cover such a large area with a population of over 400,000 residents.

It especially distressed us when our most faithful, energetic volunteer, Debbie Merry, told us of her plans to relocate to Florida for personal reasons. Not only was she our only trapper in North County (for the most part), but she personally fed and oversaw many feeding colonies on a daily basis. She also fostered great numbers of sick cats and kittens—all in addition to holding down a full-time job. She was

indeed a friend to hundreds of felines and absolutely irreplaceable.

We spent many sleepless nights and stressful hours over the need to find feeders once Debbie left. Through our work with the Orcutt Veterinary Hospital, though, Santa Maria resident Amy Smith learned of our need to find feeders for the many colonies. Miraculously, Amy has gathered together a team to take over all of Debbie's feeding sites and then some.

It's one thing to cease trapping, but quite another to have cats waiting for you and no one showing up

to feed them. We are very relieved to report that all is going well with feeding our colonies in North County.

Catalyst for Cats continues as a reliable part of our community's cat care safety net, other than for spay/neuter. Once fixed and reliably fed, feral cats can live healthy and happy lives for

many years just as companion cats do. We provide food for over 350 cats countywide on a daily basis. As an all-volunteer organization we ask for your help to enable us to continue to care for our feral feline friends.

Randi Fairbrother



Photo by Amy Smith

A Contented Colony: One of the stable North County colonies cared for by Catalyst volunteers even comes with a white picket fence.

In Appreciation

🐾 Officially we ended our TNR efforts in the Santa Ynez Valley and North County in 2015. However, we were told by the **Santa Maria Animal Shelter** they would accept any cats and kittens we brought in. They would TNR or adopt out as many as possible.

Thus *Catalyst* volunteer **Debbie Merry** continued to trap and catch kittens and bring them to the shelter. For those that needed medical attention she took them to **Orcutt Veterinary Hospital**, where they were treated, neutered and TNR'd. In 2016 Debbie took 72 cats or kittens to the Santa Maria Animal Shelter and 24 to the Orcutt Veterinary Hospital.

In 2017 she continued to trap up to a few days prior to her moving to Florida, taking 24 to the shelter, 24 to the veterinary hospital, and another 5 to the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society.

We are most appreciative of Debbie Merry's tireless efforts on behalf of North County felines.

🐾 We are also grateful to **Maureen Lynch** for her donation of cat food for our Santa Ynez stations.

🐾 **"Cat Nips N Chips" 2017**, held throughout February, resulted in 77 (34 males/43 females) cats neutered. All **three humane societies** (SB, SM and SYV) and all **three county shelter locations** (SB, SM and Lompoc) contributed, plus **Volunteers for Inter-Valley Animals (VIVA)**. And **"Spring Fling,"** sponsored by Santa Barbara Animal Services in March, resulted in another 43 (21 males/ 22 females) neutered. Altogether that's 120 neutered cats! This is prevention at its best. Thank you to all those who contributed to these worthwhile efforts.

Tributes & Memorials

Each one of these names represents a level of love and caring to those remaining. They each have their own story.

In Honor of:

Jedi and Sam, the Lion – by Mary and Eric Hanson

In Memory of:

Ci Ci, ASAP alum and sweet companion for 16 years – by Jan and Chas. Clouse

Huckleberry, Leile, Dusty, Joey, Frosty, Sorry and Elvis – by Mary and Eric Hanson

Alice and George Kladnik, who taught me the love of animals – by Marci Kladnik

Updates:

Catalyst Action & Related Issues

AB 485 Pet Rescue and Adoption Act

Following in the highly successful footsteps of the city of Los Angeles's ordinance, originally passed in 2013 and permanently extended in 2016, the state bill will require all dogs, cats and rabbits offered for retail sale to be obtained from public and private animal shelters located in California and nonprofit rescue groups. This lifesaving ordinance has been replicated in 31 other California cities and over 200 cities nationwide. The bill is an important step in ending the inhumane and deplorable breeding practices of puppy mills and also fosters increased adoption opportunities for pets at local shelters. Sponsored by the animal rights advocacy group Social Compassion in Legislation, the California Assembly bill, AB 485, passed its first committee vote by a 10-1 margin, and got a 10-4 approval from the Appropriations Committee .

New Jersey could be first state to ban de-clawing

A measure to ban declawing cats unless the veterinarian deems it medically necessary has cleared the lower chamber of the state legislature in New Jersey. Sponsors in the senate are reviewing possible changes, and it is not clear when this will move forward.

Striking out with its claws is a cat's first means of defense. Because of this many that are declawed become biters and end up in shelters. Scratching is a normal part of feline behavior. There are many things you can do to discourage a cat from scratching the places you want to protect, and it can be as simple as using double-sided tape at particular places. Other more specialized products can be found at most pet stores. To shop online, Google "Smart Cat Ultimate scratching post" for a wide selection and variety of retailers where you can order them.

