

# CAT NIPS

## Dear ASAP Family & Friends,

Twenty-four hours after we initially sent this newsletter off to the printer, the COVID-19 situation rapidly unfolded both worldwide and locally, and we placed an emergency call to “stop the presses”! The newsletter we had written did not seem right in light of everything that we are now facing together.

For the first time since Basil has put pen to paper, we moved his traditional cover letter to Page 2. On behalf of ASAP, we wanted to write directly to you: to share our concerns for your well-being, to encourage everyone to be safe, and to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to continue to care for the cats and kittens still arriving daily at our shelter.

At an operational level, we have implemented strict protocols for disinfection and hand sanitation, lowered the number of staff and volunteers onsite, and introduced an appointment-only schedule for adoptions and owner surrenders. The health and safety of our staff and volunteers are paramount, but we all also know that **there are cats and kittens whose lives directly depend on our not getting sick or being quarantined.**

While we are able, we will continue to promote adoptions with the primary goal of getting as many of our cats into forever homes as possible. To ease any financial burden, all adoptions will be completely FREE until the COVID-19 crisis has passed.

As our community confronts this serious public health threat, there are psychological and emotional impacts. Not only will adopting help a cat, but research has proven that feline companionship can reduce stress, provide social support, and help you cope with challenging times. **We all know that cats fulfill our need for companionship, which is incredibly important during isolation, self-quarantine and social distancing.**

We also have an emergency plan in place for short term fostering, should further “shelter in place” restrictions be imposed in Santa Barbara County. **No matter what comes our way, ASAP is committed to making sure that the homeless and vulnerable cats and kittens in our community will survive this crisis with us.**



Feline companionship can reduce stress and provide comfort during difficult times.

Lastly, because we care about the well-being of our community, we have made the difficult decision to **cancel Basil's Big Bash, which was scheduled for June 12, 2020.** Although we won't be gathering in person, we will be reaching out with more information about how we will creatively carry the spirit of The Bash into other giving opportunities. We are incredibly grateful to our early event sponsors, many of whom are so generously contributing their sponsorship dollars to our General Fund where we need it the most (see the back page for our tribute to them).

We believe that with your help, we can lessen the impact of COVID-19 on our mission of saving the lives of cats and kittens. Thank you for your support during this challenging time for our organization, our community, and the world. Stay healthy—and our best advice is to spend as much time as possible with your loved ones, both human and feline.

*ASAP*

March 18, 2020

## Spring 2020

CAT NIPS  
is a publication offered free of charge  
three times a year from ASAP  
P.O. Box 357  
Goleta, CA 93116-0357

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info@asapcats.org  
www.asapcats.org

Issue No. 26, March, 2020

ASAP's newsletter for friends and supporters



## This tomcat is a little worried about my humans...

Yep, it's true—most of the time my ASAP people are the ones concerned about saving my feline friends, but at the moment, the tables are turned and I'm a bit worried about you! I don't think it's a particularly well-kept secret that I gotta soft spot in my heart for ya.

Remember all of those whacky disease prevention protocols you use at the shelter to keep us cats safe? Well, it's time to use them on yourselves! The homeless cats and kittens in our community can't afford to lose you, so get busy washing your paws, practice social distancing (cats do it all the time!) and let's all get through this together!

Plus, the ONE thing us cats can really do for humans is help you stay healthier! Research has proven (it's true, I Googled it!) that cats provide awesome health benefits like helping you cope with stress and providing much needed companionship, which is incredibly important during isolation, self-quarantine and social distancing. Plus, we use litter boxes, which is a good thing 'cause I hear there's a shortage of toilet paper these days!

Despite everything going on, we really did want to get this newsletter in your hands—it will give you a chance to get cozy with a cat or two, grab a cuppa joe or a glass of wine, and settle in for a great read! Spoiler alert—I just can't help myself, I gotta share a little of what's inside these pages!

This is a very special edition of Cat Nips because my peeps are truly stepping it up and sharing important information that everyone needs to know! **Like where oh where do you look for your kitty if it unexpectedly goes missing?! And you just found a litter of kittens, now whaaaaaat?!**

There are some magical reunions that happened after many months and many miles! Plus we're sharing the key role that ASAP plays in reuniting owners with their lost cats. Next you're gonna hear about an awesome dude named Tommy (aka Tom Tom) pictured here. Tommy fended for himself on the streets for at least a decade AND survived the Thomas Fire, too!



