

# FOUR PAWS TO LOVE

## NEWSLETTER 2017



Saving Lives  
Joining Hearts

Dear Friends and Family,

We are celebrating 2017, our fourth year! This year we have been very busy rescuing animals and ensuring they receive loving care! We have taken on some very sick animals and have worked so very hard to get them healthy and happy and ready for forever homes! The total this last year is 141. These animals came from all over Northern and Central California, including Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara and Kings Counties. All of these animals were at risk of euthanasia. Four Paws to Love was able to foster them in loving homes, provide socialization and medical care then work at finding forever families for them! We still have lots of lovely fur babies waiting for that forever family to come along!

One great event that sticks out in our minds this past year was the Bissell Clear the Shelters event on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Bissell Foundation sponsored the adoption fees for eight wonderful kitties to find their forever homes! We were able to adopt out a few of our long term kitties and we were all so very happy at the end of the event!

We would like to thank all of the volunteer staff at Four Paws to Love: Kim (animal intake), Adrienne (adoptions), Jenny (grant writer and PetSmart events), Cheryl (Cabrillo Farmers Market Summer Event), Mark ( IT ), and Jennifer (support, including pickup and delivery of kittens). Without our dedicated staff, volunteers and their families, we would not be able to keep Four Paws to Love running. There are also the wonderful shelter workers on the front lines that work so hard to get the animals into our care to save their lives.

Most of all, we would like to thank all of our fantastic foster parents! The foster parents go above and beyond to care for their foster animals. Including taking them to vet appointments and of course transporting them each week to the adoption fairs. We would not be able to save any animals if we did not have the care and support of these truly loving people who take the animals we rescue into their hearts and homes and make them the wonderful companions that are able to be adopted into forever families. You can join them in saving lives by opening your heart and home to an animal in need. Even if you can only foster one cat, a litter of kittens, a dog or puppy a year it makes a huge difference! You can find a volunteer/foster application [here!](#)

Finally, a huge thanks to all of our adopters and those that donate to us. We would be nowhere if we didn't have fabulous adoptors and those that support our mission monetarily.

Thank you *all* for being part of the Four Paws to Love family.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

Four Paws to Love Board of Directors,

Annette Hogue  
Christine Kiuchi  
Terry Marino

## Donations

We thank our generous donors who helped us rescue so many animals this year. Donations and adoption fees are what keep Four Paws to Love running. We do not receive any government funding. All of our staff and Board members are *unpaid volunteers* so every penny you give goes to help the animals we rescue. If you are able to give even a small donation at this time, it will help us start 2018 stronger than ever, and increase our ability to rescue even more animals in the year ahead. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3), so your donations are tax-deductible.



