



the Blue Bell  
FOUNDATION FOR CATS  
ENSURING YOUR CAT'S FUTURE

Blue Bell  
MEWS

WINTER 2016

## Blue Bell Gardens: Project Underway

The Blue Bell Gardens project has begun! The Gardens, a beautiful future “pocket park,” which will be a great resource for Laguna Canyon, is strongly supported by community leaders including Ruben Flores of Laguna Nursery, Jorja Puma, immediate past president of the Laguna Beach Garden Club, Josh Brown of Native West Landscapes—who specialize in creating sustainable gardens with plants and flowers native to California, the Laguna Beach Beautification Council, and Jon Madison of Madison Square Café and Gardens. The completed project, which Flores has described as a future “...jewel of the Canyon,” will feature 13 unique gardens that will showcase local flora and fauna, cultivate a rich, sustainable habitat for birds, butterflies and bees, enhance the ecology, conserve water and provide Blue Bell’s cats, staff, volunteers and visitors with exciting and stimulating new vistas. Six of the gardens have already been reserved for sponsorship. Two have already been completed.

The first is our “Canyon Road” entrance garden which faces the front of our property with our monument. An original mature tree still stands in the center surrounded by smaller complementing flowers. The area is bordered with the old world charm of cobblestone fencing.

“The Orchard,” is the second. Just inside the entrance garden located in front of our lower building—the Anderson-Wentzel House—this is a serene space dedicated to the memory of Irene Hobbs, late-wife of Dr. Ned Momary, a major benefactor of the Blue Bell Gardens initiative. Ned was joined by Irene’s daughter Jan Hobbs in providing the inspiration for a garden offering a peaceful, contemplative spot for their family, friends and Blue Bell cats relaxing in their sun porches facing the garden. A beautiful bronze plaque honoring Irene and her beloved cat Clyde, greets visitors as they enter the garden. The Orchard also includes a fountain, two white cottage benches and a new storage building for Anderson-Wentzel House supplies which will be called “Abbey’s Hideaway,” in honor of a special Blue Bell cat that recently passed away at 21 years-old. The area is enclosed by a classic white picket fence. The water-wise plants still attract birds and other wildlife, which the cats can view from the terraces in the front of the house.

Thanks to Jeff Zakaryan, sponsor and Volunteer Project Leader, and Lynette Brasfield, Volunteer Public Relations Coordinator for the gardens. Both contributed to this piece. For information on how you can help fund or participate in this exciting project, please contact Jeff at (949-290-6356, jeffz18@cox.net). For an immediate donation, use our website donation page and select “Blue Bell Gardens Fund”.



**Pictured  
Top: Canyon Road**

**Middle: The Orchard**

**Bottom: Flowers bloom  
in Canyon Road**

### Update on the Palmer Cats

When our friend Dorothy Palmer passed in March, we accepted her seven cats. All are thriving—six in the Anderson-Wentzel house. Boots, who is the most outgoing, has moved to the main cottage.

## NEW RESIDENTS

We welcomed **Midge**, 7, on September 30. This is her 2nd placing at Blue Bell. In 2014, she came from the Laguna Beach Shelter where she had not been adopted, however, after a very brief stay with us she was adopted. She returned after her family felt they couldn't give her the time and attention she needs and would receive that with us. She was comfortable from day one. She is a very pretty, friendly calico and loves talking with people and being on the "catio" in the Anderson-Wentzel house.



**Daisy & Lucy** came June 26. Sweet Daisy, a pretty, orange & white Siamese with bright blue eyes was Lucy's

mother. She was admitted with a tumor on her shoulder which we removed, but it had spread. Due to a heart condition further surgery would have been dangerous, so we provided hospice care for the time she had left. She acclimated immediately and enjoyed her short time with us. She died a month after her arrival.



Lucy, a beautiful classic tabby is doing very well, out and about in the A/W house. She is a quiet and pleasant kitty.



## CAT'S MEOW

*On Sunday, February 19, 2017  
we will be hosting our 4th  
"Cat's Meow" fundraiser! Join us for  
a delicious champagne buffet brunch  
and silent auction of beautiful gifts*

*Tivoli Too Restaurant Grounds  
777 Laguna Canyon Rd.  
Laguna Beach  
11 AM to 2 PM*

*Reserve your seat in advance by February 15  
\$50 Adults \$15 Children under 12*

*Send us a check or money order only  
payable to "Blue Bell Foundation for Cats"  
Please note it is for the "Cat's Meow"  
and # attending.*

*You will NOT receive written confirmation.  
Simply check in the day of the event.*

