“One cat just leads to another!”

Yep...my old pal Ernest Hemingway got that one right! If one cat is good, then two must be even BETTER...and once you have two, it’s a downhill slide to cat trees all over your house! The fun just keeps on comin’, right?! Cause, let’s face it folks, cats just make your laughter a little louder, your smile a little brighter...and your life a whole lot better!

So you might be askin’ yerself why old Basil here is chattin’ you up with Hemingway quotes? Well, I’ve got your back, of course!! And your chance to expand your feline family for FREE is coming up on **August 13-14, 2016**, when you can adopt an adult cat (or two, or three, or six) absolutely FREE!! Like seriously, who is gonna pass up that offer?! So get on down to the ASAP shelter for **ONE WEEKEND ONLY**—and follow in the steps of Papa Hemingway. What better summer endeavor could there possibly be?! Well, napping of course...but why state the obvious?!

If you needed a little extra emotional blackmail, well, just check out my buddy Yoko here—she is just like so many adult cats that get passed over during kitten season. You can read Yoko’s story on pages 4-5, and boy howdy, it will sure tug at the heart strings!

I hate to admit it, but this ole alley cat is a romantic at heart, and I just gotta believe that those ASAP peeps are right when they tell all my feline pals at the shelter to not lose hope—there is truly **SOMEONE** out there for **EVERY CAT**. Yoko’s story is proof in the (fishy flavored) puddin’!

I can’t believe I’ve gotten this far and not given a MEOW-OUT to all of you rockin’ ASAP supporters who made my Bash such a hit this year!! **WHOOP WHOOP!! HOLY CAT!!** Check out the photos on page 2—this old alley cat was just about everywhere you can imagine at that party, including lighting up the dancefloor. I am such a **ROCK STAR**—and thanks to my adoring fans, y’all raised almost $120,000 for cat nip! **WHAT**?! That’s not ALL for cat nip? Well, an alley cat can dream, can’t he?!

OK, OK...back to reality and my day job of keeping track of everything ASAP is up to....oh dear, that’s just too much work for this old tomcat...because ASAP is truly **PUMPED UP** this summer!! Those ASAP folks are working on so many fantastic projects and programs, including making sure all of the cats at the shelter are protected from **FIRE**! Yep, that’s right—until now, the ASAP shelter hasn’t had any type of fire protection/sprinklers, so if a fire broke out....well, the mere thought of that is enough to singe these old crumpled whiskers. But no need to worry now—read all about this collaborative project to make sure our kitties are **SAFE** on page 6.

Whoa!! This black cat is just about ready to find his sunny summer hiding, errr napping, spot...otherwise some energetic ASAP volunteer is likely to put me to work. But last but not least, I just gotta tell you...**DRUM ROLL PLEASE**...**ASAP is FAMOUS**!! Yep, I **KNOW** that **YOU** know that ASAP is awesome—but now everyone else does too thanks to the article in Animal Sheltering magazine about our Tiny Lion Tamers Program. Published by the Humane Society of the United States, this rag is the premier publication for anyone who is working in the animal rescue world!! Whoooohooo!! **ASAP’s innovative programs now have the chance to help kitties in shelters all over the place!!**

That just about sums it up for now—now this this curmudgeonly cat is off to nap with a smile in his heart, but shhhhhhhhhhhhh don’t tell anyone!

Basil, OUT

Summer 2016

ASAP’s newsletter for friends and supporters
This year’s BIG Bash was a phenomenal success by all accounts—and truly a Herculean effort on the part of our incredible volunteers! The 2016 event yielded almost $120,000 in net proceeds for ASAP, which doesn’t include all of the generous in-kind donations from over 150 local businesses. Whoohoo!! That’s a whole lotta cat food, not to mention veterinary care, adoption promotion and all of those other things our shelter kitties need while waiting for their forever homes!

In record time, Basil’s BIG Bash has quickly become known as one of the “not-to-miss” events in Santa Barbara, and this year was no exception. From the presence of Basil himself, to the lovely setting at QAD, enthusiastic live auction, delicious dinner and dancing, it was clear that the over 400 guests in attendance at this SOLD OUT event knew how to enjoy themselves while assisting ASAP in raising much needed funds!

The premiere of ASAP’s 2016 video focused on the very special bond between humans and their adopted cats, featuring just one of thousands of stories over the past 27 years in which we see the profoundly moving ways in which cats can touch, enrich and change our lives. The video is available for viewing on our website, www.asapcats.org

On behalf of everyone at ASAP, thank you to everyone who made The Bash such a huge success this year. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of such a generous and compassionate community—and we look forward to another fantastic Bash in 2017!!

