

Sonoma Index-Tribune

Pet Tales: It's kitten season!

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(1 of 2) Nancy King, executive director of Pets Lifeline and Christy Coulston of Rabobank celebrate at Pets Lifeline's fundraiser Tailwags and Handbags hosted by Buena Vista Winery last Friday. Rabobank generously kicked off the celebration with a \$1000 donation to the cause. Photo credit: Melania Mahoney

Greetings Sonoma! I hope this finds everyone enjoying this true springtime weather. Nice to have moisture back in the air but I'm grateful it did not rain last Friday, April 29 for our Tailwags and Handbags event at Buena Vista Winery. It was a perfect day for our ladies luncheon and we raised much-needed funds for the shelter. Thank you to all who attended and donated. You know who you are!

Our kitten season continues to grow as we have taken in 37 neonatal (unweaned) kittens and six that are weaned but under two months. If you find a mom and kittens, please bring them all in to us asap. If you need help, call us. The kittens will be much healthier the longer they can stay with mom and we can keep the mom safe and healthy to take care of the babies.

Here are some helpful tips if you find baby kittens without the mom.

1. If you can, wait a few minutes to see if the mom is around. If she isn't, or if the babies seem to be abandoned, carefully pick them up.
2. Unless you are experienced, the best thing to do is bring them to Pets Lifeline.

3. If we are closed and you must keep them for a while please keep them warm. A heating pad with a towel over it, turned on low is best. You can also fill a sock with uncooked rice and microwave it for two minutes. Repeat this when it starts to cool off.
4. We have an after hours kitten hotline at 974-7598.
5. Do not give regular milk, and never feed a cold kitten.

If you are interested in fostering kittens, please fill out our volunteer application online and we will let you know when the next orientation is.

There isn't really a puppy season, but we have some adorable little dogs right now that will capture your heart. We will have new dogs up on the website soon as we are transferring some pups over from the our partners in Vallejo who needed some help. We will be doing health checks and evaluations on them this week, so look for them on petslifeline.org. We have a great friend at Chateau St. Jean in Sonoma local Mike McNeil, the general manager of hospitality. St. Jean has announced that in May and June a percentage of the proceeds of the following wines will be donated to Pets Lifeline: 2012 Lyon Vineyard Fume Blanc (Sauvignon Blanc), 2013 Cold Creek Chardonnay, 2014 Viongier, 2013 Dry Creek Merlot, 2013 LeSeul Chardonnay, 2012 8555 Red Wine Cuvee, 2012 Cinq Cepages. You can go to their website at <http://www.chateaustjean.com> to order. We also are doing a big adoption event at the winery on May 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., the same day as the Chateau's Fete de la Fleur, so it will be a great day to come visit the Chateau at 8555 Highway 12 in Kenwood. I'll look forward to seeing you there!

Until we meet again...peace, love and paws.