

A CLOSE CALL....

In July of this year, a Gilroy Petsmart employee found a group of teenaged boys with a knife, holding a bloody screaming kitten.

She rescued the kitten, and contacted Town Cats to see if we could assist with the medical bills. The kitten's tail needed to be amputated, and ended up costing over \$800. He is doing fine, is still a happy friendly loving kitten, and has been renamed Hancock. He was adopted a couple of months ago.

We do a lot of special surgeries like this, when needed, and very little of this cost is recouped from the adoption fees. We have operated on tails, cleaned teeth, and removed damaged eyes. To make a donation towards the efforts to assist these kitties, please mark your donation "Town Cats Medical Fund". Thank you!

Katrina Kitties

Like most Americans, I sat watching TV, listening to the radio and reading on the internet about the devastation and tragedy that befell Louisiana and Mississippi in the wake of hurricane Katrina. A few days after the hurricane, we began to hear stories about the animals...hundreds of animals left behind, lost, starving, needing to be rescued. I felt so helpless.

On Monday, September 12, the San Jose shelter had sent out a plea to all the rescue groups for help. The temporary shelters in Louisiana and Mississippi were overrun with animals needing help, and many more animals were awaiting rescue. Some animals were going to be flown to other shelters across the country. San Jose Shelter was to receive 15. Unfortunately, the shelter was already full and did not have any extra room to house the newcomers. Everyone was afraid that in order to make room for the hurricane animals, some current residents would have to be euthanized. No one wanted that. Town Cats found foster homes for seven cats, so I picked up seven kitties at the shelter and delivered them to their temporary new homes. To date, we have reunited five cats with their families.

Through this experience, I have come to appreciate the importance of tags and microchips. None of the animals we received had tags or microchips. We had no way to know where these cats lived, who they belonged to, or even where they were found. In disasters like this, any information that will help identify your pet is essential.



Our mission at Town Cats is to maintain a No-Kill Adoption Center/Shelter and foster home network for friendly homeless cats and kittens awaiting adoption; to bring attention to and alleviate the suffering of homeless and feral cats in Santa Clara county; to educate the public about the pet overpopulation problem and provide the public with the tools to become part of the solution to assist homeless and feral cats through Trap, Neuter and Return programs; and to find permanent, loving,

and safe homes for all the homeless house cats and kittens in our care.



Town Cats is now microchipping all cats and kittens we place. We are offering to microchip all Town Cats adoptees for just \$20 each and free registration, all you need to do is email or call us to make appt then bring your adoption paperwork that you received from us when you adopted your kitty.

Fast Facts About Town Cats

- Town Cats is a nonprofit 501(c)3 group of volunteers located in Santa Clara county, California, and dedicated to enriching the lives of homeless cats and kittens living in the county through state of the art No Kill population control techniques.
- Founded in 1998, Town Cats has found permanent loving homes for more than 5,700 cats and kittens through 2005 and has spayed or neutered and cared for thousands of feral cats in Santa Clara county. In 2000, Town Cats opened the first No Kill cat adoption center/shelter in Santa Clara county.
- The Town Cats shelter only takes in domestic or tameable feral cats and kittens that are homeless, injured, or orphaned.
- No cats or kittens are euthanized unless ill or injured beyond recovery, every cat is valued and has the potential to be adopted into a good home.
- All resources are focused first on creative adoption programs and the medical and sheltering expenses, including food and supplies, for cats in foster homes, feral cats, and cats at the shelter.
- Town Cats is a limited access shelter; as one cat or kitten is adopted, another is rescued.
- Town Cats maintains clean, safe outdoor shelters for feral cats and finds maintained ranch style settings as homes for feral cats that must be relocated.

For more information, please visit www.towncats.org, or call us at 408-779-5761.



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Happy Holidays from Town Cats!

Rosi Mirko, Town Cats Executive Director



2005 was a very busy and action packed year! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to completely overhaul the Town Cats shelter by putting down new floors and painting every room from floor to ceiling. The soft earth and sandy/peachy tones have a calming effect on our residents. We installed garden murals in the cats' living area to lighten things up and bring nature in. We have lots of cat trees and beds and private places for the kitties. This week we are putting up their big Christmas Tree which they love to climb! We have soft cat toy ornaments and a stocking for every cat, too! They also have their bird and bug videos to watch, and we have lots of teenagers who come and play with them.

