



Volume 2 * Issue 1

The Newsletter of Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary

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Ginger Snaps Back

A family of cat lovers driving along Bell Springs Road in Dripping Springs spotted a tiny black kitten darting out of traffic's way. They stopped, picked her up, took her home and named her Ginger. However, they couldn't keep her, so they contacted us. We met them at the post office and we took the kitten, to their tearful good-byes. We promised to take good care of her, never realizing how difficult that promise would be to keep.

Things started out just fine. Ginger was sweet, playful, and talkative. She chirps and tweets and loves to talk to her toys. She jumps up in the air and pounces on toy mice as if she were a fox. And she gives a little churrup when she lands. She drags a long furry toy around as she gallops up and down the room and then she talks to it. Too cute!

After she'd been here a few days, she stopped eating. Offers of canned food and even tuna brought little response from her. Since our regular vet, Hyde Park Animal Clinic, was closed just then, she went to Riverside Veterinary Hospital for evaluation. They kept her for a few days, got her on antibiotics, and she began eating. She came home.

For a few days—again—she was fine: eating, playing, chirping, and just being Ginger. Then, abruptly, she stopped eating. Back to Riverside, new antibiotic, started eating, back home.

This happened *again!* This time, Director Anne Zabolio was going out of town for a week (she occasionally takes vacations, with lots and lots and lots of help from everyone.) Ray Carter and Dave Harper promised to visit Ginger at the hospital and they did. When Anne returned, she visited, too. It didn't look

good for our baby girl, however, as she kept dropping weight because she would only nibble at all the treats proffered by the wonderful staff at Riverside.



When we would go to visit her, the great folks at the clinic would devote an exam room to us for as long as a human could stay with Ginger. They would bring her in and there, with much purring and head butting, Ginger would express her delight at being visited. Of course, the veterinary technicians always brought us some food to offer her. She seemed to eat a little better when she was with a friend and was coaxed to have another bite.

When we would call for updates, we would be told that there was essentially no change, and then told that they were *not* giving up on her yet, and neither should we. We agreed, but our spirits flagged with worry for this precious kitten.

Then they tried Clavamox. Everything else had brought very little positive result. But when Ginger was begun on Clavamox, an amoxicillin-based antibiotic, she began to turn around. She ate larger and larger meals. We were cautiously encouraged, however, we had seen this before, only to be disappointed when her appetite slacked off. But this time,

(Continued on page 2)



Ginger Snaps Back (Continued from page 1)

it didn't. She started to put on weight and, after about a month at Riverside Veterinary Hospital this time, she was declared recovered enough to go home.

Ginger is still her sweet, playful, talkative, weird self (she's also the only cat I know who loves the vacuum cleaner), and now she is chubby, too. She still has her "bat" ears and her slightly dreamy-looking face. She is a shorthaired black kitten with about 10 white hairs in a small cluster on her right flank. She is rubbing up against my legs as I write this. She is loved by all: cats, kittens, humans, dogs. (The bunnies rarely have an opinion on anything, except food—"yes!"—and being put into carriers—"no!") We are thankful to Riverside for sticking with this darling kitten, and not giving up until they found the magic formula to cure her.



Veterinary KUDOS



Thank you to our Veterinarians! Thank you, Hyde Park Animal Clinic, for always being there (except when you're on vacation) and for treating our babies with such respect and love. Thank you, Lake Austin Boulevard Animal Hospital, for such tender care of Georgia, as well as for the spaying and neutering you do, week in and week out, for us. Thank you, Dr. Michael Taylor of South Lamar Veterinary Hospital, for spays and neuters, and for saving the life of Violet, also known as The Queen Mother. Thank you, Riverside

Veterinary Hospital, for being our back-up veterinary hospital (when Hyde Park goes on vacation), and for saving the life of our feature baby, Ginger. Thank you to Dr. Leanne Parker of AM/PM Animal Hospital for saving the life of Laurel, and for seeing our emergencies. Thank you to Dr. Shifrin at Austin Animal Eye Clinic for his work with Georgia. Thank you, Dr. Stephanie Pratt of Caring Hand Animal Hospital for doing our yearly inspection as required by Texas Department of Health.

Spew What?

Speuter, v. t., to spay or neuter an animal.

