

Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

AUTUMN 2009 NEWSLETTER

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BCROemm@yahoo.com



► ► ► *Sugarbear died recently: this edition of the newsletter is dedicated to his memory* ◀ ◀ ◀

May 5, 2009 Message from Kris: This morning at approximately 11:15 Sugarbear Field left his cancer-ridden body behind as he soared to a new world of rainbows and butterflies and sunshine and peace.

There is nothing that I can say about this magnificent creature that most of you do not already know. For all of the love you showed him, for all of the birthday parties, and gifts and cakes and kisses, we both say "Thank you." Good-bye, Sugarbear. You were the best cat a mother could ever hope to have. The most gentle, sweet, loving cat, the peacemaker, the shelter greeter...how lucky and blessed I am, and how honored I was, to have shared so many years of my life with you.

I thought we were going to grow old together...and I guess we did, didn't we Sugie! May the angels fly him home.

Post Script: Any donations made in his name will be used for the Sugarbear Memorial Fund to aid black cats, since they are the least adoptable cats in most shelters, and therefore the first ones euthanized. All those little Sugarbears out there looking for homes...maybe, just maybe, there will be another Sugarbear for someone. Maybe for you? Thank you for your prayers.

Kris and Sugarbear (October 31, 1989--May 05, 2009)



A mature Sugarbear, 2001



A very young Sugarbear looks out at the world from one of his many perches. September 1998



October 1999

All Sugarbear photos are from Kris Field's private collection.



This newsletter is a periodic publication of Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

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How Sugarbear Spent His Last Four Hours, by Kris Field

I went upstairs at 5:30 a.m. when I realized he was not still in bed with me. He was sitting in my desk chair, the one with the black pad. He was so happy to see me, and I brought him a plate of mahimahi, which he gobbled up. Then after an hour or so he came downstairs with me, saw the cat run was open and went right out the window. He never said a word.

After a half an hour I went out with my camera. I took a few photos, but the whole time I was out there, he was looking off in the distance. He turned his head a few times and was totally transfixed by whatever he was looking at. He paid no attention to me at all. His whole life has been one of looking into my eyes and face and meowing back as I talked to him. Today he never said a word.

I went back in and peeked out at him every few minutes. He was dozing most of the time. He still looked around every once in a while, staring off into the distance.

Then about a half an hour before Dr. Monica came to put him to sleep, he came into the house and into the kitchen where I was preparing the blanket for him on the kitchen counter. He talked to me, then went into the dining room and lay back down in the new little bed I bought him on Friday. His eyes were so bright and his ears were straight up and his posture was one of a healthy, happy kitty.

I brought him a plate of mahimahi, the last of the four pieces I baked for him on Thursday after I got his medical report. While he was eating, I fixed him another plate of some special canned food, which he was in the process of gobbling up when the vet arrived.

I asked her and her tech to please let him finish eating and they were astounded that he was eating so much. Dr. Monica even said, "Do not second guess your decision. You are doing the right thing." I knew I was.

So after a wonderful morning in the outside habitat and a lovely and apparently delicious lunch of everything he loved, I brought him into the kitchen and laid him down on the blanket. He stretched out on his own accord and purring the entire time, while I kissed him and told him how much I loved him.

Everything went perfectly and he went gently into that next life. I am thoroughly and totally convinced that he was looking at angels. He could not take his eyes off of whatever he was seeing, and I have never seen him so peaceful and calm. I was so happy to see him eating so well...it had been years since he packed away so much food in one sitting.

So, the angels flew him home...as I had always known that they would....and now I must make peace with this emptiness and silence, the sounds of one less cat in my household.

God, what a gift that cat was. Before he left, I told him: you've not gone, you've just gone on ahead.

See you later, baby boy. You were the guy who really brought all of these angels into my house, into the shelter and into my life; and I am glad I could return the favor.

I will love you forever.



