



TAILS FROM AFAR

Action for Animals' Rights | 805-466-5403 | 2300 Ramona Road, Atascadero, CA 93422
 www.slcnchs.org | Find us on Facebook: Search for "North County Humane Society"

We're celebrating 33 years!

And we couldn't have done it without your support! We kindly ask that you help us continue our good work caring for homeless kitties and supporting the community for years to come.

Action for Animals' Rights, the parent nonprofit organization of the North County Humane Society, celebrated its 33rd anniversary in September.

Because of support from members like you, the shelter has helped thousands upon thousands of cats find their forever homes, and it has provided a sanctuary for cats to live out their lives in a safe environment. We have also provided essential support for those who have lost their dearly loved, furry companions, and have been instrumental in spay/neuter programs in San Luis Obispo County.

To celebrate, a couple of get-togethers for NCHS supporters were held at the shelter to show off some recent property improvements. We would like to thank Larry Bell for all work and upkeep he has done in all the buildings and on the grounds. The shelter deeply appreciates his time and skills.

A special thank you also goes to Sherry Chapman, Ani-



Meet Murphy, one of the many cats at the shelter looking for their forever homes.

mal Care Coordinator, and the Animal Care Staff for the outstanding care and attention given to all the shelter cats. Many visitors commented on how healthy all the shelter cats look and how well cared for they are, which makes them

more adoptable than ever. Please come see for yourself!

The wonderful food at the get-togethers was prepared by Sherry and Geoff Condon. Their culinary skills were certainly appreciated. Vista Del Rey Vineyards provided the

outstanding wines.

We would love to thank all our members for 33 years of contributions, dedication and love. We wouldn't have been able to exist without you. We look forward to a thriving shelter for many years to come.

By Sherry Chapman and Jason Perry

When we greet first-time visitors at the shelter, one of the questions they ask is, "Where do you find all of these cats?"

"We don't find them," we reply. "They find us!"

Here is one example: As a train is about to pull into the Paso Robles train station, a 6-week-old black kitten is playing on the tracks. Horrified onlookers attempt to scare the kitten off the tracks while precious seconds tick away. At the very last second, the kitten

Do cats really have 9 lives?

sprints off the tracks and heads toward a nearby parking lot in search of a safe place to hide. Unfortunately, this kitten's safe place is near the front tire of a passenger bus set to depart.

People once again come to the kitten's aid and attempt to coax the kitten out from underneath the bus. The manager of the station, curious as to why people are circling the bus, comes out to investigate. She becomes concerned after

learning about the distressed kitten. The manager gets on her hands and knees, pulls the kitten out of harm's way, and returns to her office with the kitten curled up in her arms.

Sitting in her office, she decides to call the North County Humane Society about this kitten's close encounters.

Naturally, we offer our help. The kitten arrives at the shelter and is checked over for injuries.

Appearing to be in good

shape, the kitten receives treatment for fleas, ear mites and tapeworms.

We whip up a hearty meal for the kitten, who shows her gratitude by cleaning the plate. Relaxed and purring with joy, the kitten picks a fluffy pink baby blanket to curl up in. Within moments, she is sound asleep.

So what do you think? Do cats really have nine lives? You be the judge.

Terrie and her remaining seven lives are available for adoption.

You're invited to our Holiday Open House

Check out the shelter and meet the adoptable and resident felines Dec. 4

The shelter will host a Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, and everyone is invited to meet the many cats that our supporters have so generously helped us save.

Check out the ongoing improvements to the buildings and grounds by Larry Bell, NCHS Volunteer Extraordinaire. Meet staff members and learn what they do to keep our shelter running smoothly and efficiently. Board members will be there to answer questions and show you around. Plus, there will be beverages, and cookies and other treats.

The shelter's Billy McPaw's Marketplace has a variety of gifts, such as handmade pet beds, cards, mugs and jewelry, to help you get some of your holiday shopping done.

So, stop on by; the staff, board members — and especially the cats — are looking forward to meeting each one of the shelter's supporters.

Are you crafty? Donate to McPaw's Marketplace

Are you a creative, talented artist or craftsman with a love for animals and an interest in helping North County Humane Society? McPaw's Marketplace needs your help!

McPaw's Marketplace, our newly remodeled store in the shelter's reception area, specializes in quality handcrafted and animal-related gift items. New, quality merchandise, is always sought, and that's where you can help.