Wish List

- **Volunteer Feeders:** We are in dire need of a feeder or feeders for a site near Buellton. It is a five-minute drive from Buellton, and it would take another five minutes to carry out the feeding. If you can help out, please call Belinda at 688-6369.
- **Donations of Cat Food:** Wet or dry. Meat flavors are preferred.

Ava Moves In

The tortie from Santa Maria takes her time taking over

In the last Catalyst Newsletter we included a short item on Ava, a beautiful tortie from Santa Maria relocated to Carpinteria. Here is an update on a slow, but rewarding transition. not just in location but in temperament.

By Amy Orozco

As I write this, Ava is, making figure eights around my ankles. It's well after dinnertime—both hers and ours—but Ava is perfectly correct to assume I will stop everything to hand feed her a little bite of something organic, free-range raised, and more expensive by weight than saffron. Ever since this short-haired tortie joined our home, my husband and I have put a hundred percent effort into accommodating her every whim.

Why? Because during the roughly three-month period after Ava moved in she didn't show her face, so traumatized and terrified she was. She stayed hidden under a dresser in the bedroom, sometimes escaping during the night to hide under a credenza in the living room.

My following email correspondences with fellow *Catalyst's* Randi Fairbrother and Beth Rushing illustrate Ava's transition from scaredy cat to lap cat.

From: Amy Marie Orozco

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:51 PM

To: Beth; Randi

Subject: Our new kitty

A quick status report on our new kitty. First, we named her Ava. Her middle name is Lincoln (Al wanted that).

She has not come out of the carrier in front of us, but she's left evidence of using the litter box. Hasn't eaten very much either. Ava has not made a sound.

Today she is out of the cave bed and sprawled out in the carrier. I consider that progress because previous to that she had been burrowed.

We can't wait til she comes out to play.

Thanks for all your help in getting Ava to us.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 6:59 PM

Subject: Ava, the kitty, is coming out to play more

I attached some pictures taken of Ava this morning. She was pretty playful after breakfast. Beth, you probably recognize the round toy to the right in the

pictures. She plays with that a bit.

Ava is still a bit skittish. Catching a shadow out of the corner of her eye is enough to send her behind the couch, where we created a bed-in-a-box for her.

She really likes to be petted, even when eating. Her appetite is good. I think she's going through a growth spurt as she seems taller. Still very slim, though.

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 12:27 PM

Subject: Update on Ava, the quiet hidin' kitty

Want to let you know that Ava is out of her shell. She's still a bit skittish, especially when she's under a shadow, like if I pick up a pillow or blanket.

Her appetite is huge, and she's not shy about asking



Photo by Amy Orozco

for food. Also, she has started exploring the patio and the front door area. Sleeps with us, too.

She has outgrown the cave bed and the blue round toy. Here are some pictures of her. In the picture of Ava on the couch, she is watching the basketball game with Al.

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:51 PM

Subject: Today is Kitty Ava's one-year anniversary of becoming an Orozco

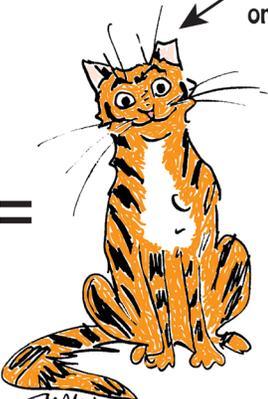
One year ago today Ava came to live with us. Remember she wouldn't even show her face? Those days are long gone! She rules the roost now, and, for such a small-ish cat, Ava takes a lot of room in the bed because she prefers to sleep perpendicular to our legs rather than parallel.

Get The Message?

Whatever language you speak, or if all it takes is a clear illustration, it's important to get the word out about spay/neuter and TNR. This poster and collection of bumper stickers are the collaboration of Cat Writers' Association president Marci Kladnik and fellow CWA artist Stephanie Piro.

TNR
Trap - Neuter - Return
Trapar - Castrar - Volver

tipped ear
oreja cuadrada

TNR =  =

© Stephanie Piro 2016 www.stephaniepiro.com

Got mice?
¿Tienen ratones?

 = 

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neuter / spay
castración / esterilizar

 = 

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 = 

neutered
castrado

© Stephanie Piro 2016 www.stephaniepiro.com

 = 

neutered
castrado

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The artwork depicted here is free to shelters and rescue groups. Contact: Marci Kladnik MKauthor@verizon.net

Sometimes it's just a matter of good advice and a willing helper

By Randi Fairbrother

The call came in on a Friday evening, not the best time to get a rescue call because of the upcoming weekend. William had recently been feeding a thin, orange cat from a nearby condo complex, saying it came around about 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

