

CAT NIPS



A Year We Won't Soon Forget!

Anyone else feel like this year had nothing special going on? Same old, same old, right? Just kidding! PHEW what a year this was! But wow, am I ever prrrroud of my friends at ASAP for pulling through some outstanding challenges and learning so much about me and my feline pals!

Turns out, we're pretty tough cookies and more resilient than you might think. That's no surprise to me! While being whiskered away to short-term foster homes—many of which happily turned into forever homes—ASAP figured out what we'd always suspected: cats just want to be in a home, even for a little while!

Now my friends at ASAP are looking for more holiday heroes again this year. Not only for forever homes and adoptions but **short-term holiday fosters**, too! Oh boy, I can't help but feel a little warm and cozy myself when I think of all those cats and kittens all snug in their beds! Wouldn't it be purrfect if my buddies Charlie and Alex, featured on page 4, could find a home for the holidays? They're pretty special cats, just like Lucita, whose mom penned a lovely tribute that we shared on page 5.

By the way, have I ever mentioned how awesome **microchips** are? I never leave home without one! My black cat twin, Spaz, was reunited with her long lost mom all thanks to a chip! Gotta admit, that ending had me wiping a tear or two off my whiskers.



Spaz, an epic traveler on a suitable suitcase for her amazing journey.

Sometimes lookalikes can make for a big 'oops' situation. Thankfully "oops" turns into "yay" in the case of cats like Petunia and Violet (now Sidra), who were accidentally switched when it came to adoption day! I knew those sneaky kittens were up to something. Thankfully it all turned out for the best, as you'll see on page 7.

I'm so excited to celebrate all the good things we've done! Speaking of which, next year's celebration, the annual **Basil's Big Bash**, is going to be a little different. But it's coming back in June 2021, even though it might not look quite the same as before! I've gotten pretty good at figuring out just exactly how to lay across a keyboard in order to get all my friends connected online though. Stay tuned for all the details very soon. I can't wait to raise more funds to help my friends in need and celebrate all we've accomplished together, near and far!

In the meantime, stay cozy and stay safe!

Basil, OUT

 **ASAP
CATS**
Holiday 2020

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Growing Toward a New Future With ASAP

THE FUTURE OF ASAP IS HOPEFUL AND BRIGHT

Dear ASAP Family,

Years from now, when we all look back, 2020 will be a year forever etched in our memories. For many, 2020 has been challenging, and we at ASAP have shared many of those challenges. From closing our shelter to public traffic and moving the majority of our cat population into foster homes, to the cancellation of our beloved Basil's Big Bash, we continuously reacted and reorganized to meet the challenges of the year. And now, as many of you know, we continue the search for a new Executive Director, as filling Angela Yates's large shoes will be an added challenge. Despite these challenges, ASAP has continued to evolve and grow, leading the way and continuing the great 30+ year tradition of saving the lives of cats in Santa Barbara County! My heart is warmed by the great work we continue to do and the staff, volunteers and supporters that make our organization a success.

As we look to the future there are many new and exciting opportunities. One of the most important things we realized as a result of our experiences this year is that we can better serve the cats of Santa Barbara by utilizing our great volunteer fosters to keep cats out of the shelter. We have found that minimizing the numbers of cats in the physical shelter improves their health, reduces stress, and most importantly, improves adoptability! We see some revolutionary changes ahead that will make for happier cats and happier forever homes and adopters.

In 2021, and the next 30 years, we will need to continue to adapt, evolve and grow to continue to provide the best care and outcomes for our cats and the humans who love them. We are family here at ASAP, and pictures and stories like the ones in this newsletter are the essence of what makes ASAP special. We are creating lifetime bonds between cats and their forever humans, and we become a part of all of our adopters' and supporters' families!

I hope that every adopter and family has as special a relationship as Tiernan and Tiba, and that ASAP remains an indispensable part of your family as well.

Wishing you health, happiness, and plenty of purrs!

Bernard Kelmenson
Board President



Avid Cat Nips fan and best bud of Tiba, Tiernan enjoys a favorite morning routine with this summer's edition!

