



## Farewell to the four-legged heart hero of Pedro Point

Beloved cat mascot of cat clinic lived all nine lives to the fullest

Written by Jean Bartlett, October, 2016

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Rerun on Bartlett's Biographies April, 2018



photo by Tané Brunker  
Spirit celebrates the holidays at Coastal Cat Clinic in 2014.

Pacifica is a city of people and pets and some of those pets have a particularly huge community of friends. Spirit the cat, resident and supervisor of Coastal Cat Clinic in Pedro Point, was one such pet. In fact, he was so well known and loved that an article on the 15-pound feline ran in a 2014 issue of the Pacifica Tribune. Spirit left this world a little over two months ago on July 20 and many locals have requested a celebration of his life in print. This is his story.

Fourteen years ago, Spirit was the only one of a litter of kittens who survived a raccoon attack, though his entire head was torn open. Multiple surgeries partially closed his higher sinus area, but he was permanently missing the top cover of his nasal sinus area. However, all his senses remained intact and he had a handsomeness without equal. The only thing that bothered him a little was the scab that occasionally formed over the open area which he would send sailing, wherever. When his owner died four years ago, his family at Coastal Cat Clinic feared he would have a difficult time being adopted and so he came to live with them.

Tané Brunker, the Clinic's hospital manager, discussed some of Spirit's well-known traits.

"He ate everything in sight," Brunker laughed. "His favorite past time was figuring out how to get into any food that wasn't his. Other favorites included: catnip toys; being patted by everyone; and lying across my keyboard, charts I was working on, or other important papers."

Dr. Cathy Glahn, the Clinic's main veterinarian, also weighed in on the guy that everyone loved.

"He followed the sun including through the exam rooms," she recalled. "If anyone left a crate open, he was in it. He would steal food from any cat bowl he could reach. He would walk up to any kennel, with any kitty in it, and if the bowl

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**Companion Best Friends**

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was close enough, he would reach in and pull it right over to steal the food. We constantly had to remember to close kennels when we brought a patient out. Many times we would forget and run back and there he would be, in the kennel chowing down. He loved to stalk his treats and chase them down the hall when thrown. He stole bags of treats right off the counter."

Over the past couple of years, Spirit had some medical issues. He had hyperthyroidism and occasional bouts with pancreatitis.

"His real issue was intestinal and splenic cancer," Glahn said. "He was diagnosed with small cell lymphoma from a biopsy of his spleen several years ago."

Spirit was on several medications which never dimmed his enjoyment of the day.

"Clients loved him," Glahn noted, "their cats not so much. He would come right up to kennels to sniff for food, regardless of whether there was an occupant who was hissing or swatting or trying their best not to be noticed. But he totally ignored them. I don't think I ever saw him agitated or mad at any patient that came to the hospital."

"Many of our clients commented on how he was there for them when they were going through difficult times – illness with their pets or end of life visits," Bruncker said. "He never minded being grabbed and squeezed. He was a purr monster who just wanted love."

On July 19, Spirit, who had been slowly losing weight, was quite suddenly seriously ill. A specialist indicated he had a tumor in his bowel that had perforated and caused sepsis. He could not survive it. The next evening, all his family at the Clinic stayed with him and surrounded him with love as he journeyed through the euthanasia process. Spirit's ashes now rest in a place of honor by the reception desk.

Donations in Spirit's memory can be made to the Peninsula Humane Society, Companions in Waiting, Nine Lives, or any feline rescue group.



**photo by Jean Bartlett  
Spirit lounges on the job like a professional, Coastal Cat Clinic, 2014.**

