

74 kitties found loving homes since our November newsletter!



Help us help our kitties! Donate to MCA by making checks payable to SAFE and sending them to Elaine Lvford-Nojima at 2527 Carmel St., Oakland, CA 94602

Maine Coon Adoptions March 2008

Family / Kitty

Lisa / **Miller**
Christine / **Siren**
Fayne & Frank / **Dexter**
Leigh & Stephen / **Friday**
Vicki & Michael / **Molly**
Mardi / **Isabella**
Eileen & Gianfranco / **Layla**
Cathy / **Carrie**
Rachel / **Isabelle**
Anna & Eyal / **Charlie**
Kathy & Kyle / **Chase**
Myrna / **Colossal**
Stephanie & Michael / **Koyanni**
Nubia / **Crush**
Chris / **Nana B.**
Nathan / **Sumi**
Melissa / **Carly**
Denise & Ian / **Rudolph & Herbie**
Jessica / **Sophie & Flair**
Christina / **Grady**
Kim / **Maui**
Jennifer / **Lofu**
Sharon / **Jazzy**
Rebecca & Matthew / **Sparky**
Jacqueline / **Delilah**
Ridge & Karen / **Maya**
Lauren / **Lola**
Shaina / **Peaches**
Pat / **Manny & Cougie**
Ahna / **Layla**
Catherine / **Aberforth**
Rick & Marilyn / **Sir Toby**
Wayne / **Agatha**
Aviel / **Chloe**
Stephanie & Rob / **Riley**
Marissa & Kevin / **Lana & Lyle**
Elaine / **Ripley**
Dorothy & Brian / **Logan**
Flory & Charlie / **Sophie**
Molly / **Grady**
Arsala & Shariq / **Betty**
Ewa, Jan & Ken / **Sierra & Sylvester**
Bill / **Maggie**
Ani / **Jody**
Kevin & Liz / **Chloe**
Cathy / **Rosie**
James & Rita / **Snowflake**
Susan & Ray / **Perseus**
Dina & Dave / **Hollywood**
Amanda / **Cleopatra**
Cynthia / **Ice, Cloud, Fiona**
Joanne, Doug & Melissa / **Jessica**
Alon / **Miel**
Vera & James / **Nascar & Warrior**
Kate & Noah / **Bear**
Sharon / **Quincy**
Jennifer / **Boston**
Pat & Mike / **Bandit**
Gregg & Adrienne / **Poppy & Tessa**
Irene / **Delores**
Courtney / **Fizz**
Laura & Kyle / **Diego**
Britt & Adrianna / **Dora**
Jacob / **Q-pid**
Heidi / **Chas**



Greetings from The Director: **THANK YOU** for stepping up to the plate this month when our kitties needed help! Right after we took in a number of kitties from two bad hoarding situations, PetSmart cut the number of condos we could use in the store's Adoption Center from 5 to 2 due to a new manager's policy. That left us in a real bind for places to house our five to seven kitties who rotate in and out of the Center. When we sent an email to those of you in the Bay Area asking for temporary fosters, or ideas, the response was terrific – some of you offered foster space, some of you donated money, and many of you sent our need on to friends. Read more about these hoarding kitties and their success stories in this newsletter.

>> Elaine Lvford-Nojima

The Great Kitty Rescue

Most of us have seen headlines like: "Couple Had 58 Cats in Two-bedroom House" or "Man Kept 17 Malnourished Dogs in Trailer." Well, in Pahrump, NV, located down a dirt road in the desert an hour from Las Vegas, a "rescue" group kept 800 cats behind a high, locked electric fence with inadequate food, water, and shelter. This "rescue" group, FLOCK, not only took in cats in the traditional ways, they also stole cats from families' yards (another reason to keep your kitty inside).

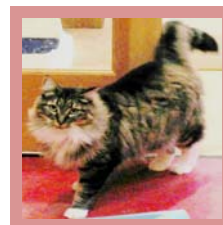
Eventually, someone made a report to Nye County Animal Control who called Best Friends Animal Society, the largest and most respected animal sanctuary in the world. Best Friends went to FLOCK's facility in July 2007.

"This is the worst I've seen in terms of animal cruelty and neglect," said Best Friends General Counsel, Russ Mead. "When we got there, your eyes would water from the smell of urine and feces,

and there were thousands of flies in every building."

Best Friends first task was to "catch" the cats as many of them were fearful - even terrified - of humans. They brought in vet teams, set up mobile hospitals, feeding stations, tents and trailers for people to live in, a makeshift kitchen, shelters for the cats, and dozens of employees and volunteers. "The Great Kitty Rescue" had begun.

