

# CAT NIPS



## We'll Be Home for Christmas

I'mmm dreaming of a cozy Christmas! Curled up by the fireplace or on a warm blanket with a nice scratch behind the ears. Doesn't that sound great?! I know my buddies at the ASAP shelter think so, and right now there's a whole bunch of them that need a home for the holidays. Luckily, ASAP is hosting a **Holiday Market and Adoption Fair** to help support these furry friends and get them home!

Speaking of the holidays, we also have some great options for **holiday gift-giving**. Sponsor A Cat, buy a calendar, get new merch with my face on it (who doesn't want that), and the Holiday Market sale—it's gonna be GOOD. PLUS we've got some awesome new ways to support my friends at ASAP all year long with my **Fur-ever Friends Legacy Society** AND my new **Business Buddies** alliance! Becoming a

Business Buddy is a great way to promote your business while supporting the cats and kittens of Santa Barbara County. Be sure to check out the details inside for cool ways that you can help.

A couple of my friends, Spice and Seed, recently got to hang out with the State Street Ballet in another awesome collaboration, featured on page 4.

Ya know, there are a lot of special days coming up this holiday season. With the **ASAP Cats 2022 Calendar**, you won't miss a single one! A very special day is **November 30th— Giving Tuesday!** Other than Black Cat Appreciation Day, Giving Tuesday is one of my favorite days of the year. The whole world comes

together to donate and support local and national nonprofits. One of the most amazing things about Giving Tuesday this year is that ASAP has one of the biggest matching donations we've ever received! Every donation on Giving Tuesday and through the end of the year is going to be **matched up to \$37,500!!!** Wow!! That's not a typo! That's a lot of generosity! So don't miss your chance to make your year-end gift go TWICE as far! With that much support you can help cats like Joy, featured on page 2, or a pair of bonded cats who can't live without each other.

Now, I can't stop thinking about that cozy, warm blanket again. I just really want all my feline pals at ASAP to find a home for the holidays. Did you know you can temporarily foster a cat? Even just a few days away from the shelter is a wonderful break for them. You did? Well, they're waiting for a home... so what are YOU waiting for!?

Seasons greetings until next time,

*Basil, OUT*



Bringing joy to the lives she touched was Joy's greatest gift.

 **ASAP  
CATS**  
**Holiday 2021**

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P.O. Box 357  
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805 683-3368  
info@asapcats.org  
www.asapcats.org

# Remembering Joy

## BRINGING COMFORT TO GOLDEN YEARS



There are so many lives saved at ASAP through the support of our foster families. We have often told stories of cats that have been in foster and were ultimately adopted by the foster family. Though in those cases we often lose a foster home, it's well worth it when a cat finds their forever home. That's the goal! For hospice cats like Joy, their foster family becomes a forever family and their golden years are spent in luxury.

Without our foster families we simply wouldn't be able to save the lives of cats like Joy. Looking at Joy's naturally grumpy face—and her sometimes equally grumpy demeanor—you might wonder whether such a name belonged to a cat like her. For Joy, there was no doubt. In her many years with ASAP, she brought so much joy to the lives she touched.

Joy kept many people company in her golden years. She "helped" out in the ASAP office, challenged our behavior team, kept one of our foster families company, and in perhaps her most special achievement, Joy spent time with a woman who herself was in hospice care, fulfilling a dying wish.

Recently the difficult decision was made that at 20 years old it was finally Joy's time to go, too. And so we bid a fond farewell to this special, grumpy cat who brought joy to so many and reminded us why we do the work that we do.



In her own special way, Joy showed gratitude for the comfort she felt in her final years. A comfort that we are honored to provide.

Hospice fostering is a crucial component of ASAP's foster program. It allows us to provide many months or years of enjoyable life to a cat that wouldn't have this opportunity elsewhere. The wonderful senior cats at ASAP in need of hospice foster still have so much love and companionship to provide. If you'd like to learn more about fostering cats of any age, please contact us at [foster@asapcats.org](mailto:foster@asapcats.org).



# The Unbroken Bonds of Bonded Pairs

## LIFE IS BETTER WITH A BUDDY

Throughout the pandemic, we all realized how crucial the companionship of our feline friends is to our well-being. They are truly a part of our family, and at ASAP we sometimes notice that feline friends have become attached to each other before we even meet them.

When designating a pair of cats a "bonded pair", it means that we strongly recommend that they be adopted together into a new home because the quality of their lives is greatly enhanced by their companionship with each other. The reasons for this are varied.

In some cases the pair came into our care already established as best-buddies or siblings. Kittens, though young and resilient, may also be designated as bonded if one of them is particularly shy and in need of a more outgoing companion for comfort and confidence building. Finally, cats with high energy or behavioral issues may benefit from a feline playmate and mentor in order to lessen or mitigate issues that prove challenging for many adopters.

As of the time of producing this newsletter, ASAP has several bonded pairs available for adoption, including Parker and Maldonaldo, Lucy and Gabrielle, Jamie and Steve, Derek and Julianne, as well as several pairs of Tiny Lions™. Adopting one of these pairs, or any bonded pair, is a perfect opportunity to learn that two are better than one, and to bring twice the amount of love into your home.

