



Our Adoptable Kittens

SOCKS

Save Our Cats & Kittens-Sensibly

Newsletter

A Non-Profit Organization

Spring/Summer 2011

Third Edition

Featured Article



What To Do If You Find Kittens

It happens all too often, you're out for a stroll, walking the dog or enjoying the spring weather in your own backyard when you hear a soft "mew, mew, mew." Before you know it, you're likely to find yourself as "mother" to a litter of kittens.

March, April, May and June are the "kitten season" months. This is the time of year you are most likely to encounter young litters, or a mama cat and kittens. It's also the time of year when animal shelters across the nation are bursting with babies.

Alley Cat Allies, the national advocate for stray and feral cats, offers several tips for what to do should you find a litter of kittens.

"Should you come across kittens outdoors, you may be tempted to pick them up and bring them home with you, but that might not be in the best interest of the kittens," stated Becky Robinson, president of Alley Cat Allies.

Taking the kittens home to raise them yourself might not be in your best interest. It's much easier to let Mama raise the babies, unless you relish the idea of feedings, potty time and cleaning every four hours for a few weeks.

"Deciding what to do when you find kittens — whether to take them home or leave them outside — depends on a number of variables," according to Robinson.

The first step in making a decision, according to Alley Cat Allies, is determining the age of the kittens. The organization provides an age guide for making that determination. Check our website for the age guide.

Just because kittens are alone when you find them, it doesn't necessarily mean they have been abandoned by their mother, according to Robinson. "The mother could simply be looking for food ... Wait and observe from a distance for an hour or two. Ultimately, you have to use your own judgment, depending upon the kitten's needs and your time and resources."

If the kittens aren't weaned, and you take them in, they will require round-the-clock care and routine bottle feeding (Never feed kittens regular milk).

If the mother does return, Alley Cat Allies recommends that if she is friendly, the best approach is to take her and the kittens indoors until the kittens are old enough to be weaned and adopted. Mama should then be spayed and either placed in an adoptive home or returned to her territory. If friendly, preferably an adoptive home.

If the mother is feral, the family should stay outdoors with shelter, food and water provided, according to Alley Cat Allies. When the kittens are weaned, they should be placed in foster care for socialization and then adopted out into forever homes. Mama should be trapped, spayed and returned.

When it is time to place for adoption "NEVER" place an ad for "free kittens." Some people use free cats as bait for fighting dogs, reptile food, or sell to laboratories. Why not? They have no financial investment. They were FREE! Always spay/neuter before adopting to new home. Please contact us for more information on low-cost spay/neuter vouchers. Also, please contact us if you would like to learn more about managing cats and kittens, or volunteering.



Left to Right: Curt Ransom, Supporter & Adviser, Elke Guenter, Board Member, Scottie Moore, President & Founder, Martha Hoover, Supporter, Morry Ellis, Volunteer

SOCKS Celebrates Second Anniversary

On January 19, 2011, SOCKS celebrated our second anniversary at Applebee's Restaurant in Gold River. We had a lot to celebrate and many success stories to share. In a short two years, we have helped many individuals Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) cats in their neighborhood; providing instructions, equipment loans, and spay/neuter vouchers. Morry Ellis is one of those individuals who, through our very successful TNR program, rescued several cats that were abandoned by neighbors. People contact us almost daily requesting help with a mama cat and kittens found in their yard, or cats they have befriended that their neighbors left behind when they moved due to foreclosure. A reminder that abandoning or dumping any animal is not only inhumane but against the law - punishable by a \$1,000 fine and/or 6 mos. in jail.

Last year, we also initiated a very successful no-cost, low-cost, spay/neuter voucher program, issuing one hundred-twenty vouchers. Most of the vouchers were issued to low-income cat guardians. With increased donations we hope to double that number in 2011. We appreciate the city's support in this program!

In October 2010, we were very pleased at the attendance at our first free-roaming cat workshop held at Rancho Cordova City Hall. We received a lot of positive feedback on the quality and content of the workshop. Another workshop is being planned for later this spring. Please check our website for the announcement.