Town Cats was also involved in helping with the Hurricane Katrina homeless animals (see the article in this newsletter). We took in seven cats, and as of this writing, December 5th, we've reunited five with their families. Even though their homes are still under water, these families are anxious to get their pets home. It just broke their hearts to be separated from them. Our prayers go out to the Katrina victims, people and animals.

We started working with the San Jose shelter this year. They take in about 1,500 animals a month and adopt out about 200. We hope we can help reduce the numbers of cats put to sleep for lack of homes. We applaud the city of San Jose for offering a \$10 spay/neuter program to residents of San Jose (see www.towncats.org for info). In January 2006 they will open a low cost spay/neuter clinic at their shelter on Monterey Road. They are the only city in Santa Clara county making this type of effort to help the animals in their community. In 2005 we have also been taking cats from the Los Banos and Hollister shelters, and we became adoption partners with the PetSmart in Gilroy where we show our cats seven days a week in their adoption center. We want to thank PetSmart for their generous spay/neuter grant that made it possible for us to spay and neuter more than 630 cats and kittens in 2005!

We handled many serious projects in 2005. We got a group of 22 kittens from Gilroy. Four of them had to have one eye removed each, but we saved the eyes on the rest. We placed nearly 700 cats through November 30 and are still counting. We also got ten kittens from a homeless encampment. A jogger spotted cats under a tree along a trail and contacted us. One of our volunteers found the ten kittens and about ten adult cats being fed by a homeless man. He said he didn't want any handouts, but we insisted that he at least take cat food from us. He let us trap and spay the adults and take the kittens to find them homes. The kittens are very affectionate and loving. They were all so sick when we got them, it was wonderful to see them thrive under the loving care of their foster moms. Many of the cats and kittens we work with have stories like this. We try to help them and the people whose lives they touch. And if you would like to help, too, please contact Town Cats to donate funds or services, or to volunteer your time. The cats really appreciate it!

For more information on our adoptable cats, please visit www.towncats.org. We have 90 cats who reside in our shelter, waiting for homes, and many many others waiting in foster homes.



Sasha



Snow Leopard



Blackster



Owen



Olivia



Veronica

Volunteer Profile - Judy!

This was written by Judy to describe the morning shift at Town Cats:

It's 8 am at the home of the most prestigious cats of Morgan Hill. As the doors open, I see many pairs of adoring, hungry eyes. I enter and greet them by name. There's much to do, but first feed the cats; they seem so hungry. They bump my spoon as I put the food on the plates: They just can't wait. I put four large plates on the floor and special bowls in special places for the shy ones. Then it's the time for meds. As I follow instructions from Amoxi to Zithromax, I realize that the transport for the vet will be here soon, and there are cats to catch. The transport leaves, and now it's time to start my labors, but first, a sip of coffee. Then it's time to Scoop!! There are litter boxes to scrub, cages to clean, food and water bowls to fill, and floors to sweep and mop.

It is now 2 pm; and all is clean. As I look at the faces and feel the love these cats give so easily, I feel truly blessed. I smile as I start the dishwasher and dim the lights. It's time for me to go home and take care of my foster kittens.

Later, as I lay my head on my pillow, I say my Town Cat special prayer that the ones that are ill get well and that each one will get adopted and receive all the love and kindness that they so deserve. I am so grateful to be able to care for them in my life here. I will be back tomorrow and will open the Town Cat doors, the day will start all over again, and who could ask for more?

Please consider helping us this holiday season. There are many ways you can help - if you can find it in your heart to bring a new furry friend into your family, please visit the cats at www.towncats.org and see the many happy kitties waiting for a new home. However, if you are unable to adopt, Town Cats always has other needs. All donations go directly to help the cats. The adoption fee we charge comes nowhere near covering the cost for care, upkeep, etc., and we also end up with extensive medical bills for some cats that are brought to us with pre-existing medical conditions. Every little bit helps! Other needed donations include canned and dry food, kennels, carriers, cages, humane traps, litter, scratching posts, toys, cat beds, office supplies, etc. Please leave your donation of supplies at our adoption sites at the Pet Food Express stores in San Jose (see our web site for map) or call 408-779-5761 to make an appointment for drop-off at our shelter.

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 _____.

Feel free to visit our Memorials section on the Town Cats website (www.towncats.org) for more info.

You can also donate directly online through PayPal on www.towncats.org; click on the Donations link on the top of our website.

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