



CAT CARE
DURANGO

Cat Care Durango
72 Suttle Street, Suite J
Durango, CO 81303
a 501c(3) non profit organization
PACFA Certified

(970) 946-0768
Monday-Saturday
9:00am-4:00pm

More about us: [here](https://www.catcaredurango.org)
<https://www.catcaredurango.org>

CAT-TASTIC MONTHLY NEWS

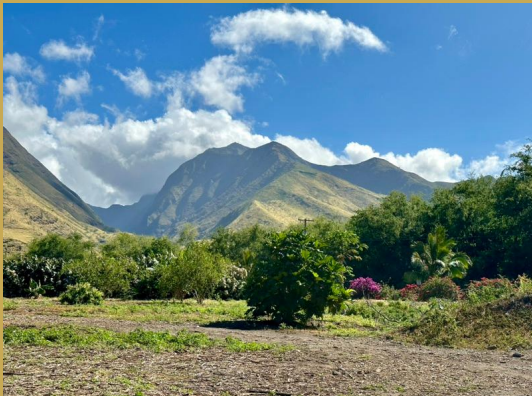


May 2024
Issue 10

MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect the welfare and dignity of all cats in every stage of their life through trap, neuter/spay, return programs, proper medical care-both physically and mentally, and adoptions, foster, and sanctuary programs for our wild and peaceful feline friends.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...



PADGIE KIMMICK

at the Maui Humane Society

It was an adventure...to say the least! But my management staff from Cat Care Durango and 12 Lahaina "Fire Cats" from the hundreds of cats rescued, successfully made the trip back from Hawaii! The experience has created a life-long bond among us and fueled the desire inside all of us to continue our efforts to support the cat community, wherever that need may call.

During the week on Maui, we offered our volunteer efforts at the Maui Humane Society, the Lanai Cat Sanctuary and toured the Maui Cat Café, where cats are transferred to for adoption opportunities. We returned with many ideas for building our program and improving the quality life we offer to the local cats of our community.

Please enjoy the articles in this newsletter written by Shiann Swapp, my Director of Operations, and Bailey Wilson, my Kennel Tech Manager, who accompanied me on this trip. The trip has been an inspiration to us on so many levels and we realized the sky is the limit on what we can accomplish.

After the recent coverage in the Durango Herald article featuring our cattery in Bodo Park and our recent trip to Maui, the support from the community has been overwhelming. We truly appreciate your cards, visits to the sanctuary, donations and encouragement. This non-profit cannot proceed forward without your generous support and I thank you wholeheartedly for your contributions. If you have not been in to our place as of yet, I personally invite you to come tour the cattery, visit with our temporary and permanent resident cats, and meet our new additions from Maui. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Thank you- Padgie Kimmick



LANAI CAT SANCTUARY

**EXPERIENCED BY SHIANN SWAPP,
CAT CARE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

On the third day of our trip to Maui we caught the 6:30am ferry over to the island of Lanai to do a tour of the Lanai Cat Sanctuary and meet with their Director of Operations, Joe Adarna. At the time of our visit, they had over 860 feral cats in their indoor/outdoor sanctuary. About 250 of those cats were transferred from the Maui Humane Society after the devastating wildfires in Lahaina, which displaced thousands of cats and other animals, overwhelming the local Shelter and causing overcrowding and capacity issues.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary was founded in 2004 by a local woman named Kathy Carroll, a cat lover who wanted to do the right thing to protect and help the feral cat population, and in turn help protect the endangered bird species on the island that were being decimated by the feral cats. She has since retired and handed the day to day management over to others, including Joe. The entire day was a treat, starting and ending with the ferry ride that enabled us to see lots of whale activity, with many breaching even multiple times. The small but quaint town of Lanai didn't take more than a 10 minute walking tour, but there were a few small local cafes and the art gallery run by Kathy Carroll and her husband Mike. It was a real treat for us to be able to meet Kathy at her gallery, hear first hand her account of how the sanctuary started, and learn about all the trials and tribulations she went through before the sanctuary became what it is today, an oasis for the unwanted and homeless cats of Lanai and surrounding islands.



