

CATNIPS



Spring is here and so are the kittens!

Well howdy there, friends! I don't know about you, but I am sure glad to see some light at the end of the tunnel as we recover from this pandemic. Yee-haw! I can't wait to see some of my feline and human friends again. Even a grumpy old cat like me is looking forward to a nice warm hug when it's safe to do so!

This past year sure managed to keep my ASAP pals as busy as ever, **rushing in to save the day** when they were needed and making sure every cat had a chance at a forever home. Like my new friend Lady here, who went blind at just six months old and had to find a new home. Or Tiger Lily, a new mom with seven tiny mouths to feed, who suddenly became so sick she needed emergency surgery! Yikes! I am SO glad that ASAP was there to help them both!

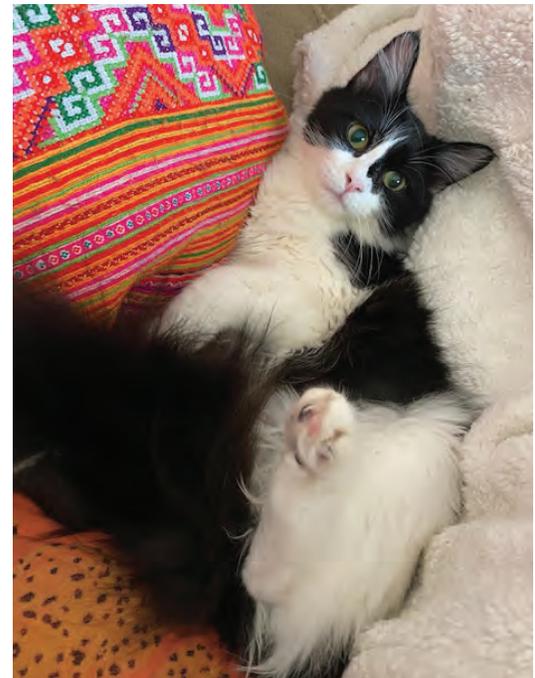
Did you know that **ASAP also helps my feline friends stay in their homes** so they don't even need to come to the shelter? It may seem counter-productive, but I promise it's not! It's often better for everyone involved, so my buddies in the Feline Retention Program do just that—help families stay together whenever possible. Find out more on pages 2 and 3! They solve all sorts of issues and teach tons of tricks. I might be a little past my prime, but I'm still interested in chasing around a wand toy, to be purrfectly honest.

This extra jam-packed edition of my famous newsletter also includes some pretty great stats with our **year in review**. It was a tough year for everyone in more ways than one, but as these numbers will show, my pals at ASAP worked HARD! I'm so proud of everything they were able to accomplish!

As for me, a lot of my time recently has been spent cozying up to a warm keyboard while staying home, so I'm kind of excited that my big party this year is going to be online! Yep, we're staying extra careful with **Basil's Big Virtual Bash on June 5th, 2021**. Mark your calendars folks, and don't forget to buy your tickets for exclusive access to this awesome evening! I look forward to seeing you at that fancy shindig for a good old living room hoedown!

Until then,

Basil, OUT



Lady lounging in her new forever home suited for her special needs.



Spring 2021

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ASAP's Feline Retention Program

KEEPING PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Since ASAP's inception, one of our key services has been providing support and resources to owners to help them keep their cats. Often ASAP is able to step in while families overcome what may seem like insurmountable, and often unexpected challenges.

We have never been just an adoption center so in 2015 ASAP officially founded the Feline Retention Program and established the Feline Retention Behavior Helpline to further this service and commitment to our community—to provide the help needed to keep cats and their families together whenever we can. We offer this assistance not only to cats adopted from ASAP, but to all cats and their families in the community.

Shortly after a cat is adopted and brought to their new home, the ASAP Retention Team reaches out to identify and address any potential issues as early as possible. This ensures the physical and emotional well-being of each cat and provides an opportunity for us to share our wealth of feline education, understanding, and compassion. We have found that pet owners will often choose to keep their pet if only provided the help they need to resolve the issues they are facing.