The rescue community has coined a new term: *speuter*. I don't know who created it or when, but I love it because I always feel dumb when I get it wrong, "Yeah, he's spayed...I mean neutered...I mean *she*! *She*'s spayed. Oh hell, that cat's fixed!" "Speuter" is a unisex term and when I say it, I feel *smart*, like I know something that not everyone knows and I'm on the cutting edge of spay/neuter vocabulary. Hey, we all have to have our tiny areas of expertise that makes us feel special, don't we? Anyway, I'm going to be using the term so I thought I'd better define it. I'll try to put its definition into future newsletters, in case someone misses this one.

Feral Cat



ROUND-UP

Thanks to Animal Trustees of Austin and Emancipet, *Thundering Paws* was able to speuter (see left) 15 cats on Feral Cat Day, October 16th. Annie Stuhr, Calene Summers, Ray Carter, Dana Hollingsworth and I spent two evenings in Dripping Springs, trapping feral cats from the grocery store area, from Jami's Spa and Café, and from the Phillips Station and Popeye's Fried Chicken. Ray was mauled by a feral kitten whose

head was mysteriously trapped in a large spool used for wire in retail stores. We have no idea how Claire got her head into the spool but she would surely have perished had Ray not come along just then and had the courage to grab her and work her head out, all the while getting scratched and bitten for his efforts. Her sister, Mia, who was too small for a trap, trapped herself anyway. These two were too tiny to be spayed, so they were tamed at *Thundering Paws*.

They spent their initial two-week isolation period at the home of volunteers Tricia Mihal and Terra Byrne, who started the process of petting and holding these little hissing balls of fur. They have now been adopted by volunteer Kelly Player, who says that Claire approaches her human foster person for petting and Mia, who is still more timid, purrs when being held and petted. Hopefully, Mia will soon follow her sister up to Kelly for attention. Approaching a human is the definitive move that gets a kitty declared tame in my book.

~Anne Zabolio

GOING TO THE DOGS!



When the sanctuary incorporated in July, 2001, the name we used for the 501(c)(3) non-profit status was Central Texas Animal Sanctuary. We then secured a DBA ("doing business as") of Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary in both Travis and Hays Counties. Our reason was to have an umbrella organization, Central Texas Animal Sanctuary, under which we could bring other rescue groups as satellite sanctuaries. We have brought the first of these satellite sanctuaries into the fold:

German Shepherd Rescue Central Texas (GSRCT).

In addition to Director Beverly Gainer's full time job at the Veterans Administration, and activity in veterans' groups, she cares for 15 to 20 German Shepherds and German Shepherd mixes (she stretches the definition of "German Shepherd mix," I think). For all practical purposes, she is these dogs' sole financial support, caretaker, adoption coordinator, trainer, and love muffin. A small middle aged woman, Beverly can heft 50 pound bags of dog food on to her truck and wrestle apart two fighting 100+ pound dogs!

Beverly is new to the non-profit world. In December, Thundering Paws was invited to participate in Santa Claws and Paws at Petsmart on Brodie Lane. I told Beverly about this and she mentioned that she really needed to get to Petsmart to check out how much a pooper scooper was because hers was broken. She was afraid that the price would be prohibitive. I offered to put up a sign that we needed a pooper scooper and she was glad for that. You people

came and put money in the jar and we were able to take Beverly home a \$29.99 pooper scooper. You can clearly see that she needs donations! And now, because German Shepherd Rescue Central Texas is under the umbrella of Central Texas Animal Sanctuary, donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Central Texas Animal Sanctuary (or CTAS), and put GSRCT in the memo line.

Why is Thundering Paws putting this information in its newsletter? Aren't we afraid we will undermine donations to our group? Well, yes. But we can't live in fear and do rescue. Hopefully, GSRCT will soon have its own bank account and newsletter. We want to introduce them to you so that, when you hear about them again, you will know that they are a group that upholds the excellence in animal sanctuary, love and care that you know your donations to Thundering Paws provide. We will keep you updated on any other satellite sanctuaries that come under our auspices in the future.

~Anne Z.

Help The Kitties & Help Yourslef!

Need a massage? Want to help animals?

You can do BOTH!

Donate \$100 to Thundering Paws and receive a 1-hour massage from Linda Moore (limit one per customer).

For more on this offer visit us at

www.thunderingpaws.org

(or call Linda at 512-567-2630)



How Do I Tame Feral Cats?

