

CATNIPS



All Eyes on ASAP!

Can you believe summer is almost over?

I feel like it was just yesterday that we were preparing for kitten season and planning the Bash, and now it's nearly September! Time flies by when you're busy saving kitties – that's what I always say at least.

You know who else always says that? My best bud **Oracle!** I tell her all the time I keep getting lost in her eyes, and she tends to murmur something about my future...and while I'm not always sure what she's going on about, I'm just thankful she's happy and healthy. ASAP is great when it comes to **treating cats with eye issues** – to hear more about Oracle's story, **simply turn the page.**

Speaking of eye issues, my little sister **Boo** had a nasty case of **entropion**, making her eyelid roll oddly inwardly Thankfully Dr. Okuda is the best and our Wellness team was able to help her out – to read about Boo's experience at ASAP, **turn to page 4.**

Though it's a bit in the rearview mirror now, I simply must mention how wonderful it was to see all of my friends at my **10th Bash-iversary** earlier this summer! We had the whole kitten caboodle (is that what it's called?) with juggling, carnival games, and all of my best pals!

Plus, we got to announce something extra special at my Bash: **ASAP's first mobile spay/neuter care unit!** To learn more about my ~~new~~ ride the mobile care unit, **turn to page 8.** Unfortunately, I'm no longer allowed to drive (I'm 35 after all) but I still call shotgun!

That's just about it from little ol' me, so take a seat, kick your feet up, and enjoy the latest from ASAP. If you need me, I'll be painting the shelter lobby!

Until then,

Basil, OUT



Rainbow Hedgehog



Summer 2024

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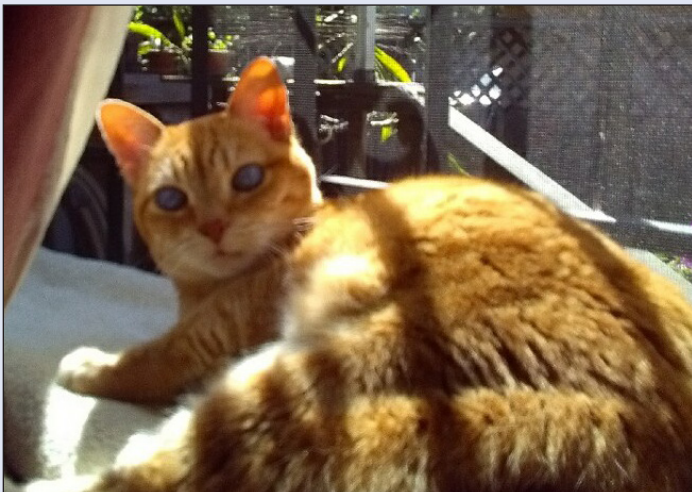
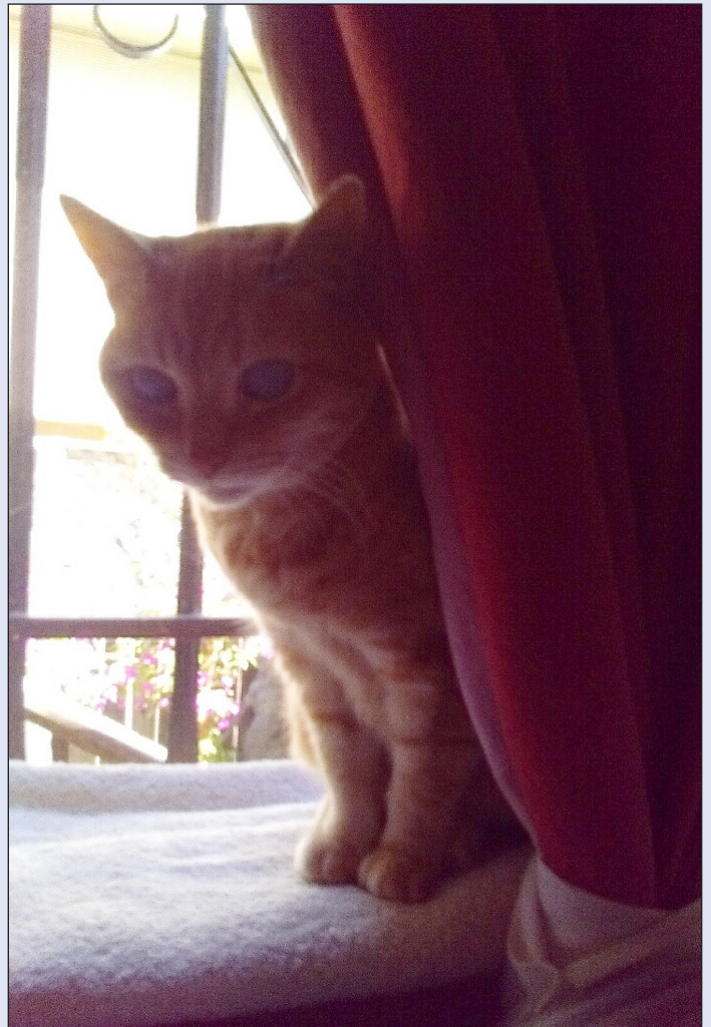
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Eyes of Oracle: Testing Cats for Glaucoma