2000



2007



2009

SUGARBEAR by Kris Field, the first day of Summer, June 21,2009

Sugarbear fell out of the sky one night
into my arms where I held him tight
and he blinked and he winked and he purred all day
'til he looked around and he said, "I'll stay"
and he stayed and he stayed
'til the seasons passed
and I knew our love would always last
cause he danced and he sang 'til my heart sang too
and he brought us all love
that grew and grew
and it grew so large that it reached the skies
and it lived in his heart and it lived in his eyes
and when the day came along when he had to go
he told me once more
that he loved me so
and he went outside on a bright clear day
and the angels circled where he lay
and he watched them fly and he heard them sing
and he stretched his paw
to touch a wing
and when he came back in we said "good bye"
head to head, eye to eye
one more meal, watered and fed
my hot tears fell on your noble head
and when I said goodbye and you left that day
angels came down to lead the way
to take you over the mountain ridge
where you'll wait for me on Rainbow Bridge
and 'til that day, with all my might
I'll wish on stars most every night
and pray you're safe and happy, too
just purring all day like you used to do
winking and blinking and running free
and knowing you were so loved by me--
always and always, 'til time stands still
I loved you then and I always will
I thank all Powers in heaven that be
for giving this beautiful gift to me!



Sugarbear 1998



Sugarbear 2007



**Sugarbear in the
cat run, 1998**



**Ann and Kiki Martinez donated a birthday cake
each year to Sugarbear's celebration.**



Sugarbear's Marker



Sugarbear Hugging Honeybear, 2007

YARD SALE SUCCESS by Kris Field

The yard sale was more than a success: it was a monster success, a category 5 success. We brought in about \$1,450. Three hundred of that were donations made for the yard sale by people who were not in attendance, but nevertheless it was donated because there WAS a yard sale, so I counted it into the total. Then a few days later I received another \$120 from volunteers who had purchased stuff and added it up and put a little more in after they got home.

Yards sales are hot and exhausting and require a certain temperament to work. Some (many) people that come to yard sales are argumentative and get angry when prices are not lowered to next to nothing. I see you all struggling to keep your sanity and your cool, and I am in awe of the way you respond, with firmness, gentleness and respect. I am proud of all of you.

I would like to add a special thank you to Dr. Cindy Kryjak, her husband Matt and Judy Cattlet. Welcome aboard and I hope you will come back and help again. Thank you Matt for fixing my garage door handle. You guys were terrific! Thank you to Eluise, Andrea, Gay, Justin, Pam and Margery. You guys were out there all day, in the heat, lifting and packing, and cleaning and pricing. All I can say is, it paid off big time. So thank you, from all the cats you have already helped and from all the cats that you will help in the future.

NEXT YARD SALE, SUNDAY, October 11, 8 a.m. [date changed because of weather]

As you can see above, yard sales are vital to BCRO. There are only two a year and they provide a major source of funds. The next one is Sunday, October 11, at 8 a.m. Any thing you have to donate, please do. Contact me or bring it to the shelter up to a week prior to the sale. They must be placed on the porch to the extreme left of the gate and covered completely with the tarp or brought in garbage bags to protect items from rain and snow damage. **Please not block any windows, steps or doorways, please.** You will receive a tax donation sheet for your taxes. And you should feel good inside for helping such a worthy cause.



YOUR PHONE CALL COULD SAVE A LIFE!

June 2, 2009: Letter from Kris Field:

The negligence and horrible, horrible conditions of the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter have existed for many, many years. The inhumane treatment, lack of veterinary care, the fact that they cannot even so much as put soft towels (which I have offered to donate) in for the cats to lie on, even the sick and injured ones, is a travesty.

Please please call and complain. You cannot call the shelter because they will not answer. You have to go through 311. Then you will be on hold at least 20 minutes. You will never get the Director of the shelter, Doug Kelly, because he does not answer his phone. I have been trying to reach him for two years and I have even called his cell phone number and left messages on his shelter phone.

I have called the Mayor's office six times over the past three years to get a meeting scheduled with him and/or a phone conversation. I have been told by "Nina" that he is "too busy." So much for electing a mayor who is more involved with breakfast meetings, luncheons and speaking engagements!

This shelter should be closed down. At the very least there should be a massive internal investigation looking into the treatment and the disposition of every single animal that enters. For years, animal advocates have tried to get improved, more humane conditions . . . to no avail.