When Tommy sat on his lap for the first time, it won Michael's heart and sealed the deal. Of course sitting on Michael's laptop is another thing entirely!

Every year around this time the ASAP crew starts gearing up for...yep, you guessed it, **KITTENS!** Be sure to read all about **WHAT TO DO** if you find some of those itty bitty mewling furballs.

Smack dab in the middle of all that you'll find our amaaaaazing **2019 Annual Report**. My little cat brain can't quite comprehend all the statistics, but I can tell you we saved a whole bunch of feline lives, reunited families, served up more meals than Mickey D's, tamed Tiny Lions, placed a bevy of Working Cats and much more!

Of course you've heard the news that we had to cancel The Bash this year—this old alley cat definitely respects those ASAP peeps for playing it safe for our Santa Barbara community! Even though we aren't gathering for a party, I know we are all united with the shared mission of keeping our ASAP shelter going strong. **We couldn't do it without YOU!**

In the meantime, let me and my feline friends purr some of your stress away!

*Basil, OUT*

# ASAP Ups the Odds for Lost Cats

Approximately 3.2 million cats enter shelters in the United States each year, and of this vast number, only about 90,000 lost cats are ever reunited with their families. That means that nationwide, lost cats only have a heart-wrenchingly sad 2% chance of being reunited with their owners. To make matters worse, 860,000 cats are still euthanized in shelters throughout the U.S. every year. If you are a lost cat entering a national shelter, your chances of dying are almost 10 times higher than being reunited with your family.

This is why ASAP is different. If you are a lost cat entering our shelter, we not only save your life, but you will have a 13.3% chance of being reunited with your family! Our amazing volunteer Lost Cat Team and our commitment to microchipping ups the odds for lost cats, making happy reunions with their families six times more likely!

Here are **FOUR THINGS** you can do to help ensure that lost kitties—your own or those belonging to other families—find their way home:

1. Spread the word that ASAP is **THE ONLY** shelter in south Santa Barbara County to go looking for your missing cat. We are constantly amazed to learn from the public that they do not know to look for their lost cat at our shelter!
2. Not only microchip your cat, but make sure to register the microchip and keep your contact information updated with the microchip company.
3. When you see flyers or social media posts about lost cats, please call, email or text the owner and tell them to contact ASAP to file a Lost Cat Report. This will ensure that our team can try and match the description of the missing cat with the cats in our shelter.
4. Think twice before taking a seemingly ownerless cat to a shelter! Of course we all want to help a cat in need, but if you see a healthy looking adult cat roaming around, chances are it probably belongs to someone or is living just fine in the neighborhood. Situations where you will want to intervene and bring the cat to ASAP are: 1) if the cat is injured, sick or appears in distress, 2) if the cat has become a nuisance and needs to be relocated, 3) if the cat is in danger where it is living, or 4) if the cat is clearly an unneutered or unsprayed/pregnant cat. (For situations involving kittens, be sure to read the article in this newsletter.)

## Microchip Magic: Marley flew all the way to a forever home!



The crew from Paws & Pilots reported that Marley was one cool customer during the flight back to Oceanside!

Marley arrived at ASAP as a stray cat with no story, no background, no knowledge of anyone who cared for him. But thanks to his microchip, we discovered that he'd been adopted from a rescue in Oceanside, CA called Dirty Little Paws.

When we called Dirty Little Paws, we realized they were a lot like ASAP in our belief that "once an ASAP cat, always an ASAP cat" and they immediately said they wanted Marley back. They made arrangements through Pilots & Paws and before we knew it, a private plane arrived to fly Marley home! Dirty Little Paws reports that Marley has been adopted and is doing fabulously in his new home.