Named for the soothsayers of Greek antiquity, 7-year-old Oracle will immediately catch your attention with her beautiful, cloudy eyes. Reminiscent of two crystal balls, Oracle was brought to the shelter one night after a good Samaritan found her in their backyard yowling to the moon. Following a routine wellness exam and some blood work, Oracle was found to be in good health, and other than the fact that her eyes were cloudy and slightly protruding, there wasn't an immediate diagnosis for her condition. She wasn't in pain, and even seemed to have partial vision despite appearing blind.

In order to get a better read on Oracle's eye health, the logical next step was to employ the use of a Tono-pen, allowing our Wellness team to measure her intraocular fluid pressure. If you have ever had your eye pressure checked by an optometrist, it's likely you've had experience with a Tono-pen.

While the instrument is particularly helpful in gauging the risk of glaucoma in our cats with eye issues, it unfortunately is also rather expensive, so our team had to borrow one from our neighbors at County Animal Services. After running some tests, we confirmed that Oracle's eye pressure appears normal. While we continue to diagnose...



Although her eyes are cloudy, Oracle still has partial vision and is able to pick up varying levels of light.

...and try to find an explanation behind her eyes, we can at least rule out glaucoma!

Needing a passionate foster to help administer medical eye drops and monitor this special kitty, Oracle found a friend in Amy Bristol, who welcomed her into her home in late May, where she has made “wonderful progress every day despite her limited vision and hearing,” according to Amy.

Amy wrote to us with a recent update on Oracle, as she is now in the process of adopting her! She says:

The first couple of weeks, Oracle kept quiet under the darkness of my bed, but she now searches me out, zooms around the house, carries toys from bed to bed, and snuggles up at night. She's a real love bug and has added so much to my life. We are enjoying getting to know each other! I'm so glad to have little Oracle in my life and appreciate all the support ASAP offers.

All of us at ASAP are proud to help cats like Oracle, because ASAP Cats is so much more than just a shelter for stray kitties. We are a team of dedicated volunteers, animal welfare professionals, and all-around feline lovers, ready to serve any cat who passes through our doors. Despite high costs for cutting-edge equipment and often expensive surgeries, we never shy away

from a chance to help a cat in need of medical attention, and we're ready to raise the funds necessary to save these cats' lives. We're here to help every cat we can, and ultimately find them their forever homes.

Interested in becoming a medical or hospice foster with ASAP Cats? There's no shortage of kitties looking for love and compassion, just as Amy has given to Oracle. To learn more about becoming a medical or hospice foster, or to see our list of currently adoptable cats, visit our website at www.asapcats.org.



Oracle loves helping Amy troubleshoot connectivity problems. She has a sixth sense when the wifi is on the fritz!

ASAP CATS WELLNESS WISH LIST: TONO-PEN (\$5,000)

Tonometry measures your intraocular pressure, or the pressure of the fluid in your eyes. Often referred to as IOP, intraocular pressure is an important metric to monitor eye health and to protect against sight-threatening diseases such as glaucoma. To measure IOP in cats, just as you would in humans, you would use a Tono-pen. Monitoring IOP is important for your cat's health, especially when it comes to predisposed breeds such as Burmese or Siamese, or senior cats with increased health risks, and having a Tono-pen accessible for the ASAP Wellness team would make a huge difference in protecting these cats' lives.

To contribute toward ASAP's purchase of a Tono-pen, donate to our Lester Fund, accessible at: www.asapcats.org/donations.