Mostly I call Tricia or Dave, who are calmer than I will ever be. However, there is the rare feral kitten for which I am not too energetic. Sierra is one of those kittens.

We think that Sierra was hit by a car. She was a perfectly happy feral kitten running around my friend, Shelley Ward's, back yard. Shelley had plans to trap her and have her spayed. But one day, Sierra showed up dragging her right front leg, which was bent backwards. It took two weeks of diligent effort, but she was trapped and taken to the vet. Unfortunately, there was too much nerve damage to save the leg, and she is now a three-legged kitty. She came to *Thundering Paws* because Shelley's only option was to trap, spay and release her, and we did not want her out there that vulnerable.

Initially she was scared senseless. She hissed and spat, as most feral cats will. I began simply by looking at her three or four times a day, talking softly, and leaving her alone in her cage. Gradually, she became accustomed to my visits and was able to let me look at her without fireworks. Next, I took a cat toy on a stick and put it in her cage. I dangled the cat toy for her and, once she was used to that, touched her gently with the stick. Once she was used to that, I slowly moved my hand towards her and touched her. I would get a surprised look, initially even a hiss. But, after a few months, she began purring and even sitting in laps!

I am not a patient person, and I get discouraged *very* easily. The main thing that I want to tell people who are trying to tame a feral cat is this: Be sure to count every single thing as a victory! Here are possible victories:

She makes eye contact.

She sits and looks at you for a split second longer than she did yesterday without trying to hide,

You look at the cat and she doesn't hiss or spit;

She allows you to touch her with a

stick.

She makes "love eyes" at you, slowly closing her eyes and then opening them again, sometimes in response to your doing so first;

She allows you to touch her when you put your fingers into the cage.

She eats or drinks while you are watching.

She plays with a cat toy while you are in the room.

She plays with a cat toy while you are watching.

She plays with a cat toy, which you are holding.

She allows you to touch her when you open the door and move your hand slowly toward her.

She allows you to pet her back or her rump

At this point, get some other people in to look at her, touch her with a stick, talk to her. My theory is that if a feral cat can cope with three people, she can cope with the world.

She allows you to pet higher on her back.

She makes "love eyes" at you when she sees you.

She allows another person to touch her.

She allows you to pet her head.

She purrs when you pet her.

She allows a third person to pet her.

She sits or lies down while you pet her.

She comes toward you to be petted—*this to me is the definitive action that signifies "tame"*

She allows you to pick her up.

She allows more liberties every day with more people.

This list is not linear. You can interchange the steps, if you like. Be careful with the touching stuff, however, because you may get scratched or bitten if you initiate touching too early. And please remember to reward *yourself* for your victories! Get happy over every tiny thing that happens! ***Don't get discouraged! Don't give up!*** It could

take months. Felicidad, who came here a year ago, has been letting me touch her for about two months.

I do not believe that every feral cat can be domesticated, but I believe that at least half can. And most kittens can. We do have a fellow here, Percy, whom we got as an eight week old kitten, and he is feral still at six years old. He might allow the briefest of touches once a year.

Some cats, on the other hand, invite taming. Clifford, Rosa, Vangie and Etta came here feral and really didn't want to be feral. They welcomed being tamed. They were still scared, and shied away from the hand, but the difference is that they came toward the human on their own, even if initially they only came close enough to be touched every tenth time.

Another thing that helps me is to network with other people who are taming or have tamed feral cats. I get so discouraged sometimes while trying to tame someone. I think, "Will she *ever* let me pet her without flinching?" She will...and it takes lots of time. But the rewards are great and it is well worth it in the end.

~ Anne Zabolio

Pawstock & T-shirts

Pawstock 2 was a success in terms of fun and funds. We had some great music and comedy, some good food, and made some money, too. Our silent auction had great deals and most of them were taken. And we had something new ***Thundering Paws t-shirts***. We still have some and you can order them by sending \$12 to P.O. Box 1555, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. We ran out of smalls and mediums early, but we still have large and extra large, good quality, Haynes shirts in both black and navy.

HELP WANTED!

You may have noticed that the preponderance of articles in this newsletter were written by Anne Zabolio (AKA B'Wana), and while she's no slacker in the writing department, it's one (or eight) more thing(s) on what is an incredibly long list for her to do. We have some volunteers who have contributed articles to both this newsletter and the last one, but we know there are more of you out there who can write. Don't be shy: send us an article. Relate a funny story, get on a soapbox about your favorite animal topic, send us your corny animal jokes, etc. In short the newsletter is one more area at the sanctuary which can benefit from the talents of volunteers. So put a fresh point on your pencils and take a stab at writing an article for the newsletter.

