

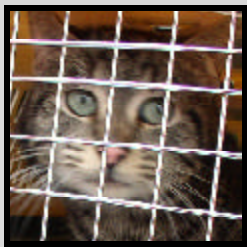
Street TAILS



Spring
2006

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

Celebrating 25,000 cats!



The 25,000th customer at a fast food joint probably gets balloons and a free meal. The 25,000th

customer at the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon was a male cat, and instead of a free food – he got neutered!

The 25,000th cat was neutered at the clinic in Longview, Washington on March 12. He was one of six cats brought in by caregiver, Anna Eddington. This big tomcat was nicknamed “Celebrity” due to all the attention he got at the clinic. Anna feeds about 18 abandoned cats and says, “People just drop them off. I’m on a fixed income – it’s sometimes hard to get food for all of them.” With her colony neutered, she will be able to afford to feed all the cats.

Helping 25,000 cats is a major accomplishment and yet, our work is far from over. Caregivers like Anna rely on our program to stabilize their colony of cats. As we look toward helping the next 25,000 cats, we will focus on helping caregivers neuter their entire colony. Your support is what makes our program available to caregivers who dedicate their lives to caring for feral cats.

Stories From The Streets

Below are stories mailed to FCCO from caregivers.

Ranch Cats

We have a lot of grown cats and kittens dumped at our ranch all the time. Our solution is: we take them if we can catch them, try to tame them, have them neutered or spayed and they become the best barn cats in the world. We love our barn kitties and they’re fed well, are given fresh water every day and have warm hay to snuggle and sleep in. At the present time we have 6 kitties. At one time we had 12 out there – it was great. We’re attempting at this time to catch a big tomcat wearing a very tight collar so we can have him neutered and remove the collar.

I guess I just felt a need to let you know how we feel about the feral cats and the little ones who get dumped out here. Please accept our donation for the plight of the feral cats and dumped-off cats and kittens.

Carol at QM Ranch

A Home for Sadie



Sadie

Sadie was rescued by a co-worker of mine in Eugene. She found Sadie and her litter of kittens in a wood pile in her backyard. After taking them to an FCCO clinic to be spayed, neutered and vaccinated, the kittens were released on a farm. Sadie was found to be quite tame. When I saw Sadie on a flier at work I knew she would make a great addition to our home. I was right, and she has happily lived with us for over 3 years now. I just wanted to say thanks for your efforts. They are very appreciated!

Michelle Baskett

Safe and Sound

Please add me to your newsletter mailing list. Enclosed is a contribution. I have a feral cat who I fed outside for eight years in California. I trapped her before moving to Oregon because she was in love with one of my male cats and the people who purchased my house had their own outside cats. I later found out they left the cats with relatives because the cats were happy. They adopted two puppies instead. So, I am very glad I trapped her.

When I arrived in Beaverton, Gypsy went down the floor furnace flue! Happily, I rented a trap from FCCO and after two weeks, Gypsy was again safe

Safe & Sound continued page 3



President's Corner *by Marla McGeorge, DVM*



Marla McGeorge, DVM

I am excited to be starting my tenure as President of the Board of FCCO, and as President I will continue to seek ways to improve our services on behalf of feral cats. For those of you who don't know me, I'll give a brief history. I am a retired attorney and have been a practicing veterinarian for 14 years. For the past 12 years my practice has been exclusively cats. I was part of the original group which founded the Feral Cat Coalition of Portland – although I was certainly a minor player compared to Drs. Ellie Shelburne and Sheri Speede, our founding President and Vice-President, respectively – and I was one of the surgeons at the very first FCCO spay and neuter clinic.

When I contrast our early efforts with how the clinics are

operated today, I am amazed at how far we have come. I continue to be in awe of the dedicated volunteers who have helped bring the organization to where it is today – with more than 25,000 cats trapped, neutered and returned.

And, in case any of you are wondering... I do have cats – quite a few cats, including my own private reserve consisting of 3 ferals and two freeloading strays. The ferals are the offspring of a female I trapped and neutered 4 years ago. She has moved on to greener pastures, but she left her kittens with me. They have all been neutered and named and are a continuing source of happiness to me as I watch them come sprinting toward me at feeding time.

It is an honor to be part of this organization and it is a privilege to have your support and involvement. In the coming months I look forward to meeting many of you, our incredible donors and volunteers, as we work together to improve the lives of feral cats.

Leadership Transition

After five years as President of the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, Dr. Brenda Smith has stepped down and FCCO has a new President, Dr. Marla McGeorge.

Brenda joined our board in 2000, soon after our President, immediate Past President, and Vice-President left the area at about the same time. It was very difficult for FCCO to lose our leadership, and at a time when our mobile program was still rather new. Brenda was a frequent volunteer at the clinics and was a natural choice to lead the program. She served as a board member for a year and then as President from 2001 to 2006. In her tenure, she helped strengthen our clinic policies and protocols, transitioned the operations from the board to the staff, implemented strategic planning, and helped make FCCO the strong program it is today. We are grateful to have had her support and involvement.

Did I mention why she is leaving? She is moving to Maui! We wish her well in all her future endeavors.

As we look forward, we welcome Dr. McGeorge as our new President. She is a founding veterinarian of this organization and rejoined the board in 2004. She is a talented doctor who is passionate about feral cats and very dedicated to their health and well-being. We are most fortunate to have her leadership and direction.

Technician of the Year

In March, Leah Kennon, CVT, our Operations Director, received the "Technician of the Year" award from the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association. This is a prestigious honor presented by Oregon's leading veterinary organization, and it is the first year this award has been given. Our President, Marla McGeorge, DVM, nominated Leah.

For anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Leah, you know she is most deserving of this recognition. Her technical skills are unsurpassed. She has a compassion for the cats and a clear-eyed understanding of their needs, as well as an understanding of the limitations of providing medical care to cats who are wild animals. Leah was hired soon after FCCO received our mobile hospital in 1998, and has been at nearly every clinic since then. In addition to her managerial roles before, during and after clinics, she has developed protocols and policies for clinic efficiency and care. FCCO is incredibly fortunate to have her working with our program.



Leah Kennon, CVT

Be in the Know!

FCCO sends updates to our donors and volunteers in between newsletters about our activities and issues impacting feral cats. Please make sure we have your email address so you don't miss out! You can send your contact information to us at info@feralcats.com.



News Bits

Tom Cat Clinic

On February 26th, in honor of National Spay Day USA, FCCO held a Tom Cat Clinic where we neutered 191 male cats! This incredible effort came together with the help of 78 volunteers, including ten veterinarians. Just imagine how many kittens have been prevented from this one clinic.

New staff

We have strengthened our technical staffing with the addition of Kerry Blaney, CVT and Corrie McTigue. We had been searching for a third technician for many months. Both technicians will work at our clinics, assist with clinic readiness and drive the mobile hospital. Please help us welcome them to the organization.

New Board Member

Dr. Alison Lord has joined the FCCO board of directors. She is deeply committed to helping feral cats, and has been an active volunteer at Portland clinics for some time. Alison will be an incredible asset to the organization and the cats we serve.

New web page

Have you been to the FCCO web page lately? We have a new look and new information. Special thanks to Michael Sulis, our web master, for the design and management of our new beautiful site. Check out the new design at www.feralcats.com.

Total cats year-to-date

Our 2006 Cat Stats:
As of March 19, FCCO has spayed/neutered 865 cats at 11 clinics.

Your dollars at work

You can have confidence when donating to FCCO. For every dollar donated, **90%** goes directly to cat care and services.

EIGHTH ANNUAL FURBALL



FURBALL

Saturday, May 13, 2006

World Forestry Center-Miller Hall in Portland
6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The Eighth Annual **Furball** will be a jazz-age roaring 1920s event. Honorary Chair this year is Karin Hansen, Portland's First Lady (wife of Mayor Tom Potter). The evening will feature wonderful light fare from Elephants Delicatessen, silent and live auctions, raffles, and hosted bar. Period clothing and accessories are encouraged at this black-tie optional event. It will be the cat's pajamas! Don't miss it.

From one-of-a-kind cat-related items to artwork, jewelry and fabulous travel destinations, there is something for everyone on our silent and live auctions. Furball tickets are \$75 in advance or \$90 at the door. Sponsorship tickets with reserved seating are \$125 each or \$1,000 for a table of 8. Tribute tables with premier seating for 10 are \$1,500.

The Furball is the largest annual fundraiser for FCCO, with the funds raised supporting our statewide spay/neuter services. Please support the cats through this very important event. We hope to see you there.

For more information, to donate or purchase tickets, please go to www.feralcats.com or call Karen Kraus at 503-797-2606.

Wish List

Paper towels
Large garbage bags
CD-RW
HP Laserjet Q5949A ink cartridge
HP Deskjet 56 ink cartridge
Postage stamps
Office supply gift cards
9x12 envelopes
Large sticker dots
Car/truck wax
Feral cat stories & photos

*To donate from our wish list, please
call 503-797-2606.*

Safe & Sound

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in the house. She is not interested in going outside, is happy with her "boyfriend" and daily she becomes more socialized. She sleeps with me under the blankets, purring loudly. She is at least 12 years old and could be older.

While I adopt senior cats (10+) from private parties and rescue groups, and currently have six seniors, I am especially pleased with my good fortune adopting a feral cat. Her appreciation of affection is a great reward. With greatest respect to FCCO.

Jo Bomser

TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

Clinic dates are subject to change. The full 2006 schedule is on our website, and it has the most current information. Please visit our website at www.feralcats.com for more info about the clinics or upcoming events.

4/22 & 33	NW Pet & Companion Fair	503-797-2606
4/23/06	Portland	503-797-2606
4/30/06	Salem	503-585-1522
5/7/06	Corvallis	541-754-8381
5/13/06	FURBALL	503-797-2606
5/21/06	Portland	503-797-2606
6/4/06	St. Helens	503-397-3333
6/11/06	Portland	503-797-2606
6/25/06	Eugene	541-607-4282
7/9/06	Longview, WA	360-578-0454
7/16/06	Portland	503-797-2606

General Message Line: 503-797-2606

www.feralcats.com

Moving? Remember to send us your new address when you move!

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

President	<i>Marla McGeorge, DVM</i>
Vice-President	<i>Kris Ellingsen, DVM</i>
Treasurer	<i>Diane Rogers</i>
Secretary	<i>Roz Simon</i>

Board Members	<i>Linda Holy</i>
	<i>Alison Lord, DVM</i>
	<i>Kristin Sulis, DVM</i>

Counsel (pro bono)	<i>Ron Adams</i>
	<i>Black Helterline, LLP</i>

Staff

Executive Director	<i>Karen Kraus</i>
Operations Director	<i>Leah Kennon, CVT</i>
Volunteer Manager	<i>Devon Jahn</i>
FCCO Technicians	<i>Kerri Blaney, CVT</i>
	<i>Corrie McTigue</i>

Newsletter Editor	<i>Karen Kraus</i>
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