If you'd like to donate your artwork or quality crafts, please leave a message for Priscilla at 466-5403 or send her an e-mail at milasmom@att.net. This is a purrfect way to donate to NCHS without actually parting with your cash!

And you simply must stop by McPaw's Marketplace to see all the wonderful changes that have been made to the space and the great merchandise available for birthday and holiday gifts. Billy McPaw, the shelter's Spokescat, says it's purrrrfectly splendid!

Special General Meeting in November

The General Meeting for North County Humane Society members and Board of Directors will be on **Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, at 6 p.m.** at the Atascadero library at 6850 Morro Road (Highway 41). All ballots for the 2011 Board of Directors election must be turned in or received by that date to be counted. Normal Board business will also be conducted at this meeting in place of the regular monthly meeting held the third Thursday of the month. Call 466-5403 if you have any questions regarding this meeting.

Billy McPaw featured in Cat Fancy!

Billy McPaw, Spokescat for the North County Humane Society, appeared in the July issue of Cat Fancy magazine in a special article featuring "45 Extraordinary Cats." Of course those at the Atascadero shelter have always found him extraordinary, even before his recent national attention! Congratulations, Billy! Does this mean gourmet shrimp will now replace your kibble?

MCPAW'S MARKETPLACE

North County Humane Society — Grand Opening!

Stop by North County Humane Society shelter for one-of-a-kind, quality, handcrafted merchandise, with an emphasis on animal themed items. There's pet beds, blankets, mugs, NCHS T-shirts, and more!

Bring this coupon with you, and receive 15% off any one item of your choice, excluding cat photography by Nancy Koren.

McPaw's Marketplace is in the reception area of North County Humane Society shelter, 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, southwest of the Del Rio Road exit off Highway 101.

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



I'm Billy McPaw, the North County Humane Society Spokescat.

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NORTH COUNTY
 HUMANE SOCIETY
 2300 Ramona Road
 Atascadero, CA 93422



North County Humane Society

Shelter hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adoptions end at 4 p.m.
Location: 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County, California.

Directions: Take the Del Rio Road exit off Highway 101.

Our vision: To live in a world where all animals receive compassion, respect and humane treatment from all people.

Board of Directors: Anita Rouse, President; Sally Knight, Vice president; Geoff Condon, Treasurer; Julie Bell, Secretary; Carol DeHart-King and Larry Bell Directors-at-large

Staff: Sherry Chapman, Vickie Moore, Rachelle Hiser, Itzel Osorio, Jordan Rouse, Carrington Broussard, Lisa Lien, Shelley Sandoval, Heather Tanner

Newsletter team: Priscilla Herzog, Sally Knight, Jennifer Robillard, and board and staff members.

Want to volunteer? Have questions? Call (805) 466-5403 or e-mail slonchs.info@gmail.com.

FROM THE TREASURER

NCHS recruits a Shelter Services Coordinator

By Geoff Condon

Despite the tough economy that has taken a particular hit on non-profits nationwide and locally, the budget year is rolling along with the shelter's staff doing an amazing job of controlling costs.

The shelter has been able to do more with less. The 2010 expense/cost of goods sold budget was almost \$200,000 less than was spent in 2007.

The shelter had to redefine it-

self to survive in the current economic environment. The current budget is operating under the proposed 2010 budget. Adoptions are up and the facilities at the shelter are being significantly improved.

Back in May this year, the shelter had less than two weeks operating income. Fortunately, NCHS has received several small trusts. The bad news is that even with all the cost cutting, the shelter still operates at a monthly loss. The

Board of Directors believes that money spent has to equal monthly income. To achieve this goal, the Board decided that a Shelter Service Coordinator would help NCHS balance the budget by focusing on volunteer recruitment, fundraising, and efficient office operations.

An ad was placed, with many exceptionally well-qualified candidates applying from Florida to Nevada to Southern/Northern

California. Over the past two months, candidates were interviewed by telephone, and personal interviews were scheduled with the top candidates.

With a new Shelter Service Coordinator on staff beginning at the end of November 2010, the Board of Directors feels confident that North County Humane Society will better serve our North County community and will be closer to a neutral profit/loss statement.

