



# POUNCE NEWS December 2010

Non-Profit Cat Rescue Group & Sanctuary

Pet Organization Urging Neutering, Care, & Education

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## Nettie: Deafness is No Obstacle to Love

Nettie is a two year old, grey tabby cat that has had a frightening and difficult life. Few can imagine what it was like for her. Born deaf and with other neurological problems, she was heartlessly abandoned. She must have wandered from place to place looking for food, without being able to hear what was coming at her. Vulnerable to attack from people, dogs, wild predators, and other cats she had to hide in silence to survive. She was found starving on the streets of Paso Robles. She begged for food, until being rescued by a POUNCE volunteer. Given food, shelter and care, she started to relax and trust

people, perhaps for the first time in her young life.

Dr. Tim Bell diagnosed Nettie with neurological problems that were most likely caused by pre-natal exposure to Feline Panleukopenia Virus. Although not ill, she has unique differences. She has no upper canine teeth, and isn't comfortable with excess stimulation. She is friendly and loving; a perfect lap cat. However, like many cats, she will nip or scratch if handled too much or when stressed.

She has been through significant trauma and it will take time for her to adjust to a new human family. She survived all this and still has a

**Nettie** is ready for someone that will love her as she is. Call 805-226-0468.



playful, loving attitude. She can even give a "high five" with her paw! Is there room in your heart for this beautiful soul?

She should not be with young children, because their high activity level may cause her to scratch. She needs someone who can appreciate her individuality. We think she deserves the best! What

## POUNCE Cats Move to Oroville Sanctuary

by Julie Olson

The move to the sanctuary has been both a joy and trial. We were overjoyed to find a perfect 5 acre parcel with a 3 bedroom, remodeled home. There is privacy, an olive orchard, and storage space. The price was a bargain at \$215,000 for property that had been listed at \$500,000. POUNCE finally has a Sanctuary for the 70+ non-adoptable cats from San Luis Obispo County and a home for the future. It will belong to the organization, rather than a person, to ensure a permanent home for the cats. It is also an investment that will steadily appreciate in value.

After much hoopla, we are grateful to see the cats comfortably settled in their new home. The move was stressful and exhausting beyond belief. Myself and volunteer Maria Escobar, moved 60 cats in a two day trip. We survived a blown tire, fear, and exhaustion before we arrived at the house. Friends unloaded the cats and we all collapsed for the night. We had only a neighbors hose for water; no refrigerator, no washer or dryer, and little else for comfort. But we made it!

Sore bodies, scratches, bites and bruises, could not keep the smiles from our faces. We said prayers of thanks with full hearts and hope for the future. We are grateful to all the people who made this transition possible. Thank you!

## Founder's Breast Cancer impacts fundraising: Donations Desperately Needed



There is never a good time to receive a diagnosis of Breast Cancer. However, when one is responsible for the care of 70 cats in a newly established cat sanctuary and the group that owns it, it comes at a particularly bad time. In September 2010 I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer with a 2.1 cm lump in my breast. Surgery removed the invasive cancerous lump and lymph nodes but more treatment is needed to prevent re-occurrence.

My first thought was, "I don't have time for this! I'll beat the cancer, but who will take care of the cats". There was so much to do to keep POUNCE running and continue to raise funds.. In addition, I planned to start working as a Marriage & Family Therapist to support myself, as I had always done. I had already spent most of my savings to support the cats and pay their vet and food bills. How would I manage? I didn't worry about the seriousness of cancer, until my friends and family reacted to my diagnosis..Their concern forced me to slow down and take care of myself. POUNCE Board members and a few close friends stepped up to help. One board member is paying the Sanctuary Mortgage payment and utilities every month. Several volunteers and board members are buying cat food and litter for the sanctuary cats, since POUNCE funds ran out. Volunteers in Paso Robles put on a successful Golf Tournament fundraiser to pay some of the vet bills for ongoing cat rescue.