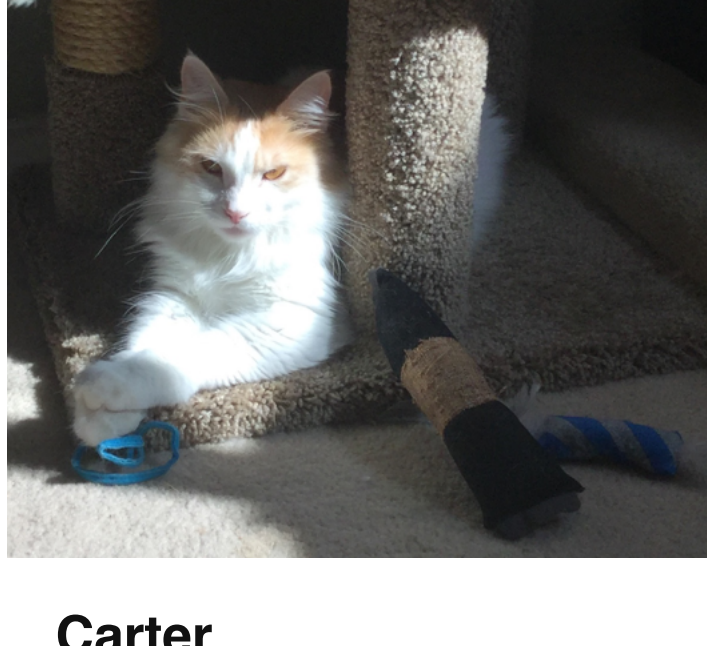
## FAVORITE RESCUE STORIES FROM 2017



### Teşekkür

Found in a dumpster in early June of 2017, this six-week-old kitten was so cold that the shelter wasn't sure she'd survive. One of their volunteers took her home and warmed her up slowly, saving her life. We picked her off the save-a-kitten list that week and everyone loved her big eyes and habit of purring continuously when picked up. As she grew quickly, her silky-soft but uneven fur changed color and thickness until she developed a fine mane and huge poofy tail along with the cutest little tuft of forward-tilting fur right under her chin that looks like a goat's beard.

In only two months she was adopted and continues to delight her new owner. Still growing, she loves to play fetch and often comes running when her name is called. Her name means "thanks" in Turkish (pronounced TESH-eh-cure), a play on the way the word is often seen on public trash cans. Looking like a purebred Norwegian Forest cat, she rules the household like a full grown ugly duckling who has come into her true inheritance - a long way from that doomed little discard.



### Carter

We rescued Carter from San Jose in early November of 2016. At 3 years old he was a beautiful white medium-hair with a few tan spots on his head and tail, and an affectionate nature that made him a favorite at the shelter. He had been adopted as a small kitten sadly returned to them in bad shape, mostly from his flea allergy dermatitis which had led to an extensive skin infection. He also had a cyst that was removed before he joined us.

Friendly with other cats, he quickly got along well in his foster home, and his looks earned him an offer of foster to adopt with another family only a couple weeks later. But his goofy, clueless way of playing was too aggressive for them and he was returned in a few weeks. Three months later, his good looks and big fluffy tail earned him a real adoption, but again he was returned after a couple weeks as too aggressive.

It was five more months before he was adopted again, this time to a wonderful couple looking for a companion for their cat who had recently lost its buddy after a long illness. He fit in perfectly, playing with his new friend and energetically making himself loved. They adore his goofball ways and even the fact he's a handful of occasionally excessive exuberance doesn't detract from his appeal. He's finally home for good and is utterly smug and satisfied about it.



Vala was rescued in our first summer of 2014 with a group of kittens that came to us through a friend all the way from Mexico. She is a beautiful tortie but was left behind as all her siblings were adopted. She was a bit shy, but over time became a beautiful and loving cat. We didn't know why she wasn't finding her forever home. Jenny, her foster mom, was happy to keep her in her home though and loved her for more than a year. Finally, after almost three years with Four Paws to Love, Vala found her family this spring at our Bissell Empty the Shelters event. She is one of the special ones!

This year was another hard year for FPTL when it comes to tiny kittens. We loose too many of these orphans because they do not have the nurturing care that they receive from their mothers. To highlight the plight of our little babies, this is the story of Robin.



Robin, renamed Toby.  
Getting cuddles with one of his new family members

On May 1, 2017 we got another call from our friends at the Santa Cruz Animal Shelter. There was a litter of 6 2-week old kittens in need of rescue. Someone found them in their yard with no mother to be seen. I took on that task for these little ones, just as I have for so many others in my 14 years of animal rescue. So many have passed under my roof and amazingly only 2 bottle babies have stayed as permanent residents. I lost count years ago, but there have been many fabulous results from my efforts. Unfortunately, just as many tragic outcomes as well. There is a 50/50 chance for these orphaned babies and this group was no exception. I brought them home and started trying to feed them kitten formula. They were not long apart from their mother so trying to get them to suck from a bottle was a bit of a challenge. I had to wait until they got hungry enough to not care that the bottle wasn't as good as mama. They finally settled in and for a couple of days they ate and did well for the most part.

