

# CAT NIPS



## Young At Heart: Kitten Season

Kitten season is upon us: I hope you're as ready as we are!

We know it as "the cutest time of year" because there are so many darling kittens around for the next few months. If you're looking to add a small, furry baby to your family, ASAP Cats is the place to check out.

Make sure you don't go jumpin' around if you happen to find a nest of kittens in the wild – their mama is probably nearby. Just to be sure you know **what to do if you find a lost cat**, take a look at our article all about Community Cats on page 4.

Speaking of cool cats in the community, I sure hope I see all of you lovely cat lovers at the coolest party of the year: **Basil's Big Bash**, taking place June 9<sup>th</sup> – don't miss it! For the full details, as well as an introduction to two very important buddies in my life, take a look for more on page 6.

Because we knew we'd be meeting a whole bunch of new kittens this season, our Facilities team decided to spruce up the shelter a bit. If you haven't seen it yet in person, you'll want to stop by and check out **our freshly-painted "Dahlia" purple shelter**. Our team has been workin' hard to fix the ol' place up, but more about that on page 9.

Even though 2022 is well behind us, a few folks with computers put together a bunch of nifty numbers for all you data lovers, so make sure you look at our **Annual Report from 2022** to see some fast stats. It's probably easier to start from the back page if you really can't wait to read it. Flip it over!

I'm really excited to meet some cute new kittens and to see all my favorite cool cats again this summer, and I hope you are too. It's gonna be a great year!

Until next time,

*Basil, OUT*



## Spring 2023

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# Matthews & The Stones

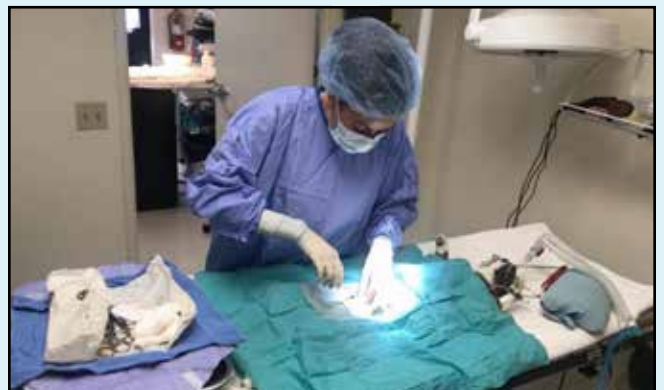
Matthews came to ASAP in mid-November, left behind after his previous owner moved away. He is an active, friendly senior cat that appeared relatively healthy when he came to us, despite having a mild heart murmur, some dental tartar, and a number of fleas. After our Wellness team resolved his anemia by removing the fleas, Matthews gained a pound within his first few weeks at ASAP.

Volunteers soon noted that he appeared restless and vocal, later noticing that he was straining to urinate. He was found to have a bladder infection that was resolved with antibiotics, but Matthews continued to appear uncomfortable and exhibit symptoms of frequent urination and straining. An x-ray of his bladder, pictured right, revealed that he had two bladder stones.

Bladder stones tend to form over a period of time. They can be related to an imbalance in the diet, though some breeds – like Burmese or Himalayans – are genetically more likely to develop bladder stones.

Matthews needed a surgery, called a cystotomy, to remove his bladder stones. This surgery was performed at ASAP at the beginning of February and was the first surgery of its kind we have completed here. His stones – each about 6-8mm in size, as pictured below – were successfully removed. They were analyzed and found to be composed of calcium oxalate, meaning that Matthews should remain on a special lifelong diet to prevent him from developing new stones.

He is currently recovering on cage rest and limited lobby free time, with his surgery sites healing very well.



*Matthews bravely allowed Dr. Lisa Okuda to perform our first ever cystotomy at ASAP Cats.*



# Saving Broken Kitties

## Wild Child Mrs. Puff

Mrs. Puff is a kitten who was adopted from ASAP Cats in late 2022. As the wild child she is, Mrs. Puff managed to fracture her leg during her daily play and adventuring at home. ASAP funded repair of her fracture, but within about 15 minutes of getting home she managed to get her splint off and refracture the same leg. We spoke with her owner and the surgeons at Advanced Veterinary Specialists (AVS) and came to the mutual decision to amputate the refractured leg, as it was just going to be too stressful on both kitten and humans alike to attempt to confine her for the necessary healing time.