**Yet we need public support, now more than ever. Please give what you can to help us continue our mission of caring for the helpless and homeless cats.** We have volunteers in both San Luis Obispo County, Butte County and surrounding areas, who are supportive and enthusiastic about the future. Like me, they view a setback as temporary and as a challenge to be met. With growth and change comes challenges. I have faith that we can rise to those challenges and continue to change the lives of our feline friends for the better. My personal Faith, and excellent medical care with Sutter Medical Group will get me through the remaining months of cancer treatment.

In 1994, POUNCE started with a small concept and money from our own pockets. Caring people who shared our vision donated funds regularly, to keep the work going. Until we bought the Sanctuary, I personally paid for the home, utilities, transportation costs, and many other expenses that came up. Working at a good job, I was grateful to be able to pay those costs and give my time without compensation, to rescue and adopt out cats. As part of that, I wrote grants, newsletters, brochures, advertisements, and worked with the public and media whenever possible. Other volunteers worked to raise funds to pay for vet bills, food, litter, medicine, cleaning staff and a myriad of other unseen costs. We will continue with the rescue, care and adoption of SLO County's stray cats, and to provide a "Safe House" for the unfortunate non-adoptable felines. The passion of our mission lives on and the need for services is as great as ever. We know that our voices join many others in changing the way our society views the treatment of companion animals.



### Cat with Heart Defect Keeps on Ticking

**Little Bear** is a grey long hair cat that came from Paso Robles Dry Creek Area. POUNCE removed many kittens from the group and altered the adults. The healthy kittens were adopted into new homes. However, Little Bear's physical showed a congenital defect in his heart valves that would keep him from thriving and eventually result in an early death. However, he defied the odds and is now one year old. He plays joyfully and cuddles like a normal cat, unaware that he is different. That's what its all about!

Donate today to save lives tomorrow.

POUNCE on the problem of pet overpopulation - Spay & Neuter



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**POUNCE**

**What did I do to deserve this?** This innocent kitten was born because someone didn't believe in spaying their cats. Spaying her mother could have prevented her suffering. She was very ill when found by a girl named Tess Campos. She felt so sorry for the sick kitten that she brought it home. Her father called all the shelters and found out that a sick kitten would probably be put to sleep. His daughter insisted they get help for the kitten and would not take no for an answer. She had compassion and empathy for animals and is a good example to us all. They brought the kitten to POUNCE. It was very weak and cold. We warmed her with towels, gave fluids and prepared to take it to the vet. We held her and told her she was loved. She was responsive at first, but soon lost consciousness. and passed away from this world. I told Tess how proud she should be for making it a priority to help the suffering kitten. Good job Tess!



## Elder Cat Enjoys "POUNCE" Life

**Sybil** is a special needs elder cat that would be suffering outside in the cold without POUNCE. She was living outside in Morro Bay, being fed by kind neighbors, when she developed an abscess. They called POUNCE for help. With treatment by Dr. Susan Choy, an exceptional veterinarian, and weeks of nursing care, Sybil recovered. We discovered that she was deaf and somewhat senile, which is common in older cats. Yet, she was spunky!

Often, when elderly people die or move out of their homes, cats are left behind by heartless relatives. It should be an honor to care for a loved one's faithful feline companions or find them a good home. She was not so lucky. At her time of greatest need, Sybil was abandoned and left to die. Neighbors did what they could, as good people will do.

With POUNCE for 4 years now, she is getting the happy ending she deserves at

our Sanctuary in Oroville. Although arthritic, she is comfortable in a heated bed, with canned food daily. Because of her senility, she is grumpy and loud when her "room" is entered. We laugh when she swats our ankles if we are late with her special food! Guests are startled as she involves them in the game.



There are many like Sybil that are abandoned. We help as many as we can to have a quality life. Despite their reason for being in a "shelter" it is not their fault.

**P**lease help us take care of her and others by donating to cover expenses. Her monthly care costs about \$75 per month. Medical care can cost even more as we seek treatment for any problem that can decrease their quality of life and cause suffering. Gum disease, diabetes, decreasing kidney functioning are just a few of the treatable problems of elder cats. Can you donate?

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000

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