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# Serenity Place Rescue

Where the rescued are halfway home!

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December 2011



## Happy Holidays



### *To all of our friends & supporters,*

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and may the new year bring you and your families and pets good health and prosperity!

It is hard to believe this year is almost over I guess Terry and I have been so busy and all of the sudden realized – it's time for another holiday newsletter!

We wish to thank all of you for the wonderful loving help and support that you have given us during this year. Serenity Place Rescue could have not continued to achieve the many rescues that we have successfully accomplished without your help!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1-2	Latest News
Pg. 3-4	Events & Thank You's
Pg. 5-7	Letters & Success Stories

Our goal this year was to help senior cats whose owners either passed away, went into assisted living facilities/nursing homes or who have lost their homes to foreclosures. We also took in special needs kittens and cats, mothers with litters and a family who needed help regaining control of a colony of cats and kittens at their home, and even a rabbit named Max. It was especially heartbreaking working with the senior cats who had lost their owners. We took in "Misty"(see picture on our Petfinder page), who is 17 whose owner took her to the shelter because they were moving. She was there for a couple of months and couldn't take the stress; as a result, her health started failing so we took her in to help nurse her back to a healthy state. She is now better and doing well here at our home. Could you imagine being 80 or 90 years old and having to adjust to a new lifestyle?

Lucky, (pictured right) who was 15 years old, was left inside of Petco in the cat food aisle in a store cooler bag with a note that said

her name was Lucky and she needed medical care for her thyroid and other issues. Unfortunately her health was not taken care of by the former owner; her condition was in the advanced stages and not able to be fixed medically. We were able to keep her going at



our home with the help of our veterinarians for 4 months before we had to say goodbye. She was so sweet; we hope she felt love and some contentment despite the grief from abandonment that we saw in the beginning. It was heartbreaking, to say the least.

We encourage anyone with any pets, especially an elderly one, to please make provisions for them and include a monetary donation in case something unforeseen happens to you. Most of these cats and kittens found wonderful homes; we actually placed 32 kittens, 4 special needs kittens (see Desiree's story under "Letters & Success Stories") 6 adult cats, 10 seniors cats with ages ranging from 7-14 years, as well as the 20 cat colony from the family who needed help. Even the rabbit, Max, got adopted! Phew! That was a lot for Terry and I, and we still have many more that need "forever" homes.

You can view all of our pets available for adoption on our website at [www.serenityplacerescue.org](http://www.serenityplacerescue.org) under "Adoptions". You can also go directly to our PetFinder page at [www.serenityplace.petfinder.com](http://www.serenityplace.petfinder.com). We show our adoptable cats and kittens at Petco in Canoga Park as well as Encino, where they stay 24/7 (a week or two there, and then a week or two at our home) in the beautiful cat enclosures that Petco donated to us for being Petco partners for nine years and counting. The managers and staff at both locations were so helpful; they help clean, feed and play with the cats. We make sure to tend to them once or twice a day as well. Petco has really helped us to get the kitties into some great loving homes.

## Events

During the last year, we did many adoption and educational events in Irvine, Costa Mesa,

Pomona Tarzana and Calabasas.

At the Cuts 4 Critters event in Tarzana, we made friends with Liz Leyda (Miss Teen Utah) and had our video featured on YouTube (see "Events" page on our website, [www.serenityplacerescue.org](http://www.serenityplacerescue.org)).



***Terry, Lori & Jessica at Outlaw Barbershop's Cuts 4 Critters event***

We were also invited by Warren Eckstein to do an adoption event at the Blessings of the Animals event at the LA Pet Memorial Park. We always enjoy attending these events; we've made new friends, placed many animals in great "forever homes", and helped educate the public.



Our most recent adoption event was at Galpin Ford on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> where we teamed up with Pet Orphans of Southern California to help educate the public about caring for a new pet, and we also held a pet food drive to help the homeless and low income families keep their pets.



Terry played Santa for the event; he will also play Santa at Petco in Encino on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 12PM – 4PM. Everyone is welcome to come and have their picture taken with their pet (s) or children for a minimal fee; some of the proceeds will go to our rescue.

In addition to adoptions, our fundraising activities include yard sales, bake sales and photos at Petco for Halloween and Christmas (Terry dresses up as Santa Claus!).

If you would like to help us continue our mission in helping homeless cats, we would very much appreciate donations of any kind. Please take a look at our Holiday Wishlist on our website, [www.serenityplacerescue.org](http://www.serenityplacerescue.org) which lists all of the things we need the most to make sure these little guys get the best shelter and care we can provide them until they are adopted. Don't forget - all donations are tax deductible, and we will provide you with a receipt. Monetary donations in particular are essential for us to continue to provide them with necessary veterinary care, especially for the felines with special needs. We also hope that within the next year we will raise enough to be able to open our own facility. If you know of anyone who may be able to donate retail space for a thrift store that we can use to raise funds, please let us know! Also, if you would like to contribute donations on a monthly basis, please contact us to set up automatic donations. We couldn't do it without your support!

