

S O C H A N G C A T S

CATNIPS
is a publication offered free of charge
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Meowy and Bright

Well the weather outside isn't frightful, sure, but it's certainly gotten chilly. Brrr!

I suppose it's just in time for our **12 Days of Winter Whiskers**, though, where we highlight a dozen really cool cats who I know you'll absolutely love. They're all adoptable and super funny, so read their bios and let's make a connection! To see who made the list this year, **simply turn the page**.

I know most kids hate getting socks for the holidays, but I'm sure anyone would be thrilled to meet my buddy – **Socks**! He takes some warming up when it comes to new people, but if you're patient (or his awesome foster, Lenny) he'll be flopping over for belly rubs in no time. **Get the full scoop on Socks on page 6.**

Whoops, I'm getting ahead of myself again! Be sure to **flip to page 5 for a special surprise** – and I don't just mean some cool action shots from our **recent Mobile Spay/Neuter clinics**. Our team hit the road and headed north to help some cats in need, but you'll never guess who else they ended up assisting. You'll just have to read and see...

Okay I really need to get back into my cat bed before I shiver my tail off. My best bud LG has been keeping it warm for me in the lobby, and she's often lounging in sun spots so you know her fur is always the warmest. Enjoy the newsletter, and if I don't see ya between my cat naps, have a great holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Until then,

Basil, OUT



Little Girl (LG)



Holiday 2025

♪♪ Twelve Cats a-Waiting ♪♪

Every winter we highlight 12 of our cats who have been patiently waiting to find their forever homes. Normally reserved for social media posts and email blasts, we want to give these cats the greatest chance at making a connection, so take a look below and spread the word to any Santa Barbara locals about these 12 winter whiskers ready to find a home for the holidays:



Everyone's favorite 7-year-old man, Smokey is a chill, lumbering domestic shorthair male. He values his alone time, but he also enjoys being in the company of humans — just not other cats! He'll let you know

when he wants to be left alone, so don't be surprised if he gets a bit nippy. But a cat-savvy adopter will know how to read his body language, as he's very clear in his intentions! Despite being FIV+, Smokey doesn't let any of life's troubles get in his way.



A large-headed gentleman, Carrot loves to lumber around surveying his surroundings. While he prefers not to be picked up, he equally enjoys climbing and exploring. Bonded to his best friend and sister

Cantaloupe, the two love to play together. Carrot and Cantaloupe both have pica, so they require an adopter who can keep an eye on them as well as few or no cloth items in the home.



Shy at first, Cantaloupe is quick to come out of her shell. She loves meeting people given enough time, and is especially fond of scratches on her neck. She adores her bonded brother, Carrot, and is a huge

fan of attention (especially in the form of treats!) Cantaloupe and Carrot both have a tendency to eat strings, cloth, rug fringe, etc., so they require an adopter who can keep an eye on them.



A gentle giant, Harry loves to talk and be around people. He has luscious hair that requires brushing, though he is easily overstimulated so pay attention to his cues! He'll let you know when he's had enough, and certainly when he's ready for more.



A 5-year-old brown tabby with a personality as vibrant as her stripes, Lola is the life of the party. She loves hanging out in the spotlight, and while she tolerates other cats, she prefers to be the star of the show. Need a

new best friend who's outgoing, playful, and always up for some fun? Look no further!



Quite and demure, Sassy takes life at her own pace. She needs some time and patience when it comes to new places and new people, but once she knows she can trust you, her sweet and affectionate side begins to shine. She might not be the first to jump into your lap, but she'll quietly make her way there when she's ready!



Once you start petting her, Blondie hopes that you will never stop. She loves to make biscuits and rub her head on just about everything. She's very curious and enjoys running around to play, especially if there's a patch of sunshine nearby. Energetic and inquisitive!



Timid Mr. Socks takes some time to warm up, but once he gets his bearings he's very affectionate. A big fan of belly rubs and cuddles, Socks is ready to come out of his shell for the right person. He is easy to overstimulate, so

he needs plenty of quiet time — especially in a comfy blanket or warm lap.

Read more about Socks on Page 6.



Sweet Pepper prefers quiet locations with ample patches of sunshine to bathe in. While she can be skittish when it comes to meeting new people, once she feels safe she'll happily come out and hang around

the conversation! Listen to her cues and take note of her boundaries, and she'll reward with you an endless font of love.