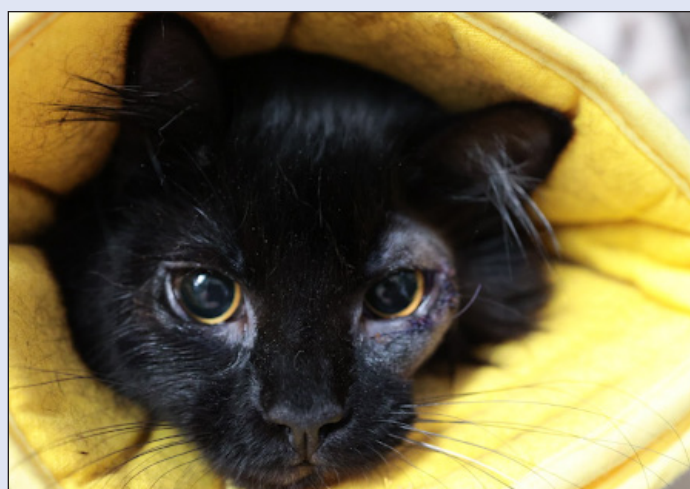
Managing Entropion in Kittens

Susan Zink, one of our star neonate kitten fosters, brought little Boo home earlier this summer. A tiny, smoky black cat with a lot of energy, it took mere moments for Susan's daughter Megan to fall in love with the foster kitten. Excited to hopefully adopt the small cat, Megan took Boo to her home in the Bay Area as a foster — but it wasn't long before she noticed Boo had an issue with her eye. After conferring with our Wellness team, Boo was found to have entropion, a condition resulting in an inward rolling of her eyelid.

Entropion may improve as kittens grow up, but it can also cause discomfort for the cat, as their lid hairs may rub against the cornea while rolled inward. It can additionally lead to dry eyes and eye infections such as conjunctivitis. Boo didn't appear to be uncomfortable, so Megan was advised to monitor her health for the time being.

After consulting with ASAP, Megan kept Boo with her in the Bay Area as a foster-to-adopt kitten, keeping an eye on her while giving her time to grow. She was still little, so there was a possibility that her eyelid would fix itself.

Boo was brought back to ASAP for a reassessment after she turned six months old, and as her eye continued to show signs of entropion, Dr. Lisa Okuda performed a surgical repair. She was able to go home the very same day with Megan, her adoption finalized. Now named Osita,



she's living happily in her forever home.

Megan recently wrote to our Wellness Director Becky Clement with an update on little Osita:

I wanted to reach out and say thank you so much for all of your help with Osita. I sincerely appreciate all of the support and care ASAP put into checking on her, performing the surgery, and providing me with the eye drops for the post-op care. She is doing really well and her eyes look very healthy. I'm taking her to my vet today to hopefully get the stitches out. Thank you again for all of your help with this! I am so glad I got to adopt Osita and have her be a part of my family.

To ensure little Osita's other eye remains healthy, our Wellness team is staying in touch with Megan. ASAP's relationship with our cats doesn't stop after adoption — we're here to help!



Dr. Okuda repaired Boo's eye by performing a surgical correction, removing a small piece of tissue near the eyelid.

Treating Diabetic Cats at ASAP

Earlier this year, ASAP received an owner surrender cat with severe dental disease and a matted coat. A spunky 12-year-old senior named Pepe, he went through our normal check-in procedure to gauge his health, receiving routine blood work, a dental prophylaxis, and a lion clip to deal with his matted coat. Although slightly startled to sport a new look, Pepe was feeling much better than when he initially arrived and was adapting well to the shelter.



A charming older gentleman, Pepe loves nothing more than roaming around and saying hello to friends!

When Pepe was initially surrendered to ASAP Cats, we also were informed that he has diabetes — often regarded as a death sentence for cats due to a high requirement for care. Shelters across the country are known to euthanize diabetic cats, as most lack the resources or staff to accommodate these needy felines, but not ASAP Cats! Part of our mission is serving every cat we meet, so when Pepe entered our doors we knew we had to help him — and that we had the necessary tools to do so.

In a nutshell, diabetic cats require insulin injections, diagnostic testing, and regularly monitoring glucose curves. ASAP was able to place Pepe with a medical foster, and thanks to his amazing foster family he receives his twice-daily insulin injections from the comfort of a warm home.

With a resolve to never give up on cats, we're proud to help Pepe and any future

diabetic cats who enter our shelter, proving that diabetes in cats doesn't have to be the death sentence it was thought to be.