SHORT TAILS: The 'Mews' from the North County Humane Society

'Like' us on Facebook

What is social networking? On a personal level, social networking sites such as Facebook are a way to keep in touch with friends across the world and to make new ones. For NCHS, it's a new way to be part of the community and tell our supporters about all the great things that we're doing.

How do you find NCHS on Facebook? First, you need to establish a profile on www.Facebook.com. Once you do that, search for North County Humane Society (make sure you choose the one in Atascadero with the picture of Billy McPaw). Next, become a "Fan" of the NCHS page by clicking the LIKE button near the top of the page.

When you're a fan, you can easily stay up to date with events, specials, news and new photos of our adoptable cats. In addition, you can donate to the NCHS through the Causes tab or the Make A Donation tab.

Come check us out, and share the page with your friends. Help us succeed in making NCHS a household name.

We've joined Petfinder

North County Humane Society recently joined the Petfinder.com family.

Petfinder.com is the most popular "Online Animal Shelter." It's the best way to find the pet you have always dreamed of. At www.petfinder.com, you can search by pet or by Animal Welfare Group to find a cat, dog, bird,

reptile and many more animals.

Petfinder.com is also a website that has more information than you ever thought would be available to you about pet care, how to adopt a pet, training, animal news, pet insurance, volunteer opportunities, seminars and more.

To find NCHS, go to www.petfinder.com and search by choosing "Cat" for type of animal in the ZIP code 93422, or you can look us up under Animal Welfare Group by our name - North County Humane Society.

Up will come a list of our adoptable cats, including pictures and notes about their personalities. So, tell all your friends who are looking for a cat, to look up NCHS through Petfinder.com.

End-of-year donations

It's the end of another year again. We wanted to remind everyone that there are numerous ways to give to NCHS that are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations can reduce your taxable income (as long as you itemize your taxes, you should be able to claim charitable deductions - be sure to check with your tax preparer).

Some programs you can give through are: Memberships (both as a gift as well as your own); Guardian Angel; Memorial or Honorary Tributes to both people and animals; and Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund.

Our Memberships are generally annual and they can be Individual, Family and/or Business. There are several different levels,

ranging from \$30 (Individual Bronze) to \$150 (Business Platinum) to a Lifetime Membership for \$500 (which can be paid in installments).

A Guardian Angel is a guardian for a shelter cat of their choosing (or they can have NCHS staff choose), by committing an ongoing monthly contribution (minimum \$25, but you can contribute more) per cat for their continued feeding, long-term medical care and housing, spay/neuter, etc. You can be a Guardian Angel to as many cats as you want for \$25 each per month.

You can also make Tributes in Honor or in Memory of people or animals, with your Tribute message appearing on our website.

Another option is donating to our Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund, purchasing a spay/neuter certificate for your own or someone else's animal.

Or you can also simply donate money to the shelter, which will use the donation where it's needed most at that time.

How can you donate? You can go to our website at www.slonchs.org and click on our Donate Now, Member Information, Memorials and Honorariums or our Support Us headings on the left side. Each of these pages will take you to quick and easy donation forms online. In addition you can also give by donating to us through www.guidestar.com (search using Action for Animals' Rights), www.facebook.com (search using North County Hu-

mane Society) or by calling (805) 466-5403.

Lastly, you could mail a check (please put a note indicating your donation type preference) to North County Humane Society, 2300 Ramona Road, Atascadero, CA 93422.

If you have any questions, please call (805) 466-5403 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday.

For all donations, you will receive a confirmation letter/receipt in the mail. If you become a Guardian Angel, you will receive a letter/receipt once a year at the end of an accounting of your donation.

Thank you in advance for giving many cats a wonderful place to continue to call home.

Keep in touch with e-mail

NCHS is gathering e-mail addresses in order to begin a campaign of saving money for the shelter by sending out electronic newsletters and periodic electronic news blasts. These news blasts will offer information such as monthly shelter statistics, which includes adoptions and intakes and current cat population.

We will also be able to let you know about events, news, new features and happenings around the shelter, and much, much more!!

So, please call us at (805) 466-5403 or email us at slonchs.info@gmail.com with your e-mail address so we can add you to the list.

In memory of Woody, construction supervisor cat-extraordinaire

By Larry Bell, NCHS volunteer

Over the past several months I have had the honor of doing a variety of construction projects for the North County Humane Society, many located inside the area for special cats known as the dome.

