



the Blue Bell
FOUNDATION FOR CATS

ENSURING YOUR CAT'S FUTURE

Blue Bell
MEWS

WINTER 2017

Art in the Gardens

We had three primary goals for Blue Bell Gardens:

1. Restore our storm-ravaged landscape and create a stimulating environment to entice our cats to spend more time in the patios.
2. Broaden Blue Bell's connection to/with Laguna Beach gardening and artistic communities.
3. Achieve Blue Bell's vision of being the best cat retirement sanctuary in all aspects from cat care to facilities, grounds, gardens, staff and volunteers.

The project, sponsored by generous benefactors, launched in early 2015 and was quickly realized when landscaping began in summer of 2016. The gardens have bloomed, flaunting incredible beauty. They are not only aesthetically attractive, but ecologically sound with water-wise plants. Amongst the colorful flowers, bees hum, butterflies flit, hummingbirds feed, and many birds chirp and splash in the fountains. Recently planted is our CatNip Memorial Garden, a contemplative area to commemorate all our beloved kitties who have passed.

continued next page



Pictured clockwise: Beautiful Rainbow Bridge painting with Memorial Bench; CatNip Memorial Garden; Artwork and ceramic angel kitty which symbolize our deceased cats.

The "Rainbow Bridge" is that ethereal place where pets go after death and await their human companions.

Painted by Dina Marie Pratt, who specializes in pet-themed portraits.
www.paintedbydina.com

Bench "In Memory of Sammy" a resident who passed in 2016, donated by Vena Peterson who placed Sammy with us 15 yrs. ago and also visited him. "I knew he was loved and cared for which made my heart happy! I will forever be grateful to those who took care of him and loved him as I did!"

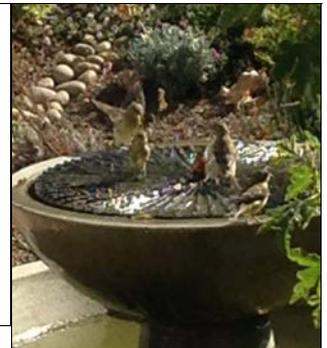


Gardens, continued

Complementing the brilliant natural surroundings are decorative accents—artistic poles, sculptures, and ornamental birdbaths. The next emphasis will be outreach to the local art community. Says **Jeff Zakaryan, sponsor and Volunteer Project Leader**, “We are currently working with a Laguna artist to create a mosaic cat-themed bench for the Founder’s Garden and explore partnering opportunities with the Laguna College of Design. We plan to be very selective with the art that we add.”



Clockwise:
* Unique artistic bird-bath;
* Monarch butterfly in the Mexican sage
* Birds visit! (Picture courtesy of Volunteer Pamela Knudsen)
* Bromeliad garden welcomes you to the Anderson-Wentzel house.



* Angie does her morning yoga (downward CAT?) with garden view from Anderson-Wentzel house

* It's a bird, it's a bee, no, it's a lizard Boots spies!
Pictures courtesy of Caregiver Joyce

MEMORIALS

Kelli, 14 came to us in 2014 and was fine for those 3 years. She was a very pretty and demure girl who loved being outside on the patio. Just 2 weeks before she passed she lost her appetite and began losing weight. An ultrasound found a huge mass in her abdomen—intestinal lymphoma. She did not respond well to new medications. We kept her comfortable, but it wasn't long before she began to fade. A few days before passing, Kelli had a vacant stare. Staffer Santiago came in the morning of June 14 and could see she was dying. She was humanely euthanized to end her suffering. She joins her "sister" Nikki with whom she was placed, and who passed in 2016.



Gorgeous **Peek-A-Boo, 16** left us too soon. She was placed with us in February, 2017 when her owner died. She developed kidney failure which rapidly progressed. She was in end-stage kidney disease for about a month and fought hard. As she declined, she still enjoyed being outside on the enclosed patios watching all kinds of critters. She even caught a beetle a week before she died. She still liked sitting on the volunteers' laps receiving head scratches and eating fresh-baked chicken until 2 days before she died. She had developed an upper respiratory infection which her little body could not fend off despite antibiotics and stopped eating and going outside. Her little body just couldn't fight anymore. We had her put to sleep Saturday afternoon, August 5, with caregiver Joyce by her side, telling her about the Rainbow Bridge and being reunited with her owner.

Thanks to dedicated Caregiver Joyce who provided much of the details for these memorials.



