



October 9, 2020

Dear New and Long-standing Friends and Supporters,

Peter Zippi Memorial Fund Inc.
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This is the time of year we look forward to reaching out to our greater “Peter Zippi family” to invite you to join together in the spirit of saving and celebrating life at our annual open house. We are so disappointed to not be able to see familiar faces and share food, holiday shopping and education this year. COVID has been a robber of milestone celebrations, the ability to be personally close to friends, jobs, and life itself. At PZF, we are grateful to continue our work, active as ever, because nothing is changing for the at-risk cats and kittens that need us.

COVID changed PZF daily operations as it did for nearly every other small and large organization. For the safety of their own staff, our basecamp, VCA Coast Animal Hospital, needed to restrict the number of PZF volunteers as well as prohibit entrance to the community. We needed to quickly develop teams using Board Members, senior volunteers, and our one part-time paid staff member.

To maintain our current high quality of care, a new plan to ensure the adequate mental and physical health of our in-house felines had to be designed immediately, including expanded use of foster homes. PZF needed to continue our momentum in saving, healing and finding homes for at-risk cats and kittens without the benefit of introducing them to potential adopters. Finding them was as easy as ever – they find us: Shelters, community members, and the Southern California rescue network of individuals and groups all have our number. Financial stability for restorative medical care was unaffected, as we are blessed by the most faithful and generous supporters. Safe, loving, healing care for the recovering and waiting in-house cats and kittens with only five stipulated people allowed to cover all shifts seven days a week would have been impossible without the quality, commitment, and sheer endurance of the members of our **Care Team**.

How to get them adopted without interface with adopters appeared at first to be insurmountable. Thus, the creation of the “Test Drive,” known publicly as “Foster-to-Adopt.” The three members of the **Adoption Team** review Applications sent online, and interview applicants on the phone. Acting as Case Manager for that application, each, in turn, spends a lot of phone time with the person: screening for acceptance, learning about the home and family preferences, and helping to send them home with the best fit of cat or kittens for the situation. Three members of the **IT Team** manage our internal database as well as the Website and all the Social Media Platforms and Adoption Sites to keep our community ties positive, and keep moving the cats and kittens into their forever homes. With no ability

for volunteers and felines to interface personally with the public, this became even more critical and intense. Social Media became the only “face of PZF.”

We achieved exceptionally high adoption rates due in part to the “Safer at Home” orders creating an opportunity many seized upon to welcome a new cat or kittens because they were there. Once accustomed to the home, as folks returned to work, the felines would feel comfy being “at home.” By the end of August, we were able to take in 108 cats and kittens so we are on track for a banner year – COVID -19 can’t stop us.

Here are some accomplishments through August with your support this year: Admission of medical and/or surgical needs felines: 10 adults and six kittens; 50 neonates with and without mothers. Most of these felines have no other way out of a shelter alive, and admissions of at-risk or injured cats and kittens from the community represent animals deflected from shelters. Without fosters, it would not be possible. Recovering cats and growing kittens are healthier in foster, and cages are available for cats needing immediate rescue. Please consider joining that cadre of volunteers; we never have enough fosters.

As you can imagine, the expense to save these medically endangered cats and kittens, plus the equally urgent financial assistance to community members in spaying and neutering companion and stray animals is significant. Both are life-saving priorities. For the first time in very many years, PZF has had to draw from our “safety fund” to continue our work. There are endless felines that simply don’t deserve to die for lack of intervention, or just because they weren’t planned births.

For the 13th year, we have been offered a \$10,000.00 matching grant for donations by year-end. Because of you, it has been claimed each year. This year, PZF needs to continue, and hopefully grow the impact we strive to make every day. There is a seat at the table for all of you to join us in whatever way you are able. With you as partners, together we can continue to save the medical cases, the orphaned newborns, and simply nice cats that wound up on the street or in the shelter through no fault of their own. We are deeply grateful to so many of you who have stood with us for years to protect and heal the ones who have no voice or control over their situations.

Thank you for all you continue to do for PZF. We wouldn’t be here without you, and neither would thousands of cats and kittens.

Most Sincerely,


Dr. Alice Villalobos, Founder


Leslie Neri, President