

The Cat House on the Kings Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2008

LETTER FROM LYNEA

Dear Friends and Supporters,

All of us here at The Cat House have been working extra hard lately. Two students from the Institute of Art in Los Angeles were here for two days filming a documentary for a school project, and then a publishing company from New York came to photograph the critters for a children's book! Things are looking up.

We are becoming famous with calls from England to do a BBC documentary, requests for magazine and newspaper articles and television news stories. Hopefully, this is an indication of things to come!

Please continue to forward the YouTube link, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwM6f0liHpo>, to all your friends and family, as this is the main reason for our current success. Then email Ellen Degeneres, Oprah and Lucy Liu through their websites and mention us, the youtube video and that what we do needs to be heard.

May your holidays be as happy as ours and thanks to all who have believed in us all these years.

With Love, *Lynea*



CHRISTMAS FOR THE KITTIES AT PETCO

There's a plethora of activities going on at **Petco** on Blackstone and Ashlan in Fresno through the month of December that will benefit you, The Cat House plus may make your Christmas shopping a little easier.

- ❖ Christmas Baskets and other gift ideas are available for sale with prices ranging from \$12.50 and up and will be perfect for friends and family or just a little something for yourself.
- ❖ We will once again be teaming up with Petco to take pictures of your beloved animal companions with Santa from **11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, December 13th**. The cost for a picture with frame is \$8.95 and \$5.00 of this will be donated back to our organization. Plus anyone with a Petco Pals card will get 500 bonus points!
- ❖ Petco Foundation's Tree of Hope Fundraiser is another way you can help orphaned animals everywhere by purchasing an ornament card in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 or by rounding up your purchase. Last year Petco raised over \$2 million, of which we received a portion.
- ❖ We will also be holding a raffle at **3:00pm on December 20th** for a large Christmas Gift Basket, a free spay or neuter certificate for cat or dog and a free micro-chip for your pet. Tickets for this raffle are \$1.00 and will be available throughout the month of December from our volunteers at Petco.
- ❖ And, as always, plenty of cats and kittens are available for adoption. Spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tested for FIV/FeLV, treated for fleas and ear mites and micro-chipped.....happy, healthy companions ready for their very own forever home.



Together We Will Make A Difference!



OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

We would like to thank everyone who participated for another well-attended Open House. The weather was great, the kitties were on their best behavior and we raised much needed funds for our ongoing expenses.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to these businesses and individuals who contributed to this event for the silent auction and raffle:

Santa Fe Basque Restaurant, Fresno
Helen Fort, Fresno
Elaine's Animal Inn, Fresno
Snap Logistics, Fresno
Sara Hamilton, Fresno
Feline Fantasies, Prather
Cedar View Winery, Sanger
Virginia Silva, Reedley
Amenities Day Spa, Fresno
Piccadilly Inn, Fresno
Sam's Town Hotel, Las Vegas
Author Peggy Krause
World Class Jewelry, Fresno
Holley Esmay, Clovis
Galleria Gifts, Reedley
Doug-Out Cookies, Fresno
Jamba Juice, Sunnyside Fresno
Yosemite Falls Café, Clovis
Steve Cloutier/FrogWorks Productions, Minnesota
Edie Chiarappa Custom Made Jewelry, Nevada
Blackbeard's Family Fun Center, Fresno
Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, Fish Camp



And of course, a great big thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to make this day special:

Judy Alcorn	Leni Mortensen
Jolene Higley	Jan Arrants
Sara Hamilton	Helen Fort
Kara Hoffman	Tammy Barker
Madaline Gleim	Mary Lou Rapp
Carol Lehtonen	Karen Williamson
Jim & Chris Rudai	Ivor Durham
Jorge Miranda	Henry Varela
Carmen Gutierrez	

Note: If I have left anyone out, I'm sorry.



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HOLIDAY SAFETY FOR PETS

Chocolate, onions, grapes or raisins can all kill dogs. (Even dogs that have previously eaten treats of chocolate, or dinner scraps with onions, or raisins as training treats with no apparent harm) Chocolate can poison the heart, onions (cooked or raw) can cause sudden hemolytic anemia & collapse, grapes and raisins can cause acute kidney failure. Dogs are simply put together differently than we are, and these items can kill in small amounts. Chocolate might take a few bites, yet it's still a significant risk. Also avoid cocoa hull mulch anywhere in the yard that a dog can get to it.

