

Rescue Tails

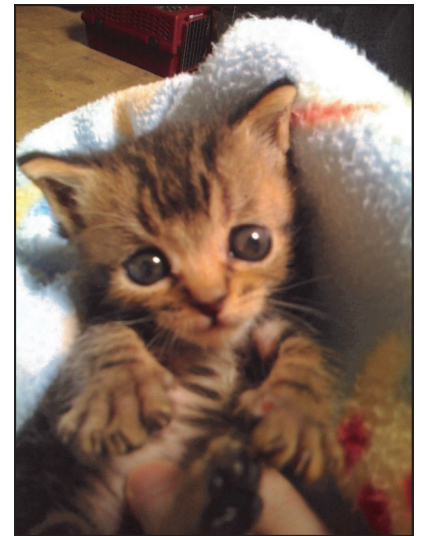
Winter 2008



This tiny tabby is the sole survivor of a litter of two week-old kittens picked up one night by a Palo Alto Animal Services animal control officer, covered with fleas and fly eggs. She was rushed to Adobe Animal Hospital in Los Altos, where she received an immediate blood transfusion to help her flea-induced anemia and was put into the intensive care unit to see if she could survive.

Brownie has a will of steel and a mind of her own, and survive she did in her foster home — although her legs began to swell. The diagnosis was septic arthritis, with the possibility she might lose a leg. But Brownie didn't much care for that idea. Two days later, she was back in her foster home, again on every three hour feedings, four times a day soaks and hot compresses,

and two different antibiotics.



Despite the loss of one toe (ouch!) Brownie continues to thrive. She will always have some arthritis in her rear leg, so she will never be an Olympic high-jumper, but she walks just fine and even tries short sprints. Brownie is undergoing complimentary physical therapy at Scout's House in Menlo Park, an animal rehabilitation center where last year Geronimo received tremendous help. Our deep appreciation to the caring Adobe staff and vets Drs. Nancy O'Day, Elizabeth Rogers, and Sarah Thompson for saving Brownie's life and leg, and to Lisa Stahr of Scout's House .

Handicapped Kitten Finds New Home — and Hope!

We are happy to report that Geronimo, a special handicapped beige tabby rescued by Peninsula CatWorks last year, has been adopted by Lisa Stahr, owner of Scout's House rehabilitation facility for companion animals in Menlo Park.



*Geronimo and one of his biggest fans—
physical therapist Andrea Mocabee!*

Geronimo came to us as a 14-ounce paralyzed kitten with spinal cord trauma, and his prospects were dim. He was hospitalized and given an anti-inflammatory to reduce the spinal cord injury — but if that didn't work, he would be euthanized, because he could not urinate or defecate by himself, and would have a difficult life. A PCW volunteer who opened her home to this sweet kitty spent countless hours expressing his bladder and bowel and giving him daily baths, and Geronimo began to show signs of improvement as he moved his tail.

That's when Lisa with Scout's House stepped in. She offered complimentary weekly rounds of therapy on a land and water treadmill for Geronimo, and he began to find strength in his legs. Over time, Lisa fell in love with "G", calling him the "sweetest cat she has ever met". He adores Lisa's other cats and two dogs, and enjoys all the action that comes with spending time at a pet physical therapy center. Every evening, without fail, he scoots up to Lisa or her husband and scratches their leg as a sign he wants to get up in their lap., and curls up to sleep with them at night in bed.

Although Geronimo isn't expected to walk normally again, Scout's House continues his rehab --and he's also become the poster boy for their new boarding facility for special needs pets. We are grateful to Lisa for her amazing love and commitment to Geronimo, and wish them a happy life of therapy together!

Happy Endings: We found wonderful homes for more than 75 cats and kittens this year.



Rags to Riches: Puffy

At one time, Puffy belonged to someone who had him neutered and micro-chipped but never registered him and then abandoned him in an apartment complex. He joined up with other homeless cats scrounging for food in dumpsters. Luckily for him, someone cared enough to report this handsome, friendly fellow and Peninsula CatWorks found space for him in a foster home. Eleven months later (we keep them for as long as it takes), Puffy was rewarded with a forever home with loving mom Kate.

