

CATNIPS



Simply Thankful

What a year it's been!

Summer might have gone by too quickly, but it feels like it's still kitten season. They're EVERYWHERE. If you're looking to adopt a cuddly kitten or two, keep an eye out for our **monthly adoption events and yard sales**, typically held the last Saturday of the month at our shelter.

Now that I've mentioned yard sales, I really ought to tell you about one of my favorite people: **Lisa, the Yard Sale Queen!** She's been finding me cool knickknacks and toys for years, and boy howdy has she seen it all. Read all about the fabulous Lisa and how much we love her **on the next page.**

In other news, my marketing guy sat down with two of the sweetest, most generous people in our community: **Roger and Julie Davis.** Top Cats and personal buddies of mine, they got to talk about Basil's Legacy Society and what a great friendship we have! More on that on **page 6.**

Don't tell RVT Becky, but I've been sneakin' extra portions of boneless, skinless turkey to get my winter beach body into shape. I'm preeetty sure it's okay if I have a little turkey, but for the full scoop of **Holiday Food Dos and Do Nots**, you might want to check out **page 9.** Thank goodness my vet says I can at least keep having catnip (it helps me sleep!)

I can't believe I've been rambling so long that I didn't mention our **Beat the Heat event** yet, an ASAP Cats first! We altered dozens of kitties to decrease the stray kitten population, and I made a load of friends for life. Read all about our awesome new clinics on **page 11.**

Okay I think that's just about everything, so why don't you pop open this newsletter while I go find a nice warm lap to nap in. Happy holidays, and I'll see you at the shelter!

Until then,

Basil, OUT



Holiday 2023

CATNIPS
is a publication offered free of charge
three times a year from ASAP
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Volunteer Spotlight: Lisa Mathiasen

In the spirit of thankfulness, we want to take a moment to talk about someone who has gone above and beyond to give their time, love, and dedication to our organization. ASAP Cats has had many heroes over the years, but none have stood as a pillar throughout all the highs and lows quite like Lisa Mathiasen.

Back in the summer of 1991, Lisa worked for the local Sheriff's Department. She regularly dispatched animal control officers after hours, so she had a passing familiarity with the county shelter team and was often on the phone with them. After hearing about a nearby cat colony being trapped and brought in, she brought a polaroid of a feral cat she was feeding (a small brown tabby she named Tiger) to the ASAP shelter. Lisa wanted to make sure he would not be euthanized after being trapped, and was lucky enough to be assisted by Karen Clayton, one of ASAP's founders, who greeted her with a simple "Hi! Looking to adopt a cat?" This turned out to be a life-changing moment for Lisa.

After getting to know ASAP a bit more and working with animal control officers and volunteers, she signed up to volunteer at the shelter in September of 1991 and officially joined the team. Working 10-hour days at the Sheriff's Department, she still managed to allot time to volunteer at the shelter, ensuring her ever-changing schedule would allow for kitten time.



Lisa has seen every unique paint job at the ASAP Cats shelter, including when everything was red.

When ASAP introduced its Foster program in the early 90s, Lisa – who had become a Lead Volunteer by that time – additionally began fostering kittens. She gradually climbed the ranks as her involvement increased, eventually becoming Foster Coordinator and even joining the volunteer-led Board of Directors. In the early 2000s, she became Program Director for Shelter Operations, getting her involved in many of ASAP's projects and programs. From here she fleshed out the Lost Cat procedures and emergency protocol, tightening up several loose ends for the shelter. Lisa became a source of knowledge, guidance, and trust, having a handle on nearly all the inner workings of ASAP's maintenance.

In 2005 she was promoted to a managerial position at the Sheriff's Department, so her schedule became more rigid, and she was forced to give up being a shift leader. But that didn't stop Lisa from staying involved and helping at all the events, especially Basil's Big Bash. When the Bash turned into an annual fundraiser, Lisa became



As one of the first ASAP fosters, Lisa has been bottle-feeding kittens for years.

One of ASAP's Pillars

the go-to person for gathering supplies, scouting locations, and even transporting everything to the venue in a U-Haul. She and her father built the Bash shed beside the shelter (referred to as "Lisa's shed" by our team) to store all the supplies she's gathered through the years.

Today, one of the main things Lisa is known for is being queen of the monthly yard sales, which started from an idea she had as Foster Coordinator: Kitten Showers. "I would bring a playpen and a pop-up tent with kittens, and people would bring blankets, toys, old heating pads – just things to donate," she says. Lisa's Kitten Showers were a hit for the community,



One of Lisa's major hauls to the Bash is our Instant Wine Cellar, full of dozens of bottles!



