

Renee Emerson

making a difference

By Jules Zucker
with Renee Emerson



Mark and Renee and their three dogs, Zoe, Cooper, and Roo. "Porch Portrait" taken by Craig Isaacs

MAKES SURE NO CAT GETS LEFT BEHIND

Lafayette resident Renee Emerson has always had a soft spot for cats — she's fostered them her whole life, and her heart breaks for the hundreds of abandoned cats roaming the streets of Contra Costa County. That's why she works with Community Concern for Cats (CC4C), a volunteer-run nonprofit cat rescue organization based in Walnut Creek.

"CC4C's vision is to end the suffering of cats that are abandoned and homeless in Contra Costa County by rescuing, spaying and neutering, providing needed medical care, and helping to find every adoptable cat a loving, permanent home," says Renee. "We also strive to provide a better life for feral cats through sterilization and by feeding and monitoring feral colonies."

As the oldest rescue group in Contra Costa County, CC4C has facilitated the adoption of hundreds of kittens each year that would otherwise have grown into unsocialized street cats. Most of their operating costs are supported by donor support and the proceeds from Rescued Treasures, the nonprofit's Walnut Creek thrift shop — four years ago, CC4C was even able to open their own cat hospital.

"This has enabled the members to do more medical work with cats without having to put so much of our own money in to get medical needs met," Renee explains. "We continue to grow and look for opportunities to meet the needs in our community."

2020 was a landmark year for CC4C — the organization performed 2,500 sterilizations and finalized twice as many cat adoptions as the year before. Renee credits much of this success to the compassion and hospitality of dozens of local foster families.

"I personally handled and adopted out about 350 kittens and cats," she says. "I was able to do this because I had wonderful foster families all over Contra Costa County who opened their homes and hearts to the cats and kittens. We can't help the animals like this without the support and help of our community."

Despite their strong network of foster families, Renee stresses that there's always a need for more, especially fosters who are willing to care for older cats that need to be socialized. After all, sometimes all it takes to change a cat's life is the right home — and all it takes to change a person's life is the right cat.

"Most of us join CC4C because we find a cat or group of cats that we jump in to help. We called CC4C for help and learned how to help the cats, it felt great and we wanted to repeat that," says Renee. "We all have stories about how we got involved, and they always center around helping a cat or group of cats that we couldn't ignore."

For more information on how to foster, donate, or volunteer, please go to www.communityconcernforcats.org.

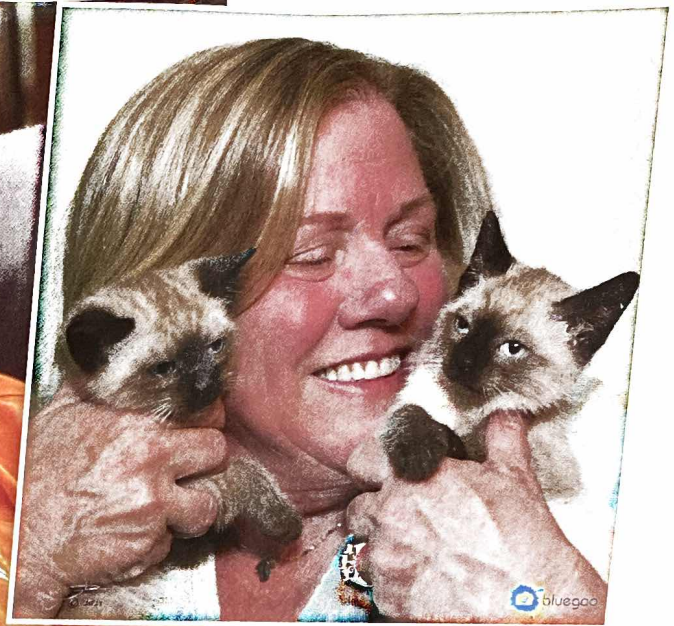
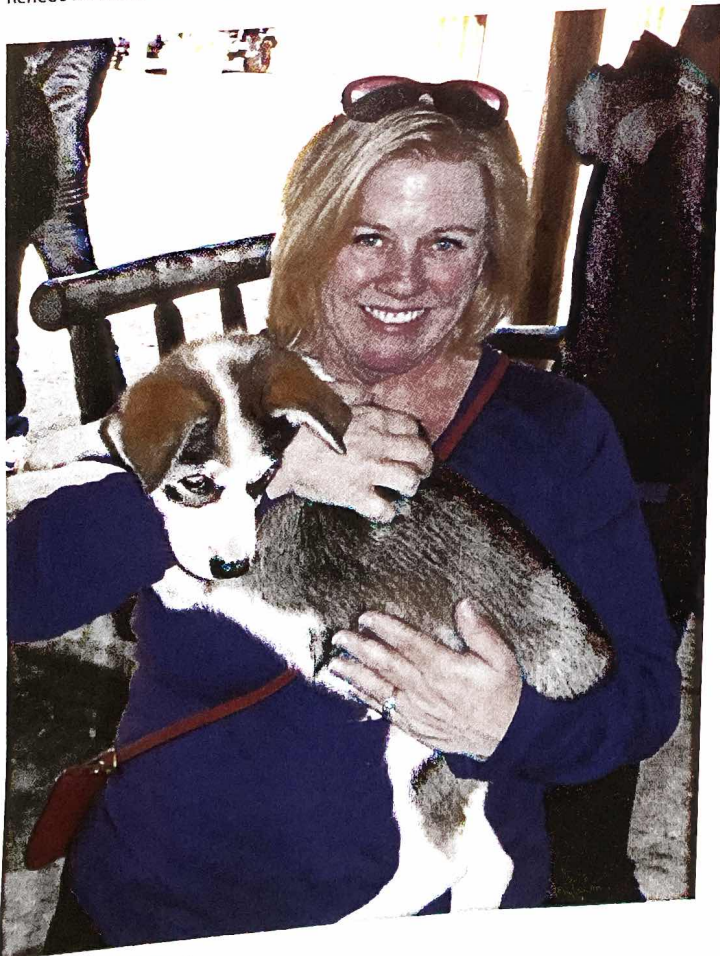


Photo taken by Craig Isaacs



If you have a charity or cause you'd like to spotlight, please contact me at jami@cronk@n2pub.com

Renee's husband Mark is a pro at bottle-feeding.



Renee holds a foster pup.

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