The last few years I have waited to give my tiny ones names until I have a good feeling that they will pull through the tough initial period, so these babes were known as 1C-6C. 1C was a little gray tabby girl, 2C was a black and white tuxedo boy, 3C was a solid black girl (the runt), 4C was a female fluffy all gray, 5C was a big boy brown tabby, and 6C was a gray and white girl. Everything was going fine, they ate, they slept, they had beautiful poop, until a few days into their care they developed the dreaded *diarrhea*! Sometimes this lasts a short time after starting on the formula just until their bodies get used to the change from mother's milk, but if it lasts longer than a day or two then it is very dangerous for their little systems to take and they can quickly become dehydrated. Medication was started immediately and it started to slow it down but this was a particularly severe case.

Two days went by and despite their good appetites they were losing weight. They had spirit though and were as sweet as can be despite being constantly cleaned, medicated and given many injections of fluids. Just 5 days after being separated from their mother, 6C didn't pull through. 1C lasted one day more. Surprisingly, the tiniest little black girl, 3C, hung on for two more days. She was a fighter, she had spunk, I thought she would pull through. That one hit me hard. Sometimes you just get more attached to certain ones and she was it for me in this litter. But, you have to be able to move forward to save the ones that you can. 2, 4, and 5 were the survivors, they were not out of the woods yet and they still needed medication, fluids, and care. The three gradually improved over the next two weeks and it was time to give them names. I decided on a Robin Hood theme and named the tuxedo boy with a mask Robin Hood, the roly poly big tabby became Little John and sweet little gray fluffy was dubbed Maid Marion. Soon they were joined by a little lilac point Siamese boy around the same age that was found all alone and brought to the shelter for rescue. He rounded out the group as Friar Tuck.

As time went by, Tuck was adopted first then Little John found his forever home. Robin and Marion were with me for several more months. They were small for their age and Marion always seemed thin even though she had a good appetite and had plenty of energy. I came into their room one August evening and found her and some other kittens curled up in a little bed. When I put their diner out she always came running, however, this time she didn't move. I thought the worst and walked over to find her alive, but barely. I went into emergency mode...fluids, Karo syrup for blood sugar, antibiotics for infection, warm towels, cuddles! To no avail. She died in my arms and we will never know exactly why she suddenly took a turn. I was concerned about Robin and kept a very close eye on him for quite a while. He seemed to finally start to catch up in size to the other kittens his age and now he is a 9 month old ball of sweetness and energy. He has recently found his forever home with two little girls and their mom and is getting more love than I could have ever hoped for.

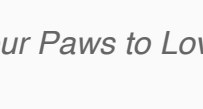
Tiny kittens are certainly a challenge. It can be hard work, physically and emotionally. Is it worth the cost? Even though you have to accept the sad outcome for some, you also get to experience the joy of the happy outcome for the others. If we had never tried, then instead of 2 of 6 surviving, there would be none. 2 families are greatly enriched because of the addition to their families... and that is worth the cost.

It takes a certain kind of person to be able to do this specialized work. If you feel like this is something you would like to help with, we would certainly love to have you join our ranks. It's not for everyone though, but you can still help us in our struggle by donating to our work. Every penny you give goes to save lives like Robin, Little John, Tuck and the other cats and kittens mentioned here. You can also donate supplies, drop by our adoption events at PetSmart from 2-5 and drop off any of the items listed on our website [www.fourpawstolove.org/donate](http://www.fourpawstolove.org/donate).

Just as important, or even more so, you can also spread the word about spay/neuter.

Some of these kittens come from feral cats, (visit our website for more information about how you can help with the feral cat population) but some come from pet owners that feel that spaying or neutering their animals is unnatural or the erroneous idea that females should have at least one litter before they are spayed or they would like their children to experience the "miracle of birth". I ask them to come visit us during "kitten season" and experience the heartbreaking results of these actions.

As told by:  
Christine Kiuchi  
Executive Director  
Four Paws to Love



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