ASAP Executive Director, Angela Walters Rockwell, with the 2016 featured Big Bash Program “cover cat,” Maisie. The 2017 Bash Program cover was auction off for a record $3,400!!
ASAP Featured in National Magazine!

ASAP has made national news with a feature in *Animal Sheltering* magazine. *Animal Sheltering* is published by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the world’s largest animal welfare organization, and circulates nationally to hundreds of thousands of readers.

*Animal Sheltering*, the main publication of the HSUS, “goes beyond the four walls of shelters and rescues to look at the broader picture of the state of pets in the US. From those working to save more animals’ lives at the shelter to those helping prevent pets from being there in the first place,” the magazine “covers the people and organizations that are making a difference” for animals around the world.

“Out of the lions’ den,” which appears in the July/August 2016 issue, describes ASAP’s innovative “Tiny Lion Tamers” program, which trains volunteers to tame feral (wild, unsocialized) kittens in order to make them friendly and suitable for adoption into homes. The program came into being in the summer of 2015, when ASAP was faced with dozens of unsocialized kittens arriving from trapping efforts in the north county. With all of its foster homes already full, and most not equipped to handle “popcorn” kittens—so called for how they hiss and jump like popping corn—ASAP looked for a creative solution. The result was the Tiny Lion Tamers program, created by ASAP’s Feline Behavior Team, which is staffed by volunteers with special training in basic socialization techniques. This high volume, in-shelter, socialization program that has the potential to become the model for other shelters nationwide.

As a result of “Out of the lions’ den,” shelters all over the United States have contacted ASAP for guidance on how to establish their own programs to transform kitten roars into kitten purrs.

Rhonda Douglass, Director of Development & Program Services, and Barbara Ceriale, Feline Behavior Program Co-Director, proudly show off their copies of *Animal Sheltering* to two graduates of ASAP’s Tiny Lion Tamers Program!
Come a little closer...but not TOO close

Every day that an ASAP cat finds their purrfect family is a day to celebrate but sometimes the celebrations are just a little bit bigger, a little more noteworthy. The day Yoko was adopted was one of those momentous days—and a wave of silent cheering rippled throughout Santa Barbara as news of her adoption spread among the volunteers.

You see, Yoko was one of our “underdog” kitties. From the beginning we were all drawn to her unique, round little face and shy way of engaging with the world. She would carefully watch all that was going on around her—very interested in all the activity—but much too frightened to participate. It was clear that she WANTED company—but was too afraid to fully engage.

At the shelter, Yoko would call out to us repeatedly until someone would come talk to her in front of her cage; however that was the limit of her tolerance because merely reaching into her cage usually provoked panic and sometimes a warning swat. Although ASAP’s Feline Behavior Team worked extensively with her, Yoko never felt confident enough to allow herself to be touched, petted or stroked.

At ASAP, we have a saying—“there is someone for EVERY cat”—but we all knew that Yoko was a hard sell. It’s a lot to expect that someone might adopt a cat that may never adjust to human touch—and there was just no guarantee that Yoko would ever accept human contact.

But we continued to BELIEVE that there might be someone, someday who would give Yoko a home—and indeed, one day in June, that special person walked into our shelter...
Finding Yoko, by Vanessa Carson

It was time to adopt a cat. Almost three years had passed since my dear Bella had gone to kitty heaven, and we were long overdue for a critter in our home. I was jonesing for a pet so bad, it was to the point where anytime I saw someone with their pet in tow, I would involuntarily coo “Ooooo look at that little guy!!!!” in a high pitched squeal. So when I uttered the words, “I think we should go to the cat shelter”, my boyfriend Jonathan knew I meant business. We were running errands, and in his loving way, he pulled a U-turn and headed in the direction of ASAP without saying a word. He just smiled at me.

I walked up and down every aisle, talking to each and every cat. I didn’t want to miss a single one. I was hoping that I’d approach one of the cages, and magic would strike. I hoped I’d know “my cat” the moment I laid eyes on them, and they would adore me immediately out of gratitude (ha ha). The kittens were on point—they know how to be perfectly adorable and sociable. But I didn’t feel a connection with any of them, funny enough.