It was on the first project that Woody made it known that he would be overseeing all projects

within "his" dome.

During the demolition and replacement of the kitchen countertop and sink, I found Woody had a real fascination for pencils, measuring tapes and hand tools. He seemed to know exactly which item I would need next, especially a pencil, which he would pick up and carry off.

When a pencil wasn't available,

Woody would pick up and take just about anything he could carry, usually just far enough out of my reach that I would have to crawl out from under the counter to retrieve it. If I were lying on my back under the counter, Woody would get up close to observe. He liked to sit on my chest to see how much progress was being made.

Woody helped me on many other dome projects, but when he wasn't supervising me, he loved to just sit and be scratched, and I loved to oblige him. I will miss Woody. He holds a special place in my heart, as he does with all the shelter's staff. I'm on to the next project, Woody, and I'll do my best to keep up to your high standards.



Woody died on Aug. 26.

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805-466-8195

References available

Help the shelter by advertising your business in the newsletter

Your support will help the NCHS continue spreading the shelter cats' mews!



Please call (805) 466-5403 for details.

How would you like to support NCHS?

\$30: Annual Individual Bronze Membership

You will receive a membership card, newsletters, an invitation to the Annual Membership Lunch and advance notification of all special events.

\$50: Annual Family Silver Membership

You will receive a membership card, newsletters, an invitation to the Annual Membership Lunch and advance notification of all special events.

\$75: Annual Special Gold Membership

In addition to the above benefits, Special Gold members will receive a free ticket to the Annual Membership Luncheon.

\$150: Annual Business Platinum Membership

You will receive a membership card, newsletters, an invitation to the Annual Membership Lunch, advance notification of all special events, a certificate appropriate for display, a listing on the NCHS website, and advance opportunities to sponsor events.

\$500: Lifetime Membership Special

The shelter is offering a "ONCE IN A LIFETIME" membership special. In return for a one-time donation of \$500, individuals will receive a lifetime membership, regular communication about the shelter's programs, services and upcoming events, discounts on activities and products, and a lifetime membership card and certificate.

Arrangements may be made for payments of \$50 month for 10 months by calling the shelter.

How to donate

Donate by visiting www.slunchs.org or by calling (805) 466-5403. You may also mail a check made out to North County Humane Society to 2300 Ramona Road, Atascadero, CA 93453.

The shelter relies on the generosity of its members

Members provide the bedrock of financial support that is needed to run shelter programs and services. Members are much needed spokespeople and advocates for the animals in the care of NCHS. Additionally, members provide leadership and direction to the Board of Directors and staff which helps everyone do the very best they can for the animals and people the shelter serves.

Save Our Tails!



You Are Cordially Invited to: A Fashion Show to Benefit North County Humane Society

Brought to you by Kelly's Casuals

When: Thursday, December 2, 2010, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Players Pizza in Atascadero

Snacks will be served

\$10 donation includes Fashion Show, Food and 1 Door Prize Ticket

*Your \$10 donation helps with adoption services as well as spay/neuter assistance, and it will help provide medical care and food for this no-kill shelter.

We are encouraging you to buy your tickets before our event At Kelly's Casuals, 2170 El Camino Real (Mission Oaks Center)

Bring in one of the following items and receive an extra door prize ticket.

- Gallon of bleach
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 50 paper plates
- 6 cans cat food
- 10 lb bag of Purina Cat Food

Call with any questions!
 Kelly and Dena 461-1800



Memorials

To donate in memory or in honor of someone or an animal, call the shelter at 805-466-5403.

In memory of ...

In memory of "April," the beloved furry princess of Priscilla and Daryl Herzog, from Dorris Bryant
 In memory of "Baby Boy," from John Shankle
 In memory of "Gina," the cat of Luke & Jasmine Armstrong, from Susan and John Armstrong
 In memory of The Beautiful Princess Mimi, the pet of Marty & Gene Durrett, from Betty Malone
 In memory of "Rosie," the little Orange friend of Shelley Snow
 In memory of The Ross Corgi Troop, from Nancy Ross
 In memory of "Toni,"

the beloved cat of Dave and Donna Fernon, from Nancy Green
 In memory of Louise Adams, from Mark and Cindy Fumich
 In memory of Louise Adams, from Ann LeNeve
 In memory of Jan Moss, from Anita Rouse
 In memory of Robert L. Bogusch, from Betty and Robert Bogusch
 In memory of Robert L. Bogusch, from Dalene Bogusch
 In memory of Joe King, from Jane and Robert Rhoads
 In memory of Joe King, from Kathy and Bob Forenza
 In memory of Joe King, from Linda Keetch