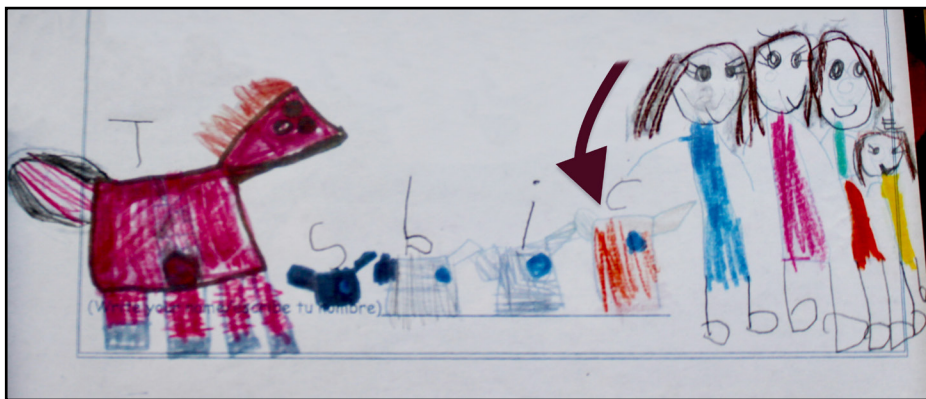


We were thrilled to hear that Marley had been adopted. Clearly he still dreams of traveling and sleeps in his suitcase with his favorite red shoes!



# The Miracle of Clementine's Return, Made Possible by a Microchip

Clementine, a beloved family cat, was lost when the 2017 Thomas Fire tore through his neighborhood. When he showed up at our shelter almost two years later, we were quite sure this cat had quite a story to tell given that he was initially lost from his home in Carpinteria and was found roaming in Goleta! While we'll never know what transpired over those two years, ASAP vet staff were thrilled to discover this sweet orange tabby was microchipped and got busy calling his family.



Just two days before they received the miraculous call from ASAP that Clementine had been found alive, the youngest daughter drew this family portrait. Over two years had passed, but she still included Clementine!

During the almost two years he was missing, Clementine's parents were certain he had perished, but they didn't want to crush their children's hope that he might still be alive. Their kids were convinced Clementine had gone off to college and they swore it was him in a few kitty calendars! Since it appeared that he was paying for his education as a cat model, the family continued to keep that version of the cat-tale alive.

The parents could hardly believe it when they received the phone call from ASAP that Clementine had been found! They didn't tell their kids the news because they were so afraid of what shape their missing family member might be in, but to their surprise and delight, Clementine looked pretty good and was certainly happy to be reunited with his family—a miracle made possible by a microchip!



Clementine H. (aka. Diesel), home again with his sisters.

Clearly loved, Clementine is finally back home with his sisters! (The kitty was briefly named Diesel during his short stay at ASAP.)



After over five months missing, Maxwell was "found" at ASAP!

## Spread the Word: Look for Your Lost Cat at ASAP!

Maxwell was an indoor kitty who accidentally got outside in August 2019. Two months later he was picked up as a stray and brought to ASAP. Unfortunately his owners did not know to file a lost cat report with us and Maxwell was not microchipped, so there was no way for us to locate his family.

Lucky for Maxwell, friends of his owners recognized him when visiting the shelter and a happy reunion occurred in January 2020! The moral of the story: spread the word to look for your lost kitty at ASAP!



# Animal Shelter Assistance Program

## 2019 Year in Review

*Since 1989, changing the world for one cat at a time*

Dear Donors & Friends,

After 30 years of saving the lives of cats and kittens, we are so proud of the work we've done together. The statistics on the following pages highlight our 2019 successes and are evidence of our remarkable accomplishments. However, ASAP's role in truly providing a safety net for ALL cats in our community is a success that is not measured solely by the numbers in this annual report.

ASAP's shelter is open to ALL cats and kittens needing help in our community. We do not pick and choose them based on age, physical condition or behavior. Quite simply, we take the cats that many other shelters turn away. We also do not fill our cages by importing young, easy to adopt cats and kittens from outside of Santa Barbara County. Because ASAP is the undisputed leader in feline behavior in our community, we also routinely receive requests from area shelters to take cats with behavioral challenges, who otherwise might not survive.