*To reserve with payment online visit our website  
Direct link for our online users, click here:  
[http://www.bluebellcats.org/news/news\\_det.php?id=33](http://www.bluebellcats.org/news/news_det.php?id=33)*

*For additional information  
Contact Pamela [bluebellpr@cox.net](mailto:bluebellpr@cox.net), 949-285-3730*

## 20th Annual Pet Parade and Chili Cook-Off

This popular family-friendly event was Sunday, September 25 at Tivoli Too sponsored by the **Laguna Beach Board of Realtors Charitable Assistance Fund**. Guests enjoyed the pet parade contest, great chili from the cook off, and margaritas! Thanks to Pamela Knudsen, Volunteer Public Relations, for coordinating our booth, Pamela and Sandy who manned it, and to the Board of Realtors for their ongoing charity to help animal organizations.

### Memorial for Sammy (see PASSINGS) by Vena, his Mom

Sammy, dear, sweet Sammy.. In 2000, I found you wandering around my front door as a stray and took you in my arms. Your instant purr melted my heart and I couldn't leave you out there to fend for yourself. I brought you in to join my 'cat' family and you bonded with your new brother, Majik. Unfortunately you did not get along with your new brother, Max, so I took you to Blue Bell to live out the rest of your life. I was lucky it was close by and I could come and visit you and continue to give you your much loved belly rubs!! The way you would stretch out your arms during those belly rubs was adorable. You were so friendly with everyone and the staff and volunteers there adored you. Through the years you battled several illnesses and other health issues, proving once again that you planned to live out all of your nine lives!!! You continued to be so loving and purring so loudly, even the last time I came and visited you and held you in my arms..... This time the cancer was too hard and it was time for you to be set free, to run and jump and play and purr once again beyond the Rainbow Bridge. Rest in peace, my sweet darling, Sammy... You brought such joy to so many people who will surely miss you.. I hope you get lots of belly rubs..... Love forever, Mom

## PASSINGS

**Precious**, 16, came in 2009. Her kind former owner had taken her in as a stray and felt she could no longer care for her. Precious charmed everyone from the start and everyone loved her. She enjoyed sunning herself outdoors. She had several common geriatric conditions—hyperthyroidism, kidney failure and anemia. Her thyroid and kidneys were under control and her anemia also was for a time with medication, but it finally took its toll. She tried to eat one last meal but became too weak—however she grabbed Rima's arm with her paws to get pets and head scratches. Precious was put to sleep on the patio by Dr. G, with Joyce holding her in her arms and Rima petting her head, one last time in the sunshine.



**Niki**, 15, passed June 9 from intestinal lymphoma. A sweet girl, she was placed when her former owner could not handle giving her medication. We were happy to do that for her for 2 years, and her owner was most grateful for that. We will miss Niki's sweet meow.



**Tigger**, 15, orange & white with beautiful aqua eyes, was with us 4 yrs. He'd had several lives, suffering from stomatitis, a painful mouth condition. He rallied for several years. He became our official greeter and toward the end, spent most of the time in the office. A large tumor finally claimed him. On September 20, volunteers Pam A., Lee & Lindsey said goodbye. Even his best friend **Sammy** came to his side, exactly a month before his own passing. He passed peacefully at Canyon with Joyce comforting him on his journey.



**Murray**, 13, was with us 2 yrs. Quite the gentlemen, Murray with the unique dark nose was diagnosed with acute kidney failure several months before he passed

in July.



**BJ**, 17, left us too soon as he was with us only 1 1/2 yrs. Although he was placed at an already advanced age, he was quite active, very outgoing seeking pets and attention.

He showed no signs of illness and was a good weight. He started acting strangely, and sadly died suddenly before we could get him to the vet. He was diagnosed with a liver abscess.

**Charlie**, 13, also only with us 1 1/2 yrs. His gorgeous orange coat matched his fiery personality. He began losing weight and finally succumbed to lymphoma in August. We were saddened at this sudden loss.



Longtime resident, **Sammy**, 17, was with us for 15 yrs. A wonderful cat, he had more than 9 lives. We thought several years ago we would lose him as he suffered from pancreatitis, a heart murmur and failing kidneys. During a bad bout last year, volunteer Pam A. came every day to encourage him to eat and he bounced back. He was diagnosed with lung cancer and the last few weeks he stomach began filling with fluid. We drained it, but finally his body could not keep up. Sammy was such a part of Blue Bell that it will not be the same without him. He lost his battle October 20. The picture above was taken within a week before he died.

See his accompanying poignant memorial on the prior page.



**Squirt**, 10, with us 2 yrs. Always petite she loved her condo and craved attention. She began losing more weight, then lost her appetite, became weak and jaundiced. A large liver tumor was found and liver/pancreatic cancer was diagnosed. She could not be restored to a good quality of life, and on July 10 she was compassionately euthanised.

