

# StreetTAILS



Spring  
2007

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

## Cats, Wildlife and What We Can All Do

by Karen Kraus

Springtime is a reminder that the winter rest is over and it is time for new life. This is especially true for many animals, as spring is the prime breeding season.

As we see birds migrating back and busily building their nests, we recognize that it won't be all that



long until the fledglings will be ready to leave their nests. With the safety of the nest behind, new dangers lurk for these newcomers and for their parents.

Many of the dangers facing birds, and wildlife in general, are caused by humans. The depletion of habitat is the main reason, but secondary causes such as pesticides, invasive species and the impact of domestic animals are also very significant and can't be overlooked.

Recently, Bob Sallinger of the Audubon Society of Portland wrote an article for their newsletter about the impact cats have on wildlife. Nearly 40% of the animal intakes at their facility were caused by cats – the number one cause by a wide margin – and this high level is also seen at care centers across the country.

Springtime is an important time of the year to take extra precaution and keep your cat indoors or confined in an

enclosure or fenced area.

Wildlife all around us are trying to safely rear their young, and they need your help.

When it comes to feral cats, FCCO believes they deserve to live, and that trap-neuter-return is the compassionate solution to preventing future generations. To this end, we have spayed/neutered close to 30,000 cats who would otherwise be living



*Cats continued page 2*

## Story From the Streets

### Handsome

We've always had a kitty or three around the house, but when Straycat showed up, we felt we had a problem. He was a big dirty white tomcat with a big ugly sore on his back. He was completely feral and we feared that he might harm one of our housecats. Our cats enjoy eating outside part of the time (they like breakfast on the terrace), so I started chasing Straycat away.

One day while walking to the store, I saw a dead white cat along the side of the road. The rest of the way to the store, all I could think was "the last time I saw that poor cat he was hungry and I chased him away." I felt terrible.

Then, on the way home, I took a closer look and realized that it wasn't Straycat, but somebody else's poor kitty. I felt as though I had been given a second chance.

That evening I began putting food out for Straycat. Soon he gained weight and began to look healthier. He didn't become friendly, but he didn't run away anymore when he saw us. However, he still had a big open wound on his back, and we knew we weren't doing the right thing if we didn't get him some medical attention and get him neutered.

We worked up our courage and rented a trap. We had heard about the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon at that

time, but he needed medical attention so we opted to take him to our veterinarian. At our vet, one of her assistants said "Hello Handsome" to him when we brought him in, and we decided that would be a good name for him.

I wish I could say that Handsome eventually became tame. I fantasized about the day he would finally let me touch him or rub against my leg, but he never did in the five years he was here.

The last day of his life I saw him lying in a sheltered spot behind the house. Later, when the sun was on him, he was still there. His breathing seemed

*Handsome continued page 2*



## President's Corner *by Marla McGeorge, DVM*



*Dr. McGeorge*

Springtime, for those of us working with cats, usually means kittens and all that implies about the work still to do in defeating cat overpopulation. However, this year, spring brought me a young tomcat with a severe respiratory infection. He is currently residing in my clinic and receiving treatment. When he is well enough, he will be neutered. Mr. Stubbs - so named for his stubby tail - is not truly feral. He is wary and easily startled, but also affectionate with people. Most likely he was born to an owned cat and then either abandoned or just ignored. He has clearly been fending for himself for some time.

Mr. Stubbs is a good example of the source of feral cats. He is a "pre-feral." He is both a free-roaming, unneutered cat and the offspring of a free-roaming, unneutered cat. His offspring will be even more removed from contact with people than Mr. Stubbs is, and they will be truly feral. They will continue to reproduce feral kittens, unless someone is able to trap and neuter them.

Mr. Stubbs is a good reminder of just how important it is to educate people about the importance of spaying and neutering cats before they can reproduce. Once intact male and female cats are allowed to roam freely, they will breed and their offspring will increase exponentially. And many of those offspring, like Mr. Stubbs, will contract respiratory and other viruses which make them miserable and, in all too many cases, prove to be fatal. Mr. Stubbs is one of the lucky ones. He is my reminder to keep working toward the goal of all cats being spayed and neutered, so there are no more homeless, uncared-for cats.

## Cats *continued from page 1*

outdoors and reproducing. By reducing the number of feral cats, we are reducing the impact they have on birds and other wildlife.

Since the leading source of feral cats is free-roaming housecats, and the leading source of wildlife intakes at Audubon is from free-roaming cats, it makes sense that the two groups work together on a solution that helps cats and wildlife. We are currently exploring avenues to get a simple message out: Spay and neuter, and don't let your housecat roam free. It's good for the cats and it's good for wildlife.

Please do what you can to limit the impact your cat has on other species this spring, and beyond.