We sincerely appreciate everyone's help and would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Susan Milder, Dr. Kamran Nassi and all of their wonderful staff for their excellent care and kindness. We would also like to extend a big thank you to Target, Alan and Xiomara for their generous donations of cat/dog food that we use for our fosters and also deliver to help animals belonging to families in need, the homeless, as well as the churches and food banks that help them. Your kindness is much appreciated! We would also like to thank Paul Jolly, his staff and Susan Rosenberg of the Petco Foundation, who are true heroes that have helped so many

rescuers and animals across the nation. And to our friends and supporters: John Holman and Mary, Dee and Kathryn Baker, Anne Manley, Brian Kirk (who volunteered all his time to build us cat enclosures) and Mary Ann, Todd Goodman (for your longtime unconditional friendship, support and legal advice) Sinne Andersen (for being a great friend, volunteering your time and all your wonderful donations), Karin (for being a supportive sister, helping with computer work and feeding the animals), Shirley Blanchard, and Jeanne Toma for all the great yard sale items, Helen Bodle, Gerald and all of our friends and family who have accepted that a life of a rescuer is always hectic. Also Marina Djuric who is amazing and without her we would be lost. She is our technology-savvy volunteer who helps with our computer & office equipment, maintains our website, and does whatever else we need done (like this newsletter!). Last but certainly not least Rebecca who helped with Arleto (if it wasn't for her, he might not be alive today) Leslie and Jeff from the UPS store in West Hills, who have helped us with too many things to count, and Helen Donovan, our CPA – we truly appreciate your kindness as well as your amazing staff! And to anyone we may have forgotten to mention, please forgive us and know that we are so grateful to you as well.

Also we would like to thank all of you who adopted felines from us, and gave them loving homes. It does our hearts well to know they are loved and happy. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing pictures you might have of your furry children! Every cat/kitten we adopt out is always in our hearts and never forgotten, and we know that they continue to receive the same love after they find their “forever home”. We at Serenity Place will always be there for you if you ever can no longer take care of them, need to return them,

need help financially, need advice, or if you want a new addition to the family!

In closing, we wanted to take a moment to remember some wonderful people and animals that have passed away in the last few years who we truly will miss. This year Terry and I lost our beloved dog Cubby and our cats, Blue & ET, who both were 15 and a fellow cat lover/rescuer Rae Marlow (who was amazing) and Jerry Benson, a wonderful man who took us under his wings and called us family for 28 years.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate everyone's help and generosity this year. It has helped us save so many lives, and we will definitely keep you all updated on what is going on with us and the events that we do so that more people can get involved to help save so many more lives of innocent little kittens and cats who have done nothing but give us unconditional love and everlasting companionship.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,

*Lori Kaelker and Terry Ross*

*Serenity Place Rescue*



## Letters & Success Stories

### Desiree



Miss Desiree came to us in the beginning of summer; someone rescued her and she already had some trauma done to her that injured her spine, so she wasn't able to stand or walk but she could drag her back legs behind her. Boy, was she a handful! She had the strongest will and a fast little body that scooted around here. Her rescuer called her Trax, which we changed to "Vespa" and later to "Desiree" since she had such a desire to live! We took her to four different veterinarians, an orthopedist, neurologist and a specialty group in Orange County. The group had seen Desiree at an adoption event and was kind enough to review her records and x-rays. All of the doctors determined the same thing: she would never get up and walk, and would remain the way she was due to the terrible damage to her spine. I cried and cried, hoping there would be something that could have been done for her. I could tell that she very much wanted to run and play with our pets, and she was so young to be compromised. But she taught us all a lesson; you can carry on and do anything you put your mind to, despite a handicap. Caring for her was challenging. She needed diapers which she hated wearing and would constantly take off, bathing during the day to keep her clean and make sure she didn't get infections, and constant supervision to make sure she didn't

hurt herself. She was also a picky eater at first, and eventually as her physical strength returned she became fussy about us putting her diaper on, bathing her, etc. But in time we worked it out. With the guidance of some heavenly angels, a wonderful couple in Bakersfield saw Desiree on our website and contacted us to inquire about adopting her. As it turned out, also had a cat rescue and another cat with the same type of handicap, so they were more familiar with her condition. In addition, they belonged to groups with handicapped pets and even had a kitty cart a company designed for paralyzed cats/kittens! They seemed too good to be true, but after thinking long and hard we made the decision to let them adopt her despite originally wanting to keep her because we had grown to love her. Terry and I drove her to Bakersfield, spent 6 hours getting to know her new adopted family, and helped get her settled. Naturally, we were sad when we had to leave but lucky for us her new family still keeps in touch. Desiree, now called "Vespa" again, is doing great; she is now an 8 month old vibrant kitty full of desire and they love her so! We plan to go visit in a few weeks. Sometimes we get lucky and are able to find the perfect homes.