Common cat behavior issues that the Retention Team assists owners with include unwanted scratching, litter box problems (like Sylvester featured on the opposite page), excessive meowing (particularly at night), and tension between multiple cats in a household. Solutions often include confidence building tools and stress reducing activities like more wand play, food dispensing toys, and clicker training. The Retention Program provides education on reading and understanding a cat's body language so that families can learn what their cat is trying to communicate. ASAP also partners with other local organizations, such as C.A.R.E.4Paws, to provide pet food and other necessities to those in need, because a temporary setback shouldn't have to mean giving up a much loved companion animal.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our Feline Retention Program. Thanks to a tremendous outpouring of support and dedication from our community and volunteers, ASAP placed the majority of our cats in short-term foster homes, thus reducing the number of people required to be at the shelter while we remained closed to the public. As a result, our Retention Program's focus changed from primarily checking in with families who had already adopted a cat to fosters and adopters who took cats home sight unseen. As we all know, cats are all unique individuals, so bringing home a new cat became a bit like a blind date!

“ASAP's Feline Retention Program offers support and feline expertise for foster cat parents and cat owners in our community who are often in distress, due to challenging cat behavior or other significant life-changing impacts. Resolving these challenging issues and reducing a pet owner's distress is our reason for being. This results in happier, less stressed cats, and often allows families and their beloved feline friends to stay together when they thought there was no hope.”

Stacey Matson

Feline Retention Program Director

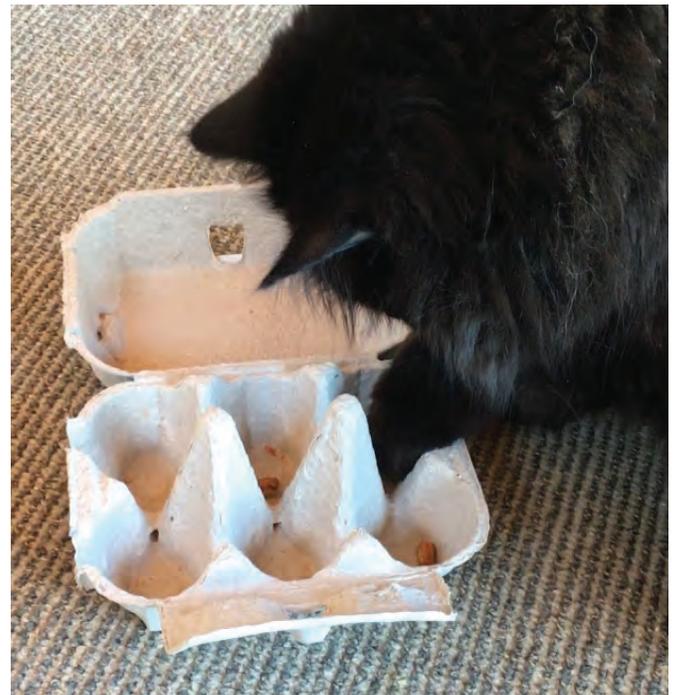


Wand toys provide mental engagement and are a great activity to help your cat release some pent up energy.

As ASAP's shelter operations moved to a virtual shelter system, we turned to online resources and videos to help teach our adopters and fosters some tips and tricks. Another common issue that many of our families had was learning how to trim a cat's claws. Learn how to do so safely and lessen the stress of all involved, by watching this helpful tutorial video at [bit.ly/CatNailVideo!](https://bit.ly/CatNailVideo)

While ASAP is there step-by-step providing support as needed, throughout this past year the community and our cats have educated all of us at ASAP, too. Placing cats in homes and adopting them directly from foster proved to be beneficial for both the cats and their families. As a result, we saw reduced stress for the cats, far fewer medical and behavior issues, and many, many happy adoptions! The resilience of the cats surprised us all and will potentially change our sheltering processes permanently, even after our community goes back to "normal."

We understand that sometimes it just may not be possible to keep a cat with its family, and we're also here to help find the best solution for all. It's a difficult and emotionally distressing experience to give up a pet, often at times of change and crisis in our own lives. Our relinquishment process allows us to work closely with families to provide compassionate support and to see what their timeline and options are, giving us time to find the best solution for whatever the cat and their family needs. The sooner you reach out to us, the better!



You can buy toys for your cat or make your own! This cat is engaged and mentally stimulated with a homemade food puzzle board.

A Solution for Sylvester

FROM CHALLENGING COMPLICATIONS TO A FOREVER HOME

Every so often a cat just needs the right people to come along when difficult situations arise. Sylvester was originally relinquished to ASAP with a significant urinary blockage, causing him a lot of pain and issues with the litter box. He had also been described by a prior owner as "not the nicest cat." With both behavioral and medical complications, the odds were against him. But thanks to the hard work of ASAP's Veterinary Team, Retention Program, and Foster Program all working together to save his life, Sylvester had a chance.

