



# Paws Patter

ST 8, 2011

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## **A WEEK IN THE LIFE**

We are so fortunate to have a new veterinarian in our area (more information below)—Dr. Jan Nicol—with a staff who can handle our needs, either with feral or non-feral cats. This past week presented us with a lot of cat challenges, so as we finalize this edition of Paws Patter, I'd like to share some of them with you. We began our vet

week at 8am on Monday with a 2-3 month old kitten who had possibly been thrown out of a car. She had minor injuries to her face from the pavement and one eye was injured. Dr. Nicol treated her and fortunately for this kitty, there were no serious injuries and she was placed in a foster home. An hour later, we trapped a kitten weighing less than 3 pounds who had been attacked by roving dogs

He had 4 abdominal punctures and globs of infectious material oozing out. Dr. Nicol rushed him into surgery and found the infection was all through his lower muscles but had not invaded the abdominal

walls. He spent 3 days at the vet and his improvement was remarkable. Having been just hours from death, this lucky feline was finally able to go to a foster home with a bag of medicine for the week. By Tuesday morning, we hoped the week in our cat world was about to settle down, and then I got a call from a senior woman who

adopted one of our older cats a few years ago. He wasn't eating—unheard of for a cat who weighs in at nearly 20 pounds—was hiding under the bed and just not acting normal. He also went to see Dr. Nicol, who determined that some blood work was in order and sent

Mom and kitty home to wait for the results. His results show he is anemic, so we will continue to monitor him and hopefully return him

to full health. These kitties were just the beginning—we also spayed/neutered 7 cats. We never know if a feral cat going to be spayed will also have other issues—parasites, injuries, ringworm, etc. so expenses and places to hold these cats are challenging. This

probably was not a bad week considering we have 40 cats/kittens in foster homes and we are actively trapping feral cats at 5 locations, but it indicates how quickly our unexpected medical costs can rise on

a weekly basis. And our precious kitties are very grateful to Dr. Nicol

and her great staff for the time and care they gave us.

As you read this edition of Paws Patter, think about how you can help—be a foster (or new parent) for a specific cat like Buffy, use

**Needing Forever Homes:**



**Belle**



**Gretel**



**Goldie**

your creative talent to make items we can sell at the Farmer's Market to increase our funds, offer to help at one of our foster homes to socialize cats, groom and cut nails, clean litter boxes, etc., or maybe volunteer to work at the Farmer's Market or the White Elephant parade. If none of these choices appeal to you, please consider sending us a donation. Summer is our busiest cat time of the year, but the slowest time for receiving donations. Check out our [website](#) [email](#) us, or call us at 520-207-4024.

Patti Hogan, President

**SPECIAL CATS NEED SPECIAL HOMES**

All of our cats are special to us since they live in our homes until they find permanent homes, but we currently have a few cats who really need homes of their own. For any approved adopter during the month of August, we will cut the regular adoption fee in half so that it is only \$32.50 for these perfect cats (except for Buffy who comes with his own special).



**Buffy**

**Buffy**—What a beautiful buff-colored, very short haired male! Buffy was trapped in Sahuarita when he was not quite one year old. Buffy was born in February 2010. We trapped him and planned to neuter and vaccinate him, then return him to his colony. We randomly test our ferals for feline leukemia/AIDS (FELV/FIV) and he was chosen—we were very surprised to find out he tested positive for FELV. So what does that mean? Buffy needs to be the only cat or with another FELV cat. He is not contagious to dogs or people, and as you can see he looks perfectly healthy. Our vet believes he has several healthy years ahead, if we stay on top of any viral infections. This is a lovable, but shy kitty, currently living in a small room in a foster home. We will waive the adoption fee AND pay any FELV related bills for the first 12 months if we find the right home. Could also be a long term foster home.



**Tomasina**



**Scruffy**



**Captain**



**Sheba**



**Mandy**

**Mandy is a very short haired female, a little over 2 years old. When she was found in Sahuarita, she had her first litter of young kittens and was so sick she couldn't feed them, so Paws Patrol took over. She is now a picture of health with the only sign of her early illness being a squeaky voice because her vocal cords were affected by her illness. Mandy was very skittish for most of her life, and she preferred to stay in her foster's bedroom. She enjoys being petted and does ok with most cats, but not dogs. Recently, she has ventured into the screened room, a HUGE step for her, which shows her confidence is building. This is the perfect cat for someone who wants a low maintenance kitty for company.**



