

CATNIPS



Mr. Golden Sun!

Spring has sprung, everyone! Though some days I swear it feels like summer already.

What a conclusion to 2025! It may be in most of your rearview mirrors by now, but for all my stat lovers, we made sure to include a few snippets and bits from our **annual Impact Report, ready to peruse on page 10.**

I sat down for a chat and cat nap with two of my young pals, **Ralphie and Sunflower** (though I'm pretty sure they're named after fruits now) and man, they have seen some stuff! **Read about their miraculous journey finding one another on page 4.**

By the way, have you seen my new ride? It's big, it's purple, and it's got my face all over it. **My mobile care unit** (or as I call it, the Snip/Snap Squad Mobile) has been driving all around Santa Barbara County lately, helping cats in need and making plenty of friends along the way. Our latest stop was in little ol' New Cuyama — **get the full scoop by turning to page 6.**

Also I can't hold my tongue any longer: **the Bash is coming back!** This year we're taking it to a new venue: the historic Stow House for a nice afternoon at the ranch. Bust out your cowboy boots and bolo ties, because it'll be a rootin'-tootin' good time. **Check out more details on page 7.**

All right, that just about covers it. There's a few more fun stories I didn't mention, but why don't you crack open this edition of the newsletter and take a gander for yourselves while I try to locate a nice cool bowl of water and a bit of shade. If you need me, I'll be hanging in Run 1 with my girlfriend, Little Girl (LG for short).

Until then,

Basil, OUT



Binxie



Spring 2026

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Treating Cats as Individuals: ASAP Behavior

ASAP Cats has been saving lives since 1989, and during these 37 years we have undergone a slew of changes and updates to our shelter, our programs, and our practices. One particularly impactful change comes from our Behavior program, dedicated to helping non- and semi-social cats gain trust with humans. Our Behavior program has undergone tremendous growth over the last year. Not only are we actively recruiting new volunteers to support the program, but our wonderful shelter supervisor Nicole Wisneskie recently introduced "ordinal rating scales" into our behavior assessments.



Inspired by a similar system used by the Toronto Humane Society, our Behavior team assigns a numbered scale to cats to track their progress, covering three general categories on a scale from 0 to 5, with 0 being the ideal score:



Callie's total scores have dropped from 8 to 5. She's making tremendous progress!

Fear/Anxiety/Stress (FAS)

Response to Petting (RTP)

Participating in Play (PIP)

During behavior assessments, our team uses these scores to figure out the best course of action for each cat and even their eventual adoption or placement track.

For example, say we have a new intake at the shelter that undergoes all the typical initial Wellness checks and spends their first 72

hours in New Arrivals (as all cats do) — the next step is to do a behavior assessment. If they score 0s and 1s, exhibiting low stress, a positive response to petting, and even enjoy chasing a toy, they can be fast-tracked for adoption as they *clearly don't need behavior work*. If

Category	High Stress Behaviours	Low Stress Behaviours
Tail	Thrashing, tucked, twitching, down, wrapped	Up, relaxed on ground
Ears	Pressed down, airplane, sideways, rotating	Forward facing
Eyes	Wide, pressed shut, staring, averting gaze	Almond shaped, looking directly but not intensely
Pupils	Dilated, very small	Normal
Vocalizations	Hiss, growl, yowl, spit	Meow, chirp, mew
Body	Frozen, tense, standing with hind quarters lower than front, legs tucked under	Relaxed

Tips: Cats with an FAS of 3 or higher are considered to have questionable welfare. If you are deciding between a 2 and a 3, ask if the behaviour you are observing would make you concerned for their psychological well-being (if they were to exhibit it 24/7); never discount their initial behaviours, but rate based mostly on those behaviours they exhibit after habituating to your presence a bit; if a cat is friendly for most of an interaction, but extremely reactive for one procedure, score that cat a 2.

A table from Jacklyn Ellis' "Beyond 'Doing Better': Ordinal Rating Scales to Monitor Behavioural Indicators of Well-Being in Cats," listing example behavioral cues to use when making an appropriate FAS assessment.

instead... ..they scored between a 6 and 10 total — perhaps an FAS of 4, an RTP of 3, and a PIP of 3 — we would put them on behavior treatment. If those scores stayed consistently high for a few weeks in behavior treatment or even increased, we would consider other options for them, such as Alternate Placement or Working Cats.

We intake hundreds of cats a year, so part of our process is to ensure each cat is getting the attention they need while keeping them moving toward their appropriate outcome. As we've adopted this new process, we are noticing it is really helping our cats.

