

HOW TO WALK A CHEETAH
Livingstone, Zambia

It's the last day of my African safari, and we're off to walk the cheetahs at a nearby rescue organization that takes orphaned and captive-bred animals (excess zoo population). The goal is to reintroduce their offspring to the wild. With 12,000 animals worldwide, this is a vital survival program. The nine cheetahs currently housed here are used for education, breeding, and for our three walkers: Suzi, Lili and Megusa (the male); getting used to the bush and eventually finding a safe home on a private game reserve. Naturally affectionate, they were hard to classify as, like dogs they have semi-retractable claws and soft tongues. Purring (loud) is what put them, finally, in the feline column. Unlike other big cats, they are daytime hunters, with 60 mph sprints making them the fastest land animal.



Afterwards, it takes twenty minutes for their heart and respiration to go back to normal before they can eat; their kill is often stolen by other predators during that time. As instructed, we approach from behind; pet head, but not ears; speak softly. If they turn to face you, its play time, so stand up. Humans aren't sturdy enough to handle that much playful cat! I walk Suzi, the slowest walker, but plenty fast enough for me. I keep a loose lead, stand at her rear flank, try not to trip over roots and enjoy the experience. The three cats and walkers stop at the local stump that serves as scratching post and newspaper. They re-mark it and claw it. It's 45 minutes of kitty-loving bliss and checks off the final animal missing from this safari experience in a very hands-on way.
-Susan Barghini



SHELTER CAT SPOTLIGHT --COCO
Coco, a 10-year-old tiger-striped tabby, is on the smaller side, and is full of playfulness. Coco arrived at HART due to a death in her family leaving no one to care for her. Her bright green eyes expose a curious nature. She should be an indoor cat, but according to her, "That's no problem, I love laps and they are usually found indoors." Her only need is liquid thyroid medicine twice a day.

JUNE ADOPTION SPECIAL

HART's 9 Lives for \$9 Adoption Event

HART has special adoption rates throughout the month of June!! Adoptions of cats 9 months and older will be just \$9. All cats are spayed or neutered and have up-to-date vaccinations. Each adoption includes a FREE follow-up Vet Exam, a FREE carrier and a FREE bag of kibble. Don't miss this great chance to find that special "love of your life".

HART's mission is to rescue domestic animals in need, place them in good permanent homes and eliminate surplus animals from being born through active spay/neuter programs. HART provides a unique, cage-free, free-roam environment. HART is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
Tax I.D. 77-0018508
2638 Main Street Cambria, CA 93428
www.slohart.org 805-927-7377

The **H.A.R.T.** of the Matter



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Short-term Foster Care

Short-term foster caregivers needed for post-operative cats and for kittens not yet old enough to come to the shelter. Training and supplies provided. Please call Cindee at 927-7377 if you can help.

Committees

A recent dip in adoption numbers spurred the formation of our new Adoption Committee, which is looking at new ways to advertise, encourage people to adopt rather than buy from breeders, and how to best find homes for these purring machines. New members are welcome! Other committees are Retail, Maintenance, Events and Gardening. Call Terry, 927-7377.

Grant Writing

We also need a volunteer to help assemble grant applications. We already have a fair amount of good "boiler plate" material describing each of our programs and activities. We need someone to tailor these materials to the specific aims of the granting agency and to assemble them on the application forms. The volunteer will work alongside board members. Call Terry Hanson at HART for more info, 927-7377.



Find us on our Facebook page
SLO HART CAMBRIA

A DOG NAMED BOO

On Sunday, February 16th, at some God-awful-o'clock in the morning, early HART cleaner Judy Mills called to say someone left a young dog tied up to HART's front door and that she needed someone to save her from being licked to death. We named the lab/mutt mix "Boo". Boo had been spotted in the past running up and down Main Street. HART has no canine facilities and Woods was closed until Tuesday, so Cambria being Cambria, Jan and Jim Bahringer, owners of nearby "Fog's End", agreed to take Boo and foster him temporarily. For legal reasons, Boo had to go through a quarantine at Animal Services and Boo being Boo, by the end of his sequester had people lined up to adopt him into a forever home. Aside from a happy ending, this is another example of the coordination of HART, the community, and local organizations working to save local strays – this time a dog named "Boo".

--Mike Zarowitz, Board President

KITTENS ARE HERE!



ADOPTION TALES -- PEBBLES AND CILLA

Pebbles, a stray at the San Simeon Campground, was brought into HART by a concerned camper. A long-haired mottled gray cat, with pale green eyes, this sweet and affectionate girl was covered with fleas and ticks. She was diagnosed with Feline Calicivirus and became quite ill. With complete attention and care from our Medical Director, she survived the virus. There is a possibility it may recur. Medication would be prescribed, but it's also possible that it may never recur.

With the kindness of a lady, Pebbles was adopted into her home and is now loved and cared for.

Cilla, a snowshoe breed cat, was our longest resident at HART. For some reason no one was interested enough in her to give her a home. When she began to not feel well, she was taken to the vet and found to have a kidney problem, requiring a special diet. A plea was sent out to find a fosterer who would take Cilla in and give her the special diet in a home environment rather than alone in a small room at HART. A call came in from a couple that had recently lost their cat and were willing to take Cilla for a couple of weeks while they were in town. To make a long story short, Cilla (new name, Tiffany) is now part of their family for keeps and even gets to travel with them in their RV.

GRATITUDES

Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and sponsors who helped make the Wines, Pines and Felines 2014 event a success! Hope you'll join us next year for this new HART tradition at Camp Ocean Pines.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Guardian Angel Fund. Since Jan.1, your donations have helped eight HART kitties with major medical needs. You have truly "given the gift of life."

H.A.R.T.
Homeless Animal Rescue Team
2638 Main Street
Cambria, CA 93428

www.slohart.org
805-927-7377

THANK YOU FOR DONATING
AND VOLUNTEERING!