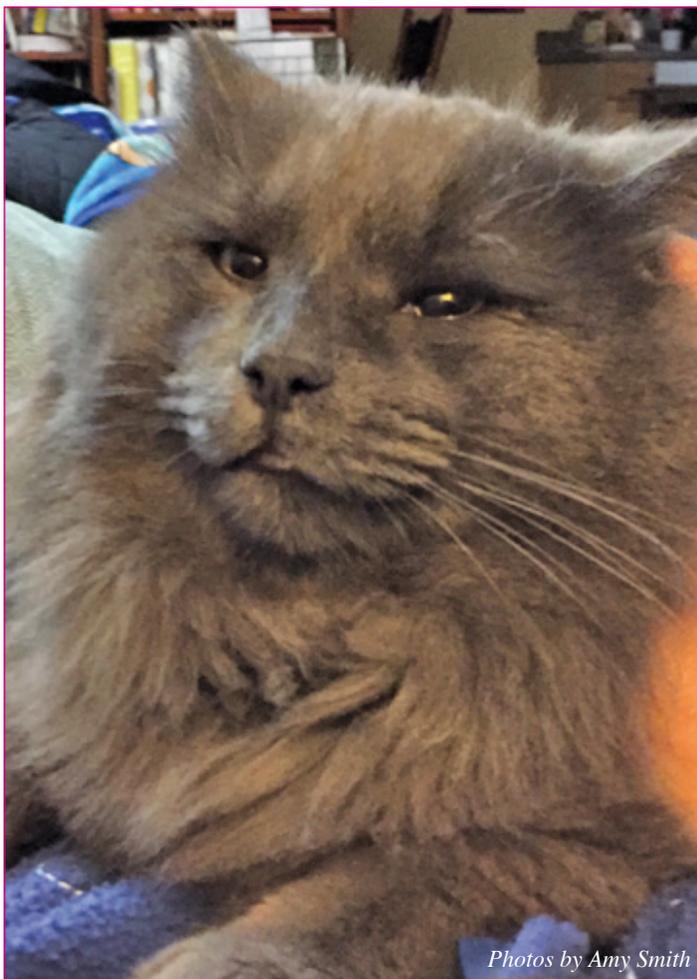
Since the cat was untouchable, seemed hungry, and did not have a tipped ear, I asked William if he would be willing to help with trapping. He was, but explained he needed to be out of town for a while and was not sure when he'd be returning.

I suggested he find a neighbor to put food out for the cat. Luckily, his nextdoor neighbor agreed, though she did not want to feed that early in the morning nor that late in the evening. She offered to put food out mid-morning and early evening. We just hoped the cat would find the food before the raccoons did.

Then William called again, saying his daughter would be staying at the condo throughout the weekend. I met her at there, and we set up a plan. The neighbor had never seen the cat, but we hoped for the best. The very next evening, about 6 p.m. she called me saying an orange cat was in the trap. For all the uncertainties, we'd organized a successful operation.

Given the weekend timing, I'd taken the precaution of giving Beth Rushing a "heads up" on this job. Beth, an experienced and long-time volunteer at ASAP, has never failed to help when asked. She did not want to hold the cat over the weekend, so within an hour Beth got the cat safely to ASAP in Santa Barbara.

Beth emailed me on Monday after staff had evaluated the cat: about two years old, spayed, tame, healthy and micro-chipped. She had already been returned to her home. What a happy ending!



Photos by Amy Smith

Those Were the Bad old Days

Silvia Echeverria, Code Compliance Supervisor, retired in January of this year after working 30 years for the City of Carpinteria. In an interview with Coastal View News, Silvia remarked on how in the early years of her career, she was disturbed by the litters of cats and dogs that were transported almost daily to the county animal shelter. "There were so many, they'd be put down by Friday." But then she noticed how the advent of non-profits like *Catalyst for Cats* greatly improved the capacity for animal care and availability of spay and neuter education.



Midnight (left) and Bella (above) were both rescued in the North County and placed in loving homes through Catalyst efforts.



Catalyst for Cats, Inc.
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**Every litter adds to the problem
Every spay/neuter adds to the solution!**



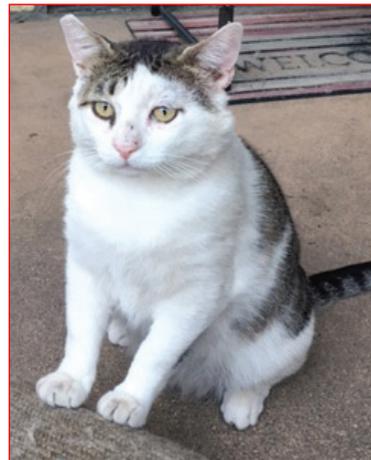
Can you help feed us in
the Santa Ynez Valley?

**Volunteers needed to help feed
established cat colonies.**

All food provided by Catalyst for Cats

Feeding time can be as little as 5 min. to half an
hour, depending on location
& number of cats

Volunteers appreciated for sub. feeding too!!



*Tobias (above) and Shadow (right)
were both trapped by Amy Smith
in her own Santa Maria neighbor-
hood. She subsequently adopted
them as well.*

**Trapped,
Neutered, &
Retained**



Photos by Amy Smith