



STREET TAILS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

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President's Corner

by Brenda Smith, DVM

I would like to start by thanking everyone who came to the Furball for their support. I unfortunately had to



Brenda Smith, DVM

miss it this year as one of my best friends scheduled his wedding in Dallas on the same day. I heard it was the best Furball yet and was very

sorry to miss it. It was a financial success as well. The funds raised cover almost half of the annual operating needs of the program, so we still have a lot of work to do to support our entire fiscal year's budget, but are off to a great start.

The board has been working on strengthening and updating our policies to ensure we provide the best care possible for the cats, and that our guidelines are clear for our volunteers and the people who use our services. Some haven't changed, such as our viral testing and ear-tipping policies; however, many new ones have been added. We have added a policy on the use of our traps, making them available for rent to transport cats to other spay/neuter programs but stating firmly that they may not be used for trap and euthanasia. A few new policies better define volunteer and caregiver responsibilities and requirements. The new policies are

now available and replace previous versions. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

A short invitation to all the veterinarians who volunteer with our program: we are forming a Veterinary Advisory Board to work with details such as surgery and anesthesia protocols. We are looking for a few veterinarians who might be willing to collaborate and help us keep our procedures up to date and as safe as possible for the cats. If you are interested, please call our phone line at 503-797-2606 or send an email to feralcats_Oregon@yahoo.com for more information.

Now a short invitation for all the certified/registered technicians: we are looking to hire someone who can work at clinics in the Portland and surrounding areas and act as a back-up for Leah Kennon, CVT, our Operations Director. In addition to regular tech duties, this position will include learning how to prep for a clinic, drive the truck and run a clinic in case of Leah's absence. Please email or call us for more information about this great opportunity.

One last thing - please mark your calendars now for October 4, 2003. We are planning an Annual Meeting at the Willamette Valley Vineyards in Salem. You won't want to miss this! You'll learn more about the program you support, ask questions, and share stories. We invite our donors, volunteers, caregivers, friends and family members to attend. Watch our web site for more information.

Helping Rescue Cats in Bend

by Leah Kennon

On April 26, 2003, 53 starving and severely dehydrated cats were discovered living in a cramped and filthy trailer in La Pine, Oregon. The occupants of the trailer were cited with 53 counts of Animal Neglect in the first and second degree and the cats were released to the Humane Society of Central Oregon. Funds received from the community in response to HSCO's plea for help enabled FCCO to participate in the effort to save the lives of these cats by spaying 13 females at the May 5 spay/neuter clinic held in Bend.

Each of the gray or gray and white cats was starved for not only nourishment, but also for affection. The HSCO staff and volunteers did an amazing job of caring for the cats in a shelter that was already inundated with cats and kittens at the onset of kitten season. Bend FCCO clinic coordinator, Lynne Ouchida, is the Community Outreach Coordinator at the HSCO. She and Troy Kerstetter, Executive Director of HSCO, have volunteered with FCCO for many years. Their dedication to the well-being of the animals in their community is impressive and inspiring. The veterinary community of Bend did a tremendous job as well, giving veterinary support to the shelter, FCCO and the cats that were rescued.

Bend Cats continued page 2



Stories From The Streets

Saving Sierra

At a Eugene FCCO clinic, Cathy Bill came looking for me. There was a man in line to register cats claiming to live in a trailer park near Corvallis. He said he could not return the kittens and adult torti to the park after they were spayed.



Allegedly, someone had thrown two siblings into a bonfire and yet another tenant had shot at cats with a pellet gun. His gravest concern was for Sierra, the mother of the kittens, a beautiful calico still roaming the park and fed by this kind family who had trapped and saved the ones he had brought that day. Cathy took on the task of adopting out the adult and kittens brought in that clinic day. I took on the task of saving Sierra.

She was not an easy catch by any means. The family had accidentally trapped her once, held her in the trap two days, then released her. They had tried to lure her into their trailer then quickly slammed the sliding patio door. This also went awry, spooking her further. I went after her with traps for two and a half months, catching only three huge males wandering through the park. Their hormonal meanderings here would have proved fatal had they entered the constantly set traps of the manager. Instead, they entered mine to new lives and safety. I took them to FCCO clinics, got them neutered, then relocated them. But Sierra eluded me.

The kind tenants called me one day, desperate. Sierra was loudly yowling night and day and appeared injured. Actually, she was in heat. Having

removed all potential suitors, I pulled a sometimes useful tool from my bag of tricks. I called the Heartland Humane Society and got some urine soaked litter from an unaltered tom cat at the shelter. I lined a trap out at the park with the smelly litter and sprinkled more in the immediate area. The next morning, I had Sierra. I met Cathy in Junction City with her the same day. Cathy got her spayed and Sierra joined two of her daughters and the adult torti at a home waiting and ready for her. Sierra is saved.

by Jody Harmon

Karma

I was volunteering