

Street TAILS



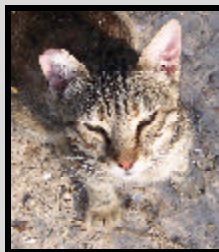
Winter
2007

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

A Record-Breaking Year!

Anything is possible when we all work together – and we work together over a lot of miles. Last year was record setting for the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. We spayed/neutered 3,309 cats, surpassing our previous annual record by nearly 100 cats! We accomplished this by holding a total of 44 clinics in eight different cities including 11 Flex Clinics (weekday clinics held in Portland) – up from just 4 the prior year.

- Number of females – 1,824
- Number of males – 1,485
- Held 34 TNR Clinics and 11 Flex Clinics
- Flex Clinics - averaged 28 cats per clinic
- TNR Clinics - averaged 88 cats per clinic



There are no other programs in our areas of operation providing the services of FCCO, and it is your volunteer and financial support that makes it all possible. You can have confidence that when you donate to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, your support is helping cats. For every dollar donated, **92 cents** is directed to fulfilling our mission of spaying/neutering, and community education. Let's make this year another record breaker!

Stories From the Streets

Our Three Golden Kittens

In August 2004, three beautiful golden kittens came bounding into our lives. They wouldn't come near us, but they kept returning to the backyard until it was obvious they were homeless and hungry. We started putting out food bowls at a comfortable distance, gradually moving them closer each day. We purchased a doghouse and began providing three meals a day, water and shelter. Our experience with feral cats was limited, but online research brought us in touch with FCCO. With your guidance, we successfully trapped all three – 2 females and a male - and brought them to your November clinic in Salem.

Fluffy continued page 2



Spay Day USA Collaboration

In the world of spaying and neutering, February is an important month culminating with Spay Day USA on the last Tuesday of the month. This year Spay Day falls on February 27, and all spay/neuter events held throughout the month qualify toward Spay Day.

FCCO celebrates Spay Day USA each year by holding a special spay/neuter clinic. Our clinic this year will be

Spay Day USA is America's first and only national day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of pets.

held on February 25, in Portland, and it will be for 100 feral cats living in the 97206 and 97266 zip codes. FCCO is part of a multi-county coalition of animal care organizations that have identified these zip codes for a targeted spay/neuter effort. The coalition – known as CatNIP (Cat Neuter Incentive Program) – includes the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, Multnomah County Animal Services, Cat Adoption Team, Clackamas County Dog Control, Oregon Humane Society, Southwest Washington Humane Society, and Washington County Animal Control. The group will be holding clinics throughout the year and gathering statistics to compare with shelter numbers to measure the effectiveness of this targeted effort.

Spay Day continued page 3



President's Corner *by Marla McGeorge, DVM*



Dr. McGeorge

As we just completed another year, it is gratifying to look back on what we have accomplished. Sometimes the numbers of homeless and feral cats seem so overwhelming that it feels as if we will never make a difference. But looking at the year in review, I can see that we do make a difference. And more importantly, I think we continue to get better at what we do. The accumulated experience of those involved in FCCO helps us to continuously better our efforts to help feral cats.

One of the most exciting changes this year has been our new focus on feral cat colonies. We hope to use this information both to assess our impact on feral cat reproduction and to gain insights into strategies to stabilize populations.

The board of directors is also growing and changing. Mickey Lee, a past board member has again joined the board. She is in charge of our educational efforts and also has considerable skill in video and photography. Kimberly Dauphin, DVM, also joined the board and brings the perspective of a veterinarian experienced in shelter medicine, which has many similarities to the work we do. Dr. Dauphin is currently on a medical leave of absence. We wish her – somewhat selfishly! – a speedy recovery.

Once again, I want to thank all of the many people who contribute to the success of FCCO. Each and every one of you is an example of what is best in humans: the desire to improve the lives of some of the other creatures with whom we share the planet. As we enter this New Year, we can all be happy for the cats we have helped and we can look forward to those we will help in the coming year.

New Volunteer Manager



Erin is holding her cat Moo Shu and her fiance, Adam, is holding Junebug.

As many of our volunteers already know, we have a new Volunteer Manager and her name is Erin Flowers. She started late last year and is quickly learning the program and meeting our incredible and vast volunteer staff. What most people don't know is that Erin has a link to a rather famous feline.

While growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, Erin took piano lessons from an instructor who also taught Chelsea Clinton. In fact, Chelsea's lesson followed Erin's each week. Upon leaving one of her lessons, Erin found a young, hungry, dirt-covered kitten hiding beneath a car in the driveway. She took the kitten back inside to her instructor who then fostered the kitten to health and looked for a new home for him. Erin really wanted the kitten, but her parents didn't share her desire. This lucky little fellow did find a good home, however, with Chelsea. You may recall hearing about Socks the cat during his tenure in the White House? Our own Erin Flowers found him!

Fluffy *continued from page 1*

We spent time with them each day, gradually moving from talking to touching to petting and playing. They all loved to chase a string toy with a feather attached. One female was semi-feral by summer. In November, she disappeared. We posted flyers but got no reply. We were hopeful she found a permanent home. In May 2006 the male cat disappeared. He had always been the most aggressive and the least candidate for domestication, so we were certain he did not find a new home.