MONITORING GLUCOSE

When it comes to diabetes, humans and animals alike are required to have their glucose levels monitored, often achieved by collecting a small blood sample. Finger pricks and ear pokes are two common, relatively painless techniques for collecting blood, but they tend to cause some discomfort — so ASAP recently introduced an alternative for our diabetic kitties: an implanted monitoring device that offers flash glucose readings without the need for repeated pokes.

After noticing 8-year-old Jimmy drinking a lot more water than normal, Dr. Ginger White acted fast to test him for diabetes — and sure enough, her hunch was confirmed. Giving Jimmy the implanted monitoring device, our Wellness team has been able to regularly view his levels without the added stress of poking him — and because Dr. White intervened early enough, **we're thrilled to report that Jimmy is currently in remission!** We hope to continue using these monitoring implants for future eligible diabetic cats in our care.



Jimmy sporting a FreeStyle Libre implant, capable of monitoring his glucose levels with high accuracy.

Getting Goob Home: From Foster to Adoption

Barely a year old, Goob was transferred to ASAP Cats earlier this year with a hind leg fracture, suspected to be the result of being hit by a car. Our Wellness team was thankfully able to treat him, and following his orthopedic surgery the brave kitty was put on cage rest for two months. While he healed, Goob received plenty of attention and affection from our wonderful volunteers, so at least his mandated rest was quite comfortable!



Around this time, our shelter suffered a lot of damage from the terrible rainstorms that swept through Santa Barbara County. In order to best serve the kitties in our then-crumbling shelter, we put out a call for aid from our network of fosters to temporarily relocate all of our cats. Little Goob was one of them. Jon Berger, one of our amazing fosters, opened his heart to Goob and brought him home to escape the rain.

According to Jon, the timing of meeting Goob was perfect; “I was going through a breakup at the time, so that gave me a great motivation to

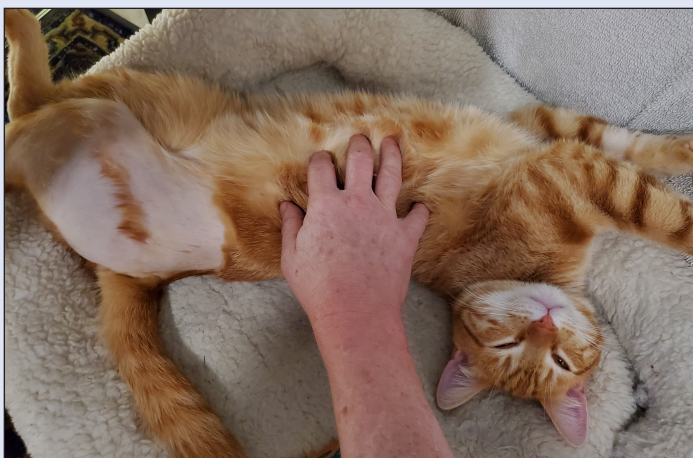
start volunteering here at ASAP, and I was looking for some company at home when I met him.” Jon brought Goob back for a final radiograph check after a month of fostering, and with a confirmation from Dr. Ginger White and Goob’s orthopedic surgeon that he was fully healed, Jon finalized Goob’s adoption papers and brought him to his forever home.



Goob spent plenty of time healing following his surgery, and Jon was more than happy to keep him company while he rested in the shelter.

Now named Hobbes, Jon is happy to officially have his kitty companion as a fully-fledged family member. “He follows me around the house all the time,” Jon says. “He’s my first cat – the first cat that is truly mine – and we’re attached at the hip.”

Now that Hobbes is free from his exercise restriction following his surgery, he likes to bounce and play just as much as any other rambunctious 1-year-old orange kitty – so long as he’s with his pal! Even when it’s time to go to bed, Jon mentioned that Hobbes is never out of arm’s reach: “Six inches away is too far from him!” Jon says.



Feisty Felines: The Pepper Kittens

It is always a huge triumph whenever our Tiny Lions graduate from the program and are adopted into loving homes. As our Tiny Lion tamers will tell you, these special kitties require patience, trust, and compassion to come out of their shells, and it often takes time to socialize them fully. Our tamers were put to the test when they met a rambunctious litter of five spicy kitties: the Pepper Kittens, aptly named Poblano, Serrano, Cayenne, Bell Pepper, and Peperoncini.

