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res-cue (rĕs' kyoo) *transitive verb*

1. To set free, as from danger or imprisonment; save.

shel-ter (shĕl' tər) *noun*

1. a. Something that provides cover or protection, as from the weather.

b. A refuge; a haven.

2. The state of being covered or protected.

It sounds so simple.

But consider **Esperanza**, hit by a car on County Line Road, rescued by one of our volunteers... **Charming**, a mom cat whose kittens all died because, out there on her own, malnourished and dehydrated, she had no milk... **Charity**, found in a Westville front yard with chemical burns of unknown origin on her feet and legs... **Cassidee**, taken from a Jasper County shelter, where they were unable to treat her broken femur... and **Katniss**, the fuzzy little one you see to the right, stuck 2 nights in a tree until a relentless ICS volunteer discovered her and made her rescue a personal challenge...

It pains us to see their little feline bodies damaged and broken by accident and chance...

So then why do we do it?

The animals we help can't say "thanks." The cats we help can't pay us back. The cats we help are often helpless and in dangerous situations. At the Independent Cat Society, some of our cats do not show their gratitude; in fact, some can't quite bear that pat on the head they are so shy. Sometimes the most we can hope for is a hiss and a swipe.

And yet there is that moment when we know that the struggling wide-eyed kitten won't have to worry about what she will eat that night (or what might eat her) or that the rumpold tabby thrown out because of his age will now have a safe haven, a soft place to fall. Maybe that is the magic—helping them can give what we are all looking for: warmth, comfort, caring... a sense that for this moment in time, all is right with the world. The most wounded have a place, a home, or a resting spot with us till they find forever homes.

We here at ICS are trying, one cat, one kitten at a time, to make all right with the world. We don't just shelter cats... we rescue, and we try to help where we are needed the most. Can you help? We are asking for whatever donation you can make to keep that safe haven safe and to keep the effort we are making together strong in our community and in our world.

We here at ICS are grateful that our little shelter has made it through the hard times of the last few years. And it has been rough! We have done here what many of us are doing at home: we have looked long and hard at expenses and cut and economized in every area. We have taken on new ways of solving problems and working together. We are coming through, but with the rising costs of vaccines, medicine, and supplies and the growing need for help in our community, we need your help. With our army of volunteers and your support, in spirit and in donation, we can continue to be the "little shelter that could."

Please consider making a donation now, large or small, to the Independent Cat Society. Because we do not have administrative costs, every dollar goes straight to the care or spay and neuter of some cat. A donation of even five dollars will provide a rabies vaccine or cleaning supplies. Every piece completes the puzzle; every donation helps keep innocents from harm.

If you can, please stop by the shelter and visit with our cats. Or, stop and sit for a moment in our Rainbow Bridge Memorial Garden, a unique and special place, taking shape as we speak. Purdue North Central, grants from vendors, and plants and labor from volunteers are all coming together to mark a spot where people and that amazing bond with pets can be remembered and celebrated. This garden is the first step towards the brighter future we plan for ICS.

Come and visit. As Sigmund Freud said, "*Time spent with cats is never wasted.*" Please come and help if you can. We will look forward to seeing you. The cats are waiting...!

With sincere thanks for your continued support,
The Independent Cat Society Board of Directors and Volunteers



I'm so grateful for your help!

(You may be wondering why you haven't received a Mewsletter the last few weeks.

We had some technical difficulties involving a crashed hard drive. We hope to be back on track soon! Thanks for your patience!)