In Memory of Ming Toi

Ming Toi's original owner passed away suddenly and his vet contacted us to see if we could help this 14-year old cat. We wanted to make it possible for him to live the rest of his years in comfort. Along came Michele and Tony who chose to adopt Ming, knowing they would probably have him for only a brief time. Ming settled in quickly, reveling in the pampering. His human companions found he loved belly rubs and sharing dinner hour with them. He always greeted his new friends at the door with hand nuzzles.

Ming Toi lived a wonderful life for 13 months, but finally succumbed to kidney failure, a condition common in geriatric cats. Our sincere appreciation to Michele and Tony who opened their home and their hearts to this senior cat and gave him a happy second life.



Thanks to Catherine who adopted Buster and Sterling!

We put a lot of love into our foster cats and are delighted to hear from adopters about how happy the cats are in their forever homes. Last year, Catherine adopted Buster, a vivacious, "I love life!" kind of guy. Catherine thought it would be fun for Buster to have a playmate join him. Turning to Peninsula CatWorks once again, Catherine visited our Saturday adoption fair and Sterling caught her eye. It was love at first sight! It is often tricky and slow-going to introduce a new cat to an established cat's territory. Not so with Buster and Sterling. The two quickly became fast friends, though there are still a few times when Buster lets his little buddy know who is the boss (especially when it comes to snuggles with Catherine). Now Catherine has two live heating pads for this winter- one for the head and one for the foot of her bed.

Special Thanks:

- ◆ Our priceless volunteers who make everything possible.
- ◆ The Pet Place for allowing us to hold our adoption fairs in their lovely store.
- ◆ Adobe Animal Hospital for ongoing medical expertise.
- ◆ Ivor Durham who maintains our website.
- ◆ Scout's House for rehabilitation services.
- ◆ Palo Alto Humane Society for spay/neuter vouchers for feral cats.
- ◆ Palo Alto Animal Services for supporting our mission to rescue as many as possible and for state of the art spay/neuter surgery.
- ◆ Forpaws Spay and Neuter Clinic for expert surgeries on so many feral cats.
- ◆ Attorney Jennifer Hill at Fenwick & West LLP for pro bono legal services.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ◆ Foster parents – provide temporary homes for rescued kittens and cats. Training and support provided
- ◆ Cat rescuer – help trap kittens for rescue and adult feral cats for spay/neuter. Training and support provided.
- ◆ Feral cat feeder – help feed a colony of "street cats."
- ◆ Volunteer coordinator – help match volunteers with openings, offer support.
- ◆ Fundraising and events coordinator.

The Pet Place celebrates 17 years of animal care in March 2009. We talked with owners Marc and Lynn Macy to get the story behind this amazing Menlo Park pet supply store.

Q: What is your personal connection to animals and people's pets?

A: Our love for animals has always been a huge part of our lives, and opening The Pet Place 17 years ago was just a natural progression for us.

Q: Why do you invite animal rescue groups into your store to hold pet adoption fairs?

A: That's why The Pet Place exists – our store goes beyond just being a store and means we do everything we can for animal welfare. Whether that be collecting signatures for important animal protection issues in legislation, giving advice to a customer on the best nutrition for their pet or providing a veterinarian referral. We want to help animals by helping our customers take the best possible care of their four-legged friends.

(Marc is often called Dr. Marc by customers that he and Lynn have advised regarding surgery, illness and eating problems. They've also helped customers who can't afford to provide veterinary care for their sick pet find resources and groups that can help offset the costs.)

Q: What is one of the more memorable animal stories you've experienced during your time running a pet store?