CAT CARE DURANGO TEAM WITH KATHY CARROLL (far right) FOUNDER OF THE LANAI CAT SANCTUARY & GALLERY OWNER



Traveling through TSA from Maui via the Seattle Airport

Once we arrived at the sanctuary, we were all immediately hit by how beautiful the 4-acre grounds were and by how organized it was. We had a few minutes to orient ourselves to our surroundings and start socializing with the friendly felines before Joe arrived to give us our tour. We were initially given access into a large fenced area about the size of a football field, and with our bags of treats we were immediately surrounded by about 30 cats all vying for our handouts and attention. The outdoor area was very clean and looked like a landscaped yard, with benches, trees, tall grass patches and small wooden houses and constructed perches everywhere.



Upon Joe's arrival, the tour started and we were off to hear about how the place operated and given a behind the scenes look at everything they do at the sanctuary. Joe spent 3 hours with our little group explaining everything from where the cats come from, to disease protocols, veterinarian care on the island (which doesn't exist so they have to fly someone in) and what things they do for the entire community of Lanai to help give back. I was especially entranced by the operations of the facility and asked all the questions I could think of, from easy ones to pretty tough ones, and Joe answered every one with honesty and with advice of his own for us to bring back with us.



MAUI CAT CAFE

Experienced by Bailey Wilson, Cat Care Kennel Tech Manager

Before we left on our adventure to Maui, I reached out to Moriah Diamond, who is the founder of Cat Café Maui. She was thrilled to

Two of the things that stood out the most for me were:

1. The mango tree - the tree never produces any fruit but when you stand directly underneath it and look up you can see cats EVERYWHERE, in every nook and cranny. Joe told us that many of the cats never come down from the tree except to eat or use the bathroom, kind of like our very own sanctuary cat, Owl.

hear about our plans and looked forward to meeting the Cat Care Durango team. Once we arrived at the Café, I was overwhelmed with the number of future possibilities and ideas to bring back with us.

Their front entrance was showcased with merchandise, adoption photos, donation information, and event flyers. We checked in at the front desk, which included filling out a liability waiver and paying an admission fee to spend an hour with the cats.

As soon as we walked into the main area, I was amazed by the elegant setting Moriah created for these cats. I was able to chat with her for a little while and she spoke about their collaboration with the Maui Humane Society. They get all the cats at the Café from the shelters and successfully adopt them out through the Café. She does have one permanent Shop Cat named Blu, who was just a doll! She said that we were in luck because the Humane Society was bringing over two cats from their facility to join hers at the Café while we were there. One of the new cats happened to be Fritz, who we had just meet at the Maui Humane Society and we had fallen in love with him.

It was inspirational seeing the two cats at both locations and watching them being introduced to a new group of friends. Once we left the Café, the four of us were just so amazed by all the places we were able to visit. The amount of knowledge and inspiration we all gained from this trip was more than any of us could of imagined!



2. Most of their employees, from the greeters and cleaners to their veterinarian techs have not had any previous experience. Joe said they prefer it that way because most traditional or general practice trained individuals are not able to make the transition to animal welfare easily, so they train all of their employees themselves. They also pay a working wage and benefits now, although when they started it was all on a volunteer basis.

Altogether, the entire trip to Maui was one I will remember for the rest of my life, the bonding with colleagues and amazing things we did and learned made it to-date one of the best trips of my lifetime. When I think of what I took away from the trip the most, it was our tour of the Lanai Cat Sanctuary. We've already implemented many small things we learned from going and we plan on slowly adding more as time goes on and Cat Care Durango continues to grow!



**THE CATS ARE
CELEBRATING!**

**A HUGE "THANK YOU"
TO OUR**

APRIL DONORS!

Since our last newsletter and the recent Durango Herald article featuring Cat Care Durango, the Donors' List grew substantially! A big shout out and "thank you" to our April contributors...

Elizabeth Gershner
Sue Parks
Page Lindsey
Hazel Owen
Jeffery & Allyn Wharton
Marianne Ball
Victoria Calvert
Robert Strasavich Jr.
Janet Spear
Lisa Cobb
Stephen & Marilyn Grant
Mary Lou Hudson
Lawrence & Eileen Wegrzyn
James & Maryellen Morrow
Mary Killeen
Janette Abella
Lori Gould
Deborah Fassett
Mike & Shari Ross

....and to our April Adoptors...

