



## Wine and Whiskers

On July 13, 2008, Town Cats held its third annual Wine and Whiskers wine tasting fundraiser. Over 170 people attended the event which raised \$13,000 – all of which went directly to the care of the cats! This

year, the fundraiser was held at the Los Gatos History Club, with both indoor and outdoor seating. The wine was from Thomas Kruse Winery, Sarah's Vineyard, and Silver Mountain Vineyards; many thanks them as well.

There were many exciting silent and live auction prizes, including a week-long stay in Paris, a weekend getaway at Hot Springs Spa near Lake Tahoe, some gorgeous artwork, and much more. Two adoptable cats (on harnesses) even made an appearance while an overview of the latest Town Cats projects was presented. Of course, those who enjoyed the wines available for tasting were able to buy full glasses while relaxing with other people interested in cat rescue and welfare.

A huge paws up to all the volunteers, donors, and supporters that made this event possible. Special thanks to Kim Camacho who catered the event, Diana Grubbs who coordinated the auction and Holly Hansen for rounding up the wineries. Please put the 4th annual Wine and Whiskers Fundraiser on your calendars for 2009! If you are interested, feel free to email us at [towncats@garlic.com](mailto:towncats@garlic.com) with any suggestions for auction items, questions, offers of donations, or just to be put on our mailing list for notification. See you next spring!



Wine and Whiskers 2008

## Fast Facts About Town Cats

- Town Cats is a nonprofit 501(c)3 group of volunteers dedicated to reducing the number of cats euthanized each year due to lack of homes. We enrich the lives of homeless cats and help the people whose lives they touch through aggressive No Kill population control techniques.
- Town Cats was founded in 1997, and we have found homes for over 10,000 cats and kittens since then.
- We opened the first no kill cat and kitten adoption center and shelter in Santa Clara County on February 1, 2000.
- We believe all cats have value and the potential to be adopted into a good home. We also believe that feral cats have the right to continue to live out their life in peace.
- We focus on creative adoption programs and fund-raising for medical expenses, sheltering expenses, and food and supplies for feral cats, in foster homes, and cats at the shelter.
- Town Cats is a limited access shelter; as one cat or kitten is adopted, another is rescued.
- Town Cats takes cats and kittens from local municipal shelters who otherwise would be forced to euthanize them due to lack of space and the number of animals coming in daily. Our main territory is Santa Clara County, but (space permitting) we work not only with the San Jose shelter, but with the Los Banos, Hollister, and Salinas shelters, and with as many others as we can to help find loving homes for the kitties!
- So far in 2007, we've paid for 794 spay/neuter surgeries for ferals, pets of low income families, and adoptable cats and kittens (through October 31), and we've found homes for 617 cats and kittens (through December 11th).

For more information, please visit [www.towncats.org](http://www.towncats.org), or call us at 408-779-5761.



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# Seasons Greetings

## HO! HO! HO! Town Cats Announces Reduced Adoption Fees!!!

To kick off the Holiday Season, our adoption fees have been reduced to \$50 for one kitten or cat or \$90 for a pair to help stimulate the economy and to find more homes for our cats and kittens!!! These rates will continue through January 31, 2009!!!! See [www.towncats.org](http://www.towncats.org) for info on adoption site locations and pictures of the Cats!!!



### A Letter from the Executive Director

By Rosi Mirko, Founder

Whew! Well 2008 has certainly been a year! I find myself using words like "Amazing!" and "Unbelievable!" all the time now, and the reason, of course, is that Town Cats is truly AMAZING, and it's absolutely UNBELIEVABLE what our volunteers have accomplished this year! I won't go into all the details here - see the articles in this edition of our newsletter and see our website [www.towncats.org](http://www.towncats.org) for more on our work.

We're exhausted to say the least. But we wouldn't have it any other way. We love the cats and they make it all worthwhile! Well, that's not entirely true: it's the people too, even when we have those hard phone calls and emails from people who are down on their luck and have to give up their pets. They're heartbroken, but so happy when we can help them. Tears come to my eyes even now as I write this and think about the happiness on adopter's faces when they cuddle their new cat or kitten, and the relief on the faces of people forced to give up a part of their family. We're happy for the kitty finding a home and for the adopter.

This year we haven't been able to help as much as we'd like because the economy is so bad that we haven't been able to adopt out as many cats this year, which limits how many new cats we can take in. We don't put our residents to sleep to make room for new cats, so it's been slow this year to bring new cats in. Luckily many people calling for help can work with us, fostering the cats and bringing them to our fairs or posting them on our site.

To help people adopt in spite of the economy, we have rolled back our adoption fees. This allows folks to adopt a kitty and still be able to buy the supplies they need. We're doing our part to stimulate the economy and at the same time find homes for our cats and kittens. We're out there at our adoption fairs every weekend and thanks to Petco and PetsMart, we have cats 24/7 at PetsMart on Curtner in San Jose, PetsMart on 10th Street in Gilroy, and Petco at Blossom Hill and Santa Teresa in San Jose.

