

Blue Bell MEWS



A Publication of:

BERTHA'S HOUSE * The Blue Bell Foundation for Cats

Winter 2011

New Playhouse Brings Fun!

Sunday, September 11, the **Laguna Board of Realtors** sponsored their 15th annual **Pet Parade and Chili Cook-Off** at the Tivoli Too restaurant grounds. Each year this Wonderful fun event raises funds for 3 canyon animal organizations, Laguna Beach Animal Shelter, Pacific Marine Mammal Center, and Blue Bell. All of us have had a traumatic year caused by last December's storm flooding, so this year's event was especially significant.

The usual festivities were enjoyed— food, drinks, face-painting, costumed-dogs (but only 1 cat!), and of course the chili contest. It was a great success. A considerable portion of the proceeds was raised by the auctioning of 7 enchanting Pet Houses through "Project Pet House". Seven local architects designed these one-of-a-kind cottages. To top it off, one of the winners generously donated his prize to Blue Bell! **Jim Ardery** bid \$650 for "The Cottage", designed by **Leslie LeBon** and built by **Tom Simpson**.



More pictures on page 3

The cats have been exploring their new house, inside and out. It came complete with wood floors, a crawlspace attic (which Lil'Teddy claimed as "her space"), and even a beautiful cat weather vane on top. It has given the cats, and those of us watching them, immense joy.

Special thanks to all involved, including **June Neptune** of Tivoli Terrace who graciously provides the venue for this and several other animal benefits throughout the year.

Update on Storm Damage.

We were deeply moved by the outpouring of compassion by those of you who sent your support—emotional and financial—when we reported the destruction to our property from last December's flooding. We are grateful to you all. Unfortunately, the cost to refurbish our lower special-needs building was higher than the amount we raised. We are currently seeking bids for this project, and hopefully we will be able to rebuild in the near future. In the meantime, the cats still remain in one building. The good news is, they are thriving. However, having the lower building space would help with isolations and new admissions. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

View pictures of our beautiful kitties, facility, and much more at www.dovecanyon.org/bluebell
Visit www.bluebell.petfinder.org to see our adoptable & adopted cats, and information on current events.

NEW RESIDENT



Peggy, 13, a beautiful classic brown tiger originally came in 2004. She lived with us for several months and was adopted in 2005. Her owner could no longer keep her, so in keeping with our "return policy", she was readmitted in October. Blue Bell cats have a home with us for life, even if they are adopted out.

Before her return, she had surgery to remove bladder stones as well as dental work. Peggy has no back left leg due to a birth defect. This doesn't stop her from getting around fairly quickly on her stump, albeit a bit lopsidedly!

Peggy's winsome nature, expressive eyes, and chatty personality charmed everyone the 1st time around, and she quickly captured everyone's hearts again. She currently has her own apartment, so she and the other cats can become acquainted gradually, but not surprisingly she is curious and anxious to move about further. She has little trips to the main area where she dines in the community bowls. She will be a permanent fixture in the general population very soon. We are thrilled to have our Peggy back.

Did you Know?

ONIONS ARE TOXIC TO CATS?

They contain a compound, *N-propyl disulphide*, which destroys cats' red blood cells, leading to anemia, kidney failure, and death. Never let your cat eat onions or foods containing onion powder. Something to keep in mind for the holidays—that too-tempting gravy may just contain onion powder! The same is true for garlic. It is best to refrain from feeding your kitty "people food".

WISH LIST

Heavy Duty Paper Plates
2 Sizes: 6 & 7/8 and 10 & 1/16

Heavy Duty Trash Bags 33 Gallon

New or gently used:
Pillow Cases
Receiving Blankets

Simple Green

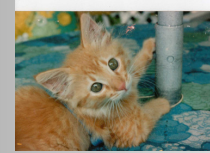
WE NO LONGER NEED NEWSPAPERS

MEMORIALS: *With heavy hearts, we announce the following recent passings:*



Tami, 16, died June 10. Tami was our pretty little gray "Valentine". She was a re-admit to Blue Bell, having been adopted out and returning to us on February 14, 2008. Tami was diabetic, so she had her own suite in the lower house so we could monitor her food and insulin intake. She loved sitting on her little terrace. Her final months she resided in our upper house special needs area, having been displaced by the floods. In that time, she began losing weight, and blood work indicated some liver dysfunction. Though no mass was found, this likely led to her demise. Tami was a shy girl, but toward the end she welcomed more loving attention.

