

Former Residents of Fat Kitty City Are Now "The Real Housecats of PAWS"



During this last Thanksgiving holiday, we were delighted to host Bob Barker and Nancy Burnet, director of the DJ&T Foundation, for a visit to see the wonderful habitats for bears and lions, and the third bull elephant barn — all funded by the Foundation ([click here](#) to view photos of their visit).

Thanksgiving dinner entertainment was provided by our two housecats, Buzz and Julie. Julie focused most of her attention on Nancy; Buzz was so fascinated by Mr. Barker that she climbed into his lap whenever he sat down, purring and preening in a blatant display of cat adoration. Mr. Barker was, quite obviously, her favorite visitor.



Buzz and Julie are two of the "Real Housecats of PAWS", a prestigious group of former feral domestic cats, the majority of which were rescued and socialized by PAWS board member, Ed Minghelli, and his wife, Cindy. Ed and Cindy have been loyal supporters, and fierce activists, involved in PAWS' campaigns and rescues for nearly 20 years.



The issue of feral housecats straggling into our sanctuaries has been a problem for many years. They often carry diseases fatal to lions and tigers, and they reproduce rapidly if they are not caught and neutered. Since we are all cat lovers, the problem is compounded by our desire to help them which consumes a lot of the time allocated to the sanctuary residents.

We were so appreciative and grateful when the Minghellis founded [The Agee Memorial Wildlife Fund, Inc.](#) (Fat Kitty City) in 1998. A non-profit corporation, Fat Kitty City is dedicated to ending needless animal suffering through rescue, spaying, neutering, socializing, adopting and other programs to feed and care for an endless stream of domestic cats and dogs.

Fat Kitty City ([click to view slide show](#)) is a one-of-a-kind, 20-acre feline sanctuary located in the foothills outside Sacramento. Residents, either permanent or those awaiting adoption, live in safe, fenced, tree-studded, natural habitats where they are provided grassy, spacious areas to run, play, jump, climb, chase and explore. They can go indoors or outside, as they wish, in an environment that replicates a natural home.

This is the only feline sanctuary in Northern California and is quickly becoming the "gold standard" of animal care facilities for kitties. Ed and Cindy, together with their wonderful group of volunteers, take in cats and dogs that shelters refuse because they are not "marketable" — including feral cats that are either socialized and adopted out, or allowed

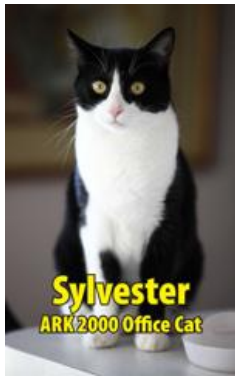




to live out their lives in a protected cat colony on the sanctuary grounds.

Some of the recent arrivals at the sanctuary have been thrown out the windows of moving cars, others shot with pistols and rifles, and many dropped off by caring families who have found themselves victims of today's economic times and are either homeless or no longer able to care for a beloved pet. The sick and injured are nursed back to health by a

devoted team of veterinarians and volunteers. The shy are socialized. Cats and dogs are spayed or neutered, given necessary shots, micro chipped, and then made available for adoption into loving homes.



For the past 13 years, PAWS has relied upon Fat Kitty City for all of our domestic animal problems. We have sent many sick and starving felines on the verge of death to this remarkable haven where Cindy, Ed and their team perform the magic of TLC, good veterinary care and superlative housing to transform snarling, defensive bundles of matted fur into loving, happy companions.

The "Real Housecats of PAWS" are former residents of Fat Kitty City, adopted under a rigorous screening program (even for us!) to be office kitties and personal pets for PAWS staff. Buzz, Julie, Sylvester, Gordo, Susie and Abby, are beloved members of the PAWS family, and we hope all of our supporters will visit the Fat Kitty City website to learn more about their wonderful work, to [volunteer](#), to [adopt an animal](#) or to [donate](#).



Fat Kitty City is currently trying to fund two expansion projects: one to build more habitats, allowing them to double the number of cats and dogs they are able



to house and adopt out each year; and another that will allow them to launch a new program to provide free spay and neutering for the dogs and cats of homeless and nearly homeless pet owners in the downtown Sacramento area — the same area where one of their programs has already been established to provide free dog and cat food for these animals.

Please consider adding Fat Kitty City to your holiday gift giving list this year. They provide a unique and very necessary service to homeless, abused and abandoned domestic animals.

Because they are a grass roots, volunteer-based organization, your tax-deductible donations go directly to the animals! If you live in the Sacramento area, consider becoming a volunteer.

Call 916-939-3418 for more information, or email cmkitty@sbcglobal.net.



Thank you Cindy and Ed for your dedication to all animals!

— Pat Derby & Ed Stewart

[Click here](#) to donate! [Click here](#) to view Fat Kitty City's current wish list.



Fat Kitty City's Kitty of the Month:

Meet Boots

"Our veterinarian suspects that someone threw acid on Boot's back. This sweet little cat now has an area on his back where his fur is missing and is not likely to grow back. Good Samaritans found him and brought him to us. Boots is a silver tabby with white boots. He would love a forever home for Christmas!"