While cats aren't going to steal any of the above foods behind your back, there are other hazards. Tinsel, thread, or string can be fatal if swallowed. I don't know why, but cats do like to swallow these things when they play. Lots of cat toys are yarn or sewn with trailing thread too. Bad news. Cat's intestines tend to bunch up around the swallowed object to the point of cutting off circulation and/or getting perforated. And these things are invisible on x-ray, though if the intestine is already in trouble, that much can be seen. Sudden & constant vomiting is a warning sign, which unfortunately may not provide enough warning to help the cat, though immediate surgical intervention has been able to save some.

Plant-based chemicals can cause liver failure in cats. Their livers are much more sensitive than dogs or humans. Pine-based house cleaners, (also Lysol type products) also some essential oils, some aromatherapy products, (research thoroughly before use with or around cats) tea tree oil in any form (Don't ask me why some cat grooming products contain this! Melaleuca or tea tree oil can cause severe problems in cats) So do be careful in sprucing the house up for the holidays. Skin absorption is more likely than the cat licking any, such as walking on a mopped floor, rubbing against a treated surface... and fumes are best avoided too.

The traditional holiday warnings about cooked bones (except beef bones, which are okay), Christmas tree water, fatty foods like turkey skin, or significant amounts of rich food 'treats' having potential for trouble are still valid. The fatty foods and rich treats can trigger more than an upset stomach. Our carnivorous friends are much more susceptible to pancreatitis from such indiscretions, and that's another veterinary-intervention situation with a possibly poor prognosis.

It's so much easier to keep hazardous things away from our pets in the first place.

A home without a cat is only a house.

THE CAT HOUSE CHRONICLES BY ZANEY GREY



December all ready! How did this happen? There I was, making sure to get my full 20 hours of sleep, when I heard Pat's voice disturbing my dreams of mice and gophers. I tried to ignore her, but that obviously didn't work. She told me I had best get to it, that I could nap later.

In October, Lynea hosted an "open house." I'm not sure exactly what an open house is, but I know there were lots of people here wandering all over the place, laughing, eating, and best of all, petting! Oh, my yes, there was a LOT of petting! There were lots of laps for us to sit on, but there were more cats than laps so some of us had to do without. Maybe someday there will be a "one lap with one cat" day!

As I cruised the open house, I found lots of people who came from faraway places like Los Angeles and San Francisco. Some of them saw the YouTube video, so they just had to come see us for themselves. One of our Cat House cats even went to live with two really special people from the Bay Area. I have to admit, she was one sweet little Manx who was too cute for words. I hope she's happy in her new forever home.

Now I'd like to know about the rest of us. Where are our forever homes? There are so many of us who would just love to find our own special place with special people who want to love us for our own unique selves. Take Zack for instance. Here's a really cool, laid-back, older, short-haired tabby with white that absolutely loves being with humans. He told me that he would be so happy to find a home where he can just sit with his human while they do whatever. He would be content to be a companion to someone who is home most of the time and wants a cat to curl up with them all the time.

Then there's a bunch of newly released teenagers now running the floors. Believe me, they all have way too much energy for us older, more dignified cats, but they sure are a cute group. Some of us veteran cats have been jumping out from behind boxes to scare the newbies. Oooh, it is just too much fun to watch the youngsters puff up like blowfish when they finally land. They look like dandelions gone to seed. I just know there are humans out there who want a younger cat with energy, but not the extra work that baby kittens can bring with them.

Anyway, the holiday season is fast approaching, according to all the humans at the open house. I hear that's a special time of the year when families consider adding a pet to their homes. Maybe some of you might consider adopting some of us from The Cat House? Maybe you might want one of us who are a lot calmer, more relaxed and less work than the 8 week old babies? I don't know....it's something to think about.

Zaney

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Q & A

Q. My cat enjoys milk, and I give her a small amount two or three times a week. Will this help or harm her? I've read somewhere that milk is not good for cats.