But what does this really mean for ASAP? What is most apparent when visiting our shelter is that we may have fewer cats available for the public to visit. Or some of our adoptable cats come with "conditions" like needing to be the sole cat in a household or needing additional time to adjust to a new home. What is less visible, but has a tremendous impact on our financial resources, staff and volunteers, is that many of these cats need a longer stay at the shelter or in foster care to address medical and behavior issues, or to find that special adopter who is willing to accept a "less perfect" cat.

This also means that focusing solely on the number of cats sheltered or adopted can be misleading as the primary measure of our success. You can't count the number of cats without also considering their age, physical condition and behavior. These are the cats that need us the most, but they are also the cats that take more time and resources to find that perfect home.

Our true success is measured in the day-to-day improvement of an individual cat, as its body heals and its emotional needs are supported. Seeing a fragile senior cat curled up in their favorite sunny spot in their new foster home, watching a shy cat come forward for the first time to greet a visitor or hearing a Tiny Lion purr: these are the successes we celebrate and what makes ASAP so special.

Thank you for making everything at ASAP possible!



Angela Walters Yates  
Executive Director

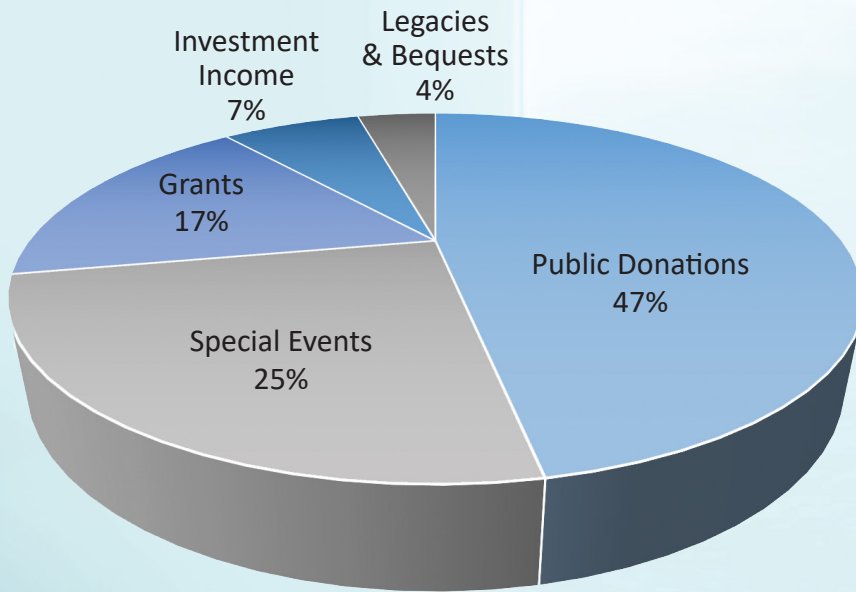


Bernard Kelmenson  
Board President



Java

# 2019 Year In Review



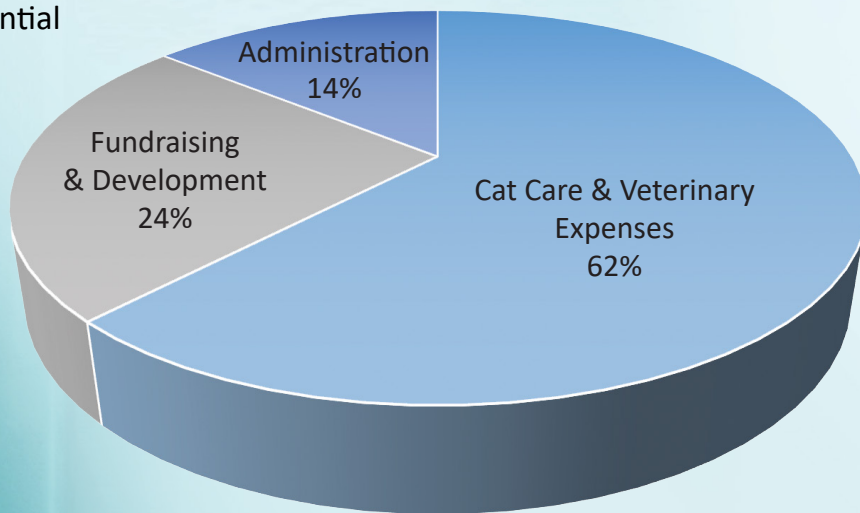
## Income

Public Donations	\$312,825
Special Events	\$166,396
Grants	\$113,149
Investment Income	\$46,591
Legacies & Bequests	\$26,623

