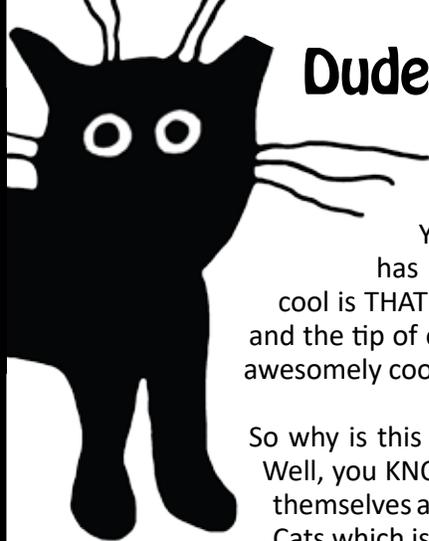


CATNIPS



Dude! What's up with your ear tip?!

This old alley cat is sportin' a new style that's all the rage! Ear tipping! That's right...all the cool cats have done it, including this old Basil cat! Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat???!!

Yep. Ear tipping is the universal sign that a free-roaming cat has been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. MEOW-ZER!! How cool is THAT?! So when you see a cheeky feline walkin' down the street and the tip of one of their ears is clipped, you KNOW he (or she) is totally, awesomely cool!

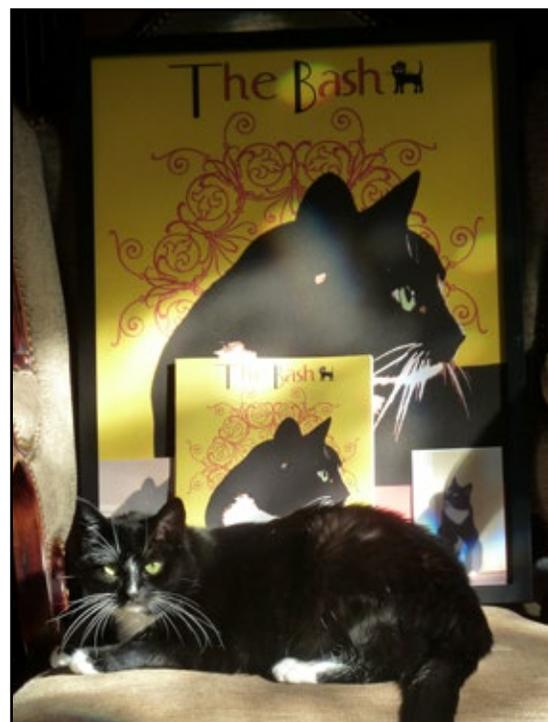
So why is this old tom cat showing off his clipped ear after all this time? Well, you KNOW it has to do with those ASAP peeps! They just can't help themselves and they have started a whole new program called Community Cats which is ALL about taking care of those ownerless, free roaming cats that don't have loving people like YOU to take care of their essential needs, like turning OFF the kitten-making parts!! Be sure to check out the full story on **ASAP's new Community Cats Program** on pages 2-4—and watch out for the ear tipping trend to sweep Santa Barbara County!

Now to one of my favorite subjects: totally hot cats. Errr, I mean wise, intelligent and affectionate felines...**The REAL Housecats of Santa Barbara** are coming!! That's right, on August 12-13, ASAP is holding our **7th Annual Free Adoption Event** and the HOTTEST, SEXIEST housecats can be yours, absolutely FREE for one weekend only! Take a gander at the back cover of this newsletter for more info....SIZZZZZLE! And oh yeah, those pesky housekittens will be 2-for-1 all weekend too... not that anyone really cares about those mere miniature versions of the REAL deal.

Okay, okay...geez. I know...EVERYONE LOVES KITTENS. An old tomcat can pretend, right?! But I guess if I don't tell ya, all of those kittens won't disappear on their own: ASAP has TONS of kittens available for adoption, plus you can read about some pretty special kittens in need on page 7. Yeah, I gotta admit, some of those little tykes actually make this crusty cat a little misty-eyed.

Hmmm...what else? I know I'm forgetting something. Ha! You fell for it...but I didn't really forget. **THE BASH!** Need I say more? Here's my official MEOW-OUT to all of you rockin' ASAP supporters who made my Bash such a fantastic success for the FOURTH year! WHOOP WHOOP!! HOLY CAT! And in case you ever wondered what those Bash Program Cover Cats do after the party—check out Kayta in the photo above, soaking up all of her fame, and enjoying her Bash swag. You GO girl!