Unhappy, quiet, and shut down at the shelter, Sylvester was moved quickly to a short term foster home. ASAP's Retention Team worked with Sylvester's foster family to overcome his reluctance to use his litter box. We suspect he associated the box with pain as a result of the blockage. A treatment plan was developed and after a few weeks patience finally paid off and Sylvester began to improve!

His foster reported that she and Sylvester "were both very attached to one another. Sylvester is a loving cat who isn't afraid to be held or loved." Better yet, they decided that Sylvester's short-term stay would turn into a forever home, giving Sylvester the happy ending we all know he deserved.



Sylvester, now cozy with a view in his new forever home.

Love for Lady Leads to a New Home

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

One of ASAP's greatest strengths is our ability to open our doors for cats that can't find a place anywhere else. It is just one of the ways we know we have truly made a difference in the life of a cat. It is what makes ASAP special. Lady was one of those cats who had nowhere else to go.

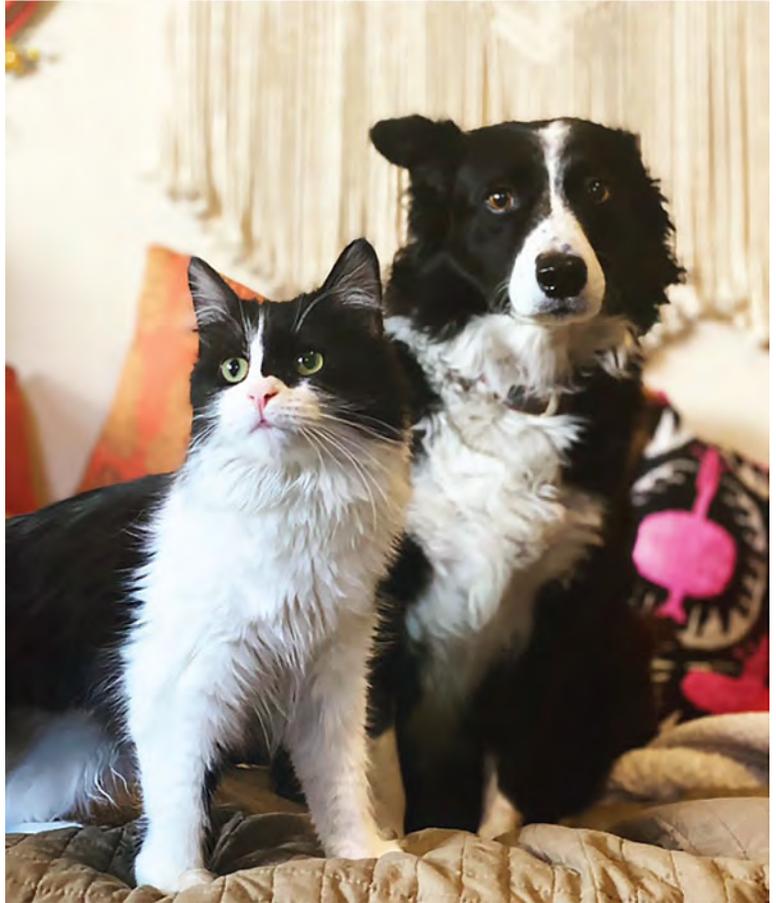
Lady had early onset retinal degeneration, which resulted in her going blind at the tender age of six months old. Her owner, Alex, lived in the Los Angeles area and travelled a lot for work. Being so often away from home, Alex felt she could not maintain the safe environment and attention that Lady needed to thrive. She knew that despite her love for Lady, giving her the best chance at a fulfilling life meant that Alex had to let her go. Even our Retention Program, featured on pages 2 and 3, knows that sometimes a difficult decision has to be made for the best interest of the cat. So Alex made that agonizing decision and began the process to find a new home for Lady.

Alex's mother lives in Washington, but she helped her daughter from afar and called every shelter she could find in Southern California in her search for one that would take Lady despite her visual impairment. After a thorough inquiry from Alex and her family in their search for the best for Lady, ASAP was given the honor of bringing her into our care. Once again, we opened our doors to a cat in need, regardless of their medical or behavioral history, and stood out amongst the rest as the best option for Lady's future.

ASAP arranged for Viki Papadakis, one of our foster people with experience caring for kittens and cats with medical needs, to take Lady as a temporary foster. Viki and Alex were both able to be there for the handoff and meet each other, hopefully making the transition a little easier for everyone involved.

