

# Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

## WINTER 2014-15 NEWSLETTER



### CALLIE: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! By Kris Field

Hi Everyone, On December 23, 2013, I went to The Denver Municipal Animal shelter to pick up a kitty whose time was up. They named her "Callie" and said that she could not be put up for adoption because she did not like to be petted. But Barbara Galaviz-Duarte, then director of shelter transfers of DMAS, suggested I give Callie a chance. I paid the extra money to have her leukemia/aids tested (negative) and drove down in the snow to get her.



She was a gorgeous white kitty with grey marks on her head. She was very frightened and mashed against the back of the cage and was very sad looking. Her eyes were very runny but she had no URI symptoms. She seemed happy to see me and friendly--just scared.

She ate fine that day and evening but then all heck broke loose the next day and she was vomiting and had massive diarrhea. After several trips to the urgent care clinic, I finally got her vomiting under control.

Fast forward to mid-January when I took her to an eye specialist who determined that the cause of her runny eyes was rotten teeth, lots and lots of them, that had caused an infection in her mouth and sinus cavities. I scheduled her dental work and it was a four-hour procedure. They removed SIXTEEN teeth. She had been in horrible pain for a very long time. I am still so angry that the Denver shelter let her suffer for several months like that and then they were going to put her to sleep for a behavioral issue that was really a medical issue. Nevertheless, she came to BCRO and help was on the way.

During the next few months I wondered if she might have a dry food issue, so I stopped feeding her everything (no baked chicken, dry food, baby food, etc.) but canned food, Fancy Feast mainly. Quickly her diarrhea stopped and her vomiting stopped and she seemed to be on the mend in every way.

Finally, she was ready for her forever home, but no one ever called to meet her. She was such a beautiful and happy kitty and she purred all the time and played with all of her toys and spent a lot of time looking out of the window at the squirrels.



Callie: left--after her dental surgery; above--waiting at the shelter; below--Callie keeping warm. All photos by Kris Field.



This newsletter is a periodic publication of, and the property of,  
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In November, just before Thanksgiving, we got a call from Jamie Scoville who said that she, her husband Robert and her twin children, Gabe and Katelynn, wanted to come to meet Callie, which they did. We request a 24-hour "think about it" period for adopters; and two days later Robert called and said that the family had talked it over and they definitely wanted to make her a part of their family!



Left: Callie's new family: Katelynn, Jamie, Robert and Gabe, before Callie joined their family. Photo by Kris Field. Right: The family with Callie in Jamie's arms, along with a happy Kris Field. Photo by Gay Dickerson.

Hooray for Callie . . . this little shy, unassuming six or seven year old kitty that no one wanted had finally found not one but FOUR people to love and care for her. So now Callie is truly HOME for the HOLIDAYS . . . and for all of the days thereafter.

Thank you kitty angels, thank you BCRO supporters like you who helped with Callie's over \$200 per month canned food bills, \$900 dental (after Pets on Broadway applied a generous 50% discount) and over \$400 in emergency visits to Evans East, who offered a 30% discount to BCRO. Thanks also to Dr. Tanja Nuhsbaum for her free eye exam at VRCC. Thanks to these vets and to the Scoville family, you all really made a difference in the life of one little cat; and your lives will be richer for that kindness.

Happy New Year everyone and may 2015 be filled with health, wealth and lots of adoptions!

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE ADOPTION**

Kris has a dual genius when it comes to cat adoptions. She patiently waits to match the right cat to the right person and then stays in touch. Callie's new mom, Jamie, wrote several emails to Kris over the following weeks to keep Kris informed of Callie's progress. Here is one of Jamie's emails:

"Much more rapidly than I expected, Callie has really opened up this week. She has taken full reign of the upstairs day and night. When I am resting or reading she will jump up into my lap without hesitation, and the past couple of nights she has slept in the bed with Robert and me.

"She's not so skittish around the kids either. She still has some ingrained vestiges of her hyper vigilance and flight reaction, but quickly after jumping and darting away she recomposes herself, almost suavely acting like it didn't happen. 'You didn't see that. I'm a cool sophisticated cat.'"