Happiness is a Home for the Holidays

JUST A FEW SHORT WEEKS IN A HOME CAN DO WONDERS

This year, the cats at ASAP have shown us just how beneficial short term fostering can be for every aspect of their lives, and ours, so this holiday season we are delighted to expand our foster opportunities. The love and comfort of a home environment is one of the greatest gifts we could provide for cats and kittens in our care.

Even if you can't commit to adoption, just a few weeks in a home does wonders for a cat's wellbeing and helps to make them more adoptable. Foster homes provide a greater understanding of a cat's true personality, and provide insight as to what kind of home environment is best suited for their needs. We'd love to see EVERY cat in a home for the holidays this year, and there are foster opportunities available for cats of all ages.

If you're unable to open your home to a cat or a kitten, consider becoming their advocate, their spokesperson, and their cheerleader. Tell your family and your friends about an ASAP cat. Share their stories on social media. Talk about foster homes as though you were sharing the praises of a hero, because you are.

You may also consider sponsoring the care and feeding of a cat by joining our **Sponsor A Cat** program. For just \$35, you can ensure that one of ASAP's cats is fully fed and taken care of for an entire month. We'll even mail your gift recipient an official holiday Sponsor A Cat certificate! As in prior years, these also make wonderful gifts to families near and far. If you'd like to give a Sponsor A Cat gift for Christmas, please donate by December 7th to help our team make sure the certificate can arrive in time.

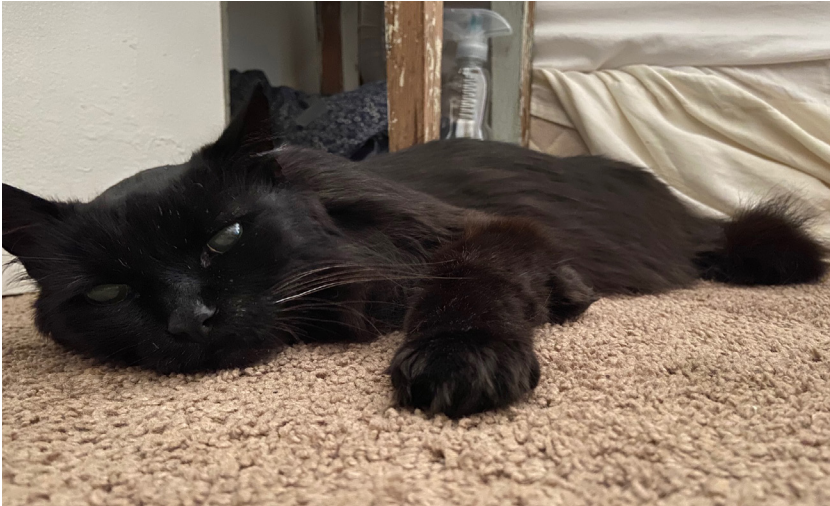
This holiday season is a little different, but together we can make sure that no one has to spend it alone. Please visit our website, www.asapcats.org, for more details on how you can become an ASAP foster and help us find a home for every cat.



Delighting in Special Cats

JACK JACK, ALEX, AND CHARLIE SHOW JUST HOW AMAZING THEY CAN BE

In our last edition of Cat Nips, we included a small feature about Jack Jack, who at the time was still seeking an adopter. We are delighted to say that he's found a wonderful family that understands the unique needs he has as a blind cat. The members of our community that step up and provide cats like Jack Jack with the loving homes they deserve are truly heroes. With your help, we can continue to give every cat an opportunity for a happy life in a forever home.



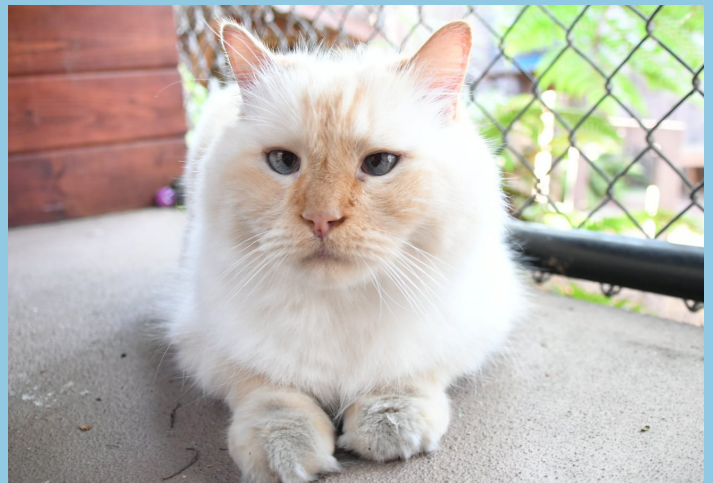
Jack Jack is a delightful cat! He is very aware of his surroundings already. I can tell he uses his whiskers to feel his way around. He lets us pet him and enjoys when we brush him. We think Jack Jack is also mostly deaf as he has only responded to ground thumping, and doesn't seem to startle easily to other various noises that surface throughout the day. My children love having him around and he is so patient with them. He lets them pet and hug and kiss, and if he doesn't want them around him, he simply walks away! –Perris Doucette

