



AVALO CAT SANCTUARY

Holidays with Cats

December 2013

Happy Holidays

Well the big news for the end of 2013 is that we are now an approved non-profit Sanctuary. While this is super, what this really means is that now I have another full time job—of campaigning! And to do so, I'll have to do a lot of research and put in time learning how to be effective.

We have grown in population over 2012, and Anna, our Vet (and Steve) have asked me—when do you say no? Good question, because how DO you say no and sometimes how CAN you say no? Over the past we have taken in domestics with issues or to save their lives, but we've had to draw a line there or else we'd be like a full fledged shelter, over packed and over run. That would also leave less room for our Hybrids in need. A first big focus was to remember our mission and as much as it hurts to say no we have a special focus of population.

A second focus was to remember that when we take on a cat, ALL of those expenses are coming out of OUR pockets. This includes a good quality food (raw preferred), cat litter, vet care, accommodations and time. Yes, TIME and a great deal of it. I'm sure I'm out there cleaning litter, feeding felines, raking pens and then visiting/playing easily 3-4 hours a day. That doesn't include the weeks

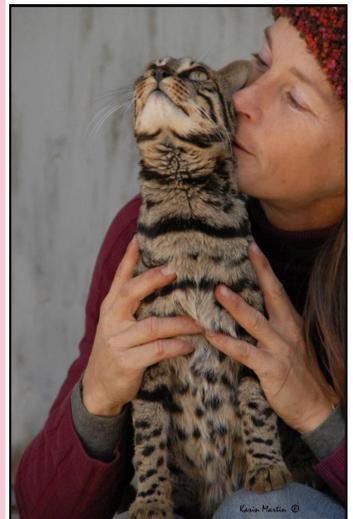
that it takes in between our full time jobs build enclosures.

So, how do these cats make their way to us? There will always be cats from shelters with problems, or from other bad circumstances like hoarding situations. Reputable, caring and hard working rescue groups will contact us when they feel a cat is best suited in our environment after thoroughly checking and evaluating each cat. Those cats most usually will not be able to give back to us financially.

Often times, heartbroken owners are not able to keep their cats sometimes through no fault of the cat or maybe perhaps their cat has an issue that can no longer be managed in that person's life. These cat owners, are able to graciously donate to Avalo for the upkeep of their cat throughout it's life. This helps offset our out-of-pocket expenses for all the other felines.

Which leads me back to focus #2- DONATIONS! Without donations from those of you who can say YES, we wouldn't be able to keep doing what we do. What makes the difference is YOU.

I wouldn't change a thing about what I do, day in and day out. Even when times are rough or emotional. We take



these cats in and act as their guardians to make their lives better. Somehow, I believe they know this.

Please visit www.avalocatsanctuary.com or find on FB. You can Paypal donations to us, send us a check or donate supplies.

You can also sponsor your favourite cat so that your funding goes directly to that cats needs. Have a Hybrid from afar!

All the best in 2014!
Head-butts and purrs,
Michelle



ACS

**A Non-Profit Sanctuary
for Hybrid and Small
Exotic Felines**



Meet Dr. Anna — our personal Feline Veterinarian

To all faithful friends and generous donors to Avalo Cat Sanctuary:

I have had the privilege of providing veterinary care to the resident felines at Avalo Cat Sanctuary for more than six months now, and I thought it was past time that I introduce myself to all of you. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the work Michelle and Steve Donlick perform on a daily basis for all of the cats that call ACS home. I can certainly say that I had no idea what I was getting myself into when Michelle asked for my help, and I said “sure I will be glad to help out your little cat sanctuary.” The rest is history as they say.

I had sought out Michelle last fall to help me with some training challenges I was having with my young horse. I needed a fresh start, and Michelle’s blended training philosophies utilizing Natural Horsemanship and classical training methods have changed both my life and the life of my horse. The same can be said for the lives of the cats here at ACS, who are happy and healthy and the most well-adjusted cats I have ever seen. Life is peaceful and believe it or not, harmonious at ACS and Michelle’s surrounding Avalo Farm.

As for me, I am a native South Carolinian and a University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine graduate. My primary area of interest is actually zoo and wildlife medicine, and I was previously one of the veterinarians at the Birmingham Zoo for almost five years before coming back home. I love working with the big predators and megavertebrates (elephants, rhino, giraffe, etc), so it is not such a big leap to work on the smaller, less dangerous cats at ACS.

The hybrids at ACS resemble their wild counterparts in many different ways, and they are a both a joy and challenge to work with on a daily basis. Some of those challenges include the fact that we have an aging population and have recently been faced with some aged-related illnesses. However, the fact that we have some mature cats that are a little past their prime (as well as an vibrant-clowder of young, healthy felines) is a testament to the quality of care that Michelle has provided these unique cats.

As a veterinarian, I donate my professional time and services and many supplies, but we are always in need of funding to help offset some of the costs associated with labwork, diagnostics, surgery, and medications.

Thank you again for your generosity in the past, and I encourage those of you that are new to the ACS family to consider donating to this worthy hybrid cat sanctuary in the future. Well, it’s time to go do some rounds at ACS and check on a few of my patients.

Sincerely,
Anna L. Ogburn, DVM



Christmas with Cats!!

Meow-ouncing our ‘Holiday Spirit’ Christmas Visits! What will you see? Not only are our cats stunningly beautiful, they are experts at demanding attention, meowing, purring, occasional drooling, getting underfoot, sneaking into your cars, eating your food, pretending to hide, but most of all—stealing your hearts! Visiting cats amidst welcoming lights, glittery garland and festive decorations is bound to add to your Holiday Spirits! Light snacks for the visitors are provided - unless they’re not careful!

Tuesday Dec 17th 3:30—5:00pm

Thursday Dec 19th 3:30—5:00 pm

Saturday Dec 21st 11am—12pm
3:30—5:00pm

Since the cats have asked to know who’s coming, please RVSP to
michelle@avalocatsanctuary.com



ACS

**A Non-Profit Sanctuary for
Hybrid and Small Exotic
Felines**



Mission

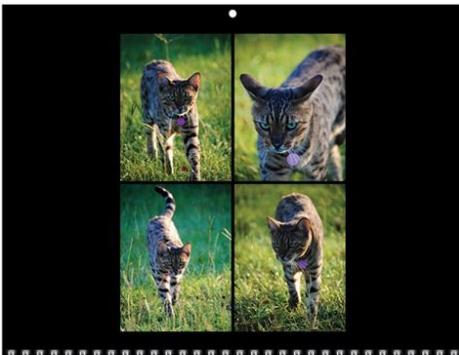
To make the world a better place for Cats through Care , Compassion and Companionship.

Goal

To be the best guardians possible for hybrid and small exotic felines that do not fit in to the regular expectation's of society's day-to-day living, have particular needs/medical attention or can not longer stay with their human.

~Avalo Cat Sanctuary 2014 Calendars~

Buy yours now in time for Xmas! Paypal to michelle@avalocatsanctuary.com \$20 includes shipping. ALL proceeds go to the care of our cats!



Tobi - Savannah; Aki & Nala - Bengals



January 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

February 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

July 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26