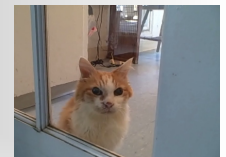
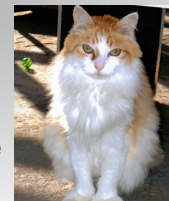
Dynamo, 17 3/4, a big handsome orange kitty, our "little lion", came in 2003, after his elderly owner could no longer care for him, though she would occasionally call to check on her beloved "Dyna". Dynamo also had his own suite in the lower house since he was allergic to fish and thus could not be fed the same diet as the rest of the cats. He also loved sunning himself on the terrace. A few months before he died, he began losing weight and an abdominal mass was found. Dynamo died on June 17.



Dyna's baby picture



Mittens, 21, our wonderful polydactyl, was born at Blue Bell in 1990 to his mother Lisa. Mittens and his littermates all had "extra toes". They were all adopted, however, Mittens returned to Blue Bell in 1997. This lovely orange & white medium-haired kitty was friendly to his housemates and could often be seen cuddling up with someone. He was hyperthyroid, and did quite well for awhile, receiving fluid treatments. However, the disease and age caught up with him, and he went blind. In his final days, Mittens became disoriented and agitated, but peacefully passed on August 5, in the home in which he was born.



His last picture

Our paddy-cake-pawed darling

New Mural



Our main living room has been graced with a brand new gorgeous wall mural, seen above, courtesy **Michael Brindley, a devoted volunteer**. Michael is a renowned Laguna airbrush artist whose work has been displayed at many public art shows, including Laguna's popular Sawdust festival. He is also a musician who plays in local bands. The painting covers one wall and a portion of the 2 adjoining walls, and brings out the inner lions and tigers in our cherished residents.

See his work online at www.mbrindley.com

Thank you, Michael, for loving the cats, and sharing your time, materials, and awesome talent with us!

OTHER NEWS

DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED ONLINE via our website through **PayPal**. Credit cards are accepted--American Express, Discover, Master Card, and Visa, or you can use your own **PayPal** account. This is a fast, easy, and secure way to donate, and you get an immediate email for your tax-deductible receipt.

SHELTER CHALLENGE: Help us by participating in the "Shelter Challenge" contests where we vie for cash prizes with other animal shelters. There is a grand prize and weekly prizes. These run several times a year through a website which sponsors animal shelters throughout the world:

www.theanimalrescuesite.com (Click the purple "click here" button.) You visit the website every day to vote. If you are on our email database**, we make it easy by sending you a daily reminder. It is still time to vote in the current round as it ends midnight, December 18.

As of this writing, we are hovering between # 2 and 4 in the state, so we have a real chance of winning! Tell your friends because **EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**

FACEBOOK: By "friending" us on Facebook, you can see many more pictures, fun videos of the cats in action, and connect with Blue Bell staff, volunteers, and other cat-loving friends and organizations .

EMAIL DATABASE: **Join us on our email database. You can receive the newsletter (in color!) thereby saving us printing and mailing costs. In addition, we send periodic news updates, and fun pictures and videos of the cats. We promise we do not clutter your inbox!

OUR WEBSITE is the portal to all the above, and so much more!

www.dovecanyon.org/bluebell

Happy New Year!

The cats enjoying their playhouse



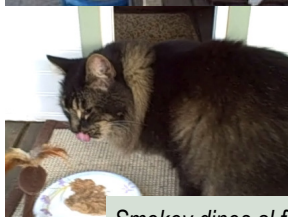
Tux takes a stretch



Boy gets cozy inside



Josette inspects the roof.



Smokey dines al fresco on the porch



Pumpkin emerges from the top



Screamer:



Hey Tiger, do you have a cup of sugar?

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Donations are tax-deductible **THANK YOU!**

NEW: DONATE ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE



**GIFTS OF LOVE
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS!**

Your tax-deductible donation helps defray the cost of food, medicine, and many various ex-

penses for the daily care of almost 50 cats.

A "Gift of Love" also pays tribute to the generous and compassionate nature of a loved one, whether in memory of a person or pet, birthday, or holiday.

A card announcing your donation (not mentioning the amount) is sent to the recipient of your gift, and you receive acknowledgement of your contribution.

We appreciate and thank all our faithful benefactors who donate supplies, financial support, and your continuing loving concern.