### Rocky & Bella

*Here are a few pictures of our new additions thanks to you and your organization. Rocky and Bella are doing great! Bella is a sucker for love and with cuddle with anyone. Rocky is still a shy guy but boy does he love his momma. He follows me everywhere I go. Thanks Lori we are so in love with our new babies.*

*With much Thanks,  
The De La Cruz Family*



**Rocky & Bella**



**Louie**

### *Louie*

*I have to say that [Louie] is just the best, sweetest, most loving cat that we have ever had! He is everything you could ever want and more. He is a totally sweet guy, full of energy, with the loudest purr, and most affectionate personality. He likes to sleep under the covers, especially if you make a "tent" with your knees up. When he wants to be loved up, he comes over and flops on you, rubbing his head against you and purring, purring, purring. He follows us everywhere in the house and cries if he loses sight of us, especially me. Joe says he's my boy but I think he loves us equally. Oh, and his favorite toy is any tiny little crumpled piece of paper, that and pistachio nuts in the shell. He bats them around the house for hours on end, all except the nuts which last only as long as the dog doesn't find them and eat them up on him.*

*I can't thank you enough for letting us bring him into our lives. Each day with him is a gift and we are thrilled to have been able to give him a forever home! Don't hesitate to stop over and visit with him, he loves people!*

*Happy Holidays,  
Judy and Joe*

### *Chester*

*I have sad news about everyone's favorite orange kitty. Chester was diagnosed in July with cardiomyopathy, pretty serious. I was able to spend a lot of time with him, making sure he was okay. He was on special meds, regular and homeopathic, had his own cardiologist and did quite well up until about a week ago. He started having trouble breathing once in a while [and then] more frequently. He started eating less and less. For the last 24 hours, he struggled with rapid heart rate and breathing. We took him to the emergency vet this morning and he confirmed fluid in his lungs and worsening of the heart. So we decided to save him from any further suffering. The vet gave him oxygen to calm him, and then Ches went peaceably with us beside him.*

*Ches kept that sweet, confused personality of his during his whole life. He was compulsive, finicky and ritualistic; drove you nuts sometimes at 3:00 AM, but always was such a sweet boy. He was a real snuggle-bug to David, and would end up most mornings in the crook of his arm in bed, purring away. Even as he deteriorated, his purr let us know that he was doing okay. We had him for 13 years, and he was an awesome cat. All our friends and the vets loved him, too- he was that kind of special guy. He must have known how*

*loved he was, from the minute y'all rescued him and during all the time that we had him.*

*Hope your work is going well. Please make sure that I have your correct mailing address, as I'm sure that Ches would want to contribute toward making another kitty as lucky as he was blessed. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to love and enjoy our time with the furry boy.*

*All the best,  
Glady and David Carey*



*Chester*

### *Samantha*

*About 13 years ago I called my terrific pet sitter (and friend) Lori to ask if she had any kittens for adoption. She then told me about "the easement". Upon arriving at Lori's, I saw a longhaired kitten with beautiful green eyes (sans the name Jade) sitting alone looking very scared. Although Lori was hesitant, since this kitten had a respiratory infection and was very timid, she let me take Jade. It took many a day sitting on the floor in my guestroom, petting and talking to Samantha, (yes, I changed her name) as she sat in the rocking chair, 'til I gained her trust. She turned out to be a very sweet, cuddly fur ball with short little legs, tiny feet and a big plume of a tail.*

*This past July my Samantha [went missing] for two days. As I called her one more time, I looked up at the night sky and said "Lord, please just let her come home - we've been through so much - I just need to know what has happened to her". As I passed the guestroom, I heard a little cry. She was home but in bad shape. After a tearful trip to the emergency vet, my time with Samantha was over. Now I just have warm cuddly memories of a very special survivor of "the easement".*

*-Jan*



*Samantha*

### **CONTACT US**

6520 Platt Ave# 455, West Hills 91307

**Phone**

(818) 999-4022 or (818) 348-4865

**E-mail**

[lori@serenityplacerescue.org](mailto:lori@serenityplacerescue.org) or

**Website**

[www.SerenityPlaceRescue.org](http://www.SerenityPlaceRescue.org)

**Petfinder**

[serenityplace.petfinder.com](http://serenityplace.petfinder.com)

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