We always love hearing about happy endings for our bonded pairs, including Ronnie and Annie (formerly Maple and Aspen), recently adopted from ASAP.



Ronnie and Annie, spending quality time together watching the best channel of their home's 'Cat TV'.



We love our kitties (Maple and Aspen, aka Bugsy and Fluffernutter, now Ronnie and Annie)! They're still not fans of sudden moves or loud noises, but what cat is? One of the cutest things is that every morning after breakfast Ronnie will sit at my feet and look up at me, and give me the longest, cutest, most demanding meowwwwwow, which means it's time to play with the feather wand. There is no saying no—we are well trained. They love keeping watch in the dining room window and relaxing while watching birds on the back patio. Thank you for all you do to help sweeties like these two!

~ Lauren

Together we give.  
Together we save lives.



GIVING  
TUESDAY



We are so excited to announce that ASAP has embarked on a major Giving Tuesday campaign to help raise critical funds for the cats and kittens in our care. Giving Tuesday is a global day of action designed to kick off the giving season with small acts of kindness. This event takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and has raised millions of dollars for charities in over 70 Countries! With financial success this good, we knew we had to jump on board.

Giving Tuesday will take place on November 30th. Make sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out on all the ways you can support ASAP this giving season:

## Pet Food Drive

Join us in support of our partner organization C.A.R.E.4Paws by donating a bag or case of pet food to the ASAP shelter anytime before November 30th.

## Donate

Visit our website and donate on Giving Tuesday. Every donation is matched dollar for dollar up to \$37,500! ASAP's largest matching grant ever!

## Support Local Businesses

Throughout November visit our Giving Tuesday local business partners who've put out ASAP donation boxes or are donating 20% of proceeds to ASAP!

- Montecito Pet Shop
- Pet House
- Santa Barbara Cat Hotel
- VCA Care Specialty and Emergency Animal Hospital
- La Cumbre Animal Hospital
  - Cat & Bird Clinic
  - BJ's in Oxnard
  - Pizza Man Dan
  - Chipotle (La Cumbre)
- Lemos Pet Supply (Goleta and Santa Barbara)
- Panda Express (in Paseo Nuevo)

## Join us Online on Giving Tuesday

### UNSELFIE SELFIES

Show your support for ASAP Cats by posting an "Unselfie Selfie", tagging @asapcats on Instagram and use the hashtag #GivingTuesday to share why you support the cats! You can find the unselfie selfie template on our website.

### FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

You can find us @asapcats and be sure to join us on November 30th where we'll be sharing never before seen videos of our amazing volunteers & staff in action. You'll have a chance to win some prizes, and hear from some very special guests!

# Basil's Fur-ever Friends Legacy Society

NEW FOR YOU IN 2022!

This holiday season, we ask you to consider a giving opportunity that helps ASAP in a more meaningful way by joining our new legacy society, Basil's Fur-ever Friends. Including ASAP in your estate planning ensures that ASAP Cats continues to save the lives of cats and kittens for many, many years to come.

Here's how you can help:

**Bequest:** Designate ASAP Cats in your will or living trust.

**Beneficiary Designation:** Name ASAP Cats as a beneficiary of a retirement account, 401K plan or life insurance policy.

**Charitable Lead Trust:** Set up an irrevocable trust designed to provide support to ASAP for a period of time.

**Charitable Remainder Trust:** Set up an irrevocable trust that generates an income stream for you, with the remainder of the donated assets going to ASAP.

Members of Basil's Fur-ever Friends will be honored at an annual reception and acknowledged in our Cat Nips newsletter. If we are already included in your plans or you are interested in learning more, please notify us of your commitment so that we may recognize you today for your generosity. Please contact Amy Marshall, Director of Development at (414) 687-7980 or [amy@asapcats.org](mailto:amy@asapcats.org).



## Basil's Business Buddies

JOIN ASAP'S NEW BUSINESS ALLIANCE

ASAP is thrilled to present local businesses and nationally based corporations with a unique opportunity to become one of **Basil's Business Buddies**! Members of our new business alliance will have the chance to connect with our supporters and friends, build brand awareness, demonstrate support for local non-profits, and share a love of our feline friends.

Benefits for joining the alliance include:

- Recognition on our website
- Logo placement in upcoming editions of our Cat Nips newsletters (3x each year)
- Inclusion on a plaque at the ASAP Cats shelter
- Sponsorship opportunities with adoption events and yard sales
- Acknowledgement through emails to our ASAP community of over 3,000 supporters

We are accepting new members immediately for a donation of \$500. For more information or to join the alliance, please contact Amy Marshall, Director of Development, at (414) 687-7980 or [amy@asapcats.org](mailto:amy@asapcats.org).