Whew! This is all just totally exhausting...I think I only slept 20 hours yesterday so I'm definitely in need of a little beauty nap! Time to find that sunny spot—how about I just lay down right on top of this newsletter you are trying to read?! Ha ha...I'm a funny old cat.



The 2017 Bash Cover Cat—Kayta luxuriates in her fame!

Basil, OUT

Summer 2017

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Issue No. 18, July 31, 2017

ASAP's newsletter for friends and supporters

ASAP Launches New Community Cats Program!

What is a “community cat”? You might be wondering...

Community cats are typically free-roaming, un-owned or semi-owned cats, comprised of both strays (lost and abandoned social cats who were former pets) and ferals (wild cats, extremely fearful of people and not welcoming of human attention), who are the offspring of other feral or stray cats. Some community cats can be considered loosely owned, meaning that concerned residents feed them and may provide some form of shelter in their own homes or on their own property, but do not always identify the cats as their own personal pets.

Launched in May 2017, the ASAP Community Cats Program is targeting the ever-increasing unaltered, free-roaming cat problem in Santa Barbara County’s highest needs communities. Despite having three county shelters, three humane societies, and several nonprofit organizations, there has been no leadership or plan of action for the feral and community cat problems that plague north Santa Barbara County. Until NOW, these cats have been overlooked due to the lack of trappers, equipment, funding, community support, and the sheer numbers of cats, which are estimated to be in the thousands!



Preparation for trapping involves letting the cats get used to the equipment and training them to eat meals inside the traps.

Unaltered, free-roaming cats are THE most critical animal welfare issue facing our community—and ASAP has recognized this and expanded our efforts to save these feline lives and reduce suffering and unnecessary mortality for cats and kittens. With Charter Year Funding provided by an amazing cadre of private donors, we are confident that ASAP will bring much needed collaboration and organization to establish a sustainable Community Cats Program. Plus, ASAP has a secret weapon: Mike Fountaine, who we hired as our Community Cats Coordinator!

ASAP’s Community Cats Program will provide assistance in humanely trapping, spaying and neutering, vaccinating, flea treating, and ear tipping (for identification purposes) cats and returning them to the community (TNR), as well as saving the lives of feral kittens by bringing them to ASAP for socialization through our Tiny Lions Program.

ASAP’s Community Cats Heroes

Charter Year Funding

Provided by These Amazing Donors:

Marie Morrisroe – Foundational Funder

Kim & Dwight Lowell * Lee Heller

Lyn Proctor Hock * Alexandra Geremia

Gratitude to the Santa Barbara Foundation for their Express Grant to fund outreach for the program!



Gotcha! Successful trapping happens quickly after several weeks of patience.

Finding Nemo on Elm Street by Mike Fountaine

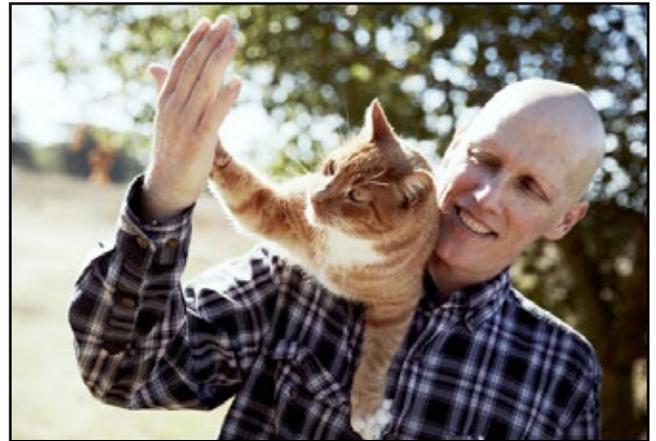
When I first brought the traps onto the site, a little orange kitten, with eyes so infected I feared he was almost blind, took one look at me and the cages I was laying out, walked over, and sniffed my feet and then the cage. Then he very deliberately walked through the door of the trap, all the way to the very back, sat down and looked up at me as if to say, "So are we going to do this or what?"

The thing is, I absolutely could not take him at that moment. I was already late for another appointment and had only planned to drop off the training traps. But—how could I NOT take this little guy whose chances for survival were slim to none?! So I picked up the phone, made my apologies and rescheduled my day—then I scooped up the trap with Nemo (obviously that was his name!) and headed to ASAP.