And then it happened. I found my magic, and she me. At the end of an aisle, on the bottom row, I found Yoko. Her large bright eyes had me at first sight, but it was her spirit that called to me. She had a lovely set-up at the shelter, as all the cats there do, but she was sad. She was sad, and small, and I knew right away that she had closed herself off to the world out of fear. And I also knew that more than anything I wanted my family to be the ones to bring her back to life—to make her happy. So happy she might even find us annoying! Yep, if given the chance, I was going to win this cat over by providing love and safety to her for all her days.

ASAP volunteers spent a lot of time with us, explaining that it would be a process trying to get Yoko to come out of her familiar “shell”. So we were prepared for this sweet girl to hide under furniture for many weeks to come. I never would have guessed she would only feel the need to hide under the bed in our home for a duration of about four hours—that first night she slept on the daybed in our room only feet from where I lay! My gosh the next morning she was on our bed— with me laying on it!! It was a miracle and it filled our hearts.

Now Yoko spends her days lounging anywhere and everywhere in our home (mostly my son’s room—he’s her favorite). She eats food almost more expensive than mine, and she is obsessed with the laser light. She still won’t allow us to pick her up, but I’m working on it! I was able to pet her once while she was eating, and her ginger fur was soft as silk. We rescued her just as much as she rescued us, and I can’t thank ASAP enough for giving us all a chance to make each other happy.
Protect ASAP Cats from Fire!

Over 1,000 cats and kittens move through the ASAP cat shelter each year—and until now, every single one of them has been at risk if a fire broke out in the shelter or surrounding high fire areas of Santa Barbara County! We’d like to think that once a cat reaches our shelter, they are finally SAFE—safe from an uncertain life on the streets, safe from predation from coyotes, safe from being hit by a car, safe from malnutrition and disease. But the reality is that while ASAP takes exceedingly good care of each and every cat and kitten that crosses our threshold, they have NOT been safe—because until now our shelter has had no protection from fire.

The ASAP shelter is located in a fairly remote area—with little or no public traffic during the evenings. The primary concern is for the safety of the cats after normal business hours when no staff or volunteers are at the shelter. If a fire were to break out overnight, it would likely go unnoticed until it was out of control. And the cats in our shelter would be trapped in their cages. It’s an unimaginable horror—but a very sad reality for other shelters in the U.S. where hundreds of animals have perished when fires broke out. And finally, THIS year, we are determined that this will not happen at ASAP—and we have made a promise to keep these cats safe, no matter what!

Making good on this promise was simple—ASAP needed a fire protection system (sprinklers)—and not so simple! The not so simple part is raising the $10,000 needed for the system, as well as retrofitting a system to our somewhat complicated shelter buildings. A incredible team came together to troubleshoot the issues—Gina Sunseri (City Fire Department Inspector and an ASAP volunteer!) spearheaded the effort with Santa Barbara County General Services and Animal Services, as well as obtained the appropriate approvals from the Goleta Water District and County Fire Department. And the icing on the cake was Rick Joy with Joy Equipment Protection who creatively installed the system with a very generous discount! The Joy team even worked on a Sunday (their first ever!) to ensure that the impact on the shelter cats and operations was kept to a minimum.

High Fire Risk Community

Almost any building, anywhere, is at risk for fire, but Santa Barbara County is also a high fire risk area. In 2009, one of the worst fires in more than 20 years swept through our community—the Jesusita Fire caused the evacuation of 60% of the population of Santa Barbara, leaving area residents scrambling for safe haven for their pets. Without hesitation, ASAP was that safe haven—taking in 214 cats. And again, just this past June, when our community faced yet another threat from the Scherpa Fire, ASAP was there to assist, taking in almost 60 evacuated cats. ASAP will always be there to assist our community in need—and now our shelter cats too will have protection, no matter where the threat of fire comes from!

We hope that our community never faces another serious fire crisis, but if it does, then our ASAP shelter will be ready to assist. And this time, ALL of our cats will be protected from fire—no matter where the threat comes from!

ASAP Alumni, Bruno, says, “Oh no! Don’t leave any cat unprotected from fire! Help ASAP keep all of the cats in the shelter safe and donate now!”

Be Part of the Feline Fire Protection Squad!
DONATE NOW

ASAP still needs YOUR help to finish raising the funds. For more information and to make a quick donation online, visit our LoveAnimals page:

http://goo.gl/7uN8QS

On behalf of these precious felines who have faced enough risk in their lives—ASAP thanks every single donor for your support!
FREE CATS—August 13 & 14 ONLY!