We would like to thank Dr. Shields and AVS for greatly reducing fees for the second round of surgery. We appreciate all the work they do in saving cats!



*Sporting her favorite color on her cast, Mrs. Puff was determined to play despite her injury.*

## Lovebug Don

Don was initially brought to VCA Care by a Good Samaritan who saw him get hit by a car. He's microchipped, so we were able to pull his records and found that Don is no stranger to ASAP – he was brought in as a stray twice last year. After consulting with ASAP, the owners elected to relinquish Don into our care.

With a fracture on one hind leg and a dislocated hip on the other, he had surgery to repair both hind legs at AVS and is currently rehabbing with one of our medical fosters. He'll be ready to adopt in no time.



*Though he might have used up one of his 9 lives, Don is already back to being his normal, lovebug self.*

# What To Do About Community Cats

Kitten season is fast approaching, which means you or someone you know may discover a nest of unattended kittens, like the ones pictured below. If you are like most people, your first instinct will likely be to rescue them. It can be scary seeing these vulnerable little beings outdoors, and it's very tempting to jump into action and scoop them up. In most cases, however, this is not the best response.

More often than not, it's best to leave the kittens in place and let the ASAP Community Cats Coordinator figure out a plan of action for getting Mom and her babies to a safe location. Instead of springing into superhero mode, wait a few moments, take a deep breath, and assess the situation.

## Assess the environment

Are the kittens in immediate danger, such as getting rained on, attacked by a dog or wildlife, or being harmed by people?

## Otherwise, leave the kittens in place and give their mother a chance

Kittens younger than eight weeks should stay with their mother. If you don't see Mom, she may be away looking for food and/or in the process of moving the kittens to another location (especially if you see only a single kitten). It is not unusual for a mom to be gone for several hours.

If possible, monitor the kittens from a distance – for several hours and even up to a day – to see if Mom returns. If there is more than one kitten and they are snuggled together keeping warm, then they will be all right. If you are away from the kittens for several hours and haven't seen the mother but the kittens are content and not crying, then it's likely Mom fed them in the meantime.

## Assess the kittens' health

Are the kittens quiet and snuggled together with healthy-looking fur, or are they crying, dirty, look thin, have crusty eyes, etc.? Do any of them appear injured?

If kittens are in immediate danger or are sick/injured they can be taken directly to ASAP – or, after hours, they can be taken to VCA CARE Emergency Hospital.

## Provide food and water

While waiting for our team to make a plan for the mother and her kittens, it would be very helpful if you could place food and water for Mom. Try to keep at least 35 feet from their nest, as you don't want to scare a protective new mother. If she feels threatened, she may move the kittens to an unidentified location, which would not be helpful.



## FOUND A CAT IN NEED? CALL US!

Being the devoted cat supporters that we all are, people may call you for guidance.

Please advise them of the information provided here and have them report their kitten sighting and assessments to our Community Cats Coordinator:

P: (805) 319-9724

E: [CommunityCats@asapcats.org](mailto:CommunityCats@asapcats.org)

# Working With Working Cats

The ASAP Working Cats program places non-social and semi-social cats on ranches, nurseries, in warehouses, and on larger residential properties, giving them jobs as mousers to help control rodent populations. This provides these outdoor cats with brighter futures and allows them to live out their lives with little human contact, which is what they prefer. Over time, some of the more friendly working cats may become increasingly social with their owners, perhaps even moving into their homes (only if invited of course).



*Portia de Rossi is especially grateful to have a working cat in her family!*

By doing their job of hunting mice, rats, gophers, and other rodents, working cats serve a vital function in our modern-day ecosystems, and can allow us to avoid the use of pesticides. The Working Cats Program gives these less-social felines a second chance at following their true nature.

One of ASAP's first dedicated programs, Working Cats was initiated by a volunteer, Mary Scott, in 2017. As Program Director, Mary has networked with other rescue organizations in Southern California to alleviate overcrowding at those rescues, and to meet the demand for mouser cats in Santa Barbara and surrounding areas. Belinda Burns, also an ASAP volunteer, has over 20 years of experience placing feral cats on a variety of properties and barn locations, working tirelessly for the cats. Her creative use of zip ties to bind together the relocation cages into cat condos is admirable, and highly appreciated by the cats!

