



Island Cats Newsletter

JANUARY 31, 2010

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1



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## BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be announced soon. A quorum is attained by attendance, proxy or teleconference.

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COUNCIL REVERSES NO

The Town Council denied Island Cats the opportunity to launch a fund-raising campaign to sell engraved bricks at their January meeting. In a rare instance, the Council changed the no to yes at the February meeting. Island Cats will begin selling engraved bricks to commemorate events or honor loved ones on February 21. The bricks will be used for a path in the park being developed on Park Avenue. Details to be announced.



STRAY VS. FERAL

Is There a Difference Between a Stray Cat and a Feral Cat?

Yes. A feral cat is primarily wild-raised or has adapted to feral life, while we define a stray cat as someone's pet who has become lost or has been abandoned. Stray cats are usually tame and comfortable around people. They will often try to make a home near humans—in car garages, front porches or backyards. Most are completely reliant on humans as a food source and are not yet able to cope with life on the streets.

What Do I Do If I Find a Stray Cat?

Stray cats will usually try to make contact with you, even if they are a bit fearful at first. If you find a stray cat, please take the following actions:

- Check with your neighbors to see if their cat is missing.
- Call Island Cats at 689-2287; the cat will be scanned for a microchip to identify the owner and the cat can be returned home.
- Notify all local veterinary hospitals and shelters so they can post the information in their lost-and-found resources.
- Consider fostering the cat rather than bringing her to the shelter—most shelters only hold strays for a few days, often euthanizing them after the mandatory holding period.
- Check classifieds for lost pets and run a "found" ad of your own. Make sure your description is brief so that callers will need to truly identify the cat.

"Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains un-awakened."

~~~~~Author unknown



## Sign up now Protect our cats

Join the mailing list and learn how you can help protect and improve the lives of homeless and feral cats in town. E-mail us at

[islandcatspb@gmail.com](mailto:islandcatspb@gmail.com)

Simply say, please add me to the mail list!

## NEW CHAIRMAN

### Announcing committee chairman Bobby Albre

At the January meeting of the Board of Directors, a very talented and highly skilled volunteer stepped forward to be chairman of a very important committee.

**Bobby Albre** was named Public Relations Chairman. She brings experience to Island Cats to help inform and educate the residents about the work being done to control the homeless cat population in Palm Beach, and promote events. Meet her in the newsletter next month!

Island Cats is looking for a willing and animal friendly people who would like to serve on the Board of Directors. Call 689-2287 and tell you want to help.

# PARTY RESCHEDULED

In the wake of the tragedy and disaster in Haiti caused by a devastating earthquake, the Fund-raising Committee recommended the *Purrfect Pawty* scheduled for February 10 be rescheduled. "We don't want to take one dime away from Haitian relief efforts, the chairman said, "and our donors will be among the first to help them." The Board concurred with the decision without hesitation.

The *Purrfect Pawty*, a silent auction and cocktail party, has been rescheduled for March 10. Island Cats looks forward to seeing friends of the animals and organization at this fundraising event to benefit the homeless, abandoned, stray and feral cats of Palm Beach. *Pawty*-goers will enjoy appetizers and cocktails at The Chesterfield Hotel at 6:30 p.m. and take part in a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the work of Island Cats to allow continued care of the homeless cats on the Island. Additional information is forthcoming.

## ASPCA NEWSLETTER EXCERPT

### Overwhelmed NY Owner Releases 35 Cats to the ASPCA

On January 18, ASPCA emergency responders and veterinarians traveled to Brooklyn, NY, to intervene in a hoarding situation in which 37 cats and kittens were living in a one-bedroom apartment.

Tim Rickey, ASPCA Senior Director of Field Investigation & Response, reported that the cats' owner was not abusive and did her best to care for all of her pets, but became overwhelmed by their out-of-control breeding. Cooperating fully with the ASPCA before and during the operation, the owner relinquished 35 felines, opting to keep her original two cats.

All 37 cats were transferred to a staging area at Brooklyn Animal Care & Control (AC&C), where the ASPCA's Mobile Clinic was on site to sterilize the two cats that were going back to their owner to prevent future litters and to medically evaluate the others. After medical care and ACC processing, the 35 relinquished cats went to various partner organizations where they will be cared for, spayed or neutered, and eventually be available for adoption.

In almost all animal hoarding cases, the person and the animals are suffering, either from neglect, health issues, or isolation. Early intervention provides the best chance of a favorable outcome for both the person and the animals.

If anyone knows of an animal hoarding situation on the Island, please contact Island Cats so everyone can help prevent an unnecessary situation and possible harm to the innocent animals.