Volunteers logged **30,653 hours** in 2019, which is equal to nearly 15 full-time employees. Their outstanding dedication saves ASAP a potential additional expense of **\$918,057!**

## Expenses

Cat Care & Veterinary Expenses	\$513,682
Fundraising & Development	\$198,845
Administration	\$115,993



**THANK YOU** to the following foundations for their generous support

Animal Charitable Foundation of Santa Barbara County, Inc.  
Bernice Barbour Foundation  
City of Goleta  
Henry Bull Foundation  
Hutton Parker Foundation

Mildred G. Federico Charitable Foundation  
Ronald & Phyllis Bruce Trust  
Santa Barbara Foundation  
Wendy P. McCaw Foundation  
William P. Neil Foundation  
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation

*ASAP does not receive any portion of fees paid by the public to Santa Barbara County Animal Services for the services that ASAP provides, including adoptions, relinquishments, redemptions, daily boarding fees, and veterinary expenses.*

**Gamma**





# 2019 Year In Review

*Saving the lives of 100% of adoptable cats & kittens*

## 984

cats & kittens sheltered

## 437

cats & kittens fostered

made possible by

## 30,653

volunteer hours

## 96

Tiny Lions™  
tamed

## 511

spay/neuter  
surgeries

## 90

Working Cats  
placed on ranches  
nurseries, greenhouses,  
and other alternate  
placements

## 166,375

meals served

## 41

hospice cats  
sleeping in homes

## 70

lost cats & families  
reunited\*

### **\*ASAP's Remarkable Redemption Rate: 13.3%**

According to national statistics, lost cats only have a heart-wrenching 2% chance of being reunited with their owners at their local shelters. But at ASAP, our amazing Lost Cat Team of volunteers and our commitment to microchipping every cat and kitten makes these happy reunions six times more possible!

**Tux**



## The Power of Inclusiveness

ASAP is committed to saving ALL of the cats in our community—especially the most vulnerable, and often the less adoptable ones. We believe there is a home for every cat, from the tiniest newborn kittens to the frailest of senior cats, and we dedicate resources and programs to ensure that every one of them has a fighting chance.

## The Power of Gratitude

ASAP was built on a foundation of gratitude and the layers of appreciation run deep and constant. We exist because a small group of volunteers cared that cats were dying in our county shelter, and there is not a day that goes by without appreciation for their call to action. We are grateful each day, month and year that our shelter stays open, that there are financial resources for food and veterinary care, and that our volunteers show up to do the hard work. And most importantly, we are grateful for you, because YOU make it possible for us to do this incredible work. Thank you!

### ASAP Board of Directors

Bernard Kelmenson  
*President*

Helene Segal  
*Vice-President*

Kate Silsbury  
*Treasurer*

Charles Clouse  
*Secretary*

Linda Badal

Kaitlyn Bathel

Renee Fairbanks

Jenny Kearns

*The mission of Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP) is to save the lives of cats in Santa Barbara County by providing shelter, veterinary care, behavioral support, adoption and foster services, education and community outreach.*



Shelter location:

5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
www.asapcats.org • 805 683-3368 • info@asapcats.org

## The Power of Legacy

Providing for ASAP in your will, trust or other planned giving ensures that ASAP continues the work that is important to you now and in the future. With your help, ASAP can continue saving cats and kittens throughout Santa Barbara County for many decades to come. For more information on creating your legacy for vulnerable cats and kittens, please contact: [legacy@asapcats.org](mailto:legacy@asapcats.org).

## The Power of Shared Values

ASAP has joined a growing number of progressive animal welfare organizations



Socially Conscious  
Animal Community.

across the country in adopting a new sheltering framework called Socially Conscious Sheltering (SCS). SCS is a compassionate, transparent and thoughtful model for animal welfare organizations that aligns with ASAP's core values of cooperation and collaboration with all stakeholders. The fundamental goal is to create the best outcomes for all animals and ensure that homeless pets have a safe place to go for shelter and care.



