



## LOOK FOR THE CLAWS CHRISTMAS TREES!

We have a couple of wonderful volunteers that have started Christmas Tree fund raisers for **CLAWS** for the holidays! They have put up Christ-

mas trees at local businesses with pictures of our many shelter cats as ornaments! Some of the trees are selling the actual ornaments, which Alice has worked very hard on. Alice has framed hundreds of pictures of our shelter cats, and put beautiful ribbon and a border on them so they look almost like stained glass! They are beautiful and they will add interest to anyone's tree this year! Alice has a wonderful talent! You can find these trees at **Season's to Follow** on Main Street and **Chow Down Healthy Pet Supplies!** If you don't have time to go to the stores, you can get one of these handcrafted ornaments by calling the shelter. **They would make a great stocking stuffer!!**



Charlie's Christmas trees are pictures of the shelter cats with their wish list on back! You can pick a kitty and then purchase litter, canned cat food, postage stamps, or whatever else may be on their wish list! You can find these trees

at **Tiara Rado Animal Hospital, Chow Down Healthy Pet Supplies, Outlaw Café** on HWY 6&50, **Christian Community School** on Patterson, **Ace Hardware** on the Redlands, both **TDS Automotive** locations, **Amigo Animal Clinic, Hands and Feet** in Fruita and **Turn the Page Used Bookstore**, also in Fruita.

**Thank you all so much for your support!**

## MAKE A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THAT COUNTS!!

*Do you want to make a resolution that changes your life? Do you want to set a good example for your children? Do you want to make a difference in the quality of life of a homeless cat? You can!*

*Make a resolution to help the shelter cats!*

The cats at the shelter need love, attention, brushing, petting, and volunteers to help clean. These needs are met 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We have some very dedicated volunteers that come in on a regular basis, Teri, Danielle, Jill, Susan, Alan, Joe and Rhonda. Even if they can only stay one or two hours, they show up, week in and week out. We are so grateful to have these wonderful people that are so committed to our cats! Even with all of the helpers, there are still days when we have no help and all the cleaning falls on one person, the president of CLAWS, Valerie. Val is here every day cleaning, sometimes until 4 or 5pm, or even later if there are no volunteers. It comes down to this: The more people we have in the shelter to clean, the faster it goes. Also, when we have more volunteers, we can focus on each individual cat more, and we can give more one on one attention to each cat. At the end of the day, you walk away feeling like you accomplished something, like you made a difference. Like I said before, it will change your life. I know it sounds crazy that cleaning litter-boxes can change your life, but it is true. It is relaxing to talk with the other volunteers while you work, and we have formed many friendships over the last year and a half with some wonderful, like-minded people. Just give it a try. Come in and clean for a day, or even an hour. Try it. If it doesn't make you feel more consideration and compassion for our furry feline friends, then we will be surprised. Even if you can commit only 2 hours a week, that will go a long way to ensure the cats needs are being met. We have no paid employees. Everyone here is here because they choose to be, because they love the cats and the satisfaction of helping another living being that desperately needs companionship, nourishment and love.

***Be resolved to make a difference!***

### CONSIDER ADOPTING AN OLDER CAT

Greetings! Preparing to write my first article for the CLAWS Newsletter proved to be quite an eye-opening and heart-crunching experience. I visited the CLAWS Rescue and Adoption Center to get a feel for the cat population in need of homes. It is unbelievable how many beautiful and loving animals have no real home.



For this article I'd like to consider the older or senior cats available for adoption. They caught my eye right away. It appeared they were quietly overseeing the whole operation. From their vantage points they could see people cleaning and preparing food, petting and grooming other cats. Young energetic cats were playing and darting about the room as if it were life's playground. Since there are a limited number of cages, the older, less active and less demanding ones are free to roam about, too. But, they perched themselves atop others' cages, on shelves, tables and countertops. Light activity was their choice. Older cats are perhaps over eight years old; the ones over 10 are considered to be the seniors. Both were loved, pampered and well-cared for over the years. They are not bad cats that were expelled from their homes, but rather, loved companions that were sadly given up by their humans who may have become ill, hospitalized, may have moved to a "no pets" facility or residence, passed away or in some other way were no longer able to love and care for them. These wonderful animals still have much to give a new or older family, or single mature person. Speaking of mature people: mature or senior cats are a great matchup for us. Most of us are not ready to take on a kitten or young cat who needs lots of attention and discipline. How about a simple lap-warmer or window-sitter, please? Companionship is our concern, and an older cat will certainly supply that, along with much love and devotion. Actually, these cats have grown up in real homes and lived harmoniously with humans. Both the cats and their owners grew older together, before the separation.

As the lonely sages observe the activities of the shelter, including the young cats and kittens who are gleefully satisfying their priorities, they know the young ones will get chosen first. But, being wiser and patient they try not to dwell on their own needs—a place to call home, a place to rule. It's up to us to give these cats another chance. Please consider providing a happy extended life to one of these great life companions. They still have many good years left and can enhance yours with their very being. If you can provide food, water, a litterbox and some love, you can adopt and enjoy one of these superb pets. They are clean, healthy, and neutered, and are looking for affection to share! If you know someone who is feeling a bit lonely—who has just lost a partner or a pet—it is likely the love and companionship of an older or senior cat will help fill the void.

See information on CLAWS Pet Adoptions. You can help alleviate overcrowding at the cat shelter and provide the opportunity for a new life and purpose for an easy-to-carefor senior cat.

By Nancy Gillum

Don't forget **CLAWS** when you are doing your end of the year donations! We are a non-profit, 501c3 organization, and as such, all donations are tax-deductible. You will be sent a receipt in the mail to keep with your tax records.

Thank you to all of our volunteers that have helped us throughout the year! We could not have helped all the cats that we did without your help! Our organization is made up entirely of volunteers, we have no paid employees, which makes each and every volunteer even that much more precious! THANK YOU ALL!!

HAVE A  
"MEOWY" CHRISTMAS!!