## **HOW KRIS FIELD SERVES THE COMMUNITY**

Kris wears more hats than just that of Executive Director of Barnwater Cats. Here is only a partial list:

- Is an animal disaster responder for The American Humane Association, for the State of Colorado animal response team, Humane Society of the United States and Red Rover.
- Serves as Disaster Action Team Captain and PetLead for the American Red Cross.
- Is credentialed to teach the American Red Cross pet first aid class.
- Maintains an extensive database of people who need help: what kind of help needed and cats that need to be re-homed or brought inside.
- Handles promotions of adoptable cats on FaceBook.

## HOW BARNWATER CATS SERVES THE COMMUNITY

- ✚ Provides cats with a loving home in either our shelter or a foster home.
- ✚ Boards cats in safe, clean, luxury rooms with 24-hour a day supervision.
- ✚ Counsels new owner(s) with any cat behavioral issues.
- ✚ Maintains an emergency food bank.
- ✚ Screens potential adoptors to ensure an appropriate match.
- ✚ Provides micro-chipping and all necessary veterinary care: vaccinations, leukemia/aids/fecals/deworming/neutering/blood panels/dentals/ultrasounds.
- ✚ Accepts cats regardless of age, appearance or chronic but manageable health issues.
- ✚ Works with a network of rescue organizations and shelters to find the best home for each cat.
- ✚ Rescues homeless cats wherever there is a need, in Colorado or in other states such as Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.



Former Barnwater Cat Rico boarding at the shelter while his family is away. Photo by Kris Field.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SHELTER

You may wish to contribute through the Wish List maintained by Amazon.com. Simply go to its website, click on Wish List on the far right, and enter Barnwater Cats in the "Find a Wish List or Registry" drop down menu. You can then select an item that you wish to send to the shelter and receive a tax deduction statement. Please remember to add a gift card so we will know who to thank!

## THE SHELTER'S TOP WISH LIST ITEMS

Printer Ink, HP 61/61 XL, black and color cartridges

Temptations (any flavor says Shannon O'Kitty)

Riccar Ecopure Ultrafiltration vacuum bags, 4000 & 2000 Series

Stamps / Clorox / Paper Towels / Reliable New or Used Vehicle for the Shelter

## FOOD DONATION FROM DUNCAN'S PLACE



Cathy Campbell, Executive Director of Duncan's Place, received a huge donation of canned cat food from Merrick Pet Food Company. Kathryn Frey of Duncan's Place reserved 50 cases for Barnwater Cats. Volunteer Rhonda Green drove to Greeley to pick up the food and delivered it to Barnwater Cats' emergency food bank. Forty cases of that food was then distributed by Gay Dickerson to people in the Denver area who cannot afford any canned food for their own cats or who feed stray/feral cats. The remaining 10 cases are in the emergency food bank for January distribution.

From left: Kelly Green stacking cases in the shelter's garage after making room; Morgan Green in front of the donated cases before helping to carry cases into the garage; Rhonda, husband Kelly and daughter Morgan Green; Kris loading cases in Gay Dickerson's car for distribution. Left photos by Kris Field. Right photo by Gay Dickerson.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PET WHEN YOU DIE? By Kris Field

About fifteen years ago, I drove to Loveland to help a friend who had been sick for a long time with alcoholism. When she did not answer the door, I looked in the window and saw her lying on the couch, immobile. Fearing the worst, I called the police, who made a forced entry and found that she had died during the night. She had eight cats, all starving and with no water. The police were about to call animal control to "haul them away," when I suggested an alternative plan. The law states that animals must go to a shelter until someone that the deceased has named steps up. If no one claims them, legally, they can be euthanized. Since I proved right then and there that I was a fully licensed CAT SHELTER, I was given permission to take control of the cats until relatives could be contacted and the will was read.

**UNTIL THE WILL WAS READ:** there were no provisions for her cats in her will. Her elderly parents did not want eight uncared for cats and her sister had enough of her own pets and lived six states away. My friend was lucky . . . she had me for a friend. I spent thousands of dollars to get them into adoptable condition and found them all wonderful homes--eventually.