ASAP will hold our 6th annual Free Adoption Weekend in August!! For ONE weekend ONLY each year, the adoption fee for adult cats will be FREE!! Need an alarm clock? There’s a cat for that. A napster, bug hunter, foot warmer? There’s a cat for that, too!

For one weekend only in 2016, DOWNLOAD an adult cat for FREE. And if you absolutely can’t resist getting the latest software—you can pick up two kittens for the price of one! That’s two kittens for just $75 or an adult cat for FREE. No trade-ins or rebates offered.

ASAP’s very own Genius Bar volunteers will be ready to assist you with any software glitches or download questions!

Come to ASAP on Saturday, August 13 (10am-4pm), and Sunday, August 14 (10am-2pm), for the FREE DOWNLOAD deal of the year!

Cards for Cats—creative fundraising for ASAP!

Where is that perfect cat greeting card when you need it?! ASAP volunteer, Lyla Krock (age 15) used this to great advantage when she organized a “Cards for Cats” fundraiser and educational event at Monte Vista Elementary School. Having seen a cookie stand raising money for the rainforest, Lyla began to think about what she could do to benefit a cause that was close to HER heart - ASAP! Lyla’s mom, Claire, teaches at the Monte Vista School which gave Lyla the perfect audience for her entrepreneurial fundraising idea!

After giving an educational presentation about the importance of animal shelters in providing a safety net for homeless cats, Lyla led a class of 3rd grade children through a “directed draw”—inspiring them to creative beautiful and colorful cat drawings on blank cards. These cards were sold the following week at a special stand in packs of 2 for $2. Not surprisingly because EVERYONE needs cat cards, they sold out within 10 minutes, raising $185 for ASAP!

On behalf of all of the precious cats at ASAP, we give thanks to the Monte Vista Elementary School 3rd Graders for their service, and to Lyla not only for the funds she has raised, but also for her advocacy of ASAP and animal shelters in general.

Without a doubt, Lyla has a bright future in helping animal causes—and perhaps even a leadership role at ASAP!

There’s a cat for that.

Download for FREE
Burt’s Beat

Don’t know about you, but I’m still recovering from the Bash! I found out just in time that some crazy humans are selling wine for cats (what will those bipeds think of next?), but it turns out they haven’t made a morning-after elixir for us felines yet. So I’d better not risk it; I never wanted to be a winery cat anyhow. Anyhow, to cheer me up even more this summer, I’ve got some alumni updates to share with you that’ll make you so relaxed and happy you’ll think you’re right back at the Bash, enjoying a cool summer night and great tunes...

Jennifer shares two fabulous pictures of her little family. One of her “all-time favorite” photos is this one of her beloved dog Dixie and her newfound friend Rorschach, adopted in September 2013. This photo was taken only a few days after the duo met, when Rorschach was “just a tiny little thing.” Rorschach has loved Dixie ever since!

To top that off that cuddle pile, Jennifer also sent us another of Rorschach (below, left) with her other ASAP kitty, Felix. These two black-and-white friends are “great buddies.” What a happy home!

Our next story comes to us from the Land of Adorableness. Recent adoptees Clara and Peter (formerly Kame and Hunter, above) are loving life together! They get to play all day in their new home, which boasts a fabulous enclosed outdoor patio where they sunbathe.

New owner Grace tells us that the kitten duo “is just doing great! They are growing so fast. We just love them!”

And finally there is this sweet duo. Linda adopted Saimen, now Cassie (above, right) earlier this year. As you can see, Cassie and Linda’s lab Jock have fallen for each other. Jock uses “puppy bows” and makes himself as small as possible, to entice Cassie into playing. What a guy! Cassie loves snuggling Jock, and watching his tail wag.

Linda reports that our volunteers did “a phenomenal job of explaining the dog’s body language in assessing whether or not this will be a safe experience for the adoptee. In our household Jock is limited to specific areas, while the kitten will ultimately have the run of the house, so she will always have a space where she can avoid him if she wishes. As you can see, she has established that ‘cats rule’!”

Aren’t buddies just the best? ASAP recommends adopting kittens in pairs, particularly littermates, so they can grow up with a friend by their side and so they can learn how to “cat” together! Adoption counselor volunteers also provide guidance and tips to families hoping to bring a new friend home to their resident cat or cats, so that the cats and adopters all have a great experience. Additionally, ASAP has specialized volunteers who counsel potential adopters who have dogs.

I may have lived on the streets all my life, being alone can be kinda lonely...I can’t help but be jealous of these purrfect matches.