Nemo's eyes healed well once he received proper veterinary care and then he was enrolled in the Tiny Lions Program. As a star student, Nemo just recently graduated at the top of his class and was adopted along with a buddy—be sure to find Nemo on page 5.

Success Depends On Bringing Our Animal Welfare Community Together

ASAP's Community Cats Program will only succeed with the shared collaboration and commitment of all of our county's shelters and animal welfare organizations—the challenges are just too great! But in just two short months, tremendous progress has been made with Santa Barbara County Animal Services and the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society as strong team members, pushing their effort to the limit to provide spay/neuter surgeries and flexible support!



ASAP's new Community Cats Coordinator Mike Fountaine with one of his own rescued ferals.

In just two short months, ASAP has trapped 66 cats and kittens, enrolled 31 kittens in Tiny Lions, and recruited 4 Volunteer Trappers

Pedigrees don't mean much when you are starving!

For Furby and Kirby, having a Persian pedigree didn't count for much. These two cats, along with a third sibling, were purchased as kittens, but then abandoned by their owner who couldn't bother to train her new dog not to chase them away from their food and water. Sadly one of them died before ASAP was alerted. When Mike Fountaine showed up at the scene, he opened a can of food (see photo), made quick friends with the remaining two, who were severely malnourished and dehydrated, loaded them into a carrier and off to ASAP they went, where life immediately took a turn for the better! Little Miss Furby is pregnant, so she's in foster waiting for the arrival of her kittens—and Kirby was adopted by ASAP's own veterinarian, Dr. Lisa Okuda!



Two lucky survivors! Sadly their sibling did not survive life on the street.

Elliot and Theodore—The First Lives Saved with Community Cats!

In his first few days on the job, while scouting a feral cat colony in Guadalupe, Mike was able to move quickly and scoop up these two 1-month old kittens in critical shape. He immediately transported them to ASAP for treatment for dehydration, flea anemia and severe conjunctivitis. As seen in the photos below, the difference with just one week of ASAP care is remarkable! Without a doubt, these kittens would be dead without intervention from our new Community Cats Program.



5/30/17, 8PM—Arrival to ASAP Foster.



5/30/17, 8PM—Arrival to ASAP Foster.



5/30/17, 11PM—First bottle, after 3 hours of initial veterinary care.



6/7/17—Elliot, one week after transfer to ASAP.



6/7/17—Theodore, one week after transfer to ASAP.

249 Tiny Lions Tamed!

ASAP's innovative Tiny Lions Program just celebrated its 2nd anniversary! Since its inception 249 tiny feral kittens have graduated—with 222 already adopted as loving companions. Over the past two years, ASAP has provided Tiny Lions technical training and outreach to 11 shelters in three countries and five states! This summer ASAP's new Community Cats Program ensures that there is no shortage of Tiny Lions in training at the shelter—including little Bellisima (see photos below).



What's this? The first step towards gaining trust—baby food on a chopstick!



Bellisima discovers that Tiny Lions training tastes good!



Bellisima anxiously awaits her first Tiny Lions class.

Here's Nemo!



Tiny Lions Graduation Day!

Writing as a Tool for Healing from Pet Loss

This half-day workshop is designed to help you explore ways to use writing as a healing tool for coping with pet loss. No writing experience necessary, no pressure to share your work, no emphasis on the “product”—this is a process-oriented workshop with writing exercises that you can use on your own. Grieving a pet can be isolating, and you'll have an opportunity to be in a safe space with others who understand this deeply painful experience.

Join us Saturday, September 16, 2017, 11 AM–4 PM at Antioch University. Workshop cost is \$25, but additional donations to ASAP will be greatly appreciated. Please contact info@asapcats.org to register or learn more. Limited to 10 participants.

Pamela Gray is a poet, playwright, screenwriter, and writing teacher with an M.F.A. in screenwriting and an M.A. in Creative Writing. She's lost eight cats and a bunny in the past five years, including her soulmate kitty Maisie who was the beautiful “cover girl” on ASAP's 2016 Bash Program.



