

August 2012

The Cats Meow

The newsletter of Room 8 Memorial Cat Foundation



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Room 8
1947-1968

Letter from the President

by Debbie Marks

Okay, it has been said before, but you need to know: ***I HAVE A DREAM!***

When I first found and started volunteering at Room 8, I was not the best volunteer. I did very little cleaning, or feeding...treats maybe, the occasional change of water in the water bowls. I just came to get to know the cats, call them by name (which of course, meant I needed to learn their names, not an overnight event!) and to love them as much as I could in the time I had to give.

But I had an ulterior motive from the beginning. There is a huge hole in our cat care in California, and I am sure it is more widespread than just here. It is the feral cats, whose crime is simply that they have been born away from human contact, and therefore they fear us. How does this happen? Are they a different breed from Fluffy who likes to lay on your pillow and purr? No. They can be of mainly Persian descent, Siamese, and all other breeds. They got that way because someone let them out to roam, **unfixed**, or moved off and left them, **unfixed**, or dumped them **unfixed**, when they grew past the kittenish stage and weren't quite as cute.

Now, there is a small army of people who do their best to care for them in parking lots, near freeways, industrial areas...and many of that small army in Riverside County are affiliated with Room 8. We try to keep them fed, spayed/neutered and healthy as best we can, not on Room 8's dime, but on our own. They have enemies. Their lives are short. Their stories are sad.

Anyone want to join this army?

No one wants wild cats. No one even wants wild kittens. Most people won't work on trying to tame them, but some of us do. I will feature some of the work being done on behalf of the ferals both locally and beyond, in my next few letters to you.

What is that ulterior motive, you may ask.

Room 8, as it is right now, cannot take in kittens or

Mission Statement: to provide care, shelter and successful, loving adoptions of homeless domestic cats; to encourage kindness and responsible care for all animals; to educate the public on the importance of spaying/neutering their pets.

feral cats. But we have land! We have over an acre, undeveloped. With cat fencing and shelters we can make a small safe haven for ferals who lose their homes. Sadly, this happens all the time, when business owners see too many cats and begin trapping and sending these sweet babies to shelters. Since no one wants them, you know what happens!

Another problem is when restaurant owners fence their trash areas so that cats and other hungry critters can't get to the garbage which often is their only food. This story goes on and on.

We estimate that it wouldn't take too much to set up something!

Anyone out there know a good grant writer?

Congratulations and abundant blessings!

Presenting Jack Shelton and Gail Anderson-Shelton, the managers of the Room 8 facility in Jurupa Valley.

They were married Sunday, March 25.

We celebrate their love for each other and our kitties!



Room 8 Memorial Cat Foundation is a no-kill, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Federal Tax ID # 23-7344513. All donations are tax-deductible. Please note we accept Paypal donations on our website, www.Room8Cats.org!!!