Working cats spend three weeks in relocation cages at their new home, safe inside their night shelter with everything they need: litterbox, food, water, bedding, and a cat carrier to hide in. The cats are usually placed in pairs and cared for diligently by their new owners twice daily. Their cage is kept clean, as they accustom themselves to their new surroundings, and after the acclimation period of 2-3 weeks, the cats are released and continue to be fed daily by their owners as they begin to hunt. While the program cannot promise a given cat's hunting prowess, rodent populations have reportedly decreased because of the cats' presence on the property.

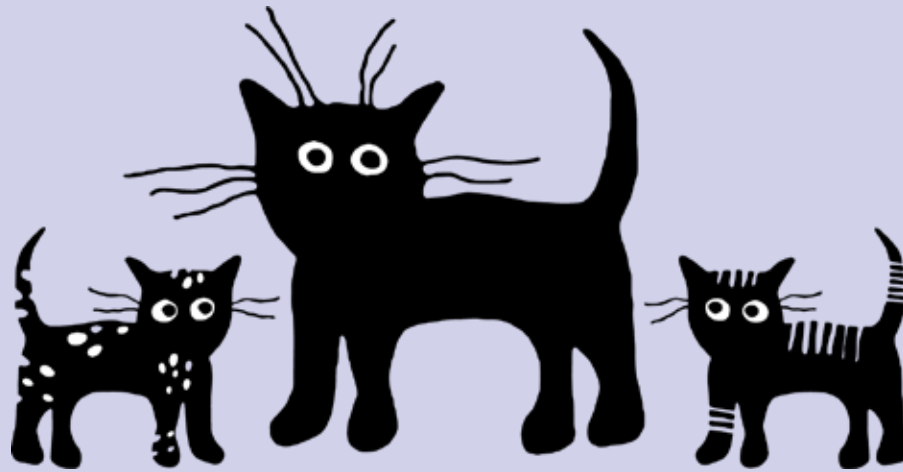
Are you interested in helping with the Working Cats program? Volunteer opportunities for placement assistance, data collection/entry and follow-up are currently open. We also take donations of sheets, blankets, and large wire dog crates.

Contact Mary Scott, Program Director at (805) 637-7964 or send her an email at [workingcats@asapcats.org](mailto:workingcats@asapcats.org).



*A typical barnhouse night shelter setup for our working cats to survey.*

# Basil's Big Bash Comes Back!



The greatest party in town is back for another round, and to help me announce it and do their best to spice up the event, I'd like to introduce you to my chosen family: **Rosemary and Thyme!**

Make sure you save the date – **June 9<sup>th</sup>** – because you do not want to miss the best night of the year, taking place at **Carousel House in Santa Barbara.**

Just like previous years, there will be a silent auction available to bid on, as well as a live auction. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, shoot an email to Julissa at **julissa@asapcats.org** for more information.

Additionally, we have plenty of sponsorships available, including a load of cool sponsorship benefits on the next page. Simply email **bash@asapcats.org** to inquire, or keep an eye out for your sponsorship packet in the mail.



*In addition to our selection from the silent auction, there will be several live auction items to bid on .*

# Sponsorship Benefits



## Basil's **BIG** Bash Sponsorship Benefits 2023



### Super Cat: \$20,000

- Naming opportunity for event section of your choice (stage/entertainment, live or silent auction, food and beverage, etc)
- 10 Bash event tickets and VIP seating
- Invitation for 2 to Basil's Signature Cocktail Tasting and Selection
- Premier listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

### Top Cat: \$10,000

- 10 Bash event tickets and VIP seating at event
- Invitation for 2 to Basil's Signature Cocktail Tasting and Selection
- Premier listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

### Cat's Meow: \$5,000

- 8 Bash event tickets and reserved seating at event
- Invitation for 2 to Basil's Signature Cocktail Tasting and Selection
- Premier listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

### Cool Cat: \$2,500

- 6 Bash event tickets and reserved seating at event
- Prime listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

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

- 4 Bash event tickets
- Sponsor listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

### Cat Nip: \$600

- 2 Bash event tickets
- Sponsor listing on event materials, ASAP website, and acknowledgment in Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk
- Personal recognition and signage at event

# A Letter From Director Jessica Wiebe

Kitten season is coming! The annual high-breeding period that runs through spring and summer is a time of tremendous challenges for young cats, whether they're inside or outside a shelter. The younger they are, the more difficult it is for them to simply stay alive. Our community can assist by working with our shelter to take the most vulnerable in and care for them on a temporary basis – known as kitten fostering.

