



Winter, 2009

Give Me Shelter Newsletter

OUR MISSION: Every day adult and senior cats with treatable medical and behavior conditions are euthanized. *Give Me Shelter's* goal is to rescue these cats from certain death and place them into loving permanent homes.



Holiday Thanks From Lana Bajsel



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As the end of the year draws near, we are proud to report that *Give Me Shelter* adopted out over **200 cats** in 2009!

In addition to our successful rescue efforts, *Give Me Shelter* has also been active with local government to make citywide changes in San Francisco on behalf of animal welfare. Due in part to our efforts, San Francisco has become one of a handful of cities in the U.S. to **ban** the cruel and inhumane practice of declawing! We want to thank all of you who sent e-mails and letters to the Board of Supervisors urging them to support the ban. Political activism really works!

Our next goal is to achieve

legislation to make San Francisco a true **no-kill** city, where animals with resolvable medical and behavioral issues will not be killed. We are once again working directly with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Animal Welfare Commission on this initiative, and we will keep you posted on how **you** can help us make San Francisco become the **first** major city in the U.S. with a no-kill policy!

Although *Give Me Shelter* is the largest nonprofit cat rescue group in San Francisco, we simply can't do it all by ourselves. Without your continued support, we will not be able to fulfill our mission of saving cats

from euthanasia and placing them into loving, permanent homes. Whether you can spare a financial donation, dedicate your time as a volunteer, or offer your home for fostering, we will truly appreciate it. Working together, we can make a difference for animals in need.

Thank you again for your support in 2009. Enjoy the rest of the holiday season, and we'll see you next year!

Lana Bajsel
Executive Director
Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue

Come Meet Your New Best Friend!

- * GMS has **Adoption Events** every Saturday & Sunday between noon and 4pm at PetSmart in Daly City (315 Gellert Blvd.)
- * GMS also has **Adoption Events** every second Saturday each month at Petco on Sloat (1591 Sloat Blvd.) in San Francisco!



Here's How You Can Help

Can you spare some cash for the kitty? Even the smallest donation will have an impact! You can use PayPal (<http://www.givemesheltersf.org/donate.htm>) or mail a check made out to "Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue" to P.O.

Box 411013, San Francisco, CA 94141. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so your donation is tax deductible.

We also appreciate donations of unopened cat food, cat bedding, and cat toys. And we always welcome new volunteers! Join us!

We need dedicated, cat-savvy, high energy people to help out with street adoption events, animal care at our PetSmart adoption facility, and our marketing efforts. Interested? Email Johanna at johanna@givemesheltersf.org

Mister Finds His Forever Home



Miserable Mister

The big, lanky, black & white cat came to the front of the cage at GMS' PetSmart adoption facility and made a small, pitiful little squeak, rubbing up against the bars. Mister's beautiful light

green-gray eyes had just a hint of blue in them—and volumes of desperation. He obviously wanted attention, but when the cage door opened, Mister flinched back, growling and biting at the hand reaching toward him. In September, Mister's owners had relinquished him to San Francisco Animal Care & Control, where he was deemed "unadoptable." He was headed for euthanasia until rescued by GMS.

Being locked in a cage was making Mister miserable. As time went on, he stopped grooming himself and would lie down in his litter box, a sign of depression. He would purr and play when allowed out of the cage, but would stiffen into fear and hostility when put back in. Mister needed out! He needed someone who would understand what he'd been through and wouldn't just abandon him again because of some rough edges.

Annie F., who heard about Mister's plight from one of our volunteers, came to the rescue! She said, "I offered to come see Mister as a potential foster. I don't know who I was kidding! I already had a reworked name for him before I even met him. He wasn't the cat I thought I wanted, but he's the cat I realized I needed – just as much as he needed me. As soon as I saw him, I knew that he is a wonderful cat."

Exactly two months after Mister had been dumped at ACC, Annie and her partner, Simon S., took him home. Simon was a bit more dubious about Mister. "On our initial meeting at PetSmart, I got a swat and a bite – not exactly true love. But once he got to our place, away from the shelter, away from the cage, my second attempt to say hi was met immediately with head bumps and loud purring. His disposition changed before our eyes!"