Onyx and Mini-Onyx

UPDATES

Onyx, a pretty black kitty with us a year, has really found her place. Initially she was a bit confused and cautious, preferring to remain in her suite. A year later she is chatty and walks around throughout the lower house and patio

Onyx and Mini-Onyx

Nero, 17, was a 2 yr. old stray when a volunteer placed him in 2002. He was adopted in 2004 but his owner died so he came back to us briefly. In 2005 he went to a senior care facility as a pet therapy cat—ideal for his sweet disposition. Somehow he escaped and was once again homeless. A kind woman started feeding him and when she took him to her veterinarian, they traced him to us from his original microchip. The woman agreed to continue to care for him indoors, but sadly in 2015, she also passed away. So Nero came back to us for good. He loved soft toys, being brushed, and the fresh air on the patio. He was a gentle kitty—very patient with his caregivers when they had to give him his daily medications for several ongoing age-related health issues. Nero was a fighter, most likely due to his survival instincts of being a stray - twice! His health started declining and despite trying several medications, he continued to lose weight and on Tuesday afternoon, August 22, he let us know it was time. Caregiver Joyce took him to our vet and waited with him outside on a soft, thick blanket in the grass. She took his last picture (above, right). It was a beautiful, warm afternoon and he enjoyed sniffing the flowers, smelling the fresh breeze, and feeling the sun's rays. Caregiver Rima made him a beautiful memorial where he loved to lounge in his bed atop his favorite cat tree.



Tiger Lilly, est. age 12, came to us in 2012 from a shelter. She was a dilute gray and tan tabby, with a sweet round face. Though bashful with a soft meow, she would welcome company as she sat in her favorite round bowl in the window of the main cottage. Tiger Lilly had hyperthyroidism and was also treated for failing kidneys. She fell ill a week before she died and was in the hospital for 4 days. She passed on Saturday, September 2. Her little heart gave out despite our veterinarians' best efforts.



Tiffany, our brown beauty with the auburn eyes has moved to the main house. She is much more sociable now and visits the patio and fountains. **Bella & Cozy** have also moved to the main and love it! At first they had their very own room, but quickly discovered the rest of the cottage! **Penny** has finally starting to trust us. For several years she was very shy and so cautious that she would hiss if approached. She missed her placer who had died and would not accept us. She now has started walking around and has begun to let some of us pet her! Patience is a virtue!

NEW RESIDENTS

In September we welcomed **Diamond, 10**, and **Katie, 12** from the same household. Their owner had



been hospitalized and a neighbor was taking care of them. When their owner died, there was some confusion as to the fate of the kitties and they almost ended up in a shelter. It was then discovered that their owner had designated in his will that they be placed with us. Handsome Diamond (see the "diamond" on his forehead?) was affable from the start, with cats and people. Pretty Katie was a bit more hesitant but she has acclimated well. Both are residing in the Anderson-Wentzel house.

In August we admitted 5 new kitties from the same house: **Missy 13**, **Happe 5**, **Kevin 9**, **Indy 9**, and **Scooby 5**. Initially they were housed in separate suites in the A/W house. Their owner was a former volunteer who had to move to assisted living. Missy is the only girl, a pretty brown & white tiger, and has moved to the main cottage. Indy, a striking brown and white male was a bit shy at first secluding himself in a condo and cuddling first with Kevin, then later with Scooby. He is now very outgo-

ing and quite chatty. Kevin and Happe are darling look-alike tuxedo kitties and very friendly as well. In October, Scooby, a sweet-heart of a cat, was rushed to urgent care after having trouble breathing. He was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a condition in which one side of the heart thickens. He was stabilized for a few days. Sadly, he took a turn for the worse and his heart was just not strong enough and he died. Everyone was heartbroken at this sudden loss, especially since he was so young.



Clockwise: Missy, Happe, Scooby, Indy, Kevin



We do not promote adoption of our kitties. Most placers wish their cat remain with us. However, on rare occasions a kitty (usually placed with us from a local shelter) moves to another home. After 4 years with us, Tippy was content and curious—he knew how to unlock latches! He was approachable and friendly enough but not overly outgoing or cuddly with either cats or people.

I've been adopted !



All that changed the day he found his new family in July when he was adopted by volunteer Pam Somers and her husband Al Landolph. Says Pam "The formerly reserved, scruffy big guy turned into a beautiful big bundle of love overnight. He has adjusted well to his new home and loves his new life. He sleeps on the bed every night but still has time to lounge around on his many perches and scratchers. He has a wonderful fully-enclosed garden to play in and lots and lots of toys. He loves his new family, especially his daddy (turns out he's a daddy's boy) Both cat and new parents wonder how they got so lucky!" Of course we miss Tippy, but it seems he wanted to be the little lion king of his own castle and we are so happy for him!
Tippy pictured at home in his cool new chair!

21st Annual Pet Parade and Chili Cook-Off

This popular family-friendly event was held Sunday, September 24 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 **Volunteer Sandy** who manned it, and to the Board of Realtors for their ongoing charity to help animal organizations...

Cat's Meow 2018

On Sunday, February 18, 2018
we will be hosting our 5th
"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 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

Reserve via our website under "News & Events"
Direct link for online users:
http://bluebellcats.org/news/news_det.php?id=39

For additional information
Contact Pamela bluebellpr@cox.net, 949-285-3730



the Blue Bell
FOUNDATION FOR CATS

ENSURING YOUR CAT'S FUTURE

20982 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
949-494-1586

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 as your search engine, and 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
 Other _____

Send a card announcing the donation to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your Name and address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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>