## 50% Night at pour

For the second year in a row, POUR Wine Bar is holding a "50% Night" for FCCO. On Wednesday, June 6, 2007, half of all proceeds from food and beverage sales (wine, beer, champagne and non-alcoholic selections) will be donated to FCCO by POUR owner Robert Volz. Robert also owns Thatch Tiki Bar that is just a few doors down from POUR. He will offer the same special at Thatch, giving us more space, more options, and more of an opportunity to raise funds to help feral cats.

Come any time from 7 p.m. until midnight and enjoy these very cool spots where there is something to eat and drink for everyone.

Pour is located in Portland at 2755 NE Broadway (corner of NE Broadway and NE 28th). Please help spread the word about this special evening and plan to attend.

## Handsome *continued from page 1*

labored and he didn't move when I came close to him. I shaded him from the sun, and went in the house wondering what I should do. I knew he was dying and that I should take him to the vet to help him along, but I was afraid if I tried to pick him up he'd use the last of his strength to run away and hide. When I went out to check on him the next time, he wasn't breathing.

It is a sad ending, but unfortunately, cat stories often are. They have shorter life spans than we do, but I hate to think what would have happened to him if he had outlived us. I felt good that he felt safe enough to come to our house when his time came. In a real sense, this was not the end of the story. Handsome was just the beginning...the rest of the story will be shared in a future newsletter.

*by Bette Freiter*



## Cat Stats

*Clinic stats for the first 3 months of 2007:*

Total cats spayed/neutered - 909  
Males - 412  
Females - 497



## Cline's Condo for Charities



One of our amazing donors recently purchased a new ocean-front condominium in close-by Lincoln City, and they call it "Cline's Condo for Charities." They're giving the net income from its rental to charitable groups like FCCO! Guests select the charity by simply writing the name and location of their chosen organization in the guest book.

The condo's name is *Sandcastles and Sunsets*, and it is one of only 36 that are collectively known as the Pacific Winds Condominiums. It is rented through Blue Pacific Vacation Rentals (1-877-459-3287 or [www.bluepacificvacationrentals.com/LCRentals/pacwin/sandCastles.htm](http://www.bluepacificvacationrentals.com/LCRentals/pacwin/sandCastles.htm)). Check their website to see how to stay at this beautiful new property!



Everything in the 2-bedroom condo is brand new. Amenities include a commanding view of the ocean, king-size Select Comfort beds, 40" LCD TV, hot tub, top quality furnishings, stainless-steel appliances, washer and dryer, wireless internet access, and even a complimentary bottle of Cline Cellars wine.

Anyone who stays in their condo and designates FCCO will have a restful and romantic experience while also helping feral cats. A vacation retreat just can't get much better than that!

## Wish List

- Large whiteboard & markers
- Office paper
- AA size flashlights
- AA batteries
- Individual brochure holders
- Office Depot gift cards
- Wall clock
- Wastepaper baskets
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- 30 gal. garbage bags
- Forever postage stamps
- Feral cat stories and photos

If you would like to donate items from our Wish List, please call 503-797-2606 or email us at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com). Thank you!



**What if FCCO earned a penny every time you searched the Internet?**

Well, now we can!

GoodSearch is a search engine that donates 50 % of its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity the user designates. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine, and because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and in the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" box, simply type in The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, and click the verify box to the right. That's it! You can also add GoodSearch to your toolbar to make using it regularly a breeze. Just 200 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$3,000 in a year without anyone spending a dime!

The more people who use GoodSearch, the more money will go to helping feral cats. So please spread the word to your friends and family.

## Ninth Annual Furball



**Saturday, May 12, 2007**

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



**The Ninth Annual Furball** will be a "Night on the Nile", an Egyptian-themed event. It's your night to party like a pharaoh while helping ferals (say that three times!) Enjoy wonderful light fare from Elephants Delicatessen, espresso from Best in Brew, a hosted bar with special elixirs, and beer from Pyramid Brewing. Egyptian attire is encouraged at this black-tie optional event.

The evening will feature silent and live auctions, raffles, and belly dancers. The Honorary Chair for this special night is Sharon Kitzhaber and the Emcee is KGW Meteorologist, Matt Zaffino.

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. Don't miss this opportunity to be transported back to a time when cats were worshipped.

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

For more information, to donate or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at [www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com) or email Karen Kraus at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com).

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## TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

Clinic dates are subject to change. The full 2007 schedule is on our website, and it has the most current information. Please visit our website for more info about the clinics and upcoming events.

4/15/07	Salem	503-585-1522
4/22/07	Portland	503-797-2606
4/29/07	Longview	360-578-0454
5/6/07	Corvallis	541-754-8381
5/12/07	FURBALL	503-797-2606
5/20/07	Portland	503-797-2606
6/3/07	Warrenton	503-861-1621
6/6/07	50% Night at POUR	503-797-2606
6/10/07	Portland	503-797-2606
6/24/07	Eugene	541-607-4282
7/8/07	Salem	503-585-1522
7/15/07	Portland	503-797-2606

**General Message Line: 503-797-2606**

[www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com)

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

## Coalition Contacts

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