**Freckles**



# From Tough Tom Cat to Pinball Wizard

After ten years living on the rough as an unneutered tom cat, surviving hardship, weather and predators, and depending on his own hunting and scavenging skills for food, Tommy surely had used up all of his nine lives and then some. He'd been spotted over the years by a long time ASAP supporter, Shirley, who left food for him. But then came the Thomas Fire and Debris Flow in 2018 and Tommy completely disappeared. Convinced that he had perished, Shirley couldn't believe her own eyes when he turned up over a year later. Watching him ravenously eat the food she provided, she observed that his mouth was in pain and she knew that the time had come to intervene and trap this wild, wild cat.

Fast forward through leather gloves, protective clothing, Shirley and her brave neighbor scrambling to get the ferocious cat into a carrier, growls and yowls, ASAP vet staff and Behavior Team, swats, hisses, nips, multiple dentals and tooth extractions, more Behavior Team, more hisses and swats, foster time in the home of ASAP's Executive Director, followed by more foster time, hisses and swats in the home of the ASAP Board President...then came Michael and Veronica. Love at first sight? Well, not quite that. But in just a few weeks, that darn tom cat had wormed his way into their hearts, home and bed!



Says Veronica, "A close friend advised us that instead of trying to fit Tommy into our lives, we 'now lived in Tommy's world'. Seeking more understanding, we attended a behavior training session at ASAP, where we learned that Michael and I actually were the ones that needed training, not Tommy!" Clearly Veronica has learned that their bed now belongs to Tommy!

## 10 Things Veronica & Michael Love About Tommy:



Try as he might, Tommy just doesn't quite fit in his cat bed, but he still looks comfy!

1. We love that he is so big and strong but sweet at the same time.
2. He follows us to any room we are in.
3. He now has a seat at the dinner table, but not on the table.
4. He meows to us. For the first three weeks, he didn't meow a word.
5. He likes to sit between us while kneading the blanket and purring loudly.
6. He will eat anything at any time.
7. His has one toy that he loves to play with. It's a round track that a ball spins around with a scratch pad in the middle. He looks like the **Pinball Wizard** while he swats the ball and bunny kicks the track with intensity.
8. We no longer need a clock to tell us when it's 5 pm or 6 am.
9. He greets us at the front door when we come home.
10. His HUGE head—it reminds us of his hard tom cat years before he adopted us!



# You've Just Found a Litter of Kittens, NOW WHAT?

*You're likely to hear them before you see them. The sound of tiny kittens mewling. They appear alone, defenseless and in danger. The mama cat is nowhere in sight.*



Sweet Lindsay had raised five precious kittens last year and we are thrilled to report that the entire family has been spay/neutered and adopted!

Each Spring, as the weather warms up, unspayed female cats look for places to nest and give birth, and ASAP begins preparing for kitten season. Every year brings different challenges, but 2019 was our biggest year since 2011, with a total of 349 queens and kittens fostered. A shocking 122 of these kittens were neonatal or young kittens needing around the clock bottle feeding! Almost all of these kittens were brought to our shelter by Good Samaritans trying to do the right thing.

So what should you do if you find a litter of kittens? Your instinct will probably be to save and protect those kittens, but it's important not to be too hasty or judgmental. Do not assume that the mother has abandoned her litter. It is just as likely that she is searching for something to eat or scouting out better accommodations. What you do next will depend on how and where you found the kittens, whether their mother is around and how old they are.

**Step #1: Wait & Watch.** If the nest isn't in immediate danger, do not disturb the kittens. If possible, observe them from a distance for a few hours to determine if mom is returning to her nest. The mother cat may be out searching for food, taking a break, or

even hiding from you. While doing so, try to read the visible cues that reveal the health of the kitten(s). Look for signs to indicate that they may have been without care for a significant amount of time: crying or squalling due to lack of nutrition, fur that is matted or dirty, severely underweight, or significant lethargy.

**Step #2: Time and Space.** Once you've assessed the situation, if there is no immediate danger and the kittens appear healthy and clean, give the queen time to return. Most cats, particularly if they are feral, are not likely to return if they smell or see humans. While they don't want to abandon their litter, innate self-preservation will cause this behavior. Leave for several hours to give them the time and space to return. You can go back and check on the situation in 4-6 hours.