Maggie's Story by Kelly Lazarus

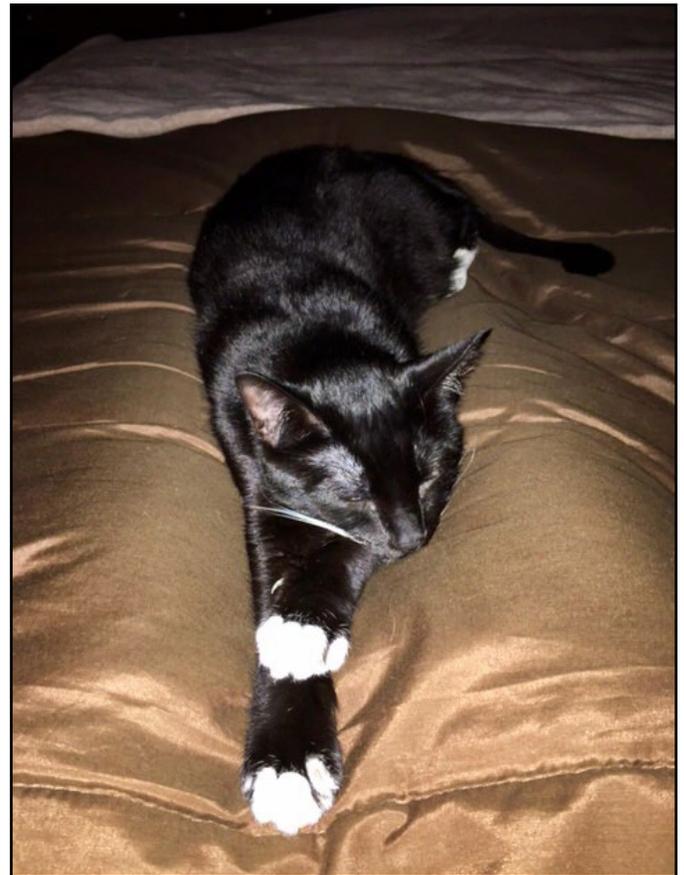
When my daughter Karly and I went to ASAP the day before Thanksgiving last year, I wasn't completely sold on the idea of adopting a cat. But I have fond memories of the shelter, as my father, Bill Wallace, is a retired veterinarian who worked with ASAP for many years.

Karly was initially drawn to the adorable kittens, but at some point I walked by a cage and noticed a lump underneath a towel. When I inquired further, a volunteer told me, "That's Maggie. She very scared and shy in the shelter and hides under her towel—but she is also very sweet!"

With guidance from a volunteer, Karly and I spent about 45 minutes coaxing Maggie out from under the towel. After petting her and talking to her, she began to purr, then slowly and cautiously she emerged from her towel. She didn't stop purring and couldn't get enough caresses. When it was time to go, we closed the cage and Maggie gave us this look of shock that we were leaving her. I told Karly and the volunteers that I needed a little time to think about the idea of taking her home with us.

Over Thanksgiving dinner, Karly and I found that we couldn't stop talking about Maggie. She had found her way into our hearts, so the following morning we were waiting at ASAP when it opened. Maggie was very quiet on the drive to Ventura, unsure about her future. When we got her home and let her out of the travel carrier, she ran under my bed and proceeded to stare at us with big saucer eyes. We eventually gave up trying to persuade her to come out, and went downstairs. I told Karly to be patient, and sure enough, about an hour later Maggie appeared around the corner of the stairs and began to tentatively explore our condo. By the end of the day she was running around like she owned the place!

Maggie is a beautiful, graceful, affectionate cat. She is very playful, and loves to chase laser beams and toys. She loves to curl up on our laps and sleeps every night. We have fallen in love with Maggie and are so lucky to have her as a member of our family, and I think the feeling is mutual.



Body language says it all—there's nothing to be afraid of anymore.



Much better than hiding under a blanket—Maggie shines in her new home!

ASAP's Feline Behavior Program

helps cats like Maggie find their purrfect homes! When she first arrived at the shelter, Maggie was terrified and spent most of her time hiding, too fearful to come out from under a towel. Our Behavior Team went to work very slowly, respectful of Maggie's boundaries—discovering ways to interact with her on HER terms, like visits and pets only in her cage, rather than in a lap. Maggie also enjoyed a brief stay in a behavior foster home, where we began to see her true colors.