Avian Intervention!

Most of us have, at one time or another found a bird in need of succor, and being the animal lovers we are have attempted to intervene on its behalf against the fate which normally awaits such animals.

This was the case when volunteer Diane Siler found a bird on the balcony of the new office building where she works, downtown. The bird seemed dazed and/or sick. It could not stand on its own, and certainly was in no shape to fly. So Diane took it into her office and gave it a box in which to recover.

Some coworkers of hers told her about a bird rescue place in Austin. Later that afternoon Diane and a coworker took the bird there to see if there was anything that could be done to help it. After examining the bird, the folks at

the rescue society said they knew what was wrong with the bird, and indeed, already had several birds recovering from the same affliction: intoxication!

That's right, the bird was DRUNK!

Apparently this species of bird is fond of certain berries, berries which happened to be fermenting on the vine this year.

Diane and her coworker left the bird to sleep it off in the avian drunk-tank, with probably no more than a warning about public intoxication and the address of a local AA meeting.

Remember: Friends Don't Let Friends FLY Drunk!

~Ray Carter

Thundering Paws Want List

- *Humane animal traps
- *Volunteers
- *Timothy hay
- *Scoopable kitty litter
- *Non-scoopable kitty litter
- *Collapsible, portable cages
- *Washable animal beds
- *Free spays/neuters/vaccinations (buy or beg them from your vet)
- *A gas -powered lawn mower
- *Donate your old car
- *Large (2'+ tall) plastic boxes/bins with lids for litter boxes
- *Screen for doors, windows and the cat run
- *A photographic quality color copier/printer
- *Items for our garage sale
- *Items for our silent auction at the Bee Cave Bistro dinner

Name This NEWSLETTER!

We received a lot of good names, but here are the best ones that weren't already taken (that we know of).

"Happy Tails"

submitted by
Ruth Huber of Palo Alto, California

"Mewsings"

submitted by
Debbie Berliner of Austin, Texas,
and of Tuxedo Junction Rescue

"The Scratching Post"

submitted by
Rona Ebert of Austin, Texas

Let us know which one you like best.

A Message from the Director of German Shepherd Rescue Central Texas

In 1995, I was involved with the Austin German Shepherd Club and had been training my K9 partner, Dylan, in any kind of training I could find. I had put an AKC Obedience CD, Canine Companion, title on Dylan, and we were working on search and rescue training. I was the training director for the GSD Club of Austin.

I met a lady in one of my training classes who was doing large breed rescue. She told me a bit about rescue, and said she needed help, since no one else was involved in rescuing the large breed dogs. I agreed to help with the German Shepherds. I went to Town Lake Animal Center (TLAC) and filled out the paperwork to be approved to rescue dogs from the shelter.

At that time, the shelter was not rescue-friendly, and it was difficult to pull dogs from TLAC.. At first I was hesitant about getting too involved with this endeavor, but the more I went to TLAC and saw the dogs, the harder it was to walk away and not take a dog, knowing the fate awaiting them. The first two years I cried every time I visited TLAC. Many times I thought about quitting, but the dogs had my heartstrings and I could not give up on them.

Ten years later, I am still rescuing and many changes have taken place in that time. I have saved between 30 and 60 dogs a year, met many wonderful people and dogs, and hopefully grown as a human. The dogs have taught me so much and the experience has shown me to have strength I did not know I had.

German Shepherd Rescue Central Texas has been through many changes as well, and united many good people with dogs, and spread information about our efforts to save dogs. We are now under the 501(c)(3) non-profit umbrella group, Central Texas Animal Sanctuary, thanks to Anne Zabolio and Thundering Paws. We have a webmaster/foster person, Janet



Simpson. Without her help, I cannot imagine getting homes for these deserving dogs. Janet gets overwhelmed, so we are looking for someone who can help her in posting the dogs on the website and keeping up with people whom we try to help, who are fostering dogs on their own. It is a big job, so we need more than one person tackling it.

