

# Then & Now! 40-years and “home” to thousands of unwanted, abandoned animals . . . .



Our first tiny “shelter” was an old kennel in El Monte, California. Our dogs lived in 4x10 foot “runs” and got out for exercise twice a day. Not ideal, but better than starving to death in the forest. And since nobody wanted to adopt these “damaged” dogs, we treated them all as our own pets. Three years later we began sheltering at our SuperSanctuary. Today every two dogs has a huge yard and a stuccoed straw bale house to live and play in!



Here I am at an ocean jetty in the 80’s rescuing abandoned and starving cats. At the far right is a cat from a colony of over 100 that I rescued at just one wilderness campground.

Since rescuing all the cats from this campground, no new cats have been dumped, proving my point that when people don’t see lots of cats running around, they don’t get the idea that cats can survive in the elements. They don’t even think of dumping their cat there.

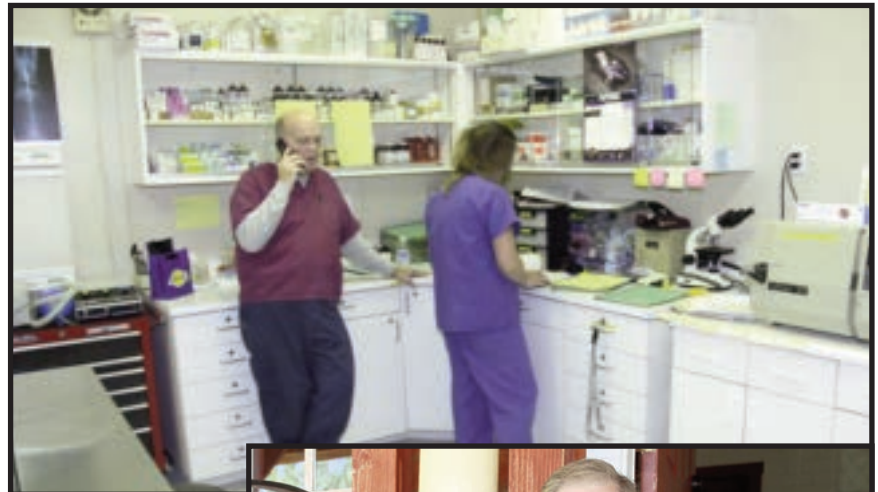




This is one of our three dozen catteries. Indoor and outdoor-enclosed, we have over 900 cats living here at one time. Now remember, I rescued each little angel myself. Each rescue took from a few hours to a few months. This is hard work. There is no other rescue group in the country that goes into the wilderness to save these starving animals. It would be easier to let people bring us their pets, but we have to stop giving people the impression that pets are disposable, that it's okay to give them up when it is inconvenient to keep them!



35-years ago this "kid" learned veterinary medicine from books, and he did his own fecal analysis and skin scrapings for parasites. This saved lots of donor-money that was needed to add new shelter space to save even more abandoned animals. Today we have two fully functioning hospital buildings on site . . . exclusively for our own dogs & cats, up to 1,500 of them. And hundreds of "outpatient" medications are also given daily. Having our own hospital has saved us lots of money, but more importantly, it has saved lots of lives. We can give all our animals the care we humans would like.



There are four decades between these two pictures of me. Bert, the puppy on the left, lived for 15 years. He was a noble dog, and a friend to many. The rescued cats on the right are just beginning their adventure! The hardest thing about finding these pictures for you was the pain of missing my kids who are gone now. But I know I'll see them all again, someday!

