

9th Life Hawaii Newsletter

vol. # 1



9th Life Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Thanks to your support over the past 5 years we have fixed over 500 cats, found homes for adoptable ones, and given shelter for many who would have perished without our intervention. On behalf of all the rescued kitties who now have a place to call home, thank you for caring! Your donations are **CRITICAL** for us to maintain our **unique No-Kill Cat Sanctuary** and our public outreach programs. Please make a tax-deductible contribution to 9th Life this holiday season! You can contribute on our website at www.9thlifehawaii.org using the PayPal service, or you can send a check to 9th Life at:

9th Life
PO Box 538,
Makawao, HI 98768

All donations received before January 1, 2004 will be eligible for the maximum tax deduction allowed by law this year since we are now a public non-profit 501(c)3 organization!

MAHALO AND MERRY
CHRISTMAS FROM THE KITTIES!

The Mark of Zorro



A colony caretaker called to let me know that she had trapped a very sick kitten at a state wayside on the road to Hana. She took it to the mass spay/neuter, but was worried that the kitten was too sick for surgery and asked me to please bring it into 9th Life for evaluation. She warned me that the kitten would likely lose its eye due to infection even if it did survive. When I peeked into the trap my heart sank. There was this little white kitty with a black tail and a perfect black mask. The poor trembling thing was just skin and bones, with mucus all over his face and one eye severely

inflamed. I whisked it back to the sanctuary and went into full rescue mode.

Much to my surprise, this guy had been fixed despite his delicate condition, and was barely conscious. He refused food and just lay very still, fighting for each breath. Well, the first order of business was to get him re-hydrated, so I hooked him up to the fluid bag and started the drip. Then it was time for the nasty antibiotics and eye medicines.

After all that was accomplished, I set up a steam tent to help him breathe and snuggled him into a sheepskin bed to keep him warm. He snuggled in and I crossed my fingers! Although he stabilized, he still refused food and had to be force fed. His stomach was so empty he got the hiccups after every bite, so it was very slow going. For days he just lay in his box, unable to feed or clean himself, his nose stuffed and his infected eyes swollen and sore.

Then on the fourth morning, he took his food willingly, and began to eat with a relish! What a wonderful moment! And then a name popped into my head that made me laugh but was so appropriate to his temperament and markings I just had to admit that he was ZORRO! Well the next step was definitely a nice warm bath, which he accepted gratefully. All traces of feral behavior were vanishing, and he quickly accepted that I was friend, not foe, and his trust was absolute. Over the past few weeks, Zorro has grown into a sleek, healthy kitten with perfect eyes and a glossy coat. At first, the older cats were a bit resentful of this frisky newcomer, but he has charmed them all one by one. Even Snickers, the 'king cat of the sanctuary' has taken him under his wing and is teaching him how to be a totally cool Maui cat.

To learn more about Zorro and our policies of adoption, please check our adoption page on the website at :

<http://www.9thlifehawaii.org>

Digital Recorders Needed

Photo sequence of cat being humanely trapped



As we all know, a picture is worth a thousand words! Our digital camera has been an invaluable asset to our organization, but it has become corrupted by our jungle weather and we are desperate for a replacement! If your Christmas stocking contains an upgrade to your current digital still or video camera, please consider donating your used equipment to 9th Life! We could really put it to good use cataloging our colonies, making web pages and adoption posters. If you can help, just call us at (808) 573-7877 (PURR) or send us an email at lelabear33@yahoo.com and we'll work out the details!

Siamese Twins

Okay, they weren't really twins, or even full Siamese, but something about the chemistry

between these two made them seem like peas in a pod. These two kittens were trapped separately at an estate in Kula. The landowner contacted 9th Life about his growing population of feral Siamese/Maine Coon mix cats. He already had 8 adults, and two new batches of kittens made him realize that he had to get the colony under control. He needed us to do the legwork to get these cats fixed, tested, tattooed and returned. He also agreed that we could try to adopt any of the kittens we could socialize.

The first night I caught Pearl, a beautiful silver long haired kitten with faint gray Siamese markings and uncrossed blue eyes. She quickly snuggled into her cage at the Sanctuary and enjoyed all the juicy tidbits. She allowed me to pet her although you got the feeling she considered it a bit distasteful. She preferred to be admired from afar. The next evening I trapped her sister, Godiva, who was a snow white longhair with a little chocolate mask and ears. She also had the uncrossed blue eyes, but she was much warier and she kept her ears down and tail curled up. But the next morning Pearl must have reassured her, because they were curled up together on their pink rug looking pretty as a picture.

Pearl and Godiva were spayed on the same day, and recuperated together over the weekend. Every visitor was charmed by our beautiful Siamese Twins, who accepted all the oohs and ahhs like it was just what they deserved. It was clear that they were fast friends, and anyone considering adopting one must take the other. Once they recovered from surgery, I put adoption posters up in the local vet offices. The very same day we got a call. It was from the veterinary technician who had given one of the kittens her ear notch and tattoo! She was so delighted to find our poster, since she had been thinking about that beautiful kitten all weekend. I made sure she understood that they were a pair, and she was willing to entertain that possibility. So, needless to say, she fell in love with them at first sight. They were both looking their cutest on their pink rug, nestled together and calm as could be. They expressed their acceptance of her by just lying quietly in her arms, and looking up as if to say "We've been waiting for you...what took you so long!"

After answering the adoption questions, I joked that they seemed to enjoy their pink rug so she dashed off to the store to get them supplies and their very own pink rug. It was another wonderful 9th Life moment when Pearl and Godiva went to their new home. And our work with the colony continues, although none of the other kittens seemed interested in being relocated, they just wanted to go back to their quiet estate. But there was no doubt that the Siamese Twins considered themselves to be royalty, and were easily enticed by the promise of adoration, tidbits and pink rugs!



Gift Wrapping at Borders Books and Music!

Dates to be announced, stay tuned!

**9th Life Hawaii Compassionate Cat Control
Lela Nickel, President
Crystal Smith, Founder
<http://www.9thlifehawaii.org>**