**Handsome**

**Handsome is a year-old orange and white male tabby that is as gentle as they come. He was found in a feral colony, but he is anything but feral! He loves people, loves attention, and positively goes into a trance if you rub the bridge of his nose. He gets along well with the other cats in the house, and has even begun to warm up to the small dog in the house. He has been reluctant to sit in a lap, preferring to stand or lay at your feet for attention. He really needs someone to pay him special attention since he loves it so much. Oh—his food needs to be monitored since he eats anything he can find. In a multiple cat house, that means no free-feeding. If you have the time and the desire to have a faithful loving companion, Handsome is the cat for you.**



**Cher**

*the mission of Paws patrol is to reduce the feral cat overpopulation through Trap/neuter/Return (TNR) in order to create a healthier environment for our communities.*

*Paws Patrol is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit organization not affiliated with any local or national organization. We rely on donations and grants and do not receive local or county funds.*

**How to Make a Donation**

*Paws Patrol always welcomes donations. Credit card donations can be made securely through PayPal on our website [www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org](http://www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org). Alternately, checks can be mailed to Paws Patrol, P.O. Box 1642, Green Valley, AZ 85622.*

*In addition to monetary donations, we gladly accept any type of dry cat food for our feral colonies, and bags of Innova, Evo, Chicken Soup for the Soul Cat Food, and Taste of the Wild for our foster kitties.*



**Spike**

**Black cats—We have several black cats/kittens who need homes. The only thing that makes them “special” is their beautiful coats: Spike, Licorice, Onyx and King. We need great homes for them; please give these guys a chance. For more info: [Paws Patrol Pet Finder](#)**

**CALENDARS FOR SALE**

**We are proud to announce our 2012 cat calendar is being printed and will be available for sale by the end of August. Copies will be \$10 each and will be available at various locations in Green Valley, Arivaca and Tubac. More information will be available soon. These make wonderful Christmas gifts and we will provide a mailing envelope if needed.**

**FARMER’S MARKET**

**Did you know that Paws Patrol has a booth at the Farmer’s Market in the Green Valley Village every Wednesday? Our purpose is to educate the community on feral cats and our role, as well as to raise funds to help with spay/neuter and vet bills. Several volunteers make items for us to sell—jewelry, catnip cat toys, Christmas ornaments, soap, etc. The fall is coming and we need new items to sell, so if you are talented and would like to help, let us know. Also we need volunteers to help with the booth. We try to limit the time to 2 hours per person due to the weather. The hours change during the year; currently, they are 8:30am to 12:30pm.**

**A NEW VET IN TOWN**

**If you haven’t stopped in to meet Dr. Jan Nicol, Tami Young, CVT, and the rest of the staff at Valley Verde Veterinarians in the Green Valley Village, you are missing a great opportunity. Dr. Nicol opened her practice earlier this summer and our Paws Patrol foster kitties give her 2 paws up! She and the staff are courteous, attentive and sincere in their handling of you and your pet. And an important factor for us—she can handle feral cats! In fact she is quite knowledgeable on TNR. Some evening hours are available. Stop by and say “HI” when you are at the Village and keep this number handy when your pets need vet care—520-393-VETS.**

## THE VET'S CORNER

Each edition of our newsletter offers an insightful article about cat care. This month, Dr. Jan Nicol teaches us about conditions in our cat's mouth:

### The Mouth of a Cat

Dr. Jan Nicol

When it comes to a cat's mouth, there are a lot of conditions that appear to be specific only to the feline species. But you knew your cat was special, didn't you?

First, there is that awful condition labeled "stomatitis." It is a widespread inflammation of the oral cavity which may involve only the gums, or go deeper into the jaw bone or other tissues including the back of the throat, inside of the cheeks, soft palate, and tongue.

The extent of inflammation determines how painful the cat is and whether or not the cat will attempt to eat. It is not uncommon to see a cat with a painful mouth sit over a bowl of food and salivate, but not eat. These cats will be poor groomers and show progressive weight loss. Temporary relief is possible only when strong anti-inflammatory medications are prescribed. Treatment of this condition includes full mouth extraction of the teeth. However, some cats with severe stomatitis may continue to have inflammatory problems even after all the teeth are removed.

So what causes stomatitis in the cat? There does not appear to be any one answer to that question. Researchers still consider this syndrome to be "multifactorial." Localized reaction to plaque, stress, diet, viral and bacterial causes have all been implicated. Early detection, medical, and eventual surgical treatment seem to be the best course to follow when this disease is diagnosed.