This year we lost quite a few of our older residents. They were like our own pets - all of our residents are our pets until they find their permanent homes - but for these cats, Town Cats was their real home. Ginger, for example, lived at Town Cats her entire life, from 1999 until 2008. We love and remember her and all the others who lived with us until the end of their lives. Sometimes we are their last place for comfort and love.

We have produced a 2009 Calendar with pictures of our residents. See the promotion on that in this newsletter too. Remember 100% of all donations go to the cats. We don't have any full time paid staff; we're manned by 100% volunteer power.

We hope that 2009 brings you happiness and peace and that you are able to hang on to your homes, your jobs, your pets and even add more pets to your homes! And if you find yourself with time on your hands and love cats, call us. We need volunteers so we can do more to help all the cats and the people whose lives they touch!

### Cool Town Cats Stuff

Can't figure out what to get that animal lover in your life for Christmas? Well, we have the answer!! This season give the gift that makes a difference. Just in time for the holidays, Town Cats announces its first Town Cats Calendar. Spend 2009 with scenes from the shelter. Each month features photos of Town Cats residents and the stories that brought them here. This calendar is a great gift for any animal lover AND the proceeds support our rescue efforts.

You can also purchase Town Cats T-shirts, available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, and XXLarge.

You can purchase calendars and T-shirts on our website: [www.towncats.org/gifts.htm](http://www.towncats.org/gifts.htm). Calendars are \$15.00 each, or \$50.00 for five (a savings of \$25.00), plus shipping and handling. T-shirts are \$12.00, plus shipping and handling.



## ***Meanwhile, back at the ranch...***

In August 2008, a local ranch in San Jose closed, leaving the fate of its approximately 200 cats in jeopardy. Daya and Reshma, after feeding, spaying/neutering, and getting veterinary attention for the cats for the last two years, had fallen in love with these resident felines. When the decision came down to close the facility and euthanize the cats, Daya and Reshma put out the call to various rescue organizations for help in saving these innocent lives that had become the victims of an unfortunate human situation. Town Cats answered the call.

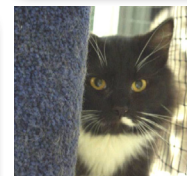
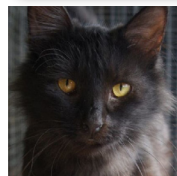
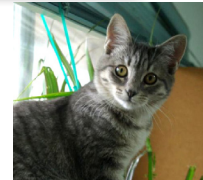
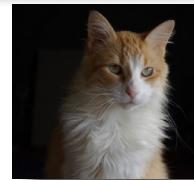
Town Cats (with the prodigious efforts of unflagging volunteers, including Barbara Glusker, Glenn, Nicole, Elisa, Scott Hamilton, and many others) set about garnering public support, setting up a temporary shelter, trapping, getting veterinary care, and adopting out the cats. A mammoth effort, but thanks to the equally mammoth hearts of the people selflessly volunteering their time and effort, it is underway and on the road to being resolved.

Now, cats who had never before played, eaten out of a clean bowl, slept somewhere clean and warm, or felt the loving touch of a caring human, are now experiencing the simple and basic pleasures of a healthy, happy, and clean environment. Upon arrival at the shelter, some of these once nameless cats were immediately transformed and clearly grateful for the basic decency and care which they received. Cats that had never before made a sound found their voices and were meowing and purring. Some of their stories, however, have also been heart wrenching. Some have suffered all their lives with illnesses, and some never made it.

As of this writing, there are only about twelve feral cats left to catch and place. Town cats still needs homes for the friendly house cats that have been dumped at the ranch over the years and ranch/outdoor homes for the feral cats. For more information and to volunteer, check out this website: <http://67.155.107.232/AlvisoRanch/AlvisoRanch.htm>.

In conjunction with Council-member Chu's Office and the city of San Jose Department of Environmental Services, Town Cats has planned a special adoption fair for the ranch cats. The adoption fair will be held in the George Mayne Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room (cafeteria) on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 10am to 4pm.

Through it all, the cats have been walking lessons in grace, dignity, and perseverance. If they could speak, their first words would be "Thank you!"



## ***A Second Chance for a "Town Dog"***

He showed up in the front yard of a Town Cats volunteer. He was a mess. His eye was ruptured, his fur was so matted that he needed to be shaved into a "poodle cut", his nails were so long they curled under, he had kidney disease, and he was dehydrated and very weak. He had been on the streets a long time. He was starving and sick. He needed some TLC and veterinary services immediately.

Captain is a Pekinese, about nine or ten years old. He was probably abandoned by his family after a foreclosure. He had no tags or microchip. Town cats saw to it that he went to a vet. The vet removed his ruptured eye, cleaned his teeth, and had him bathed and groomed, including a "paw-dicure" to take care of the long nails. He was such a trooper: he never cried and only barked a little.