The remaining cat, we named Fluffy, was frightened and stayed closer to her shelter. Since we could no longer ensure her safety, we increased our interaction and made plans to bring her indoors.



Fluffy today.

In July 2006, we got her into a carrier, took her to the vet, and then brought her home. She lived in our utility room for a few days, then we moved her into a spare room, and now she shares the house with our other indoor cat, Bella Gatta. She is still not too approachable, but she is a real lounge cat on our bed! We are grateful for the assistance of FCCO and your great contribution to the community.

by Vickie Stiteler

No New Kittens!

The commercial fishermen from Warrenton Mooring Basin and I want to thank you for helping us fix our colony of cats. There were no kittens this year – we finally got them all. The cats are fed daily and appreciated highly. There are NO RATS on the boats. It didn't used to be that way. Thank you FCCO.

by Bernie Bjork



News Bits

Salem Grant

FCCO is fortunate to have received a \$13,000 grant from the Karen M. Schroth Charitable Foundation to spay/neuter 450 feral cats from colonies in the Salem area in 2007. We have been holding clinics in Salem since 1998, and this grant represents the third consecutive year the Foundation has supported FCCO and Salem work.

\$15,000 Match Achieved!

Fabulous, Fabulous, Fabulous! FCCO raised the \$15,000 needed to secure the matching \$15,000 from the challenge grant. Thankfully, as the deadline approached, one of our long-time donors contacted us to find out how close we were so she could contribute the balance if needed! Feral cats in our area are very, very fortunate because our donors are willing to open their hearts and checkbooks to help these once-forgotten felines. Thank you to each and every one who helped make this amazing matching gift possible!

Give Guide

FCCO was part of the Willamette Week Give Guide again this year. From mid-November to the end of the year, the Give Guide encouraged donors to support selected nonprofits. We raised close to \$5,000 (official final numbers aren't in yet). Many who donated were brand new to our program, making their support very special to us. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed through the Give Guide.

Dorothy Steele Art Sale

Well-known local artist, Dorothy Steele, held her annual Holiday Art Sale in December and it was a benefit sale for FCCO. In addition to donating a percentage of sales to FCCO, she donated an original platter for a raffle. Dorothy raised just over \$400 for our program. She will do it again next year, so be sure to come!

Spay Day *continued from page 1*

We know you already believe in spaying and neutering, and if you would like to put your belief into action, there are many ways you can participate in Spay Day USA. We will be looking for help to get the word out in the targeted zip codes. If you would like to help, please email Erin Flowers at volunteer@feralcats.com or call her at 503-797-2606. Other things you can do include helping someone in need get their animal spayed or neutered, holding your own Spay Day event, or volunteering at an event. An easy way to participate in Spay Day is to sponsor the spay/neuter of a feral cat by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope or on our web page. There are a lot of ways to be involved—just be sure you do something!



The Honorary Chair for this remarkable night is Sharon Kitzhaber. We hope to see you there!

Furball 2007 Save the Date

The **Ninth Annual Furball – A Night on the Nile** – will transport you back to ancient Egypt and a time when cats were worshiped. The Egyptian-themed Furball will unfold on **May 12, 2007** at the World Forestry Center, Miller Hall.

WISH LIST PAST & PRESENT

In our last newsletter, the Wish List was filled with many items we needed for our pending move into our new office space. WOW, did our donors come through with amazing donations! We have had office supplies, Home Depot gift cards, tables, chairs, space heaters, vacuum cleaners, and even new laptop computers, monitors and a digital camera donated. Our offices have come together through these donations and we would like to thank: Judy Dancer, Mary Lou Denton, Jan Lochridge, Dr. Marla McGeorge, Piotr Orloff, Jerry & Louise Owsley, Nancy Roberts, and Margaret Van Houten for their special gifts.

If you would like to donate something from our current Wish List below, please call 503-797-2606 or email us at info@feralcats.com. Thank you!

- Paper shredder
- Storage shelving or cabinets
- Office Depot gift cards
- Coat hooks
- Wastepaper baskets
- Individual brochure holders
- Wall clock
- Laundry detergent
- AA batteries
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Postage stamps
- Feral cat stories and photos

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 at www.feralcats.com for more info about the clinics and upcoming events.

1/21/07	Salem	503-585-1522
1/28/07	Corvallis	541-754-8381
2/4/07	St. Helens	503-397-3333
2/11/07	Eugene	541-607-4282
2/25/07	Portland - Spay Day Clinic	503-797-2606
3/4/07	Coquille	541-396-4439
3/11/07	Longview	360-578-0454
3/18/07	Portland	503-797-2606
4/1/07	Eugene	541-607-4282
4/15/07	Salem	503-585-1522
4/22/07	Portland	503-797-2606
4/29/07	Longview	360-578-0454

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>
Interim Treasurer	<i>Michael Rensing</i>
Secretary	<i>Roz Simon</i>

Board Members	<i>Kimberly Dauphin, DVM</i>
	<i>Linda Holy</i>
	<i>Mickey Lee</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>
FCCO Technicians	<i>Kerri Blaney, CVT</i>
	<i>Christy Lee, CVT</i>
Volunteer Manager	<i>Erin Flowers</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Karen Kraus</i>

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