Despite working her day job, Lisa always found time to cuddle with our kitties.

and over time people would bring more and more things to donate, to the point where she'd have tables set up at her Kitten Showers with unique antiques and trinkets for sale.

When the world shut down due to the COVID pandemic of 2020, plenty of Lisa's friends, colleagues, and community members started cleaning out their cupboards and donating stuff to her cause, wanting to help her raise funds for the shelter. She retired in 2021 from the sheriff's department and started working part-time with Santa Barbara SOS, where she found many people looking to downsize, who could donate their belongings to the yard sale. With every person who downsized and donated, the yard sale acquired more and more unique items to sell, in turn raising money for ASAP Cats. "I've done so many things," she says, "but what brings me the most joy is knowing I'm making some good money for ASAP and the kitties."

Having worn just about every hat possible during her tenure at ASAP Cats, Lisa obviously has a passion for the work she does and the kittens she saves. "My heart and soul is ASAP," Lisa says, "and knowing I'm a small part of this organization, making money for the kitties and helping the shelter be all that it is...that's my favorite part." We're thankful for you, Lisa!

Finding Tiny Teena by Macaulay

Teena found her way back home after journeying across state lines in search of her family. We spoke with her owner, Macaulay, to get the full story:

While looking for a cat for my daughter and myself, I met with Teena's previous caretaker to see if we'd be a good fit – and it was perfect, so Teena came to live with us in the beginning of 2022. Later that year, after going through a lot of life changes, my family and I decided to head west of Indiana for the winter to figure out our next steps. We debated what was best for Teena and decided to bring her along, so the cross-country adventure began!

Teena would spend her days in the car, tent, hotel – wherever she could beat the heat – and then she'd wander and explore at night while we camped. She did an amazing job staying close and coming back to the car every morning, and we were so happy to have our third wheel with us during our trip.

We were making our way back to Indiana from Arizona in February 2022 when Teena disappeared. She stuck to sleeping under my car seat whenever we drove, and after stopping at a gas station in Eloy, Arizona, she managed to somehow escape the vehicle. I looked for her in all the ways I could think of, knowing the traffic surely scared her enough to retreat from the parking lot, so we stayed the night close by to hopefully find her. I was on a deadline to make it back to Indiana for school, so after waiting 24 hours, my daughter and I had to continue onward. We were heartbroken and cried the rest of the trip.

Five months later, someone found Teena prowling around near a Taco Bell in Goleta, California. They brought her to ASAP where they scanned her microchip and quickly got in contact with us. My community immediately started brainstorming how to make the trip possible to retrieve Teena, because 2,000 miles from Indiana to Santa Barbara was a lot for one person, so eventually me, my uncle, and my mother got together and made the cross-country trip. We are so happy to have Teena

back, and I'm especially thankful to my family for accompanying me on the journey to get her back.

Now back home with us, Teena is getting used to a house that is totally new to her. We have pigs, chickens, and a dog, but she's sticking around, so I take that as a sign of her acceptance of her new pals! She's also been cuddlier than ever! Originally she was unwilling to be held, but now that she's back with us she's always asking to be picked up and cuddled, so we happily oblige.



Thanks to Teena's microchip, we were able to get in touch with her owner, Macaulay, very quickly!

Patcha: Back Home by Benjamin

After seven months of being declared missing, Patcha the Fearless was reunited with his owner, Benjamin, in a truly heartfelt moment at the ASAP Cats shelter. We sat down with Ben to get the full scoop:

Patcha was given to us originally as Waze after we reached out to ASAP in need of a mouser. We lived on a beautiful ranch behind Mission Canyon, with the caveat that the property was crawling with rats and mice, so naturally we wanted a cat to help. After doing a dog test with our cattle dog, we were initially going to have two unsocialized female cats stay with us, but instead we were introduced to one super feral “project case” male cat who would make for a great mouser, and we named him Patcha.

It took him about two weeks to feel comfortable out of his cage and in his woodshed, but I’d go sit with him every day, taking a sweaty t-shirt of mine that my dog slept with so he’d get to know everyone’s scent. He always had quite a personality – strongly-typed bold Helvetica – but he and I always got along. He’d go out at night and hunt, bringing fresh kills through the kitty door with a loud announcement. He was a killer! Everyone in the canyon knew him. He kept an eye on everything and everyone. There were times he’d accompany me on hunts, and he even walked a lynx off the property once!