One of our cats, Callie, a 5-year-old Manx who was surrendered earlier this year, came in pretty shy and shutdown. She hid a lot so she initially had an FAS of 3, so our team decided to see how she would respond to pets. After letting

her sniff our hands, we received good signals, so we initiated petting and realized she loved it. That got Callie an RTP of 1 — a great sign that she will progress quickly. Since she seemed to enjoy interacting with humans, we next tested for playing with a wand toy. She was not responsive, however, giving her a PIP of 4. Our Behavior team member noted that she preferred petting, so the next person to read Callie's notes could see her scores and try to initiate play after first establishing trust through petting.

Another cat in our Behavior program is Snowball, who was left alone in a home for a month before being brought to ASAP. Being isolated for such a long time affected her trust with humans, so her initial behavior scores were 5s across the board — preferring total isolation and absolutely no human contact. In order to treat her, she receives minimal interaction: a gift of tasty treats, a few slow blinks, talking softly, and leaving her alone. With the appropriate amount of care we know we can help Snowball with behavior training, but it will be on her own schedule — an important boundary when establishing trust with cats!

The philosophy of our Behavior Program follows a similar process to our Tiny Lions™, so it is exciting to see that this past year was one of our most successful years to date as we placed 199 Tiny Lions. “The trick is just treating each cat as an individual,” says Nicole. “If there's a positive response to play or petting, I'll spend a lot of time with them to continue to develop that positive association.” By nurturing a trust in humans, these cats develop a greater shot at finding their forever home, and learning to bond with people who are ready to care for them for the duration of their lives.

Want to join our Behavior team? We'll teach you how to properly assess a cat's behavior, and you'll get plenty of hands-on experience working with felines. Email Nicole at nicole@asapcats.org for more information.



Snowball's overall score is slowly decreasing from 15. She's taking time, but we know she will develop trust with us eventually.

A Tale of Two Kitties: Sunflower and Ralphie



Our team recently had an extraordinary experience working with two kittens diagnosed with Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), a disease caused by certain strains of the feline coronavirus. Once thought to be a death sentence for cats, FIP is treatable with the appropriate resources — something we pride ourselves at ASAP with being able to provide.

Found after a storm in a bush near the In-N-Out in Goleta, baby **Sunflower** was emaciated and unsocial. A perfect candidate for our Tiny Lions™ program, she was brought to the shelter for treatment and behavior training. Initially thought to have feline panleukopenia (FPV), a seriously bad virus with an often fatal outcome, our team was relieved to see it was instead FIP — something we have treated plenty of times before, though still a nasty disease.

The poor kitten was very sick and may not have made it had she been left outdoors even a few days more, but she responded very well to treatment and was syringe-fed for a short period at the shelter to get food into her. Still suffering bouts of diarrhea and vomiting, our team brought her to urgent care for lab work and supportive treatment. After a few weeks of care at the shelter, she was able to keep her food down, gained weight, and graduated from our Tiny Lions™ program as a totally new cat.

Initially in the care of Santa Maria Animal Control (SMAC), **Ralphie** was a kitten with a chronic upper respiratory infection (URI) that simply would not get better. It got to the point where his eyes became cloudy, then inflamed, and then he became blind.

Suspecting he may have had FIP, he was transferred to ASAP's shelter for next steps. We diagnosed him with ocular FIP and started treatment. Miraculously, within a week his eyes cleared up and his sight returned.

As soon as both kittens became medically stable, they were moved to A row in the shelter — often called “Kitten row” — where the two of them thrived getting to interact with the public and other cats. Sunflower was always the shyer of the two while Ralphie would beg for attention, but after an amazing foster decided to bring both of them home, Sunflower came out of her shell as Ralphie helped her blossom. Currently in the process of being adopted, **Sunflower (now Mango)** and **Ralphie (now Kiwi)** are doing great — a far cry from the depths they found themselves in not too long ago!