Sweet 14-year-old Maddie loves the sunshine and fresh air, so she would do especially well in an environment with a catio! She loves making friends and saying hello, though sometimes she gets excited and may get nippy — so just keep an eye on her body language and she'll let you know. Give her plenty of scratches behind her ears and she'll most definitely melt.



Tiny Lion™ graduates and bonded brothers, Pooh Bear and Brown Bear love food and treats. Much like his brother, PB is gentle and kind albeit a little shy, so give him some time to warm up. Gentle scratches under

the chin or a little treat will go a long way with these Bear boys.



Tiny Lion™ graduates and bonded brothers, Brown Bear and Pooh Bear love treats and food. Similar to his brother, BB takes some patience to come out of his shell, but underneath his shy exterior is a lover boy

with a big heart. Give him a sun spot and he'll surely lounge the day away.

READY TO MAKE A CAT CONNECTION?

All listed cats are available for foster or adoption!

To fill out an application, or to see our full list of currently-adoptable cats, visit our website at www.asapcats.org, or simply scan the QR code to the right:



Cassie's Curious Case of Lungworm

Our Wellness team recently encountered a cat with a very rare affliction: lungworm, a parasite that lays its eggs in an affected cat's lungs. Young Cassie, a 2-month-old kitten found roaming an avocado farm with his parents, was brought in with a trifecta of ailments: coccidia, giardia, and lungworms.

While we're no strangers to coccidia and giardia in the shelter and were able to treat Cassie with relative ease, lungworm was certainly a new one. More commonly found in rodents and pigs, lungworms are a type of parasite that can be fatal if left untreated – but lucky for Cassie, our team was up for the task.

Treating Cassie immediately with Panacur dewormer, he was placed in an incubator with an oxygen generator to increase his oxygen intake. After a couple of weeks, his condition improved and the lungworms began to die off, slowly being reabsorbed by his body.

While a critical step toward rehabilitating him, the process of lungworm dying caused inflammation in his lungs, so our team placed him on medication to help him breathe more easily while his lungs heal. With about a dime-sized area in each lung that will accept air, the combination of his medication and the incubator's oxygen generator helps support him with each breath.

He's healing well and is just as bouncy as ever, loving attention and playtime as every young kitten should, and soon enough his lungs will be fully healthy again and he'll be ready for adoption. We're here to help every cat we can, even if it means exploring new treatments and diagnosing unusual and rare conditions!



Cassie was found with two adult feral cats, presumed to be his parents. They are currently being monitored by our team.



Lungworms are spread through ingestion of the parasite, often through eating an infected slug or snail.

Snips and Sticks: Caring for Cats on the Go

With our mobile spay/neuter care unit fully refurbished, our Wellness team has officially taken to the road, recently holding two spay clinics in Santa Maria this past November.

Heading toward Atkinson Park to assist an individual with over a dozen cats at his residence, our team managed to trap and alter 10 outdoor cats and one indoor cat. While working on the outdoor cats, a local

woman rolled up on her bike with a very cute cat tucked in her jacket. At her request, we agreed to neuter her cat and gave him appropriate vaccines as well. We additionally checked in on several local



working cats in North County, performing various exams to ensure everyone was happy and healthy.

Following the success of our first mobile clinic in Atkinson Park, we returned a few weeks later for more. Working with our North County team, we trapped 14 cats from various colonies in the area, performing surgeries for four cats and two semi-feral kittens. We even had four people that saw us in the area run home to bring us their cats to alter. Overall, our Atkinson Park clinics were a huge success.

Seeing how effective our mobile clinics have been, we are already planning for more in December – though costs for the vaccines we distribute are slowly adding up. If you're interested in supporting our team and helping us continue to provide low-and-no-cost vaccine services, please help out with a donation to ASAP by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at www.asapcats.org.



ASAP Cats is currently one of the very few shelters offering vaccines for community cats.

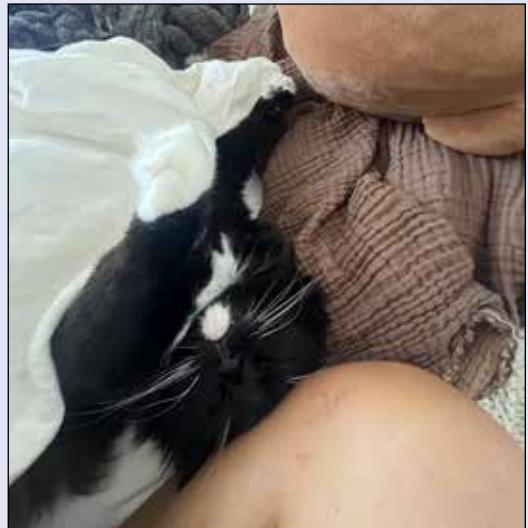


Our team was more than happy to help our new friend, Seargent, despite not technically being a cat. We're here for the whole community!