A few years later, we moved to a different ranch with a 2-year-old cat already living on it, who Patcha essentially kicked out. They found the cat, but the landlord and I had to come to an agreement because Patcha was aggressive to this cat. My parents up near Santa Ynez absolutely loved Patcha – my Dad especially – so we tried having Patcha stay with them for a time. It went from “This isn’t a permanent thing” to “We want him forever” within the span of a week, and because I make weekly trips to see my parents, it made sense for Patcha to stay with them. It was a win-win.

While staying with my parents, my Mom asked me one day if he could join her for a car ride to church. Seeing as it was never a problem for me, I OK’d it and Patcha accompanied her. After the service, however,



Despite journeying over 30 miles away, Patcha was reunited with his owner Ben thanks to his microchip and a Good Samaritan.

when she got back to her car, Patcha immediately bolted. Just, gone. We put up signs and put out alerts, stayed in the area with cans of food and treats, but he was nowhere. That was April 2023.

The night Patcha was found, I was sitting outside by the fire thinking about him. I barbecue a lot, and as per tradition I always give the first piece of tri-tip to a guest, cutting off a little slice for Patcha. I was just thinking of all these nuanced things that made me really miss Patcha, and the next morning, I got a call from ASAP. A Good Samaritan had brought him and scanned his microchip, and they very quickly got in contact with me. Over the course of seven months, Patcha had journeyed over 30 miles from Ballard to Goleta. I don’t know if he was hunting, if he just wanted to see the coast or venture through the mountains, but he found his way back home to his family.

I still have all of the furniture from our old place, and that first night he was back with us he rubbed on every corner of every piece of furniture. He went up to our blind dog – his best friend – and sniffed her, remembering her. Patcha is back, and my heart is so full.

Building a Legacy Together

We'd like to take a moment to highlight two of our incredibly generous donors who believe in ASAP's mission, inspiring us to keep doing good work and to always put cats first: Roger and Julie Davis.

The Davises have been acquainted with ASAP for over 20 years, starting back in the early 2000s when they were completing construction on their vacation home in Santa Barbara. Previously living full-time in Chicago with their own shelter kitty, the Davises started vacationing here in the American Riviera and one day discovered our organization through their network. It certainly helps that they have always had a special affinity for cats. "Do we believe every family should have a cat? We probably do!" Roger says. "To at least one family member, it likely will make a positive impact on their life."

As strong advocates for cat welfare, the Davises saw the bubbling potential in ASAP Cats as well as the concentrated focus placed on saving cats. They quickly developed a relationship with the organization. "ASAP is a premier cat-only shelter," Roger says. "Beginning with the commitment of ASAP volunteers, the entire ASAP organization is very inspirational."

Attendees as well as top sponsors of every Bash we've held, the Davises love interacting with all the volunteers who keep ASAP running, and revel in being part of a community of cat lovers. "We have yet to meet a volunteer or employee who isn't absolutely passionate about their mission, and that's a big deal," says Julie. Roger still has his Top Cat table marker from our first Bash in 2014, and it's displayed prominently at his desk for all his guests to see. If someone in his network is unfamiliar with ASAP, he's always the first to spread the good word!

Roger and Julie put their trust in our

organization after noticing the impact we've had on our community since 1989. "ASAP has done a tremendous amount with a very limited size facility, and, at times, without a huge amount of money," Julie says. From taking euthanasia and 2-week-max stays off the table, to developing the Working Cats program and alternate-placement programs to find a perfect fit for every cat, ASAP has continued to evolve to better serve the cats and people in Santa Barbara County.



Julie and Roger have been Top Cat sponsors for every Bash we've held, since 2014.

Even before we announced Basil's Legacy Society, the Davises had already established a planned gift with ASAP, and this trust is not something we at ASAP hold lightly. In 2016, the

Davises added a bequest to ASAP in their estate plan, ensuring that the shelter would be able to use all necessary funds to continue saving lives. "Because of our confidence in the leadership of ASAP, we do not want the money to get locked up with a low spending limit of only four or five percent annually," says Roger. "Instead, our bequest allows ASAP leadership to use a significant portion of our gift whenever there is a major initiative to advance ASAP. We want it spent for the needs of ASAP. We wanted our money to go where it's best treated, and the longer an organization has been successful at achieving its mission, when its mission really resonates with the giver, is what motivates people – and what surely motivates us."