Another common cat specific oral problem is tooth resorption. This condition used to be called "cat cavities" or "subgingival cavities" and radiographs of affected cats appeared similar to those of human cavities. But this cat dental disease is not simple. Clinical disease is generally seen in permanent teeth in cats greater than 2 years of age (4 to 6 years of age is most common). The tooth enamel starts to be resorbed at the root surface and may travel above the gum line or just stay below the gum until the tooth loosens or fractures. In any event, inflammation and infection of the area around the resorptive lesion may be painful, causing the cat to chew on one side of the mouth, or swallow food whole. Any signs of pain when eating should be investigated as soon as possible. And for your special cat, this may mean examination under heavy sedation or anesthesia.

Both stomatitis and feline oral resorptive lesions (FORL) may cause halitosis and pain in your feline family member. The cause of these conditions remains uncertain. But one thing is for sure, the sooner the problem is identified, the sooner a plan for treatment or control can be developed. So, don't wait until your cat stops eating to have a thorough oral exam. Any signs of pain, selective eating, or salivating may indicate that your feline family member is having

### **Paws Patrol**

P.O. Box 1642  
Green Valley, AZ 85622

520-207-4024

[pawspatrol@cox.net](mailto:pawspatrol@cox.net)

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dental problems and needs medical attention. Because, after all, cats are special, aren't they?

### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – SHARON BOOKER**

**BLAME IT ALL ON "JUST BOB!"** In November, 2007, someone no longer involved with Paws Patrol asked if I'd be interested in fostering or adopting a part-Siamese half-grown cat they were calling "Just Bob." After meeting him and deciding our house was due for something new, we adopted Just Bob--now called Bobcat--a Christmas, 2007.

After adopting Bobcat and finding out what a wonderful job Paws Patrol was doing for feral kitties, I volunteered my services to Patti

When we lived in Ajo, I wrote a weekly column called **MEW INTERPRETATIONS** for the local paper where I would climb into the head of one kitty residing at the pound, hoping that the comments would get him/her adopted. In my three years of writing, cat adoption rates went from 60% to 92%. Now I am writing a weekly Mew Interpretation type column to highlight two of Paw's cats in the Green Valley News. I might add, since Bobcat, we've added Holly to our household from Paws Patrol and in August, 2010, Sandy came to live with us. We now have nine kitties ranging in ages from one to over nineteen years.

While I've been totally blind since 1973, it has not stopped me from enjoying kitties, singing in our church choir and authoring two books which, unfortunately, because my publisher went out of business--are no longer in print. I'm thankful that my husband, Thom, is as much of a cat person as I am. He's never refused me when I need a "kitty fix."

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Paws Patrol has a number of volunteer opportunities that can fit your lifestyle:

1. Donate your handmade items for Paws Patrol to sell
2. Assist in trapping feral cats for vet care
3. Event Workers (Farmer's Market, Tubac Festival of the Arts, White Elephant Fair, etc.)
4. Fundraising: Planning and Event Day workers
5. Transportation to Vets
6. Assist with periodic mailings
7. Help distribute flyers
8. Publicity: Writing or phone follow-up
9. Assist with Adoption Fair signs once per month
10. Help socialize and care for foster cats

If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities and how you can help, please [contact](#) us.

### **ALTERNATIVE IDEAS FOR HELPING PAWS**

#### **JEWELRY BENEFITS PAWS PATROL**

Board Member Chloe Wolf creates cat jewelry with 100% of the sale (except for shipping costs) from her kitty bead items going to Paws

### **Patrol.**

Items include earrings, necklaces, chokers, ankle bracelets and bracelets. Prices range from \$4 to about \$20 and can be found at the

"GottaHaves" store on Etsy.com [GottaHaves](#)

### **NEW FUNDRAISING PROGRAM THROUGH BBVA**

We have just enrolled in a new nonprofit program through BBVA Compass Bank, called The Compass For Your Cause, which benefits Paws Patrol when individuals sign up for checking. In a nutshell, here is how it works.

- Open a new checking account and have the bank link it with the Paws Patrol program—there is no charge to you for this link, but Compass will deposit \$50 into our account. (That pays for 1 cat neuter and shots!)
- Use your Compass Visa Check card, which is tied to your account, and we earn 0.25% of the purchase amount.

If you already have a checking account with Compass, have it associated with the Paws account.

For more details, contact Karina Granillo, Senior Financial Sales Advisor, 520-625-6170. The bank is located on Esperanza at the Green Valley Village.