If you only make one phone call this year to help a lost, injured or stray animal, please let this be the one. Please call Deputy Manager Sherry Purdy's Office at 720-865-5365 or Assistant to the Manager, Donna Girtin, at 720-865-5364.

Ask for an immediate investigation of the treatment of the animals, ask why there is no vet on staff or regular vet services for "incarcerated" animals, and ask for the resignation of the Director who has been unwilling to create a safe environment for these defenseless animals.

Enough is enough! Thanks for your help, Kris Field

CATS RESCUED FROM ABUSIVE HUSBAND, 8-10-09

Let's imagine for a moment that you're a young married gal with five dogs and two cats. Then imagine that your husband becomes abusive to the point that a restraining order and divorce is in your future. Now imagine that before the restraining order is in effect, your husband tries to kill one of your dogs.

That was not the imagination but the reality for a woman in Westminster whom I'll call Allison. Fearing for the safety of her animals, as well as for her own, and while in the process of getting a restraining order, she had tried to find safe homes for her dogs. Her two cats Izzy and Busy are brothers who have never been separated. They are large beautiful brown mackerel tabbies. Allison adopted them as "kittens with big feet" from Meezer Ranch in Denton, Texas. First, Allison tried every shelter in Colorado she could locate but no one could guarantee not to euthanize her pets, so she contacted Meezer with an urgent plea not only to take them back, but also to help get them out of her home immediately before it was too late.

Although they are adorable cats, with the current economic situation there are simply not enough shelters or homes for all the animals that need them. Although Meezer has had foreclosure and job loss returns left and right, Allison's contract with Meezer locked Meezer into taking the cats back if necessary and Meezer is happy to honor that contract and would keep the cats safe until they are adopted out again. [BCRO also has a contract with those who adopt our cats that if the cat must be surrendered, BCRO will take the cat back.] This situation sets in motion efforts that involve many people.



Cheryl Gardner, retired from American Airlines and instrumental in hundreds of cat and dog rescues, put Allison in touch with Barnwater Cats, the only rescue organization that has been able to help. Kris made arrangements to deliver the brother cats to our shelter pending their transport to Texas. Although Kris has many shelter cats that need homes, she could not ignore the emergency situation and made room for the two boys.

Tonja at Meezer is trying fund raisers on all the major Internet sites. If at least \$400 is raised, Izzy and Busy can be flown to Texas. Meezer Ranch would pay for meals, parking and payroll costs if someone flies the cats to Texas on redeemed miles. Bags for the cats would be provided and as well as transport to the ranch.

Busy in Repose

THANK YOU to these people who participated in giving this story a happy ending: Tonja Pfister at Meezer Ranch, Kris Field of BCRO, Cheryl Gardner, flight angel, Gabriele Carson at American Airlines and many others who are part of this rescue effort. Special thanks also to Cat Care Society.

Message from Kris: I just wanted to let everyone know that our two Westminster kitties arrived safely this morning (8-11-09). These two big boys were surrendered by their very brave mom who had to get them into safety before she served her abusive husband with divorce and an order of protection papers. Meezer Ranch will raise funds for their flight back to Texas. BCRO



offered to help by trying to get them adopted from Denver, but Siamese Rescue said that would not be necessary. They would like to put them **Izzy Thinking Things Over** through their own adoption process.



On behalf of BCRO, I would like to salute this brave woman who gave up the loves of her life in order to keep them safe. Many people do not act so quickly and so selflessly and the result is usually dead or severely injured animals. Please include these guys in your prayers!

UPDATE: Because we believed these boys could be placed more quickly by a larger shelter with more publicity, we asked Cat Care Society to help us. They did, and one of their clients adopted both cats together within 10 days. They are now living happily with a wonderful Belgium couple and a sweet, older golden retriever. So a Big Paw Salute to Abbi at Cat Care Society for finding their new home and Cheryl Gardner for an unbelievably large donation.