We hope that Charlie and Alex will be as lucky as Jack Jack and find a forever home, especially in time for the holidays. The ASAP shelter team has a soft spot for these two brothers, almost as soft as Charlie's fur. Yes, they're 13. Yes, Alex has hyperthyroidism and IBD, and needs to be on special meds and diet. Yes, Charlie has chronic ear wax buildup that needs to be periodically cleaned. But we don't think that should deter you, because any of their needs pale in comparison to the joy they will bring to your life.

Alex loves to hang out with people and nap on their desks while they work. He gives kisses and head butts. Petting Charlie is like petting a cloud and burying your hands or face in all that nice soft fur is the most soothing thing in the world. He is the most huggable, snuggliest cat ever and tolerates frequent hugging incursions from ASAP staff and volunteers with grace. These two boys have charmed us all and we can't think of a better way to spend these colder, darker times than with the companionship of Alex and Charlie. ASAP will provide Alex's meds and special diet for life. All you need to do is provide the love.



Alex has plenty of love left to give, and is a well-trained, easy-to-medicate trooper!



Charlie shows off adorable crossed eyes and cloudy coat of fur.

A Foster Failure: In Memory of Lucita

SOMETIMES A BIT OF LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED FOR YOUR AILMENTS

My (now) husband Nick and I became ASAP special needs fosters when we were graduate students at UCSB, over 10 years ago. We hosted several lovely felines who eventually were able to find their forever homes before meeting Lucita, a sweet tuxedo who had spent far too much time in the shelter.

Lu had developed an ulcer during prolonged shelter stays (she'd been returned multiple times) and was having problems keeping food down when we took her in as our newest charge in 2011. Extraordinarily sweet, always seeking a lap to curl into a cat-ball upon and a spot to place a wet nose kiss, Lu won us over (despite my promise that fostering meant no long-term cat commitments). When she was returned for the second time by an adopter due to her persistent stomach issues, we decided to make her a permanent part of our family.



Lucita was lucky enough to find a very long term "foster" home with Seeta and her family.

Lu moved across the country to upstate NY and lived for six years with my father (who suffers from Parkinson's and always had a lap to offer). This winter, she moved with him to join us back on the Central Coast, after several years away.



Lucita tucked up in the cozy, loving arms of Seeta.

Lu became a close friend to our now four year old son and loved nap time with him, a constant presence in our lives, on our laps, and in the bed pillows. Over time, her stomach issues resolved themselves – it turned out all she really needed was a loving, stable family.

Lu passed at home beside her family on August 17, 2020, tucked up with us until the end. We are so grateful that we were able to share these years with Lu's lovely, graceful presence—our foster failure—and we miss her every day.

Seeta Sistla, ASAP foster

The Magic of a Microchip Knows No Distance

SPAZ REUNITES WITH HER LONG LOST FAMILY AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR—WITH THE HELP OF A FEW FRIENDS AND A MICROCHIP

Not long ago, ASAP received a call about a stray cat that was being fed and cared for in her neighborhood who would cry in the mornings and try to get into people's apartments! Due to her friendliness and desire to get inside, we just knew she belonged to someone.

After a lengthy search, Spaz's caretakers were unsuccessful at finding her owner. Though Sean and Karina had created a bond with her and were sad to lose her, they already had a cat in their home and couldn't have another. They knew they had to do what was best for Spaz, so they brought her to ASAP for help.