**Note:** *If you find the kittens are in dire need of medical attention, starving, or vulnerable to predators, then you can remove them immediately.*



**Step #3: Return Visit.** After several hours, return and check on the nest. If mom has not returned but all looks well, give it a bit more time. Try again the next day. You want to give the mother as much time as possible to return to her litter, which will give the kittens the best chance for survival. Not only do nursing kittens need nutrition from their mama, they also receive antibodies and immune support from her milk. Therefore, it is inadvisable to remove them unless absolutely necessary.

**Step # 4:** Depends on the queen. If the mama cat returns and she's friendly, then try to create a safe space for her and the kittens indoors, isolated from your other household pets. Provide a temporary area for them with a bed, clean litter box, fresh water, and cat food.

If the queen returns but seems feral or too frightened to approach, leave the family where they are and provide food, water and shelter (a box or carrier). The mother may move the kittens, but do not worry. If she knows this is a safe place with a stable food source, she'll return with them.

If it's been a few hours and there's no sign of the queen, then you will need to intervene, especially if the kittens are too young to run around. For tiny kittens, make a nest in a box or carrier with clean, soft fabric (fleece or flannel—no terry cloth!) and a heating pad set on LOW. For older kittens, contain them in a larger carrier for transport to ASAP. Unweaned kittens need round-the-clock care and monitoring.

**Step # 5 Contact ASAP—we are here to help!** Once you have assessed the situation, contact our Foster Program Director, Gina Sunseri at 805-965-7646 or [foster@asapcats.org](mailto:foster@asapcats.org). You can also bring the family directly to ASAP during our normal shelter hours. If you have not been able to secure the queen and kittens, we can assist you with trapping.

**Call ASAP immediately if the kittens or mom show any signs of lethargy, illness, injury, or distress—and unless you are an experienced foster, do not attempt to feed tiny kittens!**



Tiny, neonatal kittens need round-the-clock care and bottle feeding! ASAP has a fantastic team of specially trained volunteers who are prepared to provide the specific and special care that these tiny babies need to thrive.



P.O. Box 357  
Goleta, CA 93116-0357

805 683-3368  
info@asapcats.org  
www.asapcats.org

 Facebook.com/asapcats

 Instagram.com/asapcats

## The Spirit of The Bash Lives On Through the Generosity of Our 2020 Sponsors

**Purrs of gratitude** for our early Bash sponsors, many of whom have agreed to contribute their sponsorships to our General Fund to lessen the impact of Covid-19 on our mission of saving the lives of cats and kittens.



### Top Cat - \$10,000

Julie & Roger Davis  
Dan Kelmenson & Shannon Wass

### Cool Cat - \$2,500

Advanced Veterinary Specialists  
Linda & Robert Badal  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Carpinteria Veterinary Hospital  
Charles & Jan Clouse  
Law Office of Renee M. Fairbanks  
Louise & Ron Moore  
Sir Norman Redd  
Helene Segal & George Konstantinow  
Wallin Studios

### Cat's Pajamas - \$1,250

Leslie Brtek  
Julia Delgado, M.D.  
Renée & Richard Hawley  
Jenny Kearns  
Connie & Richard Kennelly  
Kim & Jeff  
La Cumbre Animal Hospital  
In Memory of Donna Hayden  
Lisa Reich & Bob Johnson  
G-Cat Sunseri

### Cat Nip - \$500

Anonymous  
Kathi Backus  
C.A.R.E.4Paws  
For Tallulah, Asya, Liora & Katsu  
Dana Goba  
Bob & Ellen Lilley  
Jonathan, Sam & Max Lipsitz  
Dan & Nancy Marx  
Lisa Mathiasen & Wayne Halander  
In Memory of Nina Price  
In Memory of Perry  
Pamper Pet-Pet Concierge  
Sally Swift  
The Montecito Village  
Jan Traphagen

### ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program

5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA ■ Monday-Saturday 10:00AM–4:45PM ■ Open Until 7PM Wednesday and 12PM–3PM Sunday  
ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ■ Federal Tax ID: 77-0283500