Socks Found His Footing in Foster

Our expansive foster network is an amazing resource for ASAP, allowing cats a chance to grow outside of the shelter, giving certain fosters the opportunity for a “trial run” adoption, and creating a space in our shelter for the next needy cat we meet.

We recently connected with one of our amazing fosters, Lenny, about her experience with ASAP alum Socks, adopted from ASAP as a baby over six years ago. After his owner moved to a medical facility, Socks wasn’t doing well with the other resident animals on site so he was surrendered to ASAP. Having a hard time adjusting to shelter life, frequently hissing and growling while near cats, our team tried placing him in one of our Working Cats enclosures to give him a bit more space, but this only caused him to isolate and retreat into his outdoor igloo.



Our team managed to find him a foster – enter Lenny – and within just a few days he was back to his normal, happy self. “Fostering Socks was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had in my life,” says Lenny. “He only took a couple of days to come out of his carrier, and after that he was the sweetest boy ever.”

Back to his cuddle bug self, Socks bloomed while in foster, spending most of his time sleeping in Lenny’s bed. Despite being a bit shy and initially sensitive to loud noises (as most cats are), Socks was able to overcome his fear of sudden disturbances, such as doors opening and remotes accidentally being dropped. “In the mornings he would squeak until we fed him, and at night he would be very playful,” says Lenny. His favorite toy during his time at foster was a small yellow coil, and after getting comfortable around Lenny he thoroughly enjoyed flopping on his back for belly rubs.

Our foster program makes a huge difference for many of the cats in our care, providing them a safe space to come out of their shell and get the much-needed attention and love that all cats crave.



After three weeks at foster with Lenny, Socks overcame his fear of sudden, loud noises.

Interested in becoming a foster? Visit our website at www.asapcats.org for more information.

All Smiles from the Scarpayard Seven

One of our favorite partners, C.A.R.E.4Paws, recently forwarded a request for assistance with a litter of cats living in a trailer within a scrapyard near Santa Maria. Since we've been making an effort to expand our reach into North County, we were happy to accept the task.

The request came from a woman on behalf of her brother – for confidentiality purposes, they will henceforth be identified as Jane and Austin. Jane informed us that Austin and his wife had been living in a scrapyard trailer for decades, and were currently taking care of seven cats. A few weeks prior to this call for help, Austin's wife had passed away, leaving him overwhelmed by the responsibility for these seven valued companions.

To make matters worse, his trailer took serious damage from a large storm that swept the area, breaking his generator and worsening his living conditions to the point that he needed to leave the scrapyard. Before pursuing transitional housing, though, he needed to make a plan for his cats.

Connecting with Austin through C.A.R.E.4Paws, our team followed his GPS coordinates and met him at his trailer, where seven super friendly cats were excited to make our acquaintance. Our Wellness team was thrilled to see that other than some fleas, all seven cats were happy, healthy, and very obviously loved their entire lives.

Entrusting his cats with our team, Austin was able to move to Oregon with his sister Jane supporting him, where he is now pursuing transitional housing – and his cats are in good hands. Lovingly nicknamed the Scarpayard Seven, these kitties are now in ASAP's care and on their ways to finding their forever homes.

If you or a loved one in Santa Barbara County need assistance rehoming your cats, no matter your current living situation, ASAP Cats is here to help you with the process. Give us a call at **(805) 683-3368** for more information.



Worf



Beau



Sweetie



TJ



Ginger



Albion



Highway

Visit Our Cats Downtown, A.S.A.P!

The next time you're strolling down State Street in Santa Barbara, take a detour near Parking Lot 5 across from the Granada Theatre to see some absolutely adorable ASAP cats at Cat Therapy. An admission fee is required, but it's worth it to see our goofy little cats – guaranteed!

Located at 1213 State Street, Suite L, Cat Therapy partners with ASAP Cats to help our kitties get adopted, offering a unique space that gives them plenty of room to run around and play, while also letting passersby see their cute little faces.