In memory of Joe King, from William and Donna DeMayo
 In memory of Diane "Dee" Simoes, from Richard and Jean Holloway
 In memory of Dee Simoes, from Sally Knight
 In memory of Dee Simoes, from Anita Rouse
 In loving memory of our friend Dee Simoes, from her TCAPS friends, Terry Miron, Sandy Rakestraw, Jan Lynch, Nancy Taber and Denise Milardo
 In memory of Tamara, the sister of Kathleen Murray, from Roberta Hart
 In memory of Ed Symons, from Linda and Brent Keetch

In honor of ...
 In honor of Janita Baker, from Nancy Ross
 In honor of Janita Baker's birthday, with love from Bob and Beep2
 In honor of Nathan Koren's 34th B-day, from Nancy Koren
 In honor of Betty Rogers, the cat lover, from The Templeton Women's Civic Club
 In honor of Sharon Klintworth Russell, for the loving care of the Tweedie's beloved dog Toodles, from the The Tweedies
 A special thanks to Christa Smith, for her lemonade stand donation. Thank you, Christa!

Share your skills: Join a NCHS committee

NCHS has a variety of committees that shelter supporters are encouraged and invited to serve on. We are looking for people who would like to volunteer their time to serve on these committees.

We are certain that many of you possess qualities that will

benefit NCHS and the committees that serve it.

The current committees we have are:

- Electronic Communications
- Fundraising
- Finance
- Grants
- News Media and Outreach

- Shelter Maintenance and Upkeep
- Volunteer Coordination

We would love to add even more committees, so we look forward to an abundance of volunteers willing to give a little bit of time to continue the success of NCHS.

Found or lost a pet? Now what?

Many of us have experienced the situation where a companion animal has become excited or frightened and has run off. In the blink of an eye, a pet can become lost.

If you've lost, or found, a dog or cat, what should you do? The following are steps to take that will hopefully lead to a happy reunion between owner and cherished pet.

(1) **Notify the neighbors.** If you have a photo of your pet, show it around the neighborhood. (If you don't have a current photo of your pet, take one now!)

(2) **Put up signs in the immediate vicinity** that include a photo (as local ordinances permit).

(3) **Contact the San Luis Obispo County Department of Animal Services (DAS).** All SLO County animals that are picked up by Animal Control are turned in to DAS. Go to the DAS website (www.slocounty.ca.gov/AServ) to see regularly updated descriptions of found animals, or call its animal hotline.

It's important to check the hotline regularly for at least several weeks. The pet may wander for a time before it is found and turned in.

(4) **Call all local shelters.** Any local shelter can give you a list of dog and cat shelters in the county. Remember that frightened pets can travel farther than one might expect.

(5) **If you're looking for a pet, personally visit DAS and other shelters** in the area where you live, preferably every day. No one knows your pet like you do, and unless your pet has very distinctive markings or is a rare breed, there could be several pets at shelters that meet its description.

(6) **Contact the local newspapers.** All have Lost/Found Pet Sections in the classifieds, and not all charge for this service.

(7) **Contact the local newspapers.** All have Lost/Found Pet Sections in the classifieds, and not all charge for this service.

Some safeguards

(1) **When you adopt a pet, be sure to place a breakaway collar around its neck with a tag that provides your phone number.** Because these collars are meant to break away in the event the animal becomes tangled on a fence or other object, **also have your pet microchipped.** Most shelters microchip for a nominal fee or as part of the adoption cost. At North County Humane Society, micro-chipping is included in the \$69 cat adoption fee.

Woods Humane Society and DAS will microchip pets previously adopted, even if not from them, for a low fee of \$20.

(2) **On occasions where there will be loud noises**, such as the Fourth of July and birthday parties, consider keeping your pet at home in a secure location where it cannot break free if it becomes fearful.

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❁ INTRODUCTIONS: Take it slow, give lots of love

New cat meets established cat: How to avoid the feline fight

Have you ever heard the saying, "Cats are like potato chips. You can never have just one?"