### **VIRTUAL FOSTER HOMES**

If you can't foster a cat, please consider being a virtual foster by donating \$25 monthly for vet bills, food, and litter for one of our cats.

### **KURANDA BEDS**

[Kuranda.com](#) has a program where folks can donate great beds for our cats at a substantial reduction when done on line. Our cats love them.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2011 WHITE ELEPHANT PARADE**

It's time to start planning our entry to the annual Country Fair White Elephant Parade taking place in October. This year's theme is "You Give, We Serve" (Meaning people in the community donate to White Elephant, and they serve local organizations by donating). We are looking for volunteers to plan and help us create a winning entry that shows how our mission statement ("Reducing feral cat overpopulation through trap/neuter/return (TNR) in order to create a healthier environment for our communities") fulfills WE's theme.

If you have any creative ideas to share or time to help us put it together, we'd love to hear from you!

### **CAT ADOPTION FAIRS**

On the second Sunday of every month, we have a Cat Adoption Fair at Green Valley Canine from 1pm-4pm featuring many of our tame cats and kittens. These great felines are fostered in our homes and well acquainted with daily life such as doorbells, phones, vacuums, TVs, kitchen countertops, outside doors, and sometimes, kids and dogs. Because these cats live with our volunteers, we know their good and bad points 24/7, like who purrs all night or who likes to

open the kitchen cupboards. If you need an indoor companion, come see our great cats that need permanent homes. Our next Cat Adoption Fair is Sunday, August 14.

### PAWS WISH LIST

- Carriers
- Card Tables
- 4 ft Tables
- Dry food for fosters (Taste of the Wild, Chicken Soup for the Soul, Royal Canin Baby – all available at The Dog House in G.V.)
- World's Best Cat Litter (The Dog House, Fry's, Petco, PetSmart)
- Any dry and canned cat food for feral colonies
- KMR brand kitten milk replacement, liquid
- Twin flat sheets for covering large feral cat kennels
- Empty litter buckets with lids for mixing dry cat food for colonies
- 4'x4'x4' folding wire pens for the barn relocation program
- Computer/copy paper
- Stamps (Postcard & Letter)
- Toner cartridges for HP Deskjet 722C
- Gift Cards (Petco, Petsmart, Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart)

### PAWS PATROL'S CAT STATS 2006 THROUGH 07/31/2011

|                          | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2006</i> | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2007</i> | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2008</i> | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2009</i> | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2010</i> | <i>Cat<br/>Totals<br/>2011</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Trapped/Taken In</b>  | <b>135</b>                     | <b>242</b>                     | <b>175</b>                     | <b>193</b>                     | <b>200</b>                     | <b>149</b>                     |
| # Neuters (since 9/1/09) |                                |                                |                                | <b>45</b>                      | <b>76</b>                      | <b>75</b>                      |
| # Spays (since 9/1/09)   |                                |                                |                                | <b>52</b>                      | <b>89</b>                      | <b>62</b>                      |
| Returned to colony       | <b>28</b>                      | <b>100</b>                     | <b>68</b>                      | <b>101</b>                     | <b>115</b>                     | <b>95</b>                      |
| Taken to barn            | <b>12</b>                      | <b>26</b>                      | <b>13</b>                      | <b>14</b>                      | <b>16</b>                      | <b>6</b>                       |
| Regular adoptions        | <b>35</b>                      | <b>107</b>                     | <b>101</b>                     | <b>66</b>                      | <b>47</b>                      | <b>37</b>                      |
| Pets/seniors adoptions   | <b>2</b>                       | <b>5</b>                       | <b>13</b>                      | <b>11</b>                      | <b>14</b>                      | <b>4</b>                       |
| Taken to TALGV           | <b>6</b>                       | <b>9</b>                       | <b>2</b>                       | <b>11</b>                      | <b>9</b>                       | <b>1</b>                       |

### DONATIONS

Your donation will help us care for the animals! It's easy to send a safe and secure contribution using PayPal, and you don't have to have a PayPal account. Just click here: [Paws Patrol PayPal](#)

**If you prefer to mail in a donation, please fill out this form below:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Name           |   |
| Address        |   |
| City/State/Zip |   |
| Telephone      |   |
| Email          |   |
| Send To:       | Please print this form and mail it with your check payable to:<br><b>PAWS PATROL</b><br><b>P.O. Box 1642 Green Valley, AZ 85622</b> |