Essentially acting as a superstar ASAP foster, Cat Therapy takes in some of our most outgoing cats on a temporary basis to give them exposure and let them grow in a different environment than the shelter. We provide them with all the necessary vaccines and medical work, and if any of them suffer from illness or need medical attention we bring them back to the shelter, rehabilitate them, and drop them back off at Cat Therapy when they're feeling better – just like we would for any foster.

Owned by our good friend Catalina Esteves, Cat Therapy currently has almost a dozen adoptable ASAP cats, each ready to meet you the next time you're heading downtown for a play or a bite to eat. If you make a cat connection at Cat Therapy and are ready to take the next step, be sure to reach out to our team at **(805) 683-3368**.

Thank you Catalina and our friends at Cat Therapy for taking such good care of our cats!



An ASAP partner since 2023, Cat Therapy exclusively fosters ASAP cats.



In addition to paid Cat Lounge visits, Cat Therapy offers private parties starting at \$120.

Announcing Basil's Legacy Society

Many of us understand the need for creating or updating our estate plan, and plenty have given some thought to including charitable legacy gifts, called planned gifts, as part of one's overall estate planning. These important legacy gifts can be made in different ways (such as a simple bequest or naming us in your trust or retirement plan) and you don't have to be wealthy to leave a planned gift.

But one often-overlooked part of the process is notifying the organization of your intention. You might ask, why is it important to notify us about your planned gift? It is especially crucial to a smaller non-profit like ASAP Cats for several reasons:

- It helps ensure your gift reaches us in a timely manner. Sometimes there are complications or delays from financial institutions, so knowing about a gift will help us navigate a timelier distribution, allowing us to put the donation to work as you wish.
- It contributes to the continuing success and fulfillment of our mission by allowing us to plan further into the future, whether it's for day-to-day operations, community outreach and education, facility or equipment upgrades, or more!
- We want to thank and recognize your generosity now, allowing us to offer opportunities for engagement such as inviting you to special events.
- It allows us to budget more effectively, grow our endowment, and establish and secure future programs and services.
- It permits us to ensure compatibility with our policies and allocate resources in alignment with your specific wishes to ensure your gift has maximum impact.
- And it lets us provide proper gift documentation as appropriate.

We will soon be launching Basil's Legacy Society as part of ASAP Cats' mission to save cat's lives for decades to come. Please watch for more information about becoming a member, and thank you for always supporting ASAP Cats.



A Letter From Our Director



As we close out 2025 and look toward a new year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported ASAP Cats — whether by adopting, volunteering, donating, fostering, or simply sharing our mission with

others. This season is always a reminder of how powerful compassion can be, and how much we can accomplish when our community comes together for animals who cannot speak for themselves.

We will be publishing our overall annual results in January, but what I can say is that this year has indeed been full of meaningful impact-lifesaving medical care, expanded services for community cats, and support for pet owners who depend on us. None of this would be possible without you.



Our volunteers give so much of their time and love to support our mission — sometimes driving hours away to help at mobile clinics and outreach events.

So, as we make the final push toward the end of the year, I invite you to consider a year-end gift in any form that feels right for you. Monetary donations are deeply appreciated but far from the only way to contribute.

You can:

- Send a bag of cat food to help support community cat colonies throughout our county.
- Sign up to volunteer and help care for the hundreds of cats that come through our doors.
- Share our mission with your friends, family, and networks. Your voice helps expand our impact.
- Foster a cat or kitten and open your home to one who needs comfort and healing.

Every donation, large or small, increases our foundation and allows us to help the cats dependent upon us, continuing to keep them safe, cared for, and loved.

Thank you, sincerely, for being part of the ASAP Cats family. It is your kindness that fuels this work, and your commitment that gives us hope for every cat who will need us in the year ahead.

Wishing you a serene holiday period and a vibrant start into 2026.

Warmly,

Jessica Wiebe
Executive Director

There's No Place Like a Foster Home

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:



Gregaro



Enzo



Soot



Lily



Capone



Murphy



Wonky



Eggshell

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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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 cat 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.



Only the coolest cats around get to dress up in big inflatable cat (and mouse!) costumes for the annual Goleta Holiday Parade. Join the ASAP team and you too can flex your whiskers with us in the next parade.

ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program

Shelter location: 5473 Overpass Road #101, Santa Barbara, CA 93111
ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization • Federal Tax ID: 77-0283500