Every cat coming into ASAP is scanned for a microchip and sure enough, Spaz was chipped! Our Wellness Technician, Tia, called the number listed on the chip's registration and magic ensued. Through her tears, her owner Elizabeth shared that her cat Spaz has been missing for a year and a half! They were ecstatic, and desperately wanted their cat back with their family. One small complication: they now lived in Missouri.

Elizabeth and her husband were musicians and often on the road. Spaz travelled with them, and during a stop in Santa Barbara, she had managed to escape. They searched desperately for her but despite their best efforts, they could not find her. When COVID-19 hit, they moved back with Elizabeth's mother, way out in Missouri, and Elizabeth said it was like losing Spaz all over again. But ASAP and Spaz had other ideas! We were determined to get Spaz back to her person and through the generosity of one volunteer who donated miles and another volunteer who was willing to make the trip with Spaz, we made a joyful reunion happen!

It was really overwhelming. Simply amazing. Spaz put her lil forehead against mine like she used to do, right away. She has already claimed her spots all over the house, just like her old queenie self. The dogs are absolutely



A tearful reunion in the Springfield airport.



Spaz, finally back in the arms of her owner Elizabeth.



Sean and Karina were thrilled to hear that Spaz's owner had been found, and stopped by ASAP for a heartfelt goodbye before Spaz was on her way.



ASAP volunteer Laurie Hummer on her way to Missouri with Spaz (with miles generously donated from ASAP volunteer Kat Foote).

enamoured with her. They finally figured out how to stay calm so they can get close to her and touch her. So long as they don't get crazy she is good with them. She hisses and they all scatter. She taught them well when they were young and apparently they didn't forget.

I'm so in love with her all over again. It's like she was never gone. Just so incredible. My heart is so incredibly full. My hubby can't stop cuddling her. Everything is just too perfect. It's like a dream.
— Elizabeth

Kitten Mix-Up Results in the Perfect Home

SIDRA ACCIDENTALLY ENDED UP
EXACTLY WHERE SHE WAS MEANT TO BE

Petunia and Violet were nearly identical kittens from the same litter. Sadly, Violet suffers from a severe heart murmur and was considered not adoptable. Heart murmurs can be very difficult for cats and their owners because there is no way of knowing when a kitten may outgrow their heart's capacity—it can happen any time throughout their life, young or old. Because of this condition, the intention was that Vio would stay with her foster family for as long as her little heart would allow.

As fate would have it, Violet (now named Sidra) accidentally got mixed up with her healthy sibling, Petunia, and found herself in the loving arms of Lauren Wideman and her family, who thought they were adopting a healthy kitten. When Lauren took Sidra to the vet for a regular check-up, the mix-up was discovered. Normally, ASAP microchip scans look-a-like kittens when they go home with adopters to avoid such a situation, but since during COVID-19 most of our cats and kittens are living with their awesome fosters until they are adopted, we can't do that. Gratefully, this seems to have turned out for the best for all involved. When ASAP offered to take Sidra back, Lauren graciously declined.



Lives that were destined to be together, Violet (now Sidra) and Lauren, enjoy a cozy snuggle.

It turns out that Lauren also has a heart murmur, and believes Sidra was meant to be a part of her family's life. Lauren even turned down all offers for financial help for Sidra's vet bills. Lauren says Sidra is the best kitten ever and she is 100% committed to loving Sidra, for as long (or short) as she lives.



Sidra might be one of the most cuddly kittens ever, and loves to be close to her family members, no matter where they are.



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ASAP Holiday Adoption Faire and Holiday Sale

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 28th, from 10am–3pm** and step right up to one of the most extraordinary events of this one-of-a-kind year! **ONLY AT ASAP** at 5473 Overpass Road in Santa Barbara. You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts, household items, holiday treats, and Basil swag too! But wait! There's more!

Adoptable cats (and *maybe* even some kittens) will be available to warm your heart and your home! These cats will be **available for adoption and foster**, so you can help us find a home for EVERY cat this holiday season. Plus, you can buy a few pet supplies at our yard sale while you're here!

There's no better way to spend the holidays this year than with the companionship of a cat.

Please note: during this outdoor event we ask the public to adhere to all required mask-wearing and social distancing protocols to help ensure the safety of everyone involved.



ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program

5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

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