Chris Sersun
Shelly & Derk Hutchens
Luke Godwin
Angus Mueller & Eliza Engle
Marc Nager
Shari & Mike Ross

All donations to our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are tax deductible. 100% of the funds support the welfare and dignity of all cats in every stage of their life. We have many cats that will live out the rest of their days in peace and comfort at our sanctuary. Any amount is truly appreciated!

**DONATE
NOW**



THE FIRST MAUI

RESCUE CAT ADOPTION... MOLOKAI FINDS HIS FOREVER HOME!

Cat Care Durango is touched by the generous spirit of Shari and Mike Ross, who opened up their hearts and their home to take in Molokai, recently brought back from Maui, as well as Lilac! We know they will both thrive in their new setting and have a very special permanent home! A big thank you for the purrrrrfect ending!



MICHELLE BRAWLEY MEMORIAL TNR FUND

Padgie Kimmick first connected with Michelle Brawley in 2009 when Michelle reached out for help with a feral cat colony while working at the Durango airport. Michelle's love for animals and extreme concern for cats' well-being made them fast friends. Warmly nicknamed "The Runway Cats", they completed a TNR (Trap-Neuter/Spay-Release) together at the airport, and afterwards, three of the airport cats came home permanently to the Brawleys. TNR's stop the breeding cycle, limits contagious diseases through vaccination and compassionately manages cat communities.

In honor of Michelle's sudden passing in June of 2022, her husband Ralph set up a memorial fund in her honor and established the "TNR Fund" at Durango Cat Care and these funds are specifically designated to support their TNR program. Please help support this on-going cause in her memory. Your consideration of a tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated.

TNR UPDATE (Trap-Neuter/Spay/Release)



SOME OF THE MAUI CATS UP FOR ADOPTION!

...ready to find
their forever homes.....



LANAI

DOUG SWAPP, TNR SPECIALIST (Trap-Neuter/Spay-Release)

Newly appointed Doug Swapp is now a part of TNR Team and will be completing the trappings on behalf of Cat Care Durango in the Four Corners area. Last week Doug successfully trapped a colony of 25 feral cats at one location and brought them to the local non-profit DSNIP for their spay/neuter procedures and vaccinations. Along with offering low-cost programs to the public, DSNIP also works with non-profit groups associated with animal welfare and has been Cat Care Durango's exclusive veterinary support facility for our TNR trappings. The entire colony was successfully released back into their original environment to continue to keep the rodents at bay in their rural setting.



PLUMERIA



KONA



PAPAYA



JOE



**A NEW ADDITION....
THE CATTERY TREE!**

LAHAINA



KIHEI

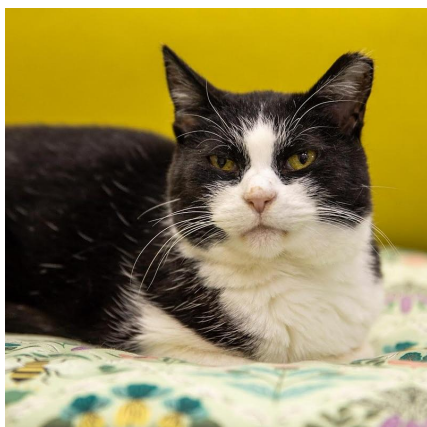
STAY TUNED TO OUR
FACEBOOK POSTS FOR AN
UPCOMING
MEET AND GREET
OPEN HOUSE AND
ADOPT-A-THON IN JUNE

LIKE OUR PAGE ON
FACEBOOK AT
CATCAREDURANGO

All Adoptable
Cats



SANCTUARY SPOTLIGHT



MAI MAI A Sanctuary "Lifer"

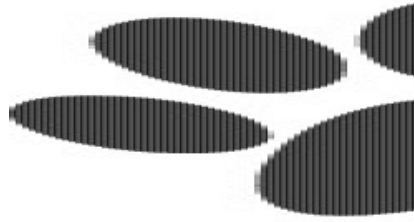
Please come in and visit Mai Mai at the Sanctuary. She came to our place from the Humane Society when Padgie went over at the end of 2022 to scoop up a few older kitties who might not end up being adopted.

Mai Mai is in great health, a super sweet kitty, loves basking in the sunshine and interacting with her Sanctuary playmates. She is very content in her free-roaming, cage-free home!

Contact us at catcaredurango@gmail.com



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