Thank you to Roger and Julie for trusting all of us at ASAP Cats to continue doing good work. Your support has made a significant difference for our organization, and thanks to your generosity we will continue changing the world for one cat at a time.

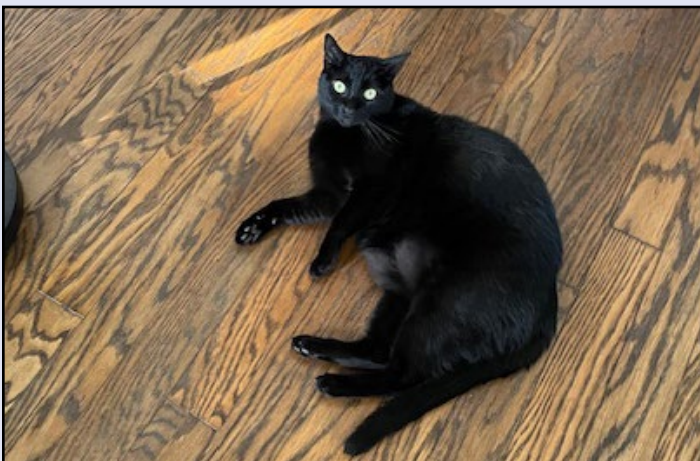
If you are interested in joining Basil's Legacy Society with a planned gift, please email legacy@asapcats.org and we will be in touch.

Retention Program Success: Kate Middleton



A longtime resident of the ASAP Cats shelter spanning many months, everyone's favorite sleek 9 year-old kitty Kate Middleton (formerly Middleton) found her forever home earlier last month.

It took Kate a few days to get over her initial nerves at her new residence, but after getting her bearings, she earned her truly regal name and became the princess of the castle. Kate's confidence grew as she gained the run of the house; however her owner, Roberta, noticed a distressing behavior that needed immediate attention: Kate was peeing on a large rug on Roberta's hardwood floor. After a bit of detective work from Retention Team Program Director Stacey Matson, it was determined that Kate needed an additional litter box. Equipped with an enzymatic cleanser and following Stacey's guidance, Roberta got Kate a second privy and she responded with grace. All was peace in the court of Kate!



Roberta finds Kate easy to love and tells us all she really needed was a castle to rule. She sleeps on Roberta's bed, on her lap while she is reading or watching TV, and anywhere with a bit of sun. An added triumph is that Roberta joined the ASAP team and is now volunteering with us at the shelter. A happy ending for everyone involved!

BECOME A SENIOR/HOSPICE FOSTER

We provide the supplies and medical care, you provide the love!

Ursula

Mr. Handsome

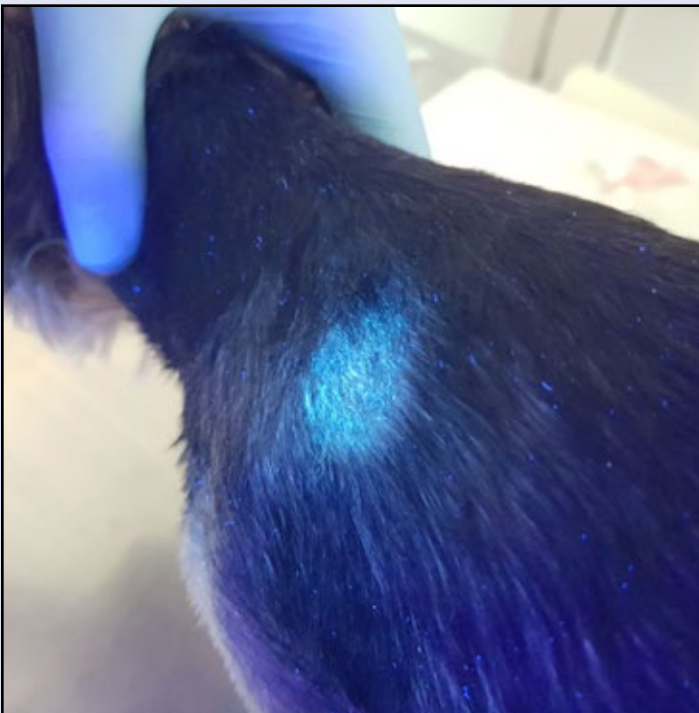
Amber & Truffles

The illustration depicts a cozy living room with a light beige wall. Two macramé wall hangings with geometric patterns and fringes are suspended from the ceiling. Several potted plants, including a large green plant in a woven basket and smaller plants in various pots, are scattered around. In the foreground, three cats are featured: a white and grey cat sitting on the left, a tabby cat lying on a patterned rug in the center, and a black cat sitting on the right. A wicker chair with a cushion is also visible, with a small orange cat perched on it.