Fostering kittens eases the tremendous burden on our shelter and directly addresses many of the kittens' most critical needs, including:

- Protection from diseases and excess stress in the shelter;
- Providing necessary care, support, and socialization until they are old enough to be adopted or relocated to places where their adoption chances are higher;
- Helping them develop and thrive in a home environment as they approach adoptability;
- Introducing them to other members of the community, including family and friends who may be interested in adoption;
- Saving their lives.

Let's repeat that – saving their lives! Just like Meredith, pictured to the right.

A potential adopter came into ASAP one day and told us about an ad for someone who was adopting out a whole litter. She went to the address listed and found a litter of kittens and a mom in deplorable conditions – no litter boxes, feces and urine everywhere. After speaking with the owner, the woman managed to rescue three kittens and the mom and brought them all to ASAP.

The clear runt of the litter, little Meredith has been staying in a foster home. As our kitten foster reports, "She is so spunky. She runs to most places, and her purr is BIG for such a tiny kitten. Also, Meredith follows you around the house. She likes her space, but wants to know where you are and will keep checking on you."

If you have room in your home and your heart for a kitten in need, please consider fostering. Help ASAP save kittens just like Meredith, and offer them a place to thrive while they grow.



*Meredith was the smallest of the litter in which she was found, weighing just under 7 ounces.*



# Checkin' In With Facilities

The Facilities team plans, organizes, controls, integrates, and evaluates the activities and operations related to the construction, maintenance, and repair of ASAP Cats' shelter. They maintain several of the building's features such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, painting, and landscape.

One of the bigger, more visible projects is the "building makeover." Tasked with finding a color and a painter, Wellness & Facilities Supervisor Greg Calderon and his team sent a survey of colors to staff, board, and volunteers, and the eventual winner was the Dahlia purple you can now see below. The front railing project is also underway and should be completed this season. Once the railing project is finished, all the



colors will really come together! There are also many other, smaller things that are often less visible, such as roof leak repairs, sink leaks, deck repairs, upgrades to landscaping, and new HVAC units.

As the painters began to fix several dry rot spots, more and more dry rot damage was found (as pictured to the right). Due to the age of the building, this damage has added more costs to the job.



*Dry rot slowly weakens the structural integrity of a building, making it a priority for ASAP to fix.*



*Unused exhaust ducts such as this in our infirmary are currently being addressed in our shelter makeover.*

We are now over our projected budget for the paint job with the railing project still in progress, and as such are looking for more funding to help keep our shelter standing for years to come. We are also looking to get a new sign that can be seen from the street, so keep an eye out for that!

# Annual Report

Dear Friends of ASAP,

Though 2022 has come and gone, all of us at ASAP Cats are proud of the tremendous progress that was made towards our mission. Together we continue to answer the call to aid hundreds of cats and kittens in Santa Barbara County, raising critical funds needed to save lives. As you read the year-in-review that follows, you will find it highlights a small portion of the extraordinary work achieved in 2022 by our volunteers, staff, board members, and donors.

It is important to emphasize that the numbers alone don't reflect the importance and impact of the work ASAP does. We are committed to saving the most vulnerable cats, whether that's returning them to their families when they're lost or healing them when they're injured or sick. Serving the cats of Santa Barbara County is our passion, and we are proud to do it.

One of our greatest achievements is reuniting lost cats with their families. Losing a cat is an all too familiar pain that many of us have experienced, and ASAP takes pride in our reliable team of volunteers and experienced trappers, as well as our dedicated Lost Cat team, who are ready to spring into action and reunite each lost cat with their family. Our redemption rate has continuously increased over the years, as our community looks to us in their time of need. The work of our Lost Cat team, combined with our microchipping program, has landed us over 350% of the national average for reunions, as we push for stronger safety measures in keeping cats with their families.

ASAP strives to have the shortest, yet most comfortable, stay possible for cats in our care, as we look to each cat's individual circumstances and work for the best outcome for every cat's unique needs. We often measure success through a variety of statistics, whether it's number of adoptions, number of fosters, or number of dollars raised, but what makes ASAP unique is how much we provide for each individual cat. ASAP is an open admission shelter; we don't pick and choose what cats end up in our care. The work ASAP does with each of these cats, whether it's behavior training or medical care, gives these felines another chance. The extraordinary efforts we go through in keeping cats in their homes, the joy we get when our Lost Cat team reunites a cat with their family, or the knowledge that a surgery we sponsored resulted in the removal of a kitten's intestinal blockage – these are the stories that remind us of our mission and assure us that we can achieve our goals, every day.