A: A customer of ours has a dog named Max, and they live about two miles from our store. There was a period of time when the gardeners were leaving the back gate open, and Max walked two miles from his house to get to The Pet Place. He would sit outside the door to the store, and when a customer came in, he'd trot right in, grab a rawhide bone and start gnawing away. He actually walked down to The Pet Place three separate times!

Q: What do you see as the current biggest threat to animal welfare?

A: With all of the home foreclosures, it's just devastating to hear the stories about how people leave their house and just abandon their pets. That is just unimaginable to us – how someone could leave their pet behind and not bring it with them wherever they go to – whether that be an apartment or even sleeping in the car! So there is a lack of understanding of animals and that's where our role of educating people comes in. Luckily we live in the Bay Area, which is a wonderful place as far as compassion for animals goes, and things are getting better for animal welfare every day, so we have hope.



Winnie and Lynn Macy of The Pet Place with Peninsula CatWorks rescue Kiki.

Our Anti-Litter Campaign—280 and Counting!



A feral cat recovers after being fixed by the caring team of Peninsula CatWorks.

Our feral cat program is just as important as rescuing and finding homes for cats and kittens, and we have a fabulous team of volunteers who spend evening after evening trapping “street cats” for spay/neuter. It is estimated that one unaltered female and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in just seven years. This year alone, we trapped, neutered, and released more than 280 feral cats.

We receive many calls on our community phone line reporting feral cats in apartment complexes, company parking lots, even estates in the hills. This starts a process that may take a day to years to complete. One of our team of dedicated trappers makes a first visit to talk with the person feeding the cats to see how many there are, if there are small kittens, and any emergency needs such as pregnant or injured cats. Traps are set and the volunteer waits patiently in her nearby car, sometimes for hours, often for many nights.

After the cats are trapped, they are taken to one of the few spay/neuter clinics doing low-cost surgery, then kept by a volunteer overnight, sometimes longer, for recovery. The most difficult part is often getting the property owner to agree to releasing the cats back to their home territory where they will be fed on an ongoing basis. We explain that trap/neuter/release (TNR) is the only proven way to reduce unwanted cat populations in the long run. Ignoring the problem, or trap and kill, only makes matters worse, and Peninsula CatWorks does not condone that method.

When you see stray or feral “street cats”, please contact us and we will work with you. We also welcome any volunteers willing to help with this worthwhile effort.

How to Contribute to Peninsula CatWorks

Peninsula CatWorks is an all-volunteer 501 (c) 3 nonprofit cat rescue organization working to rescue, rehabilitate, foster, and find homes for kittens and cats; trap/neuter/release feral cats and feed feral colonies. You can help in many ways:

- ◆ **Donate Your Time** — Consider volunteering, a truly rewarding experience. We need people to help in a variety of ways: feeding, fostering, trapping, helping at adoption fairs, fundraising, etc.
- ◆ **Adoption** — Adopt one or more of our cats. It is not only a way to contribute, but also a way to enhance your life!
- ◆ **Financial** — Large, medium, or small it all helps! \$10 will buy one 25 lb bag of food that will feed 42 homeless cats for one day. We urgently need your financial support for spay/neuter surgery, medical care, and supplies. Send a contribution in the enclosed envelope, or make one via Amazon or PayPal on our website.
- ◆ **Memorial Gift** — By contributing a memorial gift, you further the lives of other animals in honor of your or a friend's cherished companion or loved one. In a very special way, that animal's departure provides another animal's restoration.
- ◆ **Employee Matching Gift** — Many companies will match individual employee donations to nonprofit organizations dollar for dollar, so your gift goes even farther!
- ◆ **Donate Items** — Your contribution need not be monetary. There is always a need for food, bedding, towels, toys, litter, carriers, cages, you name it!



A junior PCW volunteer bottle-feeds Alex, a month-old foster kitten.



Even our dogs help to socialize the kittens!

All Volunteer Cat & Kitten Rescue Group



P.O. Box 60837
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Phone: 650-329-9570
E-mail: info@peninsulacatworks.org
Website: www.peninsulacatworks.org



Thank You for Your Support!