A. Generally speaking, milk is not recommended for adult cats, as many of them are lactose-intolerant, and have problems digesting it. However, if she's not throwing up or having diarrhea, she's probably okay with it. Some experts advise that cream is better than regular milk if you must give it to cats, probably because cream has less lactose than whole or skim milk. But again, a small amount of skim milk seems to be okay for your kitty, so I wouldn't worry about it.

“By Franny Syufy, <http://cats.about.com>”



RAISIN WRITES

I can always tell when winter is coming because the fur balls are gathering around the stove in the living room. Talk about a long winter's nap -- I think they hibernate there until spring. Walk in there and you think that you are looking at a big, old furry quilt. Me, I prefer to stay in the kitchen where I can supervise, greet visitors, and check out the food supplies. A very important job, I might add.

I have one other important thing that I do around here and that is... I'm getting to it. You can't just ask for things, you have to sneak up on them. Okay, I'll just plain ask. We need money, large cans of cat food, paper towels, bleach, how boring -- it has no pizzazz. Nobody is going to get serious about giving us stuff at that rate. You have to set the scene. For instance: Snowflakes fluttering softly onto window sills, a roaring fire in the fireplace and a glass of tuna juice in your paw. Now that grabs you.

Here's how I would have suggested our needs:

Raindrops sliding down the windowpane,
Frost bit blades of grass I see.
Plastic wrap on the kennels now
And trees decked out with fruit to see.

Heaters dusted off and set to warm,
Blankets placed in cubbies now.
Winter season is creeping in
And once again we don't know how.

I dream of fishy stews and soups
Of chicken lumps and lots of turkey goo
Of Fancy Feast and baby food
And Christmas trees hung with dew.

So I'm telling you, my special friends
For all of us residing here
Our stockings are hung and our prayers are said
For a Christmas, a Merry Christmas this year.

And then after they're all softened up--hit them with the needs.

Okay, I' going to ask my fans what they think. My dear, dear fans, would you rather I just blurt out our needs or that I gently, persuasively, beg you to give us something. I await your answer. Please remember that I am completely dependent on you. Your answer may determine whether or not I lift my shaky paws to write again. Is it getting dark or is it my eyes?

Love, Raisin

IN MEMORY OF

Andrew Simmons
from
James and Lisa Cutts
William Stephenson
Al and Lynn Landwehr

Bob Condoian
from
John Kahaian

Christopher Smith
from
Sally Welch Okaya
Gil and Nancy Varnell

Dawn Delane Nolan
from
Carolyn Wright

Nicolette, my calico
from
Lisa Casteel

Robette
from
Sara Hamilton

Roxy Pounds
from Joyce Uhler

Edith McNab
from
Jean Constable

Beowolf
from
Fozzie Bear, Zoe Girl
and Gizmo Conley

Snookee
from
Waunetta Fuchs

Pepper Faulkner
from
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Faulkner

IN HONOR OF
Todd Cano and Shawn Morgan
from
Nancy Cano

My Cats
from
Carlotta Lopez

Linda Morganstein
from
Dena Sukol



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Leni Mortensen

Leni's passion for cats shows in her ongoing volunteer service for The Cat House on the Kings. During her 15 years as a Cat House volunteer, she has been involved in many ways.

Leni has been a constant source of motivation, leadership and management at the yard sales, open houses, Super Adoptions, Christmas Boutique and any where else she is needed. Her organizational skills have played a significant role in the success of many a fundraiser.

We are grateful for Leni's commitment and enthusiasm, and her love for cats is never-ending. Thank you, Leni, for all your hard work and dedication. It's great to have you on board.

ASPCA HONOR GOES TO 12 YEAR OLD

Mimi Ausland, a 12 year old girl from Bend, Oregon, will be one of eight people honored with American Humane Awards, given by the ASPCA. She was chosen the 2008 Tommy Monahan Kid of the Year, named for a 9 year old boy who died trying to save his dog from a house fire.

Mimi created the sites www.freekibble.com and www.freekibblekat.com. Click on these sites once a day and Mimi's sponsors, www.zoo-too.com, will donate 10 pieces of kibble for Mimi to distribute. The totals increase minute-by-minute, and she's generating enough hits to bring shelter animals across the nation about 15 million pieces of kibble a month.