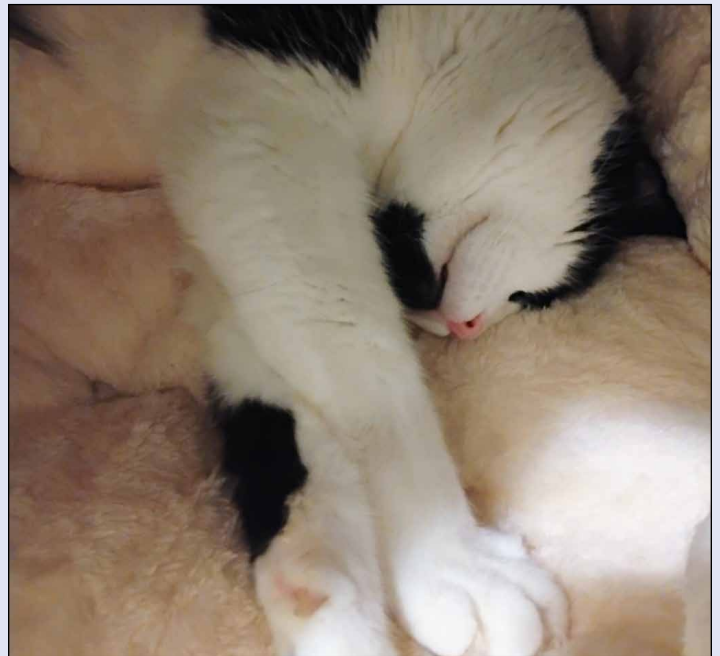
Now Mango and Kiwi, the two kitties are virtually inseparable in their foster-to-adopt home.

Diabetes Remission and Relapse: Murphy

Late last year a scared and sick cat named Murphy was brought to ASAP by a member of the public. Our Wellness team ran the usual intake tests and found he had a heart murmur and was in serious need of dental treatment, and after running a blood panel we saw he had diabetes. After monitoring Murphy's glucose levels and treating him for a couple of weeks, he appeared to go into diabetic remission. He continued drinking a lot of water (which is typically a sign of diabetes), but his glucose levels were promising, so our team placed him with a great foster family and decided to monitor him for the time being.



Murphy spent several happy months living with his foster family, getting plenty of time to snooze in the sun and play in a warm house, until one day earlier this year his family started noticing troubling signs. He stopped eating; he was lethargic; he was drinking a lot more water than usual and urinating often — all signs of a diabetic relapse. Murphy was brought back to ASAP where he received fluids and an IV catheter, and our team then transferred him to Advanced Veterinary Specialists (AVS) for an emergency abdominal ultrasound.



After running a fundraising campaign for Murphy's treatment, we managed to raise over \$5,000 to help him get the support he needed and cover hospital expenses while trying to figure out what was afflicting the poor cat.

We found that in addition to experiencing a diabetic relapse he had inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and pancreatitis. Thankfully our team was able to get to work when the problem was diagnosed. In addition to giving him the proper medications we outfitted Murphy with a collar to monitor his glucose levels. After spending a few days at the shelter to monitor his bloodwork and ensure his insulin was stabilized, he steadily returned to his usual jolly self. He is currently living his best life back in foster, being closely monitored and given plenty of love.



ASAP is no stranger to emergency scenarios for our cats, and we are grateful to have the support of a cat-loving community, whether through lifesaving donations or calls for aid in foster.

Our fundraiser for Murphy hit its goal in just a couple of days. The power of community is an amazing thing!

A New Adventure in New Cuyama

ASAP has been on the go, taking our mobile spay/neuter unit throughout Santa Barbara County to deliver low- and no-cost vaccines, microchips, spay/neuter surgeries, and pet care.

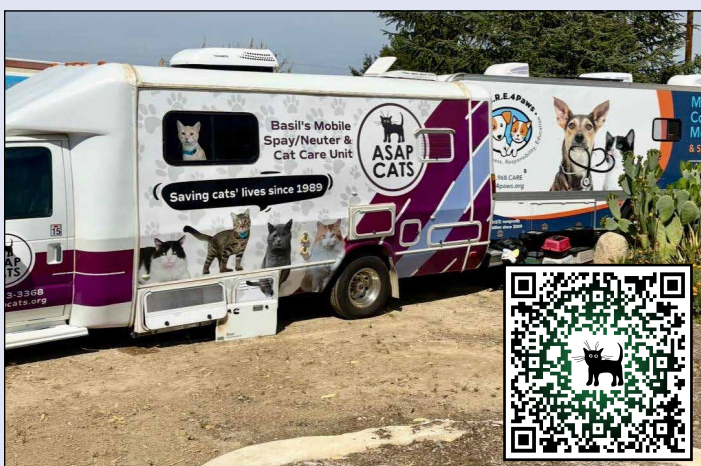
We recently had a great spay clinic in New Cuyama with our good friends C.A.R.E.4Paws, and together we spayed/neutered 36 pets and provided essential services including vaccines, microchips, and nail trims for 30 more cats (and dogs!) In addition to working together with our favorite partners in the name of animal welfare, we are proud to deliver lifesaving services to pet families in underserved communities. ASAP has always been more available in the southern part of the county, but we're glad to expand and offer our services countywide.