After several thousand dollars worth of medical treatments, he went back to the original Town Cats volunteer for fostering. Eventually, the cousin of the original owner came to visit from Las Vegas, fell in love with him, and adopted him. He is now living in Las Vegas and goes by the name Willie. He's happy and loved, and he gets to bask in the warm desert sunshine. No more begging, no more cold and hungry nights - Willie is truly a Town Dog.



## ***Vet Corner***

Purrs to Bay Cities Veterinary Clinic in Milpitas, CA (408-262-251). Dr. Cachola and Jane (who runs his office) gave us a lot of help with our projects this year. Dr. Cachola participates in the county of Santa Clara spay/neuter program for feral cats. He offers low rates for dentals and other services at his clinic too!

Paws Up to Dr. and Mrs. Grewal and their staff of Christine, Melody, Chris and Penny of the Animal Medical Center in San Jose, located at 1820 Hillsdale, San Jose, CA (408-267-7387) for always letting us bring in sick cats or trapped cats for spay/neuter immediately whenever we call. They participate in the Santa Clara County spay/neuter program and have great rates for dentals and other work at their clinic too! Tell them Town Cats referred you to get the lowest rates.

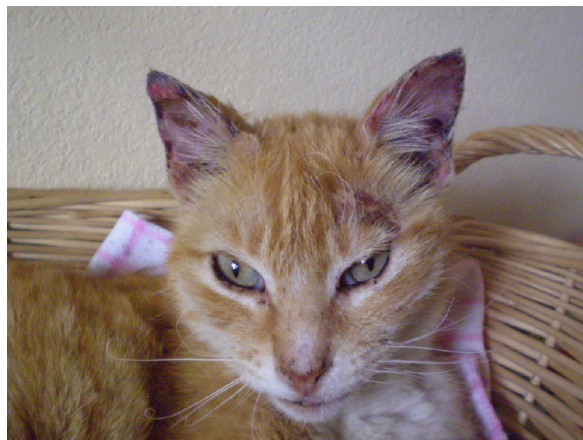
Purrs of thanks to South County Animal Hospital in Morgan Hill, CA (408-779-6867) who have provided medical services to our cats for many, many years; to Princeville Animal Hospital in Gilroy, CA (408-848-3443) who has also provided medical services to our cats for many years; and to AMC in Milpitas (408-262-7190) who all provide great work to our cats! AMC Milpitas also participates in the Santa Clara County spay/neuter program for Feral Cats.

## Town Cats Lends a Helping Paw

Town Cats was asked to extend a helping paw when Morgan Hill residents found themselves up to their whiskers in... well... whiskers. Town cats worked along side MHPD, and Animal Control to help a couple who had more cats then space. It all started innocently enough. This couple had a few cats they loved. Since these kitties were not spayed/neutered, they did what cats do. Soon there were more than 35 cats in their home. Many were sick, some under socialized, and all needing rescue. When all was said and done, Town Cats took in 30 cats. One of those was pregnant, and to our surprise, by morning we had 31. All the kittens have now been placed in happy homes. Many of the adults are still in Town Cats' care. Moral of this story, please spay or neuter your pets. They will live healthier and happier lives. For information on low-cost spay/neuter programs, see our website at [http://www.towncats.org/spay\\_neuter.htm](http://www.towncats.org/spay_neuter.htm). Town Cats would like to thank everyone who helped in this project through donations, fostering or just well wishes.

Town Cats extended another helping paw to the folks whose homes were devastated by the Summit Fire in May, 2008. Many families had to evacuate, and many of them returned home to find their homes just a pile of cinders. Chris Puett, who had an animal shelter on his 40 acres of land, lost a barn and many of his animals (four parrots that have lived with him for 22 years and several dogs and cats). He was able to save a few of his dogs and cats. The dogs ended up living with him in his truck. The cats went to Town Cats, where volunteers nursed them and loved them until they were adopted into new loving homes

Mr. Puett, like several other families who lost their home to the fires, is in dire need of supplies, food and shelter. Town Cats is currently setting aside a fund to help Mr. Puett get back on his feet. If you would like to help, you can donate funds to Town Cats using PayPal through our website: <http://www.towncats.org/donations>. You can indicate what percentage of your donation should go to assisting Mr. Puett and what percentage should go to the shelter. Town Cats is a non-profit organization so any donations are tax deductible.



Please consider helping us this year. The number one way you can help is to adopt a kitty and tell everyone you know to come adopt from us! Donations are always accepted, too, and 100% go directly to help the cats. Since we don't put our residents to sleep, and we treat each kitty as we do our own pets, we do lots of dental work, eye surgeries, and so on. You can imagine how high our vet bills are each year, even with discounts. Visit us at [www.TownCats.org](http://www.TownCats.org) to learn more and to donate or adopt today!

Yes, I want to help! Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me regarding volunteering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

This is a memorial donation (minimum of \$25) on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please send donations to: Town Cats, P.O. Box 1828, Morgan Hill, CA 95038-1828.**