Identifying Ringworm In Cats



ASAP foster Jo Black was quick to jump into action at the earliest sign of ringworm, ready to suit up and treat her kitties.



A dermatophyte infection reveals a bright apple-green fluorescence under the UV light of a Wood's lamp.

Did you know that ringworm is not caused by a worm? Originating from a type of fungi called dermatophytes, these fungi feed on dead cells of skin and hair, causing those round, red lesions to appear on humans. The ring tends to look like a worm – hence the name – but it's not as easy to identify on animals. Ringworm typically appears as a dry, grey, scaly patch on animals, but it can look like most skin lesions, so it's important to get your cat checked at the earliest sign.

One of our all-star fosters, Jo Black, noticed this scaly patch on her three foster kittens, and after talking to our Wellness team it was deemed that her kitties had ringworm. Being the hero she is, Jo immediately took on the challenge of treating her foster kitties (with guidance from our team). We equipped Jo with a Tyvek chemical suit, a solution of Betadine, and plenty of sponges, and she immediately got to work. "I just hold the kitties on my lap, then cover their paws, tails, and everything with the solution," she says, "and they're getting better!"

The hardest part for Jo was seeing her kitties losing their fur. Needle, the non-tuxedo of the three, lost her iconic white spike on her nose and has several bald spots that have yet to grow in. "This is my first time dealing with ringworm kitties," Jo says, "but they're still just as happy and bouncy as usual."

The most common test to check for ringworm comes from a tool called a Wood's lamp. Designed to emit light in a specific range of wavelengths, most ringworm fungi demonstrate a chemical reaction when binding to hair shafts, causing a bright apple-green fluorescence under black light. Treated with biweekly medicated dips and daily oral medication, kittens usually clear ringworm in as little as six weeks, but can take up to four months.

Be cautious: ringworm can spread from animal to human and vice-versa, so if you think your cat has ringworm, be sure to bring them to your vet immediately!

RVT Becky's Holiday Kitty Dinner Guide

While we all sit around the dinner table during the holidays, thinking about what we're grateful for, it's not an uncommon desire to want to spoil your kitty with some yummy food, but before you serve a Thanksgiving platter to your cat, make sure you know what kinds of holiday foods they can enjoy.

A small amount of plain turkey, without fat, skin, or bones, can be a very welcome treat for your furry friend. However, large amounts of turkey, especially ones that are cooked with a lot of salt, seasoning, or butter, can cause your kitty to have an upset tummy. Ham is also not recommended, due to the large amount of salt needed in the curing process.

Many adult cats are intolerant of dairy foods, so while mashed potatoes alone may not be harmful to a cat that is interested in eating them, the large quantities of milk, cream, or butter that we add to them are not good for a cat. Sweet potatoes, candied yams, and pumpkin pie also often contain added dairy as well as large quantities of sugar, so we recommend not giving them to your cat.



Stuffing and other casseroles typically have added onion or garlic, members of the allium family. Vegetables within the allium family are extremely toxic to cats, as they can cause damage to their red blood cells. Other consequences of allium poisoning include weakness, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, and nausea. Some casseroles also have added raisins, which can be toxic to pets.

Our cats are family, so it's no surprise that we would want to include them in our holiday meals; however, cats have sensitive digestive systems that cannot tolerate a lot of human food ingredients. If you want to share the holiday cheer with your cat, skip the table scraps and get them some healthy, holiday-themed cat treats!

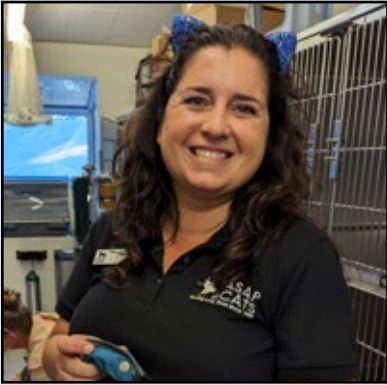
ASAP CATS WELLNESS WISH LIST

Our Wellness Team does a fantastic job helping all the cats in our care, but they can only be as effective as the tools in their toolbox. We put together a Wellness Wish List with some specific instruments that would make a HUGE difference in helping us save cats. Contributions to our Lester fund go directly to purchasing the following needed items:

