

Pet Guide

SUMMER 2012

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Lattanzio runs the largest no-kill, no-cage lifetime sanctuary for cats in the state of California

700 CATS

one big heart

BY BRITTANY SHOOT

As a child Lynea Lattanzio begged her mother for a kitten but was always met with a stern and final, "No!" As an adult, she bought a few cats and dogs from various breeders she knew.

After moving to a property on 12 rural acres outside of Fresno, Calif., in 1992, she started helping the local animal shelter take care of kittens. Before long, Lattanzio was hooked. "I realized that this—taking care of animals—is what I'm good at, so this is what I should do," she says. That year she took in 96 foster kittens and helped find permanent homes for all of them. Not content to let the kitties end up in a shelter that eventually euthanized un-adopted pets, Lattanzio founded the non-profit Cat House on the Kings. Since opening the doors 20 years ago, she, her staff and volunteer team have rescued nearly 20,000 cats and 6,000 dogs. Lattanzio's work establishing The Cat House on the Kings has even garnered international acclaim. A National Geographic special, "The Lady with 700 Cats," has been shown all over the world.



"I used to just buy an animal when I wanted one. I didn't know about the importance of pet adoption."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYNEA LATTANZIO