KRIS HELPS COORDINATE EFFORTS TO SAVE CHECKERS THE CAT

May 6, 2009: Email to Kris from Michelle and Ron Chavez

Part One

Recently, they have been doing more construction near our houses. The cat was again forced out of its home in the drainage retention ditch pipes due to flooding. The cat has had to relocate closer to humans. Checkers has begun marking the doors of our houses and fighting with neighborhood cats through the glass windows at night. Our neighbors are livid and have been threatening to kill or poison the cat.

Horried, we began feeding the cat in an attempt to gain the cat's trust so that we could trap it. Finally, years later, we have recently managed to trap the cat. We took the cat to Every Creature Counts and had him neutered, tested for Leukemia (he tested negative) vaccinated and dewormed. We were keeping the cat in a large dog crate in our garage for the recommended surgery recovery period. Our neighbors found out that we had finally caught the cat and they have threatened to kill him in the event of his release.

We have grown quite fond of our non-friendly outdoor companion. Obviously, there is no way for us to take a feral cat in. Our HOA will not allow us to build a backyard enclosure and we do not yet have the money to move to a place with land where we could build a sanctuary. We cannot just release him knowing that he might be maimed, injured or killed by neighbors within the community. We cannot bear to euthanize him. He has survived this long through blizzards and floods of his home. He almost died when he lost part of his tail to some wild creature. We feel as though this is our only chance to relocate him. We were told about your organization [Barnwater Cats] through a family friend.

"Checkers" is still in a dog crate in our garage hidden away from our angry neighbors. Do you have the facilities to take in a feral cat or do you know of any places where we can take a feral cat in Colorado or any surrounding states where he can safely live out the rest of his life? I was directed to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah but they unfortunately do not have any openings at this time. I contacted Creative Acres but never heard back. We have attempted to find someone with land or a farm/barn where he can live out his life but have gotten nowhere. We will provide anyone who takes him in with necessary food and /or financial support. I know we cannot keep this wild cat contained for much longer. Please let us know if you have any openings, suggestions or advice.

Part Two

Thank you SOOO MUCH to everyone who helped or gave advice for Checkers the feral cat.

I thought you would all be very happy to know that Pete and Margaret in Wellington, Colorado, have taken Checkers in on their farm. They are both extremely compassionate animal lovers and we are forever in debt to them for their extreme kindness. They have three other feral cats which were relocated a few years back as well as many other rescued animals. We built a large containment run in one of the empty horse stalls in the barn where Checkers will stay for his 30 days imprinting phase. He seems to be quite mellow and at ease in his new shelter. My husband and I were finally able to get a closer look at him without binoculars. The look of complete exhaustion and fear has finally left his eyes and he seems to have a renewed calmer spirit about him. Both of our families plan to meet in June for his final release and plan to keep in contact for the years to come.

Thanks again everyone for giving Checkers a second chance at freedom. Thanks especially to Judy Meadows, the one who set us up with Pete and Margaret, and of course Pete and Margaret for opening their hearts and their home to Checkers.

Michelle & Ron, Checkers' adopted guardians

UPDATE: Checkers was successfully released June 6, 2009. The door to his pen was opened and with a little push he came out and jumped into the rafters of the barn. He seemed very content to hang there and check things out from his new vantage point. Thanks again for all who helped make this moment possible! Few people would do as much as you have done for this lucky cat. What a great story this will be to give us all hope.

FERAL CAT RESCUES

Barnwater Cat volunteer and foster home mom Gay Dickerson gets a Big Paw Salute from BCRO. Gay has rescued, trapped, vetted, released and placed dozens of cats and kittens over the past six years. She is definitely a can-do lady, helping make a success of our yard sales and Kitty Christmas sales. She is always available to transport an animal to and from the vet and to help trap the ferals. Over the summer, Gay has trapped sixteen feral cats, eleven of whom were female, and had them spayed/neutered. Because of Gay and the network of people she works with, including Beth Springer (Executive Director of Good Samaritan Pet Center), Kathleen Kline of Almost Home Adoptions, Danielle Jarock of Quality Paws, Konnie Olsen of Homeward Bound, and our own Kris Field, Denver's feral cat population will not have a next generation of homeless cats from these sixteen. Here are a few examples of the work Gay does to help cats.