General Radiology Machine	\$150,000	FVRCP Vaccines (tray of 25)	\$175
Surgery Suite Expansion	\$100,000	Surgical Instrument Packs	\$150
Dental X-ray Imaging Machine	\$25,000	Radiology Trough/Positioner	\$120
General X-ray Imaging Machine	\$20,000	Woods Ringworm Lamps	\$75
Surgical Wet Table	\$5,000	Feliway Diffuser	\$20

If you're interested in giving directly to our Wellness Wish List, simply select "Lester fund" when donating at www.asapcats.org

A Letter From Director Jessica Wiebe



As we approach Thanksgiving, we reflect on the year's journey, marked by both triumphs and challenges. In these moments of gratitude, we find ourselves appreciating the core values in our

lives: friends, family, health, and the cherished memories of laughter, togetherness, and life experiences. Amongst these precious threads of existence, we must never forget the animals who bring joy and companionship into our lives.

The unwavering love and companionship of our furry friends has been a beacon of hope through the trials of this year. This Thanksgiving, our hearts are filled with profound gratitude for all the animals who have touched our lives, the incredible support from our community, and the privilege we hold in dedicating ourselves to this vital work.

Throughout this year, the animal sheltering industry has faced numerous hurdles, including inaccessible veterinary care, housing concerns, and the impact of postponed spay/neuter services – but despite these obstacles, your constant support has allowed us to persevere in our mission to provide a haven for unhoused animals in need of shelter and care. At ASAP Cats, our gratitude extends far and wide:

- 🐾 Our volunteer team, the lifeblood of our shelter, who tirelessly devote their time and compassion.
- 🐾 Our fosters and adopters, who have opened their homes and hearts to shelter cats, creating loving environments for them.
- 🐾 Our invaluable nonprofit partners, whose collaborative efforts have allowed us to achieve the seemingly impossible.

- 🐾 Our dedicated staff members, whose commitment keeps our shelter running smoothly.
- 🐾 Our community veterinarians, who graciously give their time and expertise to ensure our pets' well-being.
- 🐾 Our donors, the generous souls whose contributions have sustained us throughout the year. Your support is the backbone of our organization, and we couldn't operate without your selfless donations.

And last but not least, YOU, our cherished animal-loving community! We deeply appreciate your confidence, trust, and support. It is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of caring for the animals in our community in need of shelter and care, and we thank you for being a vital part of our mission.

In addition to expressing our heartfelt thanks, we want to give special recognition to the dedicated kitten fosters within our ASAP family. This year has witnessed one of the busiest kitten seasons on record, and these amazing individuals have truly been our ASAP heroes.

We also extend our gratitude to the volunteers who lend their support not only within the shelter walls but also beyond them. Your dedication and tireless efforts make a profound difference in the lives of our animals.

On behalf of all of us at ASAP Cats, we extend our warmest wishes for a safe and joyful Thanksgiving to you and all your family members, both two-legged and four-legged. Your continued support empowers us to make a positive difference in the lives of these deserving animals.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jessica Wiebe
Executive Director

Beat the Heat: ASAP's First Spay/Neuter Clinic

For the first time in ASAP Cats' history, we held two highly successful spay/neuter clinics at the ASAP shelter. Partnering with Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) and C.A.R.E.4Paws, we provided an affordable, lifesaving opportunity to better serve our community and all the cats living in it. We're super proud of it!

With increasing numbers of stray intakes and an overpopulation of cats in Santa Barbara neighborhoods, providing affordable options for cat care is paramount to our mission. Our low-cost clinic served to give necessary medical attention to local cats, including spay/neuter, microchipping, rabies treatment, FVRCP, flea treatment, and deworming.

Between the two events held in September and November, we treated 93 publicly-owned cats and spay-neutered 80 of them. Thank you to our volunteers and staff for helping us run these clinics, and we're looking forward to doing more great things for our community!

Take a look at some action shots from our events:



One of the newest members of our team, Wellness Assistant Athena Brown holds two of the 93 cats treated.



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Want to join the ASAP team?

ASAP Cats is always looking for new volunteers to join 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 the shelter and ask about applying today.



Tammy Voight is ASAP Cats' 2023 Volunteer of the Year in honor of her hard work at the shelter and as a kitten foster, as well as for being a fantastic mentor to our new volunteers.

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