Maintenance of our mobile unit has led to some exciting new upgrades and repairs, including new ABS brakes, a fixed AC unit and thermostat, new flooring and surgery table mounting, hot water in our sinks, and several leaks being patched. We officially met compliance for a new set of licensing requirements for vans in California, so we are ready to continue serving pets and pet families all around the county.

Donate today to support our mobile unit! Every dollar helps us stay on the road saving lives and making a difference. **To donate directly to the maintenance of our mobile unit, scan the QR code below and select Spay Neuter Mobile Unit under the Fund Designation dropdown.** Be sure to keep a lookout for where our next clinic will be. And if we end up in your neck of the woods, feel free to stop by for cat care or just to say hello!



Our mobile unit has performed a total of 100 surgeries, exams, and medical services to date.



Coming Back: It's Basil's Big Bash!

Our annual gala, Basil's Big Bash, returns **Sunday, June 14th**, taking place for the first time at the historic **Stow House at 304 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117**. Join us for a relaxing afternoon at the ranch among friends and cat-lovers alike!

We have plenty of great sponsorship opportunities and tickets are now live, so make sure you mark your calendars and save the date. Live and silent auctions will additionally be available. Bid on everything from luxurious getaways to local experiences to fine, feline art — there's something for everyone.

If you'd like to contribute to our silent auction, or if you have any questions, please send an email to our team at bash@asapcats.org.

Basil's Big Bash is ASAP's major fundraising gala, responsible for funding over 15% of our annual operating costs. Not only is it a great opportunity for community, but the funds raised also have a tremendous impact on our organization and cats.

For more information about the best party of the year and to purchase tickets, visit our website at www.asapcats.org.

INSTANT WINE CELLAR

Each Bash we auction off our "Instant Wine Cellar" made up of 100+ generously donated bottles of wine. All bottles have at least a value of \$20 and we like to get a nice variety!

Can't make it to the Bash, but still want to show your support? Consider helping us grow this wine cellar by donating a bottle or two to the auction!

If you would like to donate wine, please drop off bottles at the ASAP Cats shelter, located at 5473 Overpass Road #101. Thank you!



BASIL'S BIG BASH

An Afternoon at the Ranch

Sunday, June 14, 2026 2–5:30pm

The Stow House

304 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117



A Message from Our Executive Director



2025 was a year of expansion and innovation for ASAP Cats, as our programs continued to grow to meet the needs of cats and the communities that care for them, including but not limited to:

Our **Tiny Lions™ program**, which socializes kittens born outdoors,

welcomed 199 kittens this year — the highest number in our history. With patience and skilled care, these once-fearful kittens learn to trust people and begin their journey toward adoption.

Through our **Community Cats program**, our team and volunteers worked alongside neighborhood caregivers to support outdoor cats through TNVR, colony management, and feeding support, helping stabilize populations while improving the health of cats already living in our communities. Together, these efforts resulted in a 95.2% live release rate, reflecting the commitment of our staff, volunteers, fosters, and partners to giving every cat the best possible chance.

For cats who may not thrive in traditional homes, our **Working Cats and Alternative Placement programs** create another lifesaving pathway. Through partnerships with barns, wineries, businesses, and property owners, these cats find safe environments where they can live naturally while providing valuable rodent control.

At the same time, our **Wellness program** allows us to treat cats with complex medical conditions including FeLV, FIP, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses — care that many shelters simply do not have the resources to provide. We are deeply grateful to our animal welfare partners who think of ASAP Cats when they encounter cats needing specialized care or placement options, allowing us to work together to give more cats a chance.

None of this work would be possible without the extraordinary people who stand behind it. Our volunteers contribute in countless ways: caring for cats in the shelter, fostering kittens and medical cases, helping with trapping and colony care, supporting events, and sharing ASAP's story through outreach, networking, and community engagement. **While this only encapsulates a portion of the work we do at ASAP, I am proud of every single member of our organization who gives their all for our cats.**

As we celebrate the accomplishments of 2025, we also know the need continues to grow. Sustaining and expanding these programs will require the continued support of the compassionate community that makes this work possible.

The future for cats in our community will not be decided by circumstance, but by the compassion of the people willing to stand up for them.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Wiebe".