MCA heard about this horrible situation and Best Friends' rescue work there and took in 2 Pahrump kitties in August, whom we named Antoinette and Neddy. Neddy was so terrified that she didn't look at her foster - MCA Director, Elaine - for six weeks. The day she looked Elaine in the eyes, we knew she'd be ok.



Neddy - available

Then on New Year's weekend, Elaine drove to Pahrump to help with the 218 cats still there. Talking about her experience, Elaine said: "To drive down these dirt roads into the Nevada desert and come on the site where FLOCK had caused such suffering to animals was difficult. But what had an equally great impact was the incredible compassion of Best Friends workers who were living in trailers with no running water, no real kitchen to cook in, and who spent long hours tending to cats' medical and emotional needs. The kitties were now living in small huts and each day Best Friends workers would go into each hut to clean, socialize the kitties, feed and medicate them."

Elaine brought 3 more kitties back with her and was determined to rescue more. She wrote to her rescue colleagues, and as a result, about 25 more Pahrump cats were taken into foster care by local rescue groups. Overall, MCA has taken 9 Pahrump kitties into our

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Antoinette - adopted



Nascar & Warrior - adopted



Royal - adopted

The Great Kitty Rescue, *continued from page 1*

care, and we are happy to tell you that 4 of them have been adopted.

When they arrived at Pahrump, Best Friends documented each cat's condition and turned over the information to prosecutors. The Nye County district attorney has now filed 13 counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty against former FLOCK president Sharon "Sheri" Allen. Best Friends also drafted and sent to Nye County officials a model ordinance that would create a separate crime of animal hoarding, with penalties to include mental health counseling, a restriction on owning cats

and routine inspections.

This is not the first time Best Friends has gone in to help animals – they rescued 6000 animals during Hurricane Katrina, took in 21 dogs from Michael Vick's dog-fighting ring, helped over 1400 bunnies in a hoarding case in Reno, etc. Read about them at www.bestfriends.org.

Please consider making a donation to this wonderful group. Better yet, find a home for just one kitty. They have gone through "finishing school" to hone their social skills and want so much to be loved and to have a place to call home. Enjoy the photos of Nascar, Warrior, Royal, and Antoinette, who have found

forever homes. We still have Neddy, Stormy, Bramble, Sophie and Moon waiting for a family of their own!

We also took in 2 kitties from a hoarding situation in Oakland, and Jenny and Sammy are slowly coming around – still shy but learning that humans can be kind, gentle and nurturing.

An article about the Great Kitty Rescue appeared in the San Jose Mercury News, and our director, Elaine, was interviewed for that article. The article is on our website under the MCA News tab. Check it out!

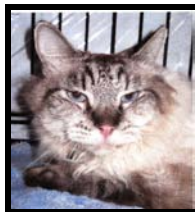


Bramble - available

Here are some of our "hoarding" kitties still looking for a home of their own.



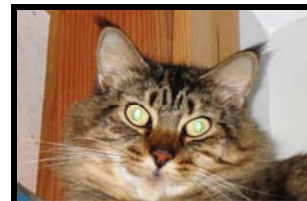
Sammy - available



Moon - available



Sophie - available



Jenny - available



Stormy - available

Consider fostering?

Even if you can only foster for a week or two, that helps. Before going to foster care, our kitties will have seen our vet, be up to date on shots and spayed-neutered. If a foster is willing to take in a shy kitty, MCA can offer lots of ideas about how to help the kitty. Whether or not the kitty is shy, MCA provides lots of support and information for its fosters. We ask our fosters to provide food, litter and love....lots of love.

If you are interested in fostering, please contact Elaine at 510- 482-6179 or elaineln@pacbell.net.



Dear Mr. Fergus:

*My people say they are thinking about fostering a kitty. Will I have to share my toys? -- **Worried in Walnut Creek***

Dear Worried: Sharing toys is no laughing matter, but sometimes there's just no stopping a good deed.

Ask Mr. Fergus

People foster because they know that if they don't help, the fate of these kitties is either sub-par living conditions or death.

My people foster from time to time and, curiously, they tell me it is a very rewarding experience. They seem to think that they get back as much nurture, love and care as they give to these innocent souls!

Many families foster as a creative way to teach their children about compassion and responsibility. If that's your situation, it could work to your benefit.

As for sharing toys, much as it pains me to say it, maybe you could give up just one little ol' toy that you've already chewed to death.