



*Sponsored by Community Concern for Cats  
(at a neighborhood near you)*

This headline calls to mind the weekly TV series, set on a quiet, residential street called Wisteria Lane. Like the characters in this series, the homeless cats on Contra Costa's residential lanes (as well as urban streets and alleys) live desperate lives.

The most poignant are the **DESPERATE HOUSECATS** – the ones who have been lost, left behind or purposefully abandoned by the people they depended upon. They remember love and care. They still hope to find it among people they can trust. But as each hungry day is followed by another cold night, and as they dodge cars, dogs, hostile cats and unfeeling or cruel strangers, they lose hope. Fear builds, and they hide or run from those trying to help them. Without the skills to survive on their own, these housecats don't last long. When rescued, it may take a while for them to relax again, but then they are so very grateful for the love they're given!

#### ► **EPISODE 1: "Amy" & "Annabelle"**

**Crisis:** These gentle tortoiseshell sisters were part of a multi-generational family neglected in a backyard. Fed a little but not fixed, the population had grown to 16 when CC4C was called in. All were thin and competing for the one mound of dry food poured on the patio each day.

**Resolution:** Despite their minimal contact with people, Amy and Annabelle welcomed the tender care and shelter of a foster home. Their formerly meager diet gave them a tendency to overeat, and now they are big armfuls of love. A recent disruption in their foster situation has made them shy, but a stable, loving home will soon help their tortie faces smile again.

*"Tune in" to some selected episodes of  
"DESPERATE HOUSECATS",  
each starring a former pet recently rescued by CC4C.  
Each is still looking for the home that will erase  
the sad memories of homelessness.*



**Community Concern for Cats**

[www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org)



**Channel  
CC4C**

#### ► **EPISODE 2: "Sylvia"**

**Crisis:** Found skinny and soaking wet (on a sunny day) on the porch of a kind woman. She was more than 10 years old – far too old to be trying to make her way alone. Already spayed, but neglect had left her with bad teeth, so eating was painful.

**Resolution:** The woman fed her a few weeks until CC4C was called in. Sylvia had several teeth pulled, and is now a fluffy tuxedo who likes to "talk" and gravitates to patches of sun and warm laps. She needs to be the only cat in an adult home.

#### ► **EPISODE 3: "Gigi"**

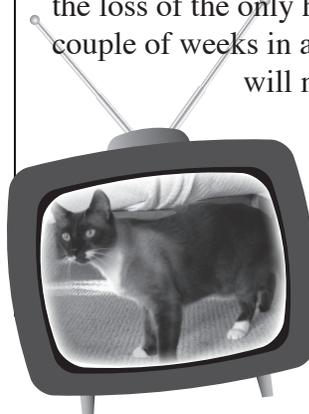
**Crisis:** Abandoned, this sweet, loving cat hid in a ditch covered by branches for a year, too frightened to do more than dash out briefly in a vain search for food. CC4C was alerted to her presence, and after two weeks of daily feedings, she emerged: skinny, anemic, and with a blazing urinary tract infection.

**Resolution:** Gigi responded to this kindness, and let us take her to a veterinarian. After two weeks of daily subcutaneous fluids and medication, she blossomed into a people-loving, dog-like cat who loves to play and stays close to any source of affection.

#### ► **EPISODE 4: "Thai" & "Tatiana"**

**Crisis:** A mentally handicapped woman with 14 cats lost her house to foreclosure, and had to give up 12 of her beloved pets. This bonded pair of 5-year-olds was on the brink of homelessness when CC4C was called for help.

**Resolution:** "Thai," a big gentle hunk of Siamese snowshoe male, and "Tatiana," a feminine but not petite tuxedo, are learning to play and welcome tummy rubs. But they're still reeling from the loss of the only home they'd ever known. A couple of weeks in a stable, loving environment will make their sweet affectionate nature blossom again.



*Starring:  
Thai!*



**“DESPERATE HOUSECATS”,**  
*continued...*



Channel  
**CC4C**

► **EPISODE 5:**  
**“Persi”**

**Crisis:** This longhaired beauty didn't act so pretty when she showed up in a CC4C supporter's back yard. Hissing and hyperventilating when approached too closely, she had to be trapped – and was found to be already spayed. No notched ear to identify a rescue spay, so she had been owned at some point, but now seemed to have lost her tame manners.

**Resolution:** The rescuer kept her caged inside for 4 days to recover from the anesthesia, intending to let her live as a feral in the yard – then released her outside. “Persi” immediately ran back to sit right by the door. For hours. The “feral” cat decided to be a housecat again. Now she avoids pats, but jumps into any lap, rubbing and twisting with delight. She also loves kisses on the top of the head. “Persi” (short for persistent) is ready for her new home.

CC4C has many DESPERATE HOUSECATS in our adoption system – adults ranging from one year old to ten years plus. They have to compete with the cute kittens at our adoption sites and on our web site. Fortunately, many cat lovers understand the advantages of adult adoptions:

- Adult cat personalities are known; no surprises.
- Adult cat behaviors are more mannered and calm; no curtain climbing.
- Adult cats are more interested in people than toys; better cuddlers/lap cats.
- Adult cats are past the “childhood diseases” stage; only need an annual booster.

Each of these homeless housecats is waiting on tiptoe, eager to join a new home. They deserve the best after their sad experiences. If you or someone you know could offer the warmth and loving they crave, please call the CC4C line at 925-938-CATS. You'll be so glad you gave one of these stories the ultimate happy ending.

The volunteers at CC4C are so grateful for the financial support that has kept us going for the past 25 years. Our work with homeless housecats – as well as the trap-neuter-return process that helps control the feral cat population – is effective and rewarding, but the expenses mount up quickly. Cats who've been trying to survive outside are nearly always in need of medical attention, sometimes requiring major surgery. Any donation you can make today will directly benefit these former pets, and help them realize that life can include love and safety again.

So what will be the Season Finale for CC4C's “DESPERATE HOUSECATS” series? You and the other generous supporters of CC4C are the ones writing the happy endings as we go forward, encouraged by your compassionate help.

*Gratefully,*

THE VOLUNTEERS OF  
COMMUNITY CONCERN FOR CATS



**EPISODE 6: “Louie Blue”**

**Crisis:** Found as a very young starving kitten, frantically competing with feral cats and raccoons at a CC4C feeding station. Obviously dumped by men who had asked about the feeding schedule two days before. An all-night trapping effort rescued Louie before the raccoons could add him to the menu.

**Resolution:** This beautiful little boy with pale orange stripes was partially socialized when rescued, and is now an affectionate, purring youngster who is learning housecat manners.



**EPISODE 7:**  
**“Rocky”**

**Crisis:** Some housecat situations are more desperate than others. This 3-month-old was extricated – with the help of the Animal Control Department – from a drug house. Skin-and-bones thin, he couldn't hold his head up or open his eyes. A neurological condition, perhaps from being fed something bad.

**Resolution:** Two days and nights of hand feeding brought him around. His wobbly head still tilts, and he may not hear well, but he's making every effort to do everything a normal kitten does. Despite his rough beginning, he is well socialized and happy – and hoping to wobble his way into someone's heart permanently.



*Starring:*  
**Rocky!**

**P.S.**

Please visit our newly relocated thrift store

**RESCUED TREASURES**

1270 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek  
(the San Miguel Center, one block east of Whole Foods).

925-937-3201.

The proceeds from the clothes, furniture, collectibles and décor items you donate (or purchase) will increase our ability to help homeless cats.

*Thank you!*