Not everyone has this kind of good fortune. Pet owners need to **MAKE A PLAN** and then contact the recipient to discuss the details. Do not **ASSUME** that your daughter/son/best friend will take Puffy when you pass on. I have spoken to sons and daughters of persons who have died, children who either had no idea that mom even **HAD** six cats or that were never told they were expected to take the pet(s).



Cookie's owner went to a nursing home but made no provision for her pet cat. At about 13 years of age, Cookie was taken to a local shelter that did nothing but house her. She had multiple ignored health problems, including rotten teeth and pancreatitis, and was slowly dying. Kris found her hiding behind a radiator and took her in, treated her health problems as well as possible and then found her a forever home. Alas, her problems had been too long untreated and she did not survive long, but at least she was loved. Photo by Kris Field.



Patches was left behind when Hurricane Katrina hit Waveland, Mississippi. His owners had no emergency/evacuation plans, so Patches ended up in what was left of the Waveland shelter without his family. Kris took him to BCRO soon afterward. Photo by Kris Field.

Not only should you discuss your plans with the recipient of the pet, but also you need to stay on top of what's going on in their lives. If the daughter with no children agrees to take your two cats, is she still willing to take them five years down the road after she has had two children with severe allergies? Remember, the plan is fluid and flexible if you are depending on someone else to take over your kitty.

Also, your best friend or son may agree to take your three-year old kitty when he is healthy, but will the cat still be welcome when he is 14 and diabetic? And what provisions should you make for future vet expenses, even if the cat is young and healthy? For example, you could leave (if you are able) \$2,500 for Puffy to go with her as a kind of dowry. More if you are able, but start the fund **TODAY**.

As is too often the case, older cats owned by elderly people are frequently in bad health with no regular vet care to catch trouble before it goes too far. When you're living on social security with limited funds, an expensive vet/dental visit is not a priority for pets.

It is not unkind to ask that your pet be euthanized immediately when you die. Sometimes that is the best we can do, and it prevents the poor cat

from sitting pitifully in a cage in a loud, angry shelter, terrified and confused without his owner, awaiting an unknown fate.

But the point is that you must make your wishes known: **PUT IT IN WRITING**. Include your instructions in your will. Add the information to your microchip folder. Write it up, put it into a clear plastic sleeve and tape it up in a visible place, or several places. On your kitchen cabinet, on the back of the front and back door, etc.

All the love that you gave your kitty during your lifetime, let it continue after your death. Protect your pet by protecting his future. Do it **TODAY**.

## ONE STORY OF TOO MANY: DAZY, A CAT LEFT BEHIND by Margery Smith



DAZY. Photo by Margery Smith.

A friend of a friend of mine was in end-stage lung cancer. She made arrangements with her daughter to take her two old dogs but the daughter refused to take the cat named Dazy, a gorgeous but unsocialized gray part-Bengal tabby. To ease her worries, I offered to try to find the cat a home. Several weeks before Nancy died, I took Dazy home. Of course, I fell in love with her and, rather than taking her to a shelter, I tried to integrate her into my household of three older cats. I spent the first two weeks trying to get Dazy to come out from under the bed, worked on socializing her, kept her isolated for weeks, and, finally, released her into the house on a limited basis. It did not go well. Dazy wanted to be top cat and was very aggressive toward the other cats. Sometimes she would even lash out at me, scratching and nipping. I realized that Dazy could not be trusted around other cats or children. I was devastated and feeling guilty because I knew I could not

keep my promise to Nancy. I contacted Kris Field about re-homing her. Kris circulated a plea to her extensive network of cat-lovers but no one would take her because she was so aggressive. In the end, knowing full well that Dazy would not survive long in a shelter, I made the difficult decision to have Dazy put to sleep in my loving arms rather than in the arms of strangers. I still feel the guilt of letting Nancy down and I still weep over the loss of Dazy.

### NEW WEBSITE

Our webmaster Rhonda Green has revamped the shelter's website which can now be found at this address: **[barnwatercatsrescue.org](http://barnwatercatsrescue.org)**. Many thanks go to Rhonda for her extensive and ongoing work on this project. Please check it out for the latest information and also to donate online. Also a giant thanks to Liz DiPaolo for her work on our recent grant applications and for setting up a temporary donation link: **[https://www.youcaring.com/Barnwater\\_Cats\\_Rescue\\_Fund](https://www.youcaring.com/Barnwater_Cats_Rescue_Fund)**.