TRUCK KITTIES

Gay's friend Karen has a coworker we'll call Sally. Sally discovered a family of cats living in a pickup truck at Sally's parents' home. The tame Mama allowed some human interaction with her kittens and trusted Sally's

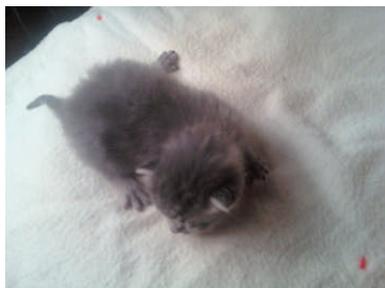


parents as they provided much needed food for this homeless feline family. As Sally was unable to take this cat family in, she asked Gay to help find a situation for them. Meanwhile, Sally's 20-year-old daughter Heather had become attached to the kittens and was reluctant to give them up to an uncertain future, even though neither Sally nor Heather could offer them a home.

It's a frequent problem that people think feral kittens are cute, watch them grow, and then decide too late that something has to be done. By the time action is taken, the kittens are often beyond the age of easy socialization.

(Gay would have taken this mama herself, but she currently had her own cats, plus two fosters from the Cat Care Society, and two more foster kittens that she had trapped earlier who were just on the edge of being too old.)

Kris was one of several people Gay worked with to find a solution. Kris contacted Beth at Good Samaritan, who agreed to take these cats into their program. When it was time to collect the family for transport to the Good Sam foster home, Heather was crying and said she couldn't believe how hard it was to part with the kitty family, but she knew it was the right thing to do. When the Good Sam foster volunteer went to retrieve the cats from the truck, mama cat sensed something was up because she did not let Heather pick her up as usual. So Heather put the little ones in the carrier and when mama went to check on them, she pushed her into the carrier with her babies. Their arrival at the foster home was a great event. When the cat family was introduced to their room at the foster home, mama seemed to sense that things had taken a turn for the better. While the kittens slept peacefully, Mama purred loudly and rubbed against every human in the room, so clearly saying, "Thank you for saving our lives." Sally and Heather plan to make a donation to Good Sam for their help with the truck kitties.



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It seems simple in hindsight, but finding a foster home, convincing the ladies to let the kittens go, coordinating with everyone and then following through is a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating process. This one had a happy ending, as does the next example.

ALLEY / BOAT KITTIES

Kris referred a case to Gay about a lady we'll call Frances who had a mama cat she had named Cho Cho in her yard, along with Cho Cho's three kittens, one black and two gray. Frances had been feeding Cho Cho since December and knew that the cat lived in a parked boat across the alley. Lo and behold, one day Cho Cho showed up with three kittens at feeding time, much to Frances' surprise! Cho Cho must have once been someone's pet because she let Frances pet her, but was a bit protective of the kittens. Frances said that she wants very much to help these cats, but she is not able to afford a lot and she is a renter so she can't bring them inside.

Frances was desperately trying to find a situation for these cats, but she told Gay that everyone she has called has said "no" to her and nobody cared. Gay told her that many people care but all the organizations are overwhelmed during "kitten season."

Gay wanted to trap the whole lot of them, get them spayed/neutered, and then place them in a foster home. Gay got "can't help" answers from several rescue agencies until Konnie Olsen at Homeward Bound agreed to cover their spay/neuter costs and other medical care. However, Homeward Bound could not provide a foster home. Eventually, Cho Cho and her kittens Cleo, Chia and Cosmo were all trapped and taken to Downtown Animal Clinic for their checkups, spays and neuters.

Then Gay had a crucial decision to make: to release or not to release. The kittens were older than first thought and without an immediate foster home, they would have to go back to where they were first found. Gay took the kittens into her home and attempted to socialize them for a few days, but they were too old. Eventually the kittens were returned to their original home outside Frances' apartment. Unfortunately, Cho Cho died of complications following her spay operation. As of today, Frances is feeding and interacting with Cleo, Chia and Cosmo daily. She worries how they will fare through the cold weather ahead.