Some of our goals this year is to raise more money so we can continue, and increase, our successful spay/neuter voucher program and assist more people with the free-roaming kitties in their neighborhoods and elsewhere. To educate the community on the responsibilities of a pet guardian; including other cat issues and the importance to spay/neuter. We look forward to your support so we can continue our successess!

Our Mission

To ensure all homeless and domesticated cats are included in the "Circle of Compassion" through education, promotion and implementation of spay/neuter programs - and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) - the humane method of reducing cat overpopulation.

SOCKS Receives Spay Day 2011 Proclamation



On Spay Day February 22, 2011, Rancho Cordova Mayor Bob McGarvey presented a Spay Day 2011 Proclamation to Scottie Moore, President & Founder of SOCKS. The City also donated \$500 for our Spay/Neuter event.

Ann Dickson of Cause for Paws speaks to the City Council on the importance of the work SOCKS is doing in the community. She expressed her support of SOCKS's spay & neuter voucher program and she said she expects it to double in 2011.



Top Photos: Darby at 5 days old, 11 days and 2 yrs. Bottom: Bailey at 4 weeks and 2 years.

A Rescue Story

by Scottie Moore

First it was our two brothers then us a day later. Here we were between the walls of a garage. What a fall it was. Our names are now Bailey and Darby. Our two brothers were fostered by another foster mom as two was all she agreed to. Plus, we fell a day later; no one realized we were there. We were only 3 days old when Eleni, the lady who owned the house where we fell from the attic - showed up at the doorstep of our to be foster mom, Scottie Moore. Boy, was she in for a surprise. We made sure she didn't get much sleep for the next few weeks. You see, at first, she had to feed us every couple hours and we definitely let her know when we were hungry. In the wee hours of the morning she would come stumbling into the room to assure us we would be fed. She had no choice because we were making so much noise. She didn't mind feeding us but making us do our thing (You know what we mean?) was another adventure. It wasn't long before we were running around and proudly using the potty box all on our own. No more stimulation to get us to go potty. Gosh, we were, and still are very smart kitties. Just ask our mom. At about 4 weeks of age we were introduced to some mush. Boy, did we make a mess - all over our faces and feet. We loved to walk in it so our foster mom would have to give us a bath. We weren't about to make things easy for her. Those were some fun times and they continue today. You see, we have a wonderful loving forever home. How much better can it get? We were full of mischief then and still are. Life is grand! From inside the wall to driving up the wall! Is there a place in heaven for cats (us)? We think so and so does our mom!



Following the presentation SOCKS President, supporters & volunteers gathered for a group photo on the steps in the lobby of City Hall.

Event photos courtesy of Karen Romero of Sandcastle Images.



Left to Right (Rear) Curt Ransom, Neeraj Chauhan, Morris Ellis, Paul Carver, (2nd Row): Scottie Moore, Ann Dickson, Stephanie Ellis, Georgia Carver, Sheryl Kent (Front) Arista Chauhan, Jeanne Boss, Myra Chauhan



Did You Know?

Give your cat a quality scratching post to deter her from scratching your furniture. Still scratching? Try putting lemon scent or orange scent on the area. Cats hate these smells.

Save Our Cats & Kittens-Sensibly (SOCKS)

A Rancho Cordova Non-profit organization

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For more information e-mail: save.r.cats@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website: www.rcsocks.org

Donations much needed, appreciated and tax deductible!

Sweetheart Deal Continues!

Well almost! Funds are quickly running out for our no-cost spay/neuter voucher program for low-income residents of Rancho Cordova. When funds are available we offer "free" spay/neuter vouchers (includes vaccinations) for those making a combined household income less than \$39,000 per year. The need is great so we ask that you open your hearts and wallets to help us continue this most needed program. Our low-cost spay/neuter voucher program is still available. Please don't "litter"- spay and neuter!