2017: Record Year for Special Needs Kittens

Each year, some of the 400+ kittens at ASAP have a few “challenges”, but so far, 2017 has been a record year for kittens in need of extraordinary veterinary care! In the span of just a few days, our shelter received three kittens, all with serious injuries that caused loss of movement in one of their front legs. It was an unfortunate coincidence with each of the three kittens arriving from completely different areas and situations. Two of the three (including Otis, pictured below) have brachial plexus injuries, and are in foster care for the next few weeks to see if the nerves will regenerate. If not, both of these kittens will face leg amputation.

Tux is another very special kitten case this year—she will be undergoing a very complex surgical procedure to repair a genetic defect called *pectus excavatum*, which causes a concave chest, putting life-threatening pressure on her heart and lungs as she grows.

Donations to help all of these special kittens can be made to ASAP’s Lester Fund, which was established to pay for extraordinary medical procedures.

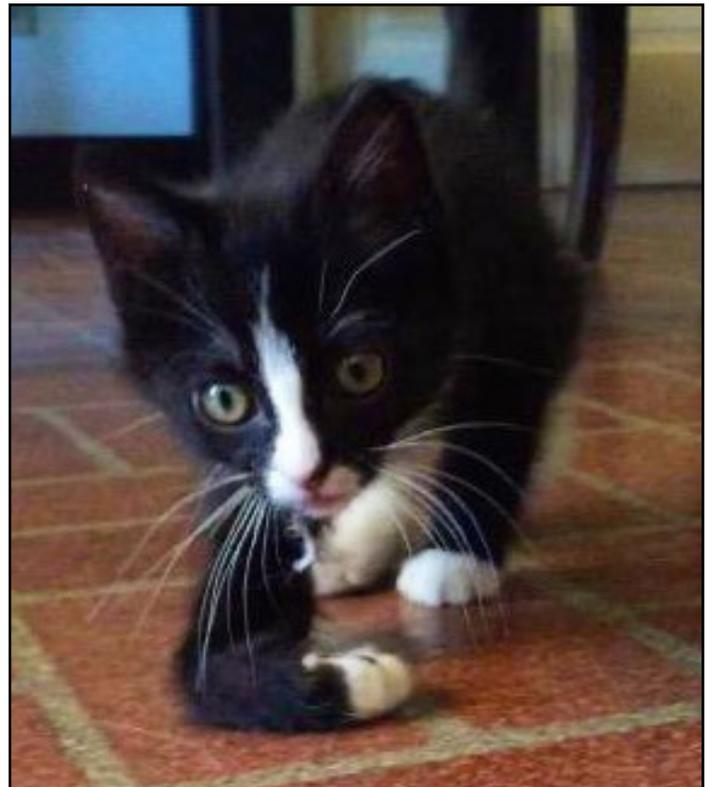
Of course, the loving homes of ASAP fosters are spilling over with “regular” kittens like Wallace and Davis (see photo). So far 14 queens and 145 kittens have been cared for by foster families, not including all of the special medical cases and Tiny Lions at the shelter!



Adorable Tux doesn’t know that she was born with a critical bone deformity—but she will need a complicated surgery so she can grow up to be a healthy adult cat!



Just plain special, Wallace and Davis in foster, growing strong and healthy.



Play and cuddles with the Ferguson family are the best physical therapy for Otis.

From Otis' Foster, Cassie Ferguson

“When we began fostering kittens seven years ago, we saw each small life as a gift to the adopters who would provide it with a forever home. We saw each kitten as just as perfect and unique as we all are. With the same needs that we all have. For love. For protection. For a home.”



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Get a Real Housecat of Santa Barbara – Absolutely FREE!!

On **August 12-13**, ASAP will hold our 7th annual **Free Adoption Weekend!** For ONE weekend ONLY each year, the adoption fee for adult cats will be FREE! This year's event celebrates the REAL Housecats of Santa Barbara—no hissy fits, no flying fur, just plenty of purrs and cattitude! *Spoiler Alert:* Real Housekittens will be 2 for 1!

Who needs reality TV, when you can have a REAL Housecat of your own for FREE!?



Saturday, August 12
(10am–5pm)

Sunday, August 13
(11am–2pm)

the Real Housecats OF SANTA BARBARA

ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program

5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA ▪ Monday–Saturday 10:00AM–4:45PM ▪ Now Open Until 7PM Wednesdays and 11AM–2PM Sundays!

ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ▪ Federal Tax ID: 77-0283500