Many of us enjoy having more than one pet. This, however, brings up the question of how to introduce a new cat into a home where one or more cats already reside. It's important to keep in mind that cats are highly territorial animals. It takes patience and understanding to ensure a successful sharing of territory.

How successful an introduction will be depends on many variables: personality, temperament, the cats' age, past experience with other cats, whether they are of the same sex, and whether they are spayed or neutered.

As a general rule, it is often easier for cats of different sexes to get along with one another. Spaying/neutering helps, and with male cats in particular, they are often less likely to try to dominate another cat if neutered. With an older cat, it can be easier to introduce a kitten into the mix, rather than another adult cat.

If you adopt from North County Humane Society, staff can help you select a new cat with the age, sex and personality that will fit best with your present cat.

The key word when introducing a new cat to your home is "patience." The better planned and slower the introductions are, the more likely they are to be successful. It can take weeks, or even several months, for two fe-

lines to acclimate to one another. Thirty days is considered a minimum adjustment period.

Some tips:

- **Find a small area of the house that can be closed off where the new cat can feel safe**, such as a spare bedroom. Give the new cat time to familiarize itself with you, the new smells and new surroundings. Keep the cats separated from one another for at least one week. Each knows the other is present. They can smell each other even with the doors closed.

- **Once the new cat feels comfortable in this limited area away from the other cat, switch the cats.** Now the resident cat is in the closed-off area, and the new cat is in the rest of the house. This gives the new cat time to explore and familiarize itself with the house. This is detective work or "information gathering time" for the cats.

- **Once the cats appear comfortable** — they are eating well, grooming and appear relaxed around you — it's time to introduce them to one another. It can be helpful to purchase a pheromone spray and use it around the house during the several-week period when introductions are being made. Be sure also that each cat has its own water bowl, food dish and litter box. The ideal number of litter boxes for two cats is three.

- **When introductions are made**, try and have another person with you in case a fight should break out and you need to separate the cats quickly. If this

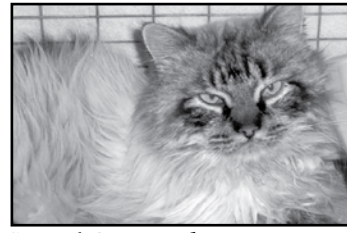
should occur, throw a towel or blanket over one of the cats, or spray it with a little water. Start with short introductions and make the meetings longer each time depending on how the cats are doing.

- **During the first several months of new cat ownership**, it's especially important that you give both the new and old cats plenty of individual time with you each day. They are both feeling insecure. Extra love, attention, play and treats during this period, for both of them, can go a long way toward smoothing things over.

- **If you're thinking, "Wow, this seems like an awfully slow, involved process,"** remember that each situation is different and yours may go quicker or slower than outlined above. You need to be receptive to and observant of how your cats are doing. But when you think about the many years of love and companionship you will receive from these animals, and how much happier these animals will be if you take things slow, it's well worth it.

When you adopt from NCHS, an Adoption Packet of helpful information and store coupons are given to you. These materials will answer many of your questions as a new cat owner. If you have a question or problem that your information packet does not adequately resolve for you, we encourage you to give us a call at 466-5403. We are there to facilitate the bond between you and your pet.

❁ MEET THE CATS



Meryl Haggard

Meryl Haggard

Meryl, who has been at the shelter since April, was found after roaming for a couple of weeks in a field, hence the name Haggard. Meryl had to be shaved completely, because she was covered in foxtails and other plant stickers. Quite the character, Meryl is about 1 to 2 years old and full of cat-itude.



Jessica and Mica.

Jessica and Mica

These inseparable biological sisters, who are about 3½ years old, came to the shelter in 2007. They were adopted out just once, only to hide together behind the woman's washing machine for quite a few weeks. Two staff members drove to San Luis Obispo to pack them up and bring them "home." The shelter is their "Comfort Zone."



Christian.

Christian

This beautiful Snowshoe boy was lost and confused after being dumped on the NCHS property in 2009. Of course we took this very loving kitty in, and not long after arriving, Christian acted as though he lived at the shelter all of his life. He is FIV positive (feline AIDS) but is healthy. He's 3-plus years old.

Oscar

Oscar is a cuddly orange tabby who is 5-plus months old. He is enjoys playing and is coming out of his shell.