Cho Cho and Kittens
Photo by Gay Dickerson

Soon after, another cat living in and around Frances' premises, Baby, had kittens. This time Frances was ready and understood the necessity of getting the kittens early. With Gay's help, Frances was able to scoop up Baby's four adorable kittens at a very young age, and the mother cat Baby was trapped and spayed. Baby was returned to Frances' yard and the four little kittens were accepted by Kathleen Kline's Almost Home cat rescue where they are currently available for adoption.

These examples of rescued cats represent only a drop in the ocean. Where do feral cats come from? Why are they not all euthanized upon capture? There will be feral cats with us until every cat owner does the right thing: an unwanted cat should be surrendered to a shelter, not abandoned. But some cats become feral because they run away, get lost or an accident of some type sets them free, such as a door held open too long. Believing that all animals have the right to live out their life, many people are involved in feral cat trap/neuter/release programs. Various vets and clinics offer low-cost operations for rescuers, who then release the cats back to their original home, because that's the territory the cat knows and where it can best survive on its own. How long could one of these cats live? Their average life span is usually only a couple of years because of traffic accidents, fighting with other cats, poisoning, intentional acts of violence, diseases, starvation or euthanasia by animal control if caught. Compare that to the average life span of indoor cats, which is around 15 years, and cats living for over 20 years are not uncommon.

Editor's Note: Gay checked over my article above and edited it as necessary. Her email to me with her changes included this interesting tidbit, in her own words:

Just two days ago, I was in an antique store in the downtown area of old Littleton. The store proprietor went out to the porch and I saw she was feeding a cat. Of course, I asked her if it is the store's cat. She says it is a stray they've been feeding for some time. The cat is familiar and somewhat trusts them, but she's not tame. Then I realized that this was a feral I had trapped as a kitten two or three years ago at the feed store at the end of Main Street, which was right through the block and across the street from the antique store. This kitty girl and her two brothers live in the barn by the feed store and, evidently, this one has learned where to come for a good meal every day. They couldn't believe I knew who this cat was. What a coincidence.

Gay talked to the owners who had been wondering where the cat came from and what its story was. Now they know. They have named the cat Fleur and are thinking about ways to set up some kind of a little house for Fleur that would be warm in the winter. They thought Fleur was a boy because they hadn't seen "him" with any kittens, but there were no kittens because Gay had had Fleur spayed years ago. These people show their kindness every day by caring for Fleur and Gay was quite happy to see the results of her work.



IT'S NOT ALWAYS JUST ABOUT CATS

From Denkai Animal Sanctuary: Eighteen Arabian Horses Reach Safety

Grover, CO - Eighteen Arabian Horses from Niwot are now safely housed and owned by Denkai Animal Sanctuary after twelve months of rigorous politics in which Denkai Animal Sanctuary fought to maintain and care for them on a shoestring budget with few contributions and minimal resources.



The final hurdle in this tiring endeavor took place April 29 in which they were required by Colorado State Statute 38-20-206 to run through a public livestock market as part of their lien foreclosure. Being legally bound to follow this statute, Denkai Animal Sanctuary was forced to take these eighteen Arabian Horses to a livestock auction. Thanks to generous contributors, Denkai was successfully able to purchase each and every one of these horses at this auction.

April 29th was a trying day for these horses, and President Floss Blackburn, Sanctuary volunteers and Board Members who all turned out to help. The horses did not want to load first thing in the morning so it took three hours to finally get all eighteen onto the trailers. We arrived at the auction with but a moment to spare before these horses were to run through. To the credit of the auction house and its staff, they were very kind in their handling of these horses and were very respectful of our organization. Unfortunately two of the local kill buyers were present specifically for this group of horses. We were able to talk to a representative of one of them and he was very respectful in not bidding against us. The other bid against us on every horse. He was not successful; the Sanctuary's President stuck it out and successfully bid back all eighteen horses.

By that afternoon, the horses were once again loaded back into our trailers from the sale barn and headed home. Thankfully they were handled kindly and this unnecessary process was not completely traumatic for them. We truly believe that there is a better way to handle the livestock lien process here in Colorado and the Sanctuary's President will be looking into that on a personal level. The cost that has gone into keeping these horses safe has been enormous. Spending an entire day hauling them to a livestock auction, loading and unloading, not to mention the emotional trauma to these horses, though minimized this time, is completely unnecessary and very expensive.

