

# SALT SPRING CAT ORPHANAGE

## 2023 Newsletter

Happy Holidays to you, supporters of Salt Spring Cat Orphanage. We recently added “orphanage” to our name to highlight our primary focus. 2023 has been an eventful year caring for kittens with special needs, as noted below. We also assisted in trapping adult cats for TNR, provided resources to pet owners, and facilitated the adoption of cats in partnership with other agencies.

Our first kittens came to us in early April: the Nursery Rhyme litter, diagnosed with ringworm. We welcomed Teecham, a friendly momma and her four kittens (Eenie, Meenie, Miney and Moe). Only six weeks old, the kittens required in an enriched environment under quarantine conditions.

Despite the misleading name, ringworm is a fungal infection. While it is zoonotic, meaning it can be passed to people, it is treatable with correct protocols. Fortunately, we have a quarantine space that can be sanitized regularly.

Treating ringworm required a three-pronged approach: a lime sulphur solution sponged onto the hair bi-weekly, daily oral medications and environmental cleaning protocols helped to eliminate the fungus. After two consecutive negative culture tests, the kittens and Teecham were finally cleared for adoption.



Days later, we received two newborn kittens found alone: the Angel litter. Cold and unresponsive, the kittens were each under 90 grams. The light colored kitten was also suffering from multiple injuries inflicted by a predator. We were fortunate to get after-hours veterinary care where her wounds were cleaned and pain medication and antibiotics provided. Although the prognosis was guarded for Ariel, her wounds healed with only the loss of a portion of her paw. Unfortunately, tiny Raphael succumbed after 5 days in care.

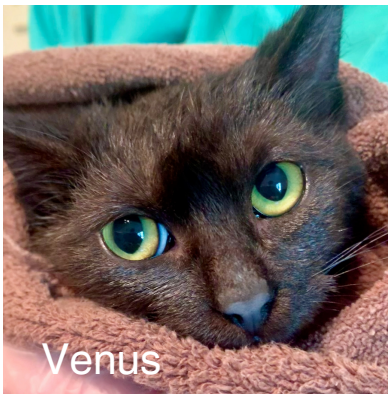
We welcomed the fire litter in July: Ember, Cinder and Blaze. Found on Mayne Island, these kittens were healthy but timid. We are grateful to the many volunteers who came to socialize the kittens, helping them to gain trust and confidence. Unfortunately, the kittens developed an unexplained gastro issue shortly after the spay and neuter surgeries. Adoptions were briefly delayed while we introduced a change in diet and careful monitoring. After 65 days in care, the kittens finally went to their forever homes.



During this time, we accepted Imogen into our care. Only 5 weeks old, we spent time socializing Imogen while waiting out her 2-week quarantine period. At that time, Ariel was only two weeks older than Imogen, but larger and stronger. We gradually introduced the two kittens with supervised play time.



Referred to as single kitten syndrome, a kitten brought up alone can struggle to develop appropriate skills without the benefit of another kitten to play and interact with. We enjoyed watching the close bond the two girls developed during their time together. Imogen and Ariel spent over 60 days together before their respective adoptions in early November.



Days later, the SPCA reached out to see if we could assist with more kittens diagnosed with ringworm. We welcomed the Tennis litter: Serena and Venus. Serena came to us as a confident kitten, wanting to explore the kitten room. Venus was terrified and required daily medications to combat her fear.



This was a challenging situation to meet the needs of both kittens while providing the required ringworm treatment. We spent hours sitting near Venus playing with wands and offering her high value treats. After gradually gaining Venus's trust, we were able to discontinue medication needed for her fear. Currently still receiving treatment for ringworm, we are encouraged by the most recent results and hope the girls will be cleared for spay surgeries and adoption.

We want to acknowledge the Salt Spring SPCA and Rest Q Sanctuary who covered all expenses related to food and veterinary care.

Donations directly to Salt Spring Cat Orphanage have helped us provide materials, including interactive toys, litter, treats, equipment and general supplies. Each kitten receives a stuffed animal, cozy blanket and toys to take with them when adopted. In addition to the PPE supplied by the SPCA, expenses for ringworm treatment include replacing items that cannot be sanitized and their disposal.

Thank you to our sponsors, donors & adopters of these adorable kittens.