# A Love of Cats Can Reach the Entire Community

COLLABORATION IN THE COMMUNITY BRINGS JOY TO ALL

ASAP is thrilled to collaborate with the State Street Ballet for our 2021 Holiday Campaign. Our photoshoot with Leila Drake, former principal dancer and now Director of Communications with the State Street Ballet, was a wonderful reminder that the love of cats knows no limits. Read on for Leila's ASAP story.

"When my husband and I moved into a new place in 2017, we were so fortunate to adopt Cosmo, the adorable senior cat that lived there. Quite a personality and so full of love, he quickly became the third member of our little family. When Cosmo passed (in my husband's arms) in late 2017, we immediately knew we wanted to adopt two kittens to carry on his legacy of feline excellence in our home. We went to ASAP in the spring of 2018 and saw these two little sisters, one grey and one black kitten, who stole our hearts.

The grey one, Raja, was energetic, playful, and immediately requested many snuggles. The black one, Poe, was more shy and observant, taking her time to get to know us. Three and a half years later, Raja and Poe have nestled their way into our home and hearts. I know they are making Cosmo proud with their snuggles, personalities, and shenanigans. Just as the arts have the power to heal and comfort, so do our furry family members. I am proud to be a member of the performing arts community in Santa Barbara and am so grateful for the work that ASAP does to bring joy to humans and kitties alike."



# A Day in The Life of ASAP's Vet Team

## A WHIRLWIND MORNING OF PREPPING KITTENS FOR ADOPTION

Have you ever wanted to spend a day in the life of our veterinary team? Recently our admin staff, who usually work off-site, got to do just that. We were impressed with the hustle we saw in our veterinary and wellness staff. In just a few short hours—starting bright and early in the morning—they completed 5 spays and 10 neuters, plus a few shorter exams and procedures. Blood was drawn, microchips implanted, and vaccines given. We saw kittens sedated, shaved and prepped, then being operated on, waking up, and eating breakfast—all with the utmost care for their well-being and comfort. The importance of this surgery not only improves the longevity and health of the cat but also ensures that they will not add to the overpopulation of cats in the community.

After spending weeks or even months with a dedicated ASAP kitten foster, kittens are spayed or neutered as one of the final steps before being adopted into its forever homes. Saving the lives of hundreds of kittens that pass through our veterinary suite every year is simply not possible without the dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors of ASAP.



Spice and Seed, featured in our collaboration with the State Street Ballet, wait patiently in ASAP's Vet Room.

## ASAP's Holiday Gift-Giving Guide

ASAP's got you covered for the 2021 holiday season! Be sure to stop by our Holiday Market on November 27th, but if you can't make it, don't worry! We have additional gift giving options available on our website at [www.asapcats.org](http://www.asapcats.org).

**CALENDARS:** The **ASAP Cats 2022 Calendar** features a new cat each month, sponsored by a member of the ASAP Community! With special cat-themed holidays, each month will give you a reason to celebrate.

**SPONSOR A CAT CERTIFICATES:** An ASAP fan favorite is sponsoring the care of a cat in honor of your friend or loved one, and it makes a wonderful gift that ensures one of our shelter cats is fully fed and taken care of for an entire month. We'll even mail your gift recipient a holiday **Sponsor A Cat certificate** featuring a photo of the cat their gift is supporting! Be sure to make your donation by December 10th so the certificate can arrive in time. You can do so online at [www.asapcats.org](http://www.asapcats.org), or by mail to ASAP Cats, PO Box 357, Goleta, CA, 93116.

**ONLINE MERCH STORE:** That's right, ASAP has launched a brand-new online merch store with great items like notebooks, shirts, travel mugs, and more! Each gift you purchase helps support the care of the cats and kittens at ASAP. It's a win-win!







P.O. Box 357  
Goleta, CA 93116-0357

805 683-3368  
info@asapcats.org  
www.asapcats.org

 Facebook.com/asapcats

 Instagram.com/asapcats

## ASAP Holiday Market and Adoption Fair

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 27th, 10am–3pm for ASAP's annual Holiday Market and Adoption Event!** Stop by and see us (in person!) at 5473 Overpass Road in Santa Barbara. You'll find unique gifts not available in stores from exclusive estates and “mid-century” items, along with artwork, 465 vinyl record albums, a Victrola Stereo console, a gorgeous antique desk, beautiful crystal vases, lots of Christmas items, some clothing and of course, several cat trees, scratching posts and a lot of animal related gift items. Plus, new Basil swag AND the **ASAP Cat Calendar is back for 2022**, too! Stop on by and be sure to win the 'Best Gift Giver' award this holiday season.

Adoptable cats will also be available to warm your heart and home this holiday season! Most ASAP cats are **available for adoption and foster**, so you can help us find a home for EVERY cat this holiday season. Plus, you can buy a few pet supplies at our holiday market while you're here!

There's no better way to spend the holidays this year, and every year, than with the companionship of a cat.

*Please note: during this event we ask the public continue to adhere to all required mask-wearing and social distancing protocols to help ensure the safety of everyone involved.*



**ASAP - Animal Shelter Assistance Program**

5473 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

ASAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization ■ Federal Tax ID: 77-0283500