## BIG PAW SALUTE TO GRETCHEN KOEHLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Gretch has been the shelter's tax accountant for many years. She greatly discounts her services to the shelter as her way to help the cats. She specializes in tax and tax resolution. Contact her at 303-748-7537.

## WAITING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOME



Photos by Kris Field.

Lila (left) and Kade are two young Siamese sisters waiting at the shelter for that special someone to come. They were originally found in a snow storm after being abandoned by an animal hoarder and threatened with death by a neighbor. Kris took them from The Feline Fix so they would not have to be put back outside.

Lila is a lynx point and Kade is a seal point. They are affectionate and sweet natured. Although shy at first, they quickly warm up to strangers. **Please call 303-759-2855 to meet them!**



## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE SHELTER OF \$10 OR MORE through Jan. 3, 2015

2014 was the best year for donations in BCRO's history, enabling the shelter to help more cats than ever. Donations will go to food, litter, medical services and heat. So many cats do not survive Colorado winters-- we want to change that one cat at a time.

**Lions** (\$1,000 or more), Norma and Ed Bixby (in memory of Shortie and Lion), Lori Geres, Eluise Marvin, Bob Rhue

**Tigers** (\$500 or more), Becky McCarty, Eileen Shellman, Sally Young

**Jaguars** (\$200 or more), Lois Eckhoff, Liz Drennen, Gary Williams Community Investment Fund, Barbara and Wish Johnson, Heidi MacIntyre, Sharon, Alex & Jackson Nelson, Tana Pittman, Jean and Lizzy Van Loan, Sharyn Vogel, Debbie West, Suzanne Young

**Leopards** (\$100 or more), Liz DiPaolo, Leslie Linville, Justin Loerwald, Ann Martinez, Lisa Mendelsberg (Colorado Animal Rescue Express), Kate Merrill, Sandra Russell-Owens, Terese Snowden, Annette Stearman, Barbara Walker, Betsy Wills, Karen Witt

**Ocelots** (\$50 or more), Barbara and Joe Arenal, Ann Regan Caffrey, Joan Casey, Jackie Clark, Lori Freedman, Kathy Lehr, Diana Richett, Cynthia Searfoss, Chad Suiter, Diana and Gracie Whelen, Nancy, Wayne and Lulu Winsand

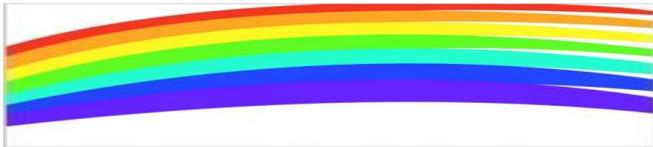
**Margays** (\$10 or more), Pam Beets (in memory of Elliott and in honor of Margery Smith), Dena Culver, Kathy Ford, Julie Hixcox, Karla Horowitz, Lisa Martin, Bob and Carole Levin, Donna Marino, Maureen Peck, Shirlee Powell

### CONTINUING THANKS TO OUR PRINTER

Bill Egan of Egan Printing makes our newsletters perfect! A big thank you for his ongoing support.

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## NEW ARRIVALS AT RAINBOW BRIDGE



Elliott Smith,  
beloved little boy  
of Margery  
Smith. Photo by  
Margery Smith.



**Lion and Shortie Bixby**,  
beloved kitties of Ed and Norma Bixby.

**Tribbles and Cassie**, treasured kitties of Joan Willoughby.

**The Animals' Savior by Jim Willis**  
(used by kind permission of the author)

I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter...the cast-offs of human society.

I saw in their eyes love and hope, fear and dread, sadness and betrayal. And I was angry.

"God," I said, "this is terrible! Why don't you do something?"

God was silent for a moment and then He spoke softly.

"I have done something," He replied.

"I created You."



Marigny and Sami, the editor's own cats adopted from BCRO.  
Photo by Eluise Marvin.