We have a couple of foster homes and are always looking for more. Most the dogs are at my house, and, as with any rescue organization that wants to maintain the health of the animals (and the humans!), there is a limit of the numbers I can foster while working full time. I stretch this limit as far as possible to save all I am able.

Since I cannot save all the dogs that are in need, I have to make choices and

I do this by temperament testing to determine which dogs are most suitable for adoption. We cannot take dogs that are aggressive to people or other dogs. All our dogs live in a home environment and are not in kennels. We want them to be used to coming in the house, so we house train and crate train them to make the transition to their new homes as easy as possible. We have wonderful success stories for our pups on our website. Please visit us at <http://gsdrescuetx.com>. (Note the lack of "www" in our address.)

We are always seeking help in many areas--foster, website, visiting and playing with dogs, walking the dogs, socializing dogs with people of all ages and in new places--these are some of the ways you can help us ready the dogs for their new homes.

We are happy and excited to be working with Thundering Paws. We know that uniting our efforts will give us the chance to save more animals. Please visit our website and call me if you would like to visit our dogs. My telephone is an Austin number, 512/264-2478.

Thank you, everyone!

Beverly Gainer, Director,
German Shepherd Rescue Central
Texas

COME DINE WITH US!

We will have our second annual Meow, Woof and Dine benefit on Sunday, April 24, 2005, from 5 to 8, at the Bee Cave Bistro. The Bistro offers excellent food in an intimate, elegant setting. (Give it a try before the benefit; take your sweetie there.) We'll have a silent auction and I'll tell you some happy animal stories. You can meet other animal loving people and spend a pleasant evening with us. For more information see the poster on the next page, and please feel free to put up the poster at your office or school, or make copies and send them to your friends. If you have any items suitable for the silent auction, please e-mail Calene Summers at calcat75@yahoo.com or call her at 656-6299.

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary

presents

Meow, Woof, and Dine



*An exquisite dinner in an elegant atmosphere
Sunday, April 24, 2005, five to eight o'clock in the evening.*

*Bee Cave Bistro
11715 Bee Cave Road*

Choose one entre selection.

- *Ginger Soy Salmon*
- *Vegetarian lasagna*
- *Vegan Portabella Caps*

Also: Roasted seasonal vegetables, spinach salad, fruit cobbler, coffee or tea

Cash Bar

Silent Auction

Tickets are \$30 and can be obtained by sending check or money order to Bistro Dinner, P.O. Box 1555, Dripping, Springs, TX 78620, or contacting us through bistro@thunderingpaws.org.

Please make your reservations by April 19th.

For more information, please check our website or call 402-9725.



Our veterinarians' office, Hyde Park Animal Clinic, called us. Another vet clinic had called them for help. It seems that a couple had dropped off their cat to be euthanized because he was urinating outside the litter box, and he was urinating a *lot*. The vet did not euthanize Cookie, but diagnosed his diabetes and started him on insulin. The inappropriate urinating stopped immediately.

The kind vet took Cookie home, but the vet's dog wanted to play with the cat, who was not amused. The vet began searching for a home for this sweet kitty. Since Hyde Park Veterinary Clinic has *never* asked us to take an animal before, and since we cannot afford to refuse them *anything*,

considering all they do for us, we agreed to take him.

Now, they told us that Cookie was a large cat, but nothing prepared me for my first sight of this fellow. Volunteer Annie Stuhr calls him The Great Dane of Cats, and it fits. Our vet calls him The Cookie Monster, which also fits. He stands 13 1/2" tall on all fours and is 19 1/2" long, excluding his tail. He only weighs 14.5 pounds and, while he isn't skinny, he also isn't overweight. His size is the first thing a person notices about him.

The next thing you notice is that this giant is so gentle. He purrs if you so much as look at him. And he's very calm. He is the only cat I ever carry into the veterinary clinic without a carrier. He is very patient with me while I am learning to give him insulin shots, and he has not made any litter box mistakes since he was regulated on his medication. We all love him and are happy to give him a home for the rest of his life. He is 15 years old now, so we probably won't be able to adopt him out. If you would like to sponsor Cookie, please call or e-mail. His insulin, syringes, and vet bills will add up. But he is so worth whatever expense we must put out for him.

CONGRATULATIONS

to
**Julia
&
David**
on their
new
baby,



Natalia Iris

This announcement paid for by a donation from Calene Summers.

To sponsor a similar announcement contact us at www.thunderingpaws.org.