Viki took one look at Lady and muttered, "This is going to be a foster fail." In other words, she knew this temporary arrangement would very likely turn into a permanent home for Lady. Sure enough, a love affair began, and every day Viki would send pictures of Lady with her, with her boyfriend, with her dog, and with her other cat.

Surrounded by love since the very beginning of her life, Lady has found her new forever home!



Lady with her new "twin", Layla. She enjoys the company of her new feline friend Stella, too!

"Lady is the sweetest cat I've ever met. She loves love! Her first owner calls her The Purr Machine, and that name is very fitting. I knew from the moment I met Lady that she was going to be impossible to give up. Foster failing with her was much more of a success than a failure, and I am so grateful Lady is in my life. She's made quarantine much more bearable for both me and my roommate. We're in love!"

Viki Papadakis



HAILEY

Animal Shelter Assistance Program 2020 Year in Review

Dear ASAP Friends,

ASAP Cats remains an ever-changing, dynamic organization. We plan as much as possible but expect the unexpected. When we are faced with the unimaginable, we respond and act quicker than a cat finds a lap when someone sits down. As a result of the strength and resiliency in our organization, ASAP persevered through an extraordinary year, saving hundreds of lives while continuing to raise crucial funds to support our mission.

As we write this newsletter and report, we approach the one-year anniversary of the day our staff, volunteers, and emergency fosters sprang into action to clear our shelter as the country went into lockdown. Since that day we've come to realize that ASAP and our world may never return to how we once knew it. But one thing is certain—we will continue to persevere and save the lives of cats and kittens in our community.

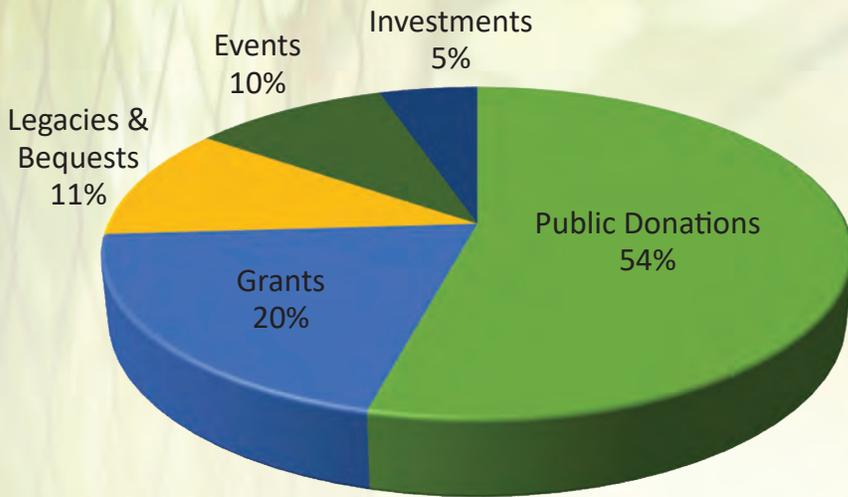
On the following pages, we highlight some of the statistics that showcase our successes in 2020, but the numbers don't tell the whole story. The numbers don't tell you just how many emergency fosters became permanent homes for those cats in need, or that we placed more Working Cats than ever before. They don't tell you that our redemption rate more than doubled, thanks to our team working tirelessly to reunite lost cats with their families, avoiding a trip to the shelter in the first place. The numbers don't tell you that ASAP doesn't pick and choose cats to take in based on age, physical condition, or behavior. We take cats that other shelters won't, and we save lives that other shelters can't. We are a safe haven for ALL cats and kittens in our community.

ASAP's successes are not measured solely by the numbers in this report. We measure our successes in the content purr of a former Tiny Lion™, a Working Cat that becomes a member of the family, a senior cat living out her final years in a cozy hospice home, a pregnant stray with a warm and safe place to deliver her litter, or a cat reunited with family after years of being lost.

These stories and successes illustrate how special ASAP is, all with the generous support of our community. We truly cannot do any of this without YOU. Thank you.