Jessica Wiebe
Executive Director



Smokey

Other Ways to Support ASAP



The work we do at ASAP Cats is lifesaving, and Santa Barbara County will need ASAP Cats long after most of us are gone. Your legacy support can ensure that ASAP Cats continues providing lifesaving services far into the future. **Join Basil's Legacy Society to ensure the cats of Santa Barbara County are protected for generations to come.**

By generously including ASAP Cats in your estate planning, you enable us to continue serving as a beacon of hope for Santa Barbara County's most vulnerable cats and kittens well into the next 30 years and beyond.

Enrollment in Basil's Legacy Society is easy! Our legacy members simply let us know that they have generously included ASAP Cats in their will or trust, or as a beneficiary in their planned giving.

For more information about Basil's Legacy Society and to learn how you can enroll today, visit our website at: www.asapcats.org/legacy.

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.

2025 In Review

Saving the Lives of 100% of Adoptable Cats and Kittens

1,282

cats & kittens sheltered

98

lost cats & families reunited

683

cats cared for
in foster homes

199

Tiny Lions™ tamed

142

community cats
supported through
TNRV efforts

916

spay/neuter
surgeries

101

working cats placed
in safe outdoor homes

17

cats assisted in the
community through
microchip scans and
lost pet support

32

hospice cats
sleeping in homes

3,212

life-saving procedures
delivered

made possible by

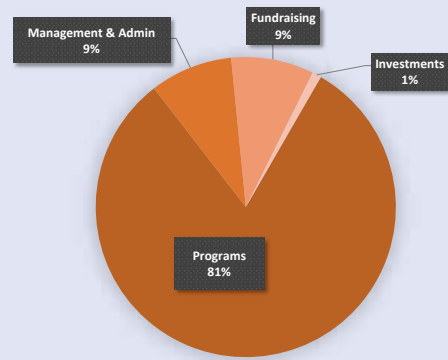
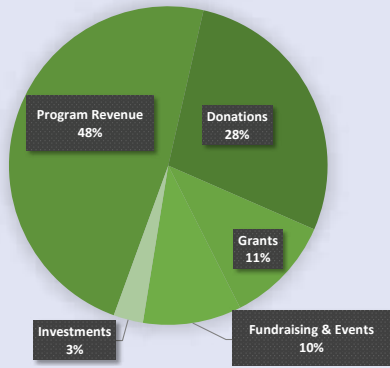
38,031

volunteer hours

equivalent to 19
full-time staff



Mildred



INCOME: \$1,938,112

48%	PROGRAM REVENUE*	\$933,126
28%	DONATIONS	\$539,798
11%	GRANTS	\$207,450
10%	FUNDRAISING & EVENTS	\$202,077
3%	INVESTMENTS	\$55,661

*Program Revenue includes the 2025 Catalyst Merger

EXPENSES: \$1,535,837

81%	PROGRAMS	\$1,237,905
9%	MANAGEMENT & ADMIN	\$144,046
9%	FUNDRAISING	\$134,425
1%	INVESTMENTS	\$19,460

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

CASH ASSETS	\$269,580
PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT	\$190,684
INVESTMENTS	\$2,292,355
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,752,619
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$53,628
TOTAL EQUITY	\$2,698,991

THANK YOU

to the following for their generous support:

- Animal Charitable Foundation of Santa Barbara County, Inc.
- Edwin and Jeanne Woods Foundation
- Hutton Parker Foundation
- May and Bill Allison Foundation
- Patricia and Paul Bragg Foundation
- Petco Love Lost
- RESQCATS
- RLH Foundation
- Roy & Ida Eagle Foundation
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation
- Schlinger Chrisman Foundation
- The Wood-Claeyssens Foundation

Your generosity continues to make a huge impact for ASAP Cats!

As the leader in Santa Barbara County for cat care, we are positioning ourselves to forge forward and continue to make greater and greater impact for the cats and people who love them in our community. We do this work together, and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for all you have done in 2025 to help ASAP Cats, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

Bernard Kelmenson

Bernard Kelmenson
Board President





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(805) 683-3368
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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 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 fellow cat lovers. You'll get plenty of time to make some new friends — furry and otherwise — and will be supporting a great cause. Stop by the shelter and ask about applying today.



Wellness Assistant and Medical Foster Coordinator Athena Brown has a slew of talents that she employs at ASAP, including cat photography. Most of the high-quality images you see throughout CatNips are provided by her!

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