Thank you for a fantastic 2022, and for a great start to 2023.  
We couldn't do it without you!



Bernard Kelmenson  
Board President



Jessica Wiebe  
Executive Director



# 2022 In Review

*Saving the Lives of 100% of Adoptable Cats and Kittens*

790

cats & kittens sheltered

300+

cat & kitten foster placements

50

lost cats & families reunited

282

spay/neuter  
surgeries

63

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

36

hospice cats  
sleeping in homes

106

Tiny Lions™ tamed

181,44

meals served

394

additional cats aided in  
transitioning to their new  
homes

## Beyond the Numbers

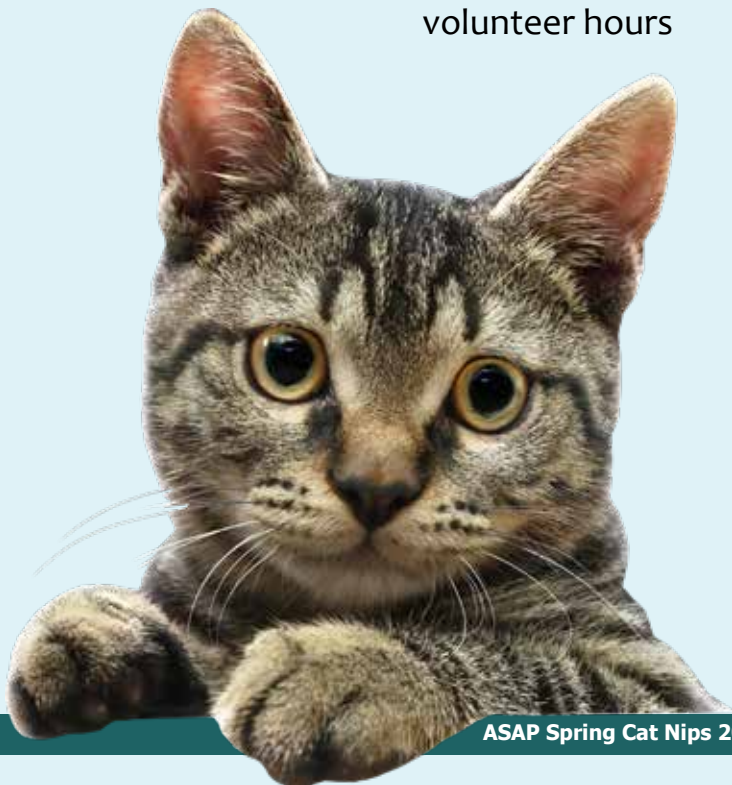
The numbers above, while important in tracking our successes, only paint a partial picture of the work we do. A major accomplishment in 2022 was the continued expansion of our Community Cats program, in line with national sheltering practices. Well-intentioned Good Samaritans often see a cat outside and want to bring them somewhere safe, such as ASAP Cats, but oftentimes, they are simply outdoor cats living their best lives, or cats that have a safe and warm home nearby and a family that loves and cares for them.

We continue spreading awareness that outdoor cats are not inherently in danger. If the cat appears healthy and cared for, it can stay in its community. While our numbers may vary due to well-intentioned, kind community members seeking to rescue vulnerable animals, we want to reiterate something especially important: ASAP's doors are always open to all cats and kittens in need of our care. Don't be afraid to call us when it comes to saving cats!

made possible by

22,684

volunteer hours



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

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

 Facebook.com/asapcats

 Instagram.com/asapcats

## Want to join the ASAP team?

ASAP Cats is always looking for new volunteers to add to the team. Are you ready and willing to work with cats of all shapes and sizes? Do you have a soft spot for kittens in need? Consider joining the ASAP team and working alongside a crew of fellow feline lovers! You'll get plenty of time to make some new furry friends and will be supporting a great cause. Stop by our shelter and join today!



*Earlier this year, we celebrated superstar volunteer Andy Larson, thanking her for her matchmaking skills and devotion to the cats and kittens of ASAP. Here's to you, Andy!*

### **ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program**

Shelter location: 5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ■ Federal Tax ID: 77-0283500