Annie described the transformation moment. "When I opened the box, for a few seconds, I saw the same terror in his face I had seen at PetSmart. But then he looked around for a few seconds more and realized that where I had taken him was not another cage,



Annie with happy Mister at home!

but a home. He immediately looked up at me and I swear he smiled." Annie reports that Mister, now called "Mister Floppington von Petticoat III," is a sweet and kind cat who enjoys cuddling under the covers and afternoon naps on the bed with his belly exposed to the whole world. Mister can rest easily – he found his forever home!

GMS Focuses on Animal Care & Control Behavior Testing

Thanks to Annie and Simon, Mister's story has a happy ending! But Mister is just one of the many supposedly "unadoptable" cats we encounter on a daily basis at Animal Care & Control. GMS rescues cats like Mister as part of our mission and they prove "adoptable" after all.

So why was a sweet cat like Mister doomed to die? Part of the problem is that ACC's behavior assessment testing model is ill-founded and archaic,

leading to incorrect assessments. Cats who are already terrified and overwhelmed after being abandoned and stuffed into a tiny cage are then additionally poked and prodded to see if they will lose their temper and hiss or swat. Unsurprisingly, most cats tend to fail this test! Wouldn't you?

We have requested that Animal Care and Control change their criteria for temperament testing. If accepted, these changes will increase the num-

ber of animals being offered for adoption at ACC and the SFSPCA, decreasing the euthanasia rates and placing less burden on overtaxed, independent rescue organizations such as *Give Me Shelter*.

This is part of our vision to bring San Francisco into the future as a no-kill city and we need your support! To find out how you can help, please contact Lana at lane@givemesheltersf.org or 415-810-7284.



We are hosting "Photos with Santa" at multiple locations this

Ho Ho Ho! Santa 'Claws' is Coming to Town!

year! Photo packages include a digital photo of you and your furry friend with Santa and an exclusive holiday frame.

We will be at **PetSmart** (315 Gellert Blvd., Daly City) on **December 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th!** Sessions will run from 11am to 4pm each day and each package is a holiday treat at only **\$9.95!**

We will also be at **Petco** on 1591 Sloat Blvd., on **December 5th and December 12th** from 11am to 4pm **On December 5th, Petco will be**

providing FREE Photos with Santa! 5% of the total donations received during the store's Tree of Hope fundraiser that day will be donated directly to *Give Me Shelter*. On December 12th, Petco will be offering "Photos with Santa" for only **\$8.95!**

The best part is that \$5 from every photo package sale at both locations goes directly back to *Give Me Shelter!* So, what are you waiting for? Grab your reindeer, hop in your sleigh and hurry down to PetSmart or Petco to get your pics with Santa!

Holiday Cat Food Drive at Pawtrero

Our friends at PAWTRERO™ HILL BATHHOUSE & FEED CO. LTD. are having a holiday food drive at both of their locations for our benefit! You can bring in cat food (canned and dry), cat treats, and of course cat toys, and it will all go to *Give Me Shelter*. The food drive ends on Christmas, so don't delay!

If you are not familiar with these

great stores, the two locations are:

Pawtrero

199 Mississippi St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
Tel : 415-863-PAWS (7297)

Southpaw

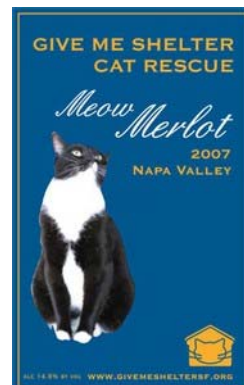
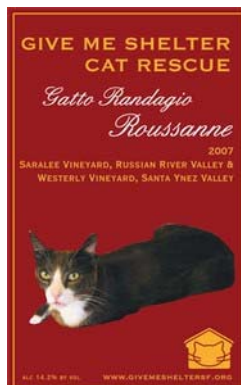
199 Brannan St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
Tel : 415-882-PAWS (7297)

They carry a variety of raw and organic food that will help your furry friend feel great! They also offer a wide variety of other services.



Drink and Be 'Meow-y' with Give Me Shelter Wines!