When I went to the kill shelter to see this dog I was not prepared for what I would find. After many years of going to shelters and seeing dogs in sad shape I have become stoic and rarely break down and cry, but this is one who brought those tear out in a rush. This girl was totally emaciated. Every bone could be seen, she had NO fat, her coat was dull and her eyes were dull and almost lifeless. She could barely walk. When I took her out of her run she stumbled. I didn't walk her

far because I was afraid she would collapse. When putting her back she did stumble and fall back into the run. I have never seen a dog so starved and thin and still alive.

I talked to the vet at the shelter and she sent Tori to the ER and they did blood test and a blood transfusion. The next day we still weren't sure she would survive. She not only suffered from malnutrition, but she was anemic and full of hook work and other parasites. I called a volunteer and told her about this girl and she immediately said she would take her and do whatever it would take to bring her back.

Many blood tests were done and our volunteer fed her 6 small meals a day at first and gave her supplements to build her up. Her vet wasn't optimistic when he saw the dog, but was astonished when he saw her the second time. Blood test showed she was

building her blood cells quickly. Tori had a will to live and a loving nature that has touched everyone who has met this girl.

Tori is around 2 years old with beautiful chocolate colored eyes that search yours to try and understand what you want from her. She really wants to please and be loved. Tori has been spayed, micro-chipped, is current on her shots and heartworm prevention. She's been through a lot in her young life, but she is very gentle and loving and wants to be close to a human of her own. She has gained so much weight now that I may have to put her on a diet! Tori will be with us until we find the right human who can appreciate this sweet girl and give her the life she deserves.

~Beverly Gainer, Director
German Shepherd Rescue Central
Texas

DON'T JUST SIT THERE!



We'll be having a garage sale from 8 to 4 on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the Saddletree subdivision clubhouse on Ranch Road 12 about a mile from Hamilton Pool Road. If you have items to donate, please call Annie Stuhr at 264-0398. She has a truck, but may need some muscle to get heavier items loaded (we'll help unload). Then come to the garage sale and see what other wonderful items have been donated, without which you can't survive another day!

WE'RE HAVING A

GARAGE SALE!

And here are just a few of the treasures you **MIGHT** find at the garage sale:



An OLD Friend



Current Fashions



A NEW Friend



a HAT that Is
sooo YOU!



Exercise
Equipment



Eyebrow
Waxing Kit



The Benefits of Volunteering

Most of us volunteer because we love all the little critters at Thundering Paws and get personal satisfaction out of helping them have a happy life. But volunteering has many other benefits that you may not have considered.

Exercise

Every year I resolve to get more exercise, to be more active and healthy. Volunteering is a chance to get out of the house and be active without a gym membership fee. Low-impact aerobics? Mopping the floor can get your heart rate up. Weight-lifting? Those big bags of cat food are pretty heavy, not to mention hauling around 40-pound containers of kitty litter. Even walking around petting cats burns more calories than watching TV or sitting in front of the computer!

Stress Relief

Many studies have shown the positive effects of interacting with companion animals. Petting an animal lowers blood pressure and lowers the level of stress hormones in the body. Laughter is another great way to release tension and reduce stress. One thing I've noticed about volunteering at Thundering Paws is that there is always a cat or dog eager to help me lower my stress level by accepting some petting or by doing something silly for me to laugh about.

Faith in Humanity

There's a lot of bad news out there. Being a fairly cynical person, I often despair over the fate of our planet. Just working together with other caring people is a sure-fire tonic to pick up my spirits. One day a whole group of UT students showed up to volunteer. They gave up precious weekend time to come out and help with whatever needed to be



done. Seeing their cheerfulness and commitment to helping out in the community gave me a little extra hope for the future.

Networking

Whether you own your own business, work for someone else, or are looking for a job, networking is important. The more people you connect with, the more resources you have when you need advice or a personal reference. Although they can't provide a professional reference, your fellow volunteers can attest to your reliability, enthusiasm, generosity, and willingness to work hard at the task at hand, all desirable traits that apply to any job.

Resume Building

Choose a volunteering task to enhance your resume. Are you a writer? Get published in the newsletter or help write grant proposals. Want to demonstrate management abilities? Help organize a fund-raising event. Do you have PR or marketing skills? Help promote events and raise public awareness for animal rescue organizations by designing a brochure or

flyer that can add interest to your professional portfolio.