Bernard Kelemenson
Board President

2020 Year in Review

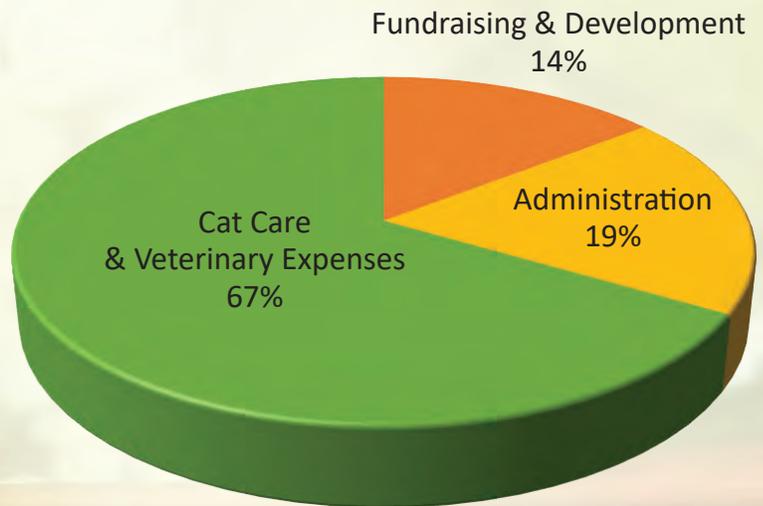


INCOME

Public Donations	\$373,978
Grants	\$138,510
Legacies & Bequests	\$76,181
Special Events	\$69,255
Investments	\$34,628

EXPENSES

Fundraising & Development	\$112,732
Administration	\$148,167
Cat Care & Veterinary Expenses	\$518,610



BUDDY



THANK YOU

to the following for their generous support

The Animal Charitable Foundation
of Santa Barbara County, Inc.
Bernice Barbour Foundation
City of Goleta
Gilbert Foundation
Hutton Parker Foundation
Mary H. Storer Foundation
Mary Jo & Hank Greenberg Animal
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May & Bill Allison Foundation
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Santa Barbara Foundation in
partnership with Cavalletto Charities
Santa Barbara Foundation in
partnership with United Way of
Santa Barbara County
Schlinger Chrisman Foundation
Thornton S. Glide, Jr. & Katrina D.
Glide Foundation
Wendy P. McCaw Foundation
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation

2020 Year in Review

Saving the lives of 100% of adoptable cats & kittens

889

cats & kittens sheltered

900+

cat & kitten foster placements

70

lost cats & families reunited

108

working cats placed
on ranches, nurseries,
greenhouses, and other
alternate placements

500

spay/neuter
surgeries

85

Tiny Lions™ tamed

47

hospice cats
sleeping in homes

183,960

meals served

made possible by

16,105

volunteer hours

ESMÉ & FLEUR



2020 Year in Review

As we've mentioned, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many changes in ASAP's day-to-day operations in 2020. Our annual fundraising gala, Basil's Big Bash, was canceled and nearly all of our adoptable cats were kept in foster homes rather than at the shelter. While this lessened the number of volunteer hours, we never lost sight of our ultimate goal and the mission that drives us—saving cats' lives. We continued raising funds however we could and continued saving as many lives as possible. Thanks to the support of our community we saw many successes throughout the year.

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BRUSSELS

The mission of Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP Cats) 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



Tiger Lily Fights On

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Kitten season is an exciting time at ASAP. Adorable little furry kittens need devoted care and attention. Eager families await the day when they will be available for adoption. Heartbreaks occur alongside unimaginable joys. But what do you do when mom needs help too? At ASAP, we often bring what seems like a whole village together to save a cat's life.

Tiger Lily came to ASAP when her owner found herself in a situation which made her temporarily unable to care for Tiger Lily. It turned out Tiger Lily was VERY pregnant, so ASAP made an arrangement with her owner to place Tiger Lily in our foster program so she'd have a safe place to deliver and raise her litter, then be spayed and returned to her owner.