Do you love wine? *Give Me Shelter* has partnered with **Crushpad** to create **Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue** wines! The wine is delicious and would make a great holiday gift!



A large portion of the proceeds of the wines sold directly benefit the rescued cats of GMS. Not only will you have the pleasure of enjoying these delectable wines, you will also have the satisfaction of

knowing that with every sip, you have helped us save lives.

We currently have four yummy wines available for purchase: **Calico Cabernet**, **Gatto Randagio Roussanne**, **Sophisticat Chardonnay** and **Meow Merlot**.

To order please visit <http://wine.crushnet.com/givemeshelter>

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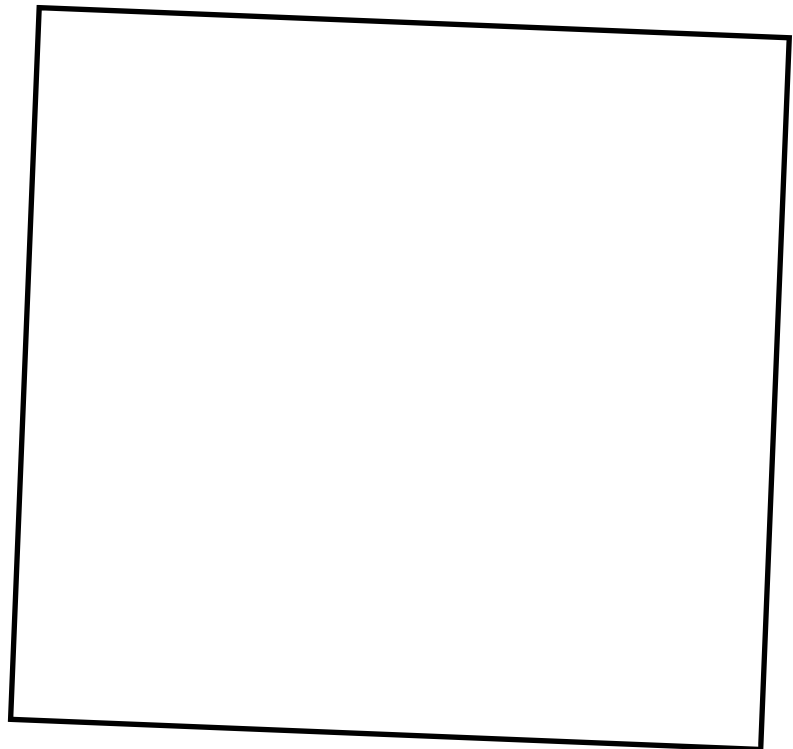
Want to volunteer? Contact Johanna at
415-297-9301



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Will You Give Gertrude a Forever Home?

Gertrude slowly stalks forward, hunched over just slightly. Her yellow eyes fill with delight as the sleek black cat watches the movement of the feather duster toy across her field of vision. She springs into action, batting and swatting at the feathers, trying to catch them with her paws, undeterred by the fact that she will never be able to do this simple act. Sadly, Gertrude's former owners had both of her front paws declawed. Not only that, they seemingly abandoned her.

Gertrude's story is one that we see all too often at GMS. She was found wandering in the street in one of San Francisco's residential neighborhoods and taken to Animal Care & Control. At ACC, Gertrude was deemed "unadoptable" due to her supposed shyness, when in reality, she was just traumatized by her ordeal. Unfortu-



nately, since no owner came to claim her, Gertrude was scheduled for euthanasia.

Luckily, this gentle darling was rescued by GMS and is currently being fostered by one of our volunteers. At the foster home, Gertrude has started to come out of her shell. She likes to cuddle with her foster mom and "make biscuits." As mentioned, she plays tirelessly with the feather duster toy. Her purr is very, very sweet. Apparently, Gertrude attempts to leap great distances even though her balance has been affected by the declawing she had to endure. She would be a delightful companion, especially well suited to a quieter home. She does get along with other cats but might need some extra time to get acclimated.

Would you like to give Gertrude the forever home she deserves? Contact Lana at lane@givemesheltersf.org or 415-810-7284.