

Get Giddy with a Kitty at Feline Good Social Club!



By Meghan O'Dell

The weekend before the safer-at-home orders were announced, a friend and I made our first visit to downtown Long Beach's Feline Good Social Club. Easter was approaching, and they were hosting an event where you could make spring-themed crafts while visiting with the adoptable cats that roam, nap, play, and win hearts in the lounge. I'd been meaning to check it out for months and was finally feeling ready to potentially bring home a new family member. We entered the modern, colorful (and clean!) lounge, which is spacious and has a few different areas with plush seating at ideal cat-petting height. There's also a giant white "tree" in the middle of the main room where the cats love to perch, as well as several hammocks along the windows for favorite cat-tivities such as sunbathing and people-watching.

Toward the back of the building is a room for kitties who prefer to have a quieter environment and several hidey-holes, as well as an area for newcomers to get adjusted before they're introduced to the general population. The back wall features a cat-themed mural by local artist Vlad Noel, also known as [WhosVlad](#). (He happened to be there at the same time we were, taking pictures as inspiration for a mural he later painted on the outside of the building.) There are also pictures and stats of all the adoptable cats, as well as another spacious area with lots of toys and a giant wheel for cats to get exercise and entertain any lookers-on. (There's also an area for their "Happy Tails" photos, which they take when you adopt a cat!)



I was immediately taken by a Calico cat I spotted in one of the window hammocks as we walked up. Although I had plenty of great interactions with several of the cats in the lounge, I was drawn to her. I sat on a chair near the hammock and petted her super-soft fur, and she hopped out and sat on my lap momentarily before wandering over to a fluffier seat to take a nap. My friend and I made two fun crafts with

the help of a friendly volunteer (not to mention a few cats who hopped up onto the table to "help"), cooed over the kitten Archie (who now goes by Edwin), and were on our way.

The next night, I was thinking about the fact that the name of the club's co-owner, Pam Leslie, sounded familiar. I dug out the paperwork from when I found my beloved cat Kiwi at an adoption event in Long Beach 15 years ago (we had many wonderful years together but sadly lost her to cancer in May of 2019). The name written on the front of the folder in big black letters? Pam Leslie. I knew it was a sign and that I needed to adopt the Calico from the window (who turned out to be named Cali), so I immediately sent in an application. Pam contacted me shortly afterward and we agreed that I'd come to the lounge later that week; I was able to bring Cali home just before the lounge was forced to close and the remaining cats were sent to foster homes until they could open again. I feel immense gratitude that it worked out, as Cali has been such a joy and comfort over the last 8 months, and I can't wait to see what the (hopefully many, many) years have in store for us.



Luckily, FGSC is back in business! Most of the cats who were fostered have been adopted (many through what they call "foster fails," which is when the person fostering the cat decides to keep them), and there's a new slew of adorable, funny, quirky kitties to meet. Whether you're just looking for a fun, soothing afternoon where you

can interact with cats in a modern space or you're thinking about expanding your family (there's never been a better time to adopt, especially with how much time most of us are spending at home!), do yourself a favor and book a session (\$15 for 50 minutes) today! They strictly abide by COVID-19 guidelines, including temperature taking, mask wearing, and physical distancing. There are nine separate seating areas that are spaced at least six feet apart; small groups can sit together as long as they're from the same household. To learn more about their background and safety procedures, check out this [recent article](#) by the LB Post, visit their [website](#), and follow them on [Instagram](#).

Meghan O'Dell has been a Long Beach resident for 16 years. She loves reading, seeing live music, and watching too many shows, and she lives with her husband and their Calico cat (thank you, FGSC!) in the Bluff Heights neighborhood.