Named after peppers of varying heat, these five cats were extra spicy all throughout their Tiny Lion taming and training. With weeks of patience, our Tiny Lion tamers were able to fully socialize each of the five pepper kitties, and they all made their ways into loving homes. Below is a short letter of love from the new family of Poblano, now named Whiskers:

Getting a kitten was the best decision we as a family made. We renamed Poblano to Whiskers, and he has been an absolute joy to have. He was skittish at first in a new environment with a crazy owner who wants to hold him ALL the time, but over time he has gotten used to all three of us. He has his routine down already! He loves to cuddle on you when you're watching tv which was a huge thing my daughter wanted. He's absolutely crazy, energetic, and wonderful. Sometimes we swear he thinks he has superpowers!

Overall, we are so happy to have him and we absolutely love him. THANK YOU ASAP CATS!



Four of the five Pepper kittens, cuddled up before their spay/neuter surgeries.



Poblano may not be the spiciest of the Pepper kittens, but he sure is the most daring!



Cheers to Basil's Big 10th Bashiversary!

Earlier this summer, ASAP Cats celebrated 10 years of Basil's Big Bash with a cat-tastic night at the carnival. Between the champagne ring toss and the acrobats and jugglers, we had a wonderful evening having fun with our community. Thank you everyone who attended and celebrated with us, and all who continue to support ASAP in our mission to serve all cats!



During the Bash, we unveiled a special project that we are particularly excited about: our first-ever Mobile Care Unit, bringing ASAP Cats on the road.

Thanks to an amazing donation from our partners at C.A.R.E.4Paws, we are proud that ASAP's influence can reach farther than ever before, serving feline families and cats out in the community.

In addition to providing spay/neuter services to community cats, this mobile unit will provide low-cost care to pet-owning families, bringing critical vaccinations, microchips, and other lifesaving resources directly to cats in need.

ASAP's First Mobile Spay/Neuter Care Unit

Before ASAP can serve cats on the road, our mobile unit requires some much-needed TLC. Show your support for ASAP Cats and help bring our mission all around Santa Barbara County with some of our great sponsorship benefits, viewable to the right:

Special thanks to our amazing sponsors who've helped us already raise over \$100,000 for our mobile unit. We couldn't do this without you!



YOUR NAME HERE!



To give to the spay/neuter mobile unit fund, simply scan the QR code.

For questions regarding your sponsorship or to discuss each package, send an email to: jessica@asapcats.org



PLATINUM — \$10,000

- Name or logo placement displayed proudly on the exterior of the ASAP Cats Mobile Spay/Neuter Care Unit for five years. Our unit will be operated and driven weekly throughout Santa Barbara County. When parked during surgery days, the mobile unit will be visible by hundreds of passersby.
- Name or logo on our virtual “sponsor wall” on the ASAP Cats website.
- A \$5,000 sponsorship* of our annual Basil’s Big Bash fundraising gala (including 8 guest tickets @ \$250 each).
- 10 ASAP Cats shirts, beanies, and items of swag.

GOLD — \$5,000

- Name or logo placement on the exterior of the ASAP Cats Mobile Spay/Neuter Care Unit for two years.
- Name or logo on our virtual “sponsor wall” on the ASAP Cats website.
- A \$2,500 sponsorship* of our annual Basil’s Big Bash fundraising gala (including 6 guest tickets @ \$250 each).
- 7 ASAP Cats shirts, beanies, and items of swag.

SILVER — \$2,500

- Name placement on an interior cage or space of the ASAP Cats Mobile Spay/Neuter Care Unit for two years.
- Name or logo on our virtual “sponsor wall” on the ASAP Cats website.
- A \$1,250 sponsorship* of our annual Basil’s Big Bash fundraising gala (including 4 guest tickets @ \$250 each).
- 4 ASAP Cats shirts, beanies, and items of swag.

BRONZE — \$1,000

- Name or logo on our virtual “sponsor wall” on the ASAP Cats website.
- A \$600 sponsorship* of our annual Basil’s Big Bash fundraising gala (including 2 guest tickets @ \$250 each).
- 2 ASAP Cats shirts, beanies, and items of swag.

If you would like to give an amount not listed above, we will gladly accept any monetary donation!

*Sponsorship applies to subsequent Basil’s Big Bash

A Letter From Director Jessica Wiebe



Dear Friends of ASAP,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible efforts of our wellness staff, volunteers, and fosters.