Satisfaction

All this is not meant to minimize the personal satisfaction that comes from being a volunteer--that good feeling you get when you know you have been a help to others and have really made a difference. Sometimes we can only make small differences, but working together it adds up to more positive energy and overall happiness in the world.

Come Join the Fun

As you can see, volunteering at Thundering Paws has a lot to offer. Not to mention that it's just plain fun to hold a tiny baby and feel it purr, to see the cute crazy kittens at play, and to watch the happy cats lounging on the screen porch. Come on out and join in the fun! Just contact Anne at Thundering Paws to get started. Don't be shy, she's really nice. I hope to meet you soon at Thundering Paws.

~ Kay Rolfes

AAAKKK! GAAAKKKK! HELP! [Choke] YEOW! HISS! WE NEED MONEY! Oh yeah, that's nothing new. I can stop panicking, because we haven't been kicked out, starved, or even had the electricity cut off...yet. You can help by sending money.

Better yet, won't you let us draft \$7.14 or more from your bank account monthly, using the form below? In this way we are building an operating budget. We have not pursued grants yet so we operate totally on individual donations. Why haven't we written grants? No grant writer, no time. We can't write grants yet because the handful of consistent, loyal, amazing, volunteers and I spend all our time taking care of the animals...and raising money from individuals. It's a conundrum. It takes close to \$6000 a month to run the sanctuary. One wonderful donor--my mother--provided our largest support for three years and she can no longer afford to do so. Right now, we have pledged donations of only about \$500, and we make an additional \$600 "tabling," which is begging money outside of a sympathetic establishment, like Bookpeople, Mother's Café, or The Blue Willow in Wimberley. Our benefits make approximately \$4000 a year. That we come up with the rest is miraculous! To do so, we wrack nerves which could better be used to save animals. So please become one of our regular contributors. You will save many, many lives.

Thundering Paws

A Program of Central Texas Animal Sanctuary

P.O. Box 1555

Dripping Springs, TX 78620-1555

512/402-9725

www.thunderingpaws.org

Authorization for Direct Deposit (ACH Deposit) of Monthly Donations

I authorize **Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary** to initiate variable* entries into my account described below:

Account Number _____ Checking _____ or Savings _____

Name and address of Bank, Credit Union or other financial institution _____

Name on Account _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

Amount \$ _____ Draft funds on the 5th of the month _____ or the 20th of the month _____.

Signature _____ Date _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until **Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary** has received written notification from an authorized individual of its termination in such time and manner as to afford **Thundering Paws** a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

Please attach a voided check.

* The word "variable" in this instance pertains to the ability of **Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary** to draft monies out of the above account and, if a cancellation order is received after a monthly draft has been taken, to refund that donation back into the account.

To cancel this authorization, please send a copy of this form with the word "CANCEL" prominently written across it to the above address.

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary thanks you for your tax deductible donations. You will receive a yearly summary of your donations in January.





Our feature kitty for our last newsletter, Georgia, is still with us and will no doubt be a permanent resident. Remember her? She was found by the side of Highway 71 West in September of 2003. She is blind and has no sense of smell. We feed her twice a day and keep her in a room she knows and we try not to move the furniture around on her very much. She is a great kitty who can find the litter box and has never made a litter box mistake. She can hear just fine and knows her name. She purrs and rolls on her head when given attention and, while she is not a lap cat, loves to have a human get down

on the floor with her and will sit snuggled up to you as long as you pet her. We've had to cut back a little on her food, however. This kitty who had fatty liver disease when she came to us is getting a bit chunky, or "full-figured," as volunteer Annie Stuhr calls her. She went to visit Dr. Shifrin of Austin Animal Eye Clinic, who confirmed that she is blind and that veterinary medicine could do nothing to alleviate that condition. All the veterinarians who have seen Georgia exclaim at her healthy condition. We feed her: her job is to swallow and to be a happy cat...and she does that *very* well! ~ Anne Zabolio



Whom To Blame

Pictures contributed by Scott Haywood, Kay Rolfes, Toli Lerios, Christine Lerios and Dave Harper.

Formatting, art selection and layout by Ray Carter

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(put address label here)

(address correction corrected)



If you would like to receive this newsletter in full color and electronically, please email us at www.thunderingpaws.org, and in the subject line, write "Newsletter."