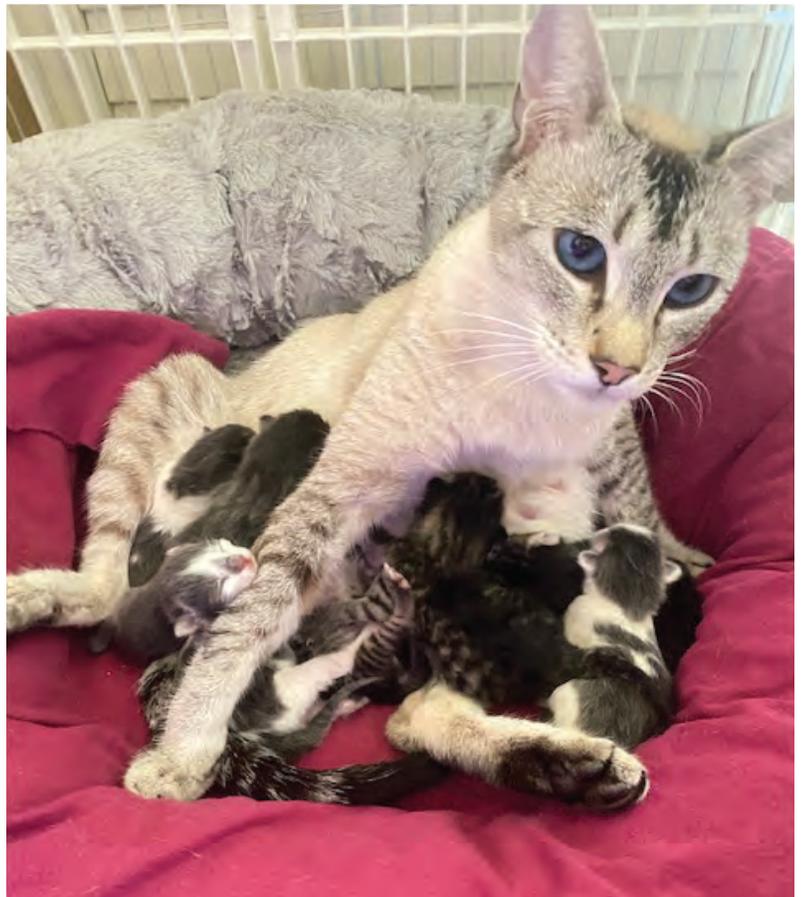
Soon after Tiger Lily delivered her babies and all seemed well... until three days later, when her foster was awoken in the middle of the night by an ailing Tiger Lily, who had vomited and had diarrhea. Equally worrisome, she had withdrawn from her kittens. Her foster stayed up with her that night, despite the fact that she is a teacher and faced her first day of in-person classes that very morning! When her foster tried to feed the kittens, Tiger Lily became protective and growled at her, but then went to another room and refused to answer her kittens' cries. We knew the clock was ticking, so ASAP was faced with a dilemma: how to spring into action to save both a sick mama and her very young kittens. Thankfully, if there's one thing ASAP is good at, it's springing into action when lives are on the line!

And so we did. In a flurry of activity, Tiger Lily was quickly taken to two separate emergency veterinarians, one for diagnosis and the other for an emergency spay surgery to attend to a severe uterine infection, coupled with fever and an elevated count of white blood cells. Her kittens were split amongst two additional ASAP fosters trained in bottle feeding so they could continue to receive the round-the-clock care and attention they needed without their mother around.

After several days back with her foster who had diligently monitored her surgery site and administered pain meds, Tiger Lily was reunited with her kittens. We were concerned about the possibility that the separation and Tiger Lily's brief illness would cause her to reject her babies, but thankfully, her motherly instincts kicked in and she began nursing and caring for them again!

The experience with Tiger Lily and her kittens is a great example of ASAP at its finest. Multiple people immediately jumped in to help with the most critical and timely of tasks—to save a cat and her kittens. We are so fortunate and grateful to have the human and financial resources available to be able to save both Tiger Lily and her babies.

Becky Morrill
Shelter Operations Supervisor



Tiger Lily and her lucky litter, shown pre-surgery, are thankfully together again.

Celebrate ASAP with Basil

BASIL'S BIG BASH IS BACK—ONLINE!



While we are eager to bring Basil's Big Bash back to its full glory, the 2021 Bash will be a virtual event in a safe, online space. Join us and tune in on **Saturday, June 5th, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** This fun-filled hour will be full of the same things we all enjoy at every Bash!

The 2021 Bash features an **online silent auction, live auction, a special beverage, and goodies.** We've got a fantastic collection of items this year that you will not want to miss. Check our website at **asapcats.org** for more details about our plans to make this year's Bash extra special.

Sponsorships & Tickets

SUPPORT ASAP AND THE BASH WITH A SPONSORSHIP

Though this year's Bash is different than any other, as usual our team is hard at work planning a wonderful event celebrating all of ASAP's successes. And what would The Bash be if not an opportunity to raise critical funds that ensure our life-saving programs and services remain in our community for years to come! A sponsorship of Basil's Big Bash is one of the key ways that your funds can directly support the cats in our care—cats like Sylvester, Lady, Tiger Lily and her kittens, all featured in this newsletter.