Over the past six months, we have witnessed the profound impact of our collective dedication, which has enabled us to provide exceptional care and find positive pathways for the cats in our care — many of whom would have faced euthanasia in the past.

Thanks to the generous donations we receive throughout the year, we have been able to go above and beyond in our mission. Our team has tirelessly worked to treat cats with progressive medical conditions and critical injuries, ensuring they receive the attention and care they deserve.

These numbers are more than just figures — they represent lives saved, hope restored, and futures secured. However, they only tell part of the story. The true heart of our agency lies in the compassion, hard work, and unwavering commitment of our staff and volunteers.

The hours that volunteers have given us in the last six months has been nothing short of extraordinary, totaling over 13,300! This incredible commitment has been instrumental in allowing us to achieve our goals and continue providing top-notch care for our cats.

We invite you to experience this firsthand. Come volunteer with us, consider fostering a cat in need, or take a tour of our facility. Witness the passion and dedication that drives us to care for so many cats who come through our doors.

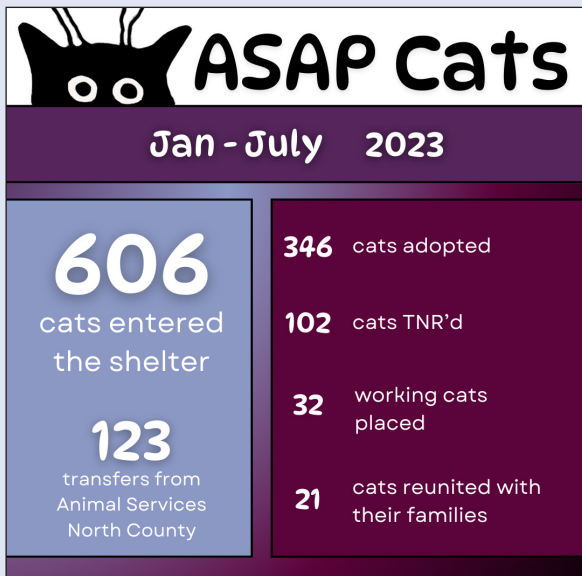
If you can't volunteer or foster but still want to help, consider giving a gift to our mission. Your donations provide these cats with top-notch care, allowing us to go above and beyond. ASAP Cats is unique in its ability to treat FIP cats, diabetic kitties, and perform intensive surgeries. Your support ensures that we have the resources to help these special cats and kittens, giving them a second chance at life.

Thank you for your continued support and for believing in our mission. Together, we are making a difference — one cat at a time!

With gratitude and thanks,

Jessica Wiebe

Executive Director

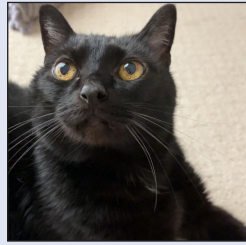


Fostering Cats with ASAP

While our shelter is always welcoming new cats into our care, and a selection of our spunky kitties can regularly be found at Cat Therapy in downtown Santa Barbara, a large population of ASAP's cats are currently in foster! Whether they're newborn kittens who require regular bottle feeding, Tiny Lions in the process of being tamed, seniors and hospice kitties in need of a quieter place to rest, or adult cats on a temporary shelter vacation, plenty of our cats are currently lounging in a home while they wait to be adopted. Take a look below at some of our adoptable cats currently in foster:



Biscuit



Palomo



Poe



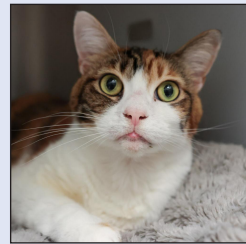
Joan Jett



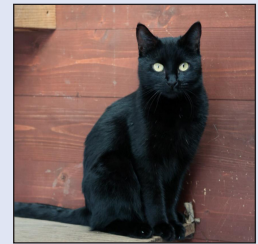
Delorean



Smokey



Cali



Yule

BECOME AN ASAP FOSTER

WE PROVIDE THE SUPPLIES,

YOU SUPPLY THE LOVE!



WANT A COMPANION, BUT NOT READY TO ADOPT? **TRY FOSTERING!**

GO TO WWW.ASAPCATS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY!



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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 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.



Shelter Supervisor Nicole Wisneskie appreciates an occasional change of scenery from her desk inside, while Yule, Grimm, and Jack are always interested in learning more about program management (and the treats Nicole brings them).

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