Daniel

Daniel is another FIV positive boy. Daniel, 10-plus years old, has been at the shelter going on 8 years! He has a deformed

leg from being hit by a car and left to die, but he can chase a laser

light faster than a lot of kittens!



Daniel

Bikini

A sweet little kitten who came to our shelter on Oct. 6, 2010. She was found by a concerned and caring woman that took the time to stop on the side of the road only to discover not only Bikini, but her brother Benson and mother Bette crowded in a cardboard box. The kittens have adjusted well at the shelter and are playful,

happy and ready for a warm and loving home. Mom Bette is also ready for adoption.

Titus and Scarlett

Our "married couple" have been inseparable since discovering one another's existence. Scarlett, a gray, long-haired beauty, was rescued from Atascadero Creek before freeway construction began. Very shy and timid, Scarlett has come a long way. She searches Titus out almost daily, to be groomed and loved. She came to NCHS in August 2006 and is 4 years old.

Titus, who is 6 years or older, had a very hard time of it living out on Carissa Plains fending for himself, eating out of trash cans and trying to stay out of the summer's heat. Staff members drove out to rescue the poor guy. Little did he know, he was about to meet his little lady, Scarlett.

— Lisa Lien, shelter staff



Titus gets a hug from Scarlett.

Kitten trapped in sewer is now living Bliss-fully

A tiny kitten, now named Bliss, recently found herself in a precarious, life-threatening situation.

Her dire straits came to the attention of NCHS staff member Lisa Lien when a neighbor rang Lisa's doorbell one night after dark to report the sounds of a crying kitten down the street. The neighbor led Lisa to a sewer. When Lisa and the neighbor lifted the manhole cover to rescue the crying kitty, they couldn't locate her, although they could hear her muffled cries

for help.

The next morning, Lisa called the Department of Animal Services for help. They came and set out tuna in a trap.

The tuna fish cracked the case.

The next day the terrified kitten had been rescued and was in Lisa's arms. Lisa later learned from neighborhood children that the kitten had been heard crying for help for five long days.

At 6 weeks of age, Bliss was brought to the North County Humane Society. Although somewhat dehydrated, she was in

good health. A short-haired dilute tortoiseshell, she's hard to resist. Lisa describes her as "cuddly, soft, sweet, shy, with beautiful eyes and chubby cheeks."

Thanks to Lisa, this delightful little kitty named Bliss is going to live a blissful life. A family of cat lovers, who regularly come to NCHS to pet and socialize the cats, has decided to adopt her.

And what does Bliss think of all this? She thinks that Lisa is quite a heroine.



Shop for the Shelter volunteers Anne and Toni.

Shop for the Shelter's dream team

The North County Humane Society has the two most incredible volunteers doing our Shop for the Shelter events.

Anne is the new mother of "Boots," a fabulous kitten adopted from NCHS. Anne first committed to the Atascadero K-Mart location for the third Saturday of each month.

Toni came to the shelter after donating at a Shop for the Shelter event and was invited to come visit. When Toni visited the shelter, she was asked if she would like to volunteer; she bluntly said, "No." Toni spent time with our kitty residents

that day and something changed her mind. The next Saturday, she came to visit and had decided to volunteer.

Anne and Toni have been a great team since July, also taking on the Food 4 Less location in Paso Robles. Along with running the Shop for the Shelter at both locations, they both come to the shelter regularly to play with the cats and kittens.

The staff, cats and Board of Directors greatly appreciate the dedication these two fabulous ladies have given to NCHS.

Support Shop for the Shelter

Do your errands and support NCHS all at once. Volunteers will be at the following locations, providing a shopping list that includes specific cat foods and other items. And they'll take your donation to the shelter! **Stop by Food 4 Less** in Paso Robles on Saturday, Dec. 4. **Stop by K-Mart** in Atascadero on the third Saturday of each month: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19 and beyond. **Want to volunteer?** Call the shelter at (805) 466-5403.

TIMMY THE CAT'S FUN FACTS

There are approximately 93.6 million owned cats in the United States, with 33 percent of U.S. households (38.2 million) owning at least one cat. Fifty-six percent of owners own more than one cat, and on average, owners have two cats.

SOURCE: THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

There are approximately 60,000 hairs per square inch on the back of a cat and about 120,000 per square inch on its underside.

SOURCE: CATSINFO.COM