These Arabian Horses are now ready to find homes. Denkai will be working with each of them and gaining a more detailed evaluation, which will be listed on our website at: www.denkaisanctuary.org. Current descriptions of these horses can be viewed at: <http://www.denkaisanctuary.org/arabians.html>. Adoption fees do apply. Contact Denkai for an adoption application at: info@denkaisanctuary.org or call (970) 895-2337. Visits to the Sanctuary are By Appointment Only. If you had expressed interest previously in one of these horses, please contact Floss Blackburn right away at info@denkaisanctuary.org.



Editor's Note: A number of these horses have been adopted but there are still more ready for a new home.



IT'S NOT ALWAYS JUST ABOUT THE ANIMALS

From: Kris Field to Donna Straub

Subject: PACFA regulations

Donna: This is my concern: We smaller shelters have no money whatsoever. For the past few years, our property tax has gone from \$800 to \$1,900 with another raise expected next year. Also, our water bills have tripled and our heating bills have doubled. We cannot afford the high cost of the PACFA license. I take no salary whatsoever and have put in over \$150,000 of my savings over the past 10 years into veterinary bills for the shelter. So next year, either we will drop out of the PACFA program altogether (we have had no adoptions since last year, nor have we taken in any cats since last July), or close the shelter. The cost of the license is not an option for our budget.

Please remind these people that it would be better to lower the cost of shelter licenses rather than to get no income at all. If we all decided to take in less than 24 animals, no one's needs would be served. Stop punishing the non-profit shelters and start increasing licenses for breeders (who actually make money and operate in the black). Thanks a lot, Kris Field.

NEXT YARD SALE, OCTOBER 11, 8 A.M.

Help the shelter, help the cats:

Please donate items and please come to the yard sale!
CHANGED TO SUNDAY BECAUSE OF WEATHER!

More Words on Sugarbear

From Val Spencer, May 26, 2009

It has been said that each life is a miracle that changes the world . . . and leaves it a better place than it was before. To have known and loved a precious and gentle cat named Sugarbear is to know this statement to be true. A bigger heart more capable of giving love and compassion is inconceivable.

When Sugarbear went on ahead to Heaven on May 5 of this year, he preceded his loving mom and soulmate, Kris Field, and his brothers and sisters, Honeybear, Shannon and Daisy, as well as many loved ones and friends, both feline and human, across the country. He left us all with loving memories of his annual birthday parties, with an attendance which surpassed the attendance at many human events . . . memories of running after him and Spanking him when he flopped down at the end of the chase . . . memories of Honeybear piled into a one-cat bed on top of him just to be close because he loved Sugarbear so much . . . of Daisy looking up to him as her daddy . . . of Shannon following his lead as her big brother . . .

On Sugarbear's last day on earth, there are those who are convinced that he saw angels as he lay gazing up toward the heavens. There are others who have seen Sugarbear since his departure from this earth . . .

making sure his loved ones know he will never be truly gone from them and that he will live on in their hearts forever.

We love you and miss, Sugarbear, and always will. Our lives will never be the same without you, but we are better for having loved and been loved by you. Thank you for the honor of sharing your life with us and for letting us share ours with you. Save us all a place in Heaven because we will be there, we promise. And, until we are together again, we will carry you with us in our hearts, as you hold us dear in yours.

From Carole Levin:

Val said it all. Sugie is a guiding light and probably was from the beginning. He is what is known as a receiver. He received his mission to find you on earth and you accepted him at face value. He remained with you until he received another summons from on High. He held in his eyes the wisdom of the ages and a hint of what's beyond this fragile domicile we call Earth. He was your guardian, mentor, and counsel during times of stress or panic. He was your solace when things got tough. He is here in spirit walking amongst those that have the ability to perceive him. He is your beacon of hope and toward inspiration. We, who been privileged to know and love such a creature, have caught a glimpse of the Divine. May you always keep him inside your heart and know that he is watching over you like Maxwell is me.



Sugarbear with his biggest fans Lois and Debbie at his birthday party, 2006.