## WHEN YOU SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FRIEND

In our \* **Spring 2010** issue we featured a piece "**WHEN IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE**" about the signs that signal serious illness and how to know when to "let go". It is a situation every pet parent faces. When the prognosis is terminal, other questions arise. Some feel they would like to let their cat die naturally in their own time. Others feel euthanasia is the kindest solution to end pain and suffering. In this case, one must make the decision to be with their pet during this procedure. Some want to be there until the end with their pet to provide comfort. Though you will never forget your pet, this may bring some closure and relief. For others, the opposite is true—being there while their pet passes is too traumatic and they would rather remember their healthy pet. This is an individual decision only you can make for yourself. Veterinarians offer support for either decision. Some will come to your home. No way is wrong.

After the procedure, depending on your local ordinance, you may take your pet's remains to bury at home or at a pet cemetery. Cremation is a less expensive option that allows several ways of handling them: bury them, scatter them in a favorite location, or keep them with you in an urn.

In the aftermath of losing your pet, there are stages of **GRIEF**. Besides overwhelming **SADNESS**, **GUILT** is very common. Since pets can't talk, many people feel they have failed them, not recognizing symptoms, not "doing everything" or even making the decision to euthanise too soon. This is almost universal, but it is pointless. **DENIAL**—You cannot believe your pet is gone, especially if she were with you a long time. It is natural to expect to see your pet and then realize she has passed. **ANGER** at the illness itself, or perhaps an accident caused by someone else, which perhaps can even be justified. However, this is useless and can lead to wallowing. Reach out to those who understand. Ignore those who say "it was just a pet, you can get another". Give yourself time. There are grief support books, counselors and online resources. The experience of this process from prognosis until the end is a unique and individual one.

As our mission is housing senior cats—in most cases for many years—eventually we face the decision of providing palliative and hospice care for them, sooner than if the kitties were placed as youngsters, so we deal with this on a regular basis. Some of our kitties pass on their own. Others are assessed for quality of life. This decision is not made lightly. A team of people who care about and know the kitty's medical history decide. The remains of our deceased kitties are returned to us in their own little cedar boxes, along with a ceramic pet plaque embedded with their individual paw prints and are displayed in our "Angel Kitty" cupboard. We are also planning a Cat Nip Garden which will include a memorial area. Our cats are truly with us forever.

Some people find comfort in getting a new pet immediately. This is fine, and you may be saving another life. Others need time to grieve before opening their hearts again. Still others choose not to have another pet to avoid another painful loss. When you do get a new pet, try not to narrow down your choice to a "lookalike" pet, which makes comparisons tempting. A similar appearance in an effort to "replace" your pet won't work as every animal is unique. Don't expect your new pet to be just like the one you lost, but accept that she has her own personality. Avoid the temptation to compare the new pet to the old one.

During the time you spent with your pet (even if it was brief), she became a significant and constant part of your life—a source of comfort and companionship, unconditional love, acceptance, fun, and joy. Know that you in turn provided her a loving home and eventually a compassionate ending.

\* **Prior issues can be accessed on our website. Spring 2010 issue:** [http://www.bluebellcats.org/news/mews/Spring\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bluebellcats.org/news/mews/Spring_2010.pdf)



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[www.bluebellcats.org](http://www.bluebellcats.org)

**Our Mission:**

The Blue Bell Foundation for Cats offers loving and compassionate lifetime care for senior cats whose owners can no longer care for them.

Remember: Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine, and [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) for your online shopping. Simply name us as your charity



*Consider a Gift of Love  
For the Holidays!*

Enclosed is a "Gift of Love" in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to be given in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

For: (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary  Birthday  Holiday  In Memory Of  
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Send a card announcing the donation to:

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Your Name and address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **The Blue Bell Foundation for Cats**  
Donations are tax-deductible THANK YOU!

**YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK**

Cats are sponsored to ensure their continuing lifetime care. However, costs rise and cash donations help augment our budget immensely. This includes food, medications, fluid treatments, vet visits, and facility utilities.

Your monetary support is vital to the ongoing direct care of the cats as well as ongoing operational expenses.

Donations received from the newsletter (including Gifts of Love) go specifically to the "Community Cat Fund". Please refer to our website for information on the "Campaign for Blue Bell" and a detailed description of all giving opportunities. You may arrange for your donation to be applied toward one of them.

A huge **thank you** to all our compassionate supporters who understand our mission and the need for our existence.

Registered Non-Profit 501( C )(3)

**OR DONATE ONLINE!**

<http://www.bluebellcats.org/donate/index.php>