The Cat House on the Kings has received over a ton of free cat food, thanks to Mimi and all those who visit her website daily.





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KID'S CORNER

Search for the words and circle them. They can be found horizontally or vertically. Answers on page 8.



SHEPHERD
COLLIE
LABRADOR
POODLE
CORGI
BEAGLE
TERRIER
MASTIFF
BOXER
CHOW
DACHSHUND
DALMATIAN
SCHNAUZER
SHIHTZU
POMERANIAN
ROTTWEILER
PUG
CHIHUAHUA
GREYHOUND
PUG
GREATDANE

DOG FACTS

1. Toto's role in The Wizard of Oz was played by a female Cairn terrier named Terry.
2. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the smallest dog on record was a Yorkshire terrier in Great Britain who, at the age of 2, weighed just 4 ounces.
3. Dogs do not have an appendix.
4. Chihuahuas are born with a 'molera', or 'soft spot' like a human baby, which usually closes as they mature.
5. Rin Tin Tin was the first American dog movie star and signed his own contracts for 22 movies with a pawprint.
6. The most successful mountain rescue dog ever was a St Bernard, named Barry, who lived during the early 1800's and saved 40 lives.
7. If none are spayed or neutered, a female dog, her mate, and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years.

SO PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS!



CAT TREE RAFFLE



This beautiful and functional cat tree has again been donated by *Feline Fantasies* for your raffle pleasure. The tree stands approx. 42" high, has a large 25" x 25" base, 3 extra large 1/2 tube beds with a 27" sisal covered post. The colors are 2-tone neutral browns. This tree will can fit in a small apartment or mobile home but will easily accommodate 3 large felines.

The raffle will be held Saturday, February 14, 2009 at Petco, Blackstone & Ashlan in Fresno at 2:30 pm and the tickets are just \$1.00. Tickets will be available at Petco every Saturday or you can purchase them by mailing a check marked "RAFFLE TICKETS" to: 7120 S. Kings River Road, Parlier, CA 93648 and we will mail them to you ASAP. **YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN, BUT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP THE CAT TREE.**

Don't let this tree slip away, purchase your raffle tickets today. 100% of the proceeds benefit The Cat House on the Kings.



LETTERS, NOTES AND PICTURES

Hi Lynea,
I adopted Monty from you on 2/1/08. He was a beautiful little kitten. He is now a strapping eleven month old. I am attaching a picture of him. He gets along beautifully with his older Cat sister, Zoey, and his little brother Cat, Jack. He is truly a Joy. Just wanted to give you an update, continued blessings and success to you!!

Liz Bunting



Meet Blossom, the 11 month old Saint Bernard. She's the kitten's surrogate mother and takes her job very seriously.



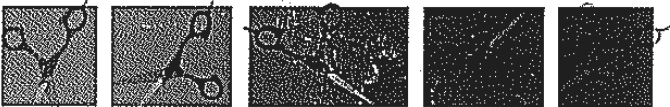
The kitten's think they are Saint Bernards!
They have all gained 4 ounces and are happy as can be!

Thanks! Jeryll

Note: Jeryll is a new foster parent taking care of these 3 kittens that were found in a sewer pipe filled with water.

Hi Kathy, just wanted to give you an update on how big & beautiful our Chloe is. If you'll recall we adopted her from you @ Petco, when she was just 10 weeks and very tiny. April 12th is when we brought her home. She's not tiny anymore... She is so loveable and great with the kids. She sits & rolls over for her snacks. I took this picture of her about 2 weeks ago, her eyes are blue, but they look red from the flash. Thank you again for everything, she is bringing lots of joy & laughter.

Take Care....Christina Quijano



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Kara Hoffman

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BRAD SHAWN

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE



The Cat House on the Kings is a private, nonprofit, no-cage, no-kill sanctuary, rescue and adoption center for cats run solely on donations and out-of-pocket funding by our founder Lynea Lattanzio.

The Cat House is open to visitors Thursday through Sunday (except major holidays) from 1 PM to 4 PM, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

We are located near Reedley, CA, southeast of Fresno.

The Cat House on the Kings
7120 S. Kings River Road
Parlier, CA 93648
(559) 638-8696

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