Your generosity ensures this crucial fundraising event is a success year after year. With a variety of options available for giving, every dollar counts! Learn more about our sponsor benefits and ticket options available at www.asapcats.org or reach out to Amy Marshall, our Development Director, at amy@asapcats.org or by phone at 414-687-7980.

The Bash is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about ASAP's accomplishments and we hope you'll consider joining us! Secure your sponsorship or tickets today, either with the reply card included on the next page via the enclosed envelope, or by visiting our website.

The Famous Instant Wine Cellar

Along with The Bash, a favorite auction item is returning—The Instant Wine Cellar! Featuring 100+ bottles of wine, this amazing collection generates thousands of dollars of revenue for ASAP and provides a well-stocked wine cellar for the winner. It's a win-win!

To make the most of this amazing auction item, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Consider donating bottles of wine, ranging in value from \$20-30 per bottle (the more variety, the better!). Wine bottles can be dropped off at ASAP any time, in the donation bin near our main entrance.



BASH SPONSORSHIPS & TICKETS

Please acknowledge my sponsorship as: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsorship or Ticket

- \$10,000 Top Cat \$5,000 Cat's Meow \$2,500 Cool Cat \$1,250 Cat's Pajamas
 \$500 Cat Nip \$100 Ticket & Swag \$50 Ticket only \$_____ Donation only

Payment Info

Check Enclosed (*please make payable to ASAP*)

Securities (please contact ASAP for details)

Please **charge** my: Visa Mastercard

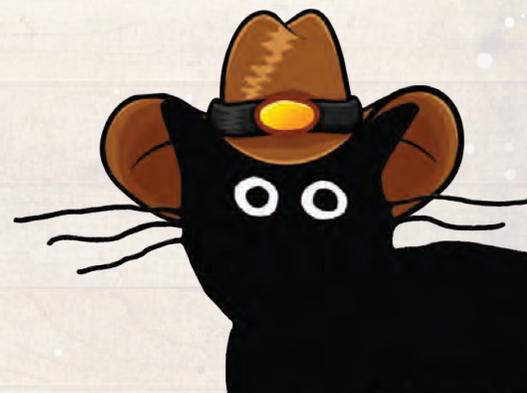
Amount: _____

Card #: _____

Exp: _____ CVV: _____ Signature: _____

Please confirm your sponsorship by **May 1st** to be included on our printed event program. Sponsorships will be accepted until the event!

ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID# 77-0283500
The fair value of each ticket is \$25-\$100, depending on sponsor level.
The balance of your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law.



Meet Alana Yañez

ASAP WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After an extensive nationwide search, ASAP is pleased to announce that Alana Yañez has been hired as the organization's new Executive Director. Alana brings with her a wealth of animal welfare knowledge and management experience.

Animals and the environment have long been passions for Alana. She comes to ASAP after almost 10 years managing the Pets for Life Program in Los Angeles for the Humane Society of the United States. In July 2017 Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León appointed Alana to serve on the Veterinary Medical Board where she currently serves as a public member. Prior to graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in biology, Alana worked as an animal care technician for the Santa Cruz SPCA and as a veterinary technician for a private practice veterinary hospital.

Alana joined ASAP near the end of March 2021, and we look forward to saving many lives with her leadership.



Alana and her cat Buddy.



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Annual Kitten Shower & Spring Yard Sale

The ASAP Kitten Shower and Yard Sale is back! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 17th, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** and join us **ONLY AT ASAP** at 5473 Overpass Road in Santa Barbara. The 2021 kitten season is already well underway at ASAP with our kitten foster families hard at work supporting new litters and their queens. ASAP's kitten shower is a great opportunity to help us keep all of the precious kittens stocked up with the special food and enrichment items they need for the best possible start in life.

Consider donating some much needed supplies, such as chicken or turkey flavored baby food, and fleece blankets. For our **complete wish list please visit our website at www.asapcats.org**. Please note, kittens may not be available for visiting during the kitten shower, but they'll be ready for adoption before you know it!

At the yard sale you'll find lots of gently used pet toys, blankets, food dishes, automatic feeders, cat trees, leashes, collars, etc. We also have household items from an estate sale, LulaRoe clothing (including leggings, t-shirts, dresses, skirts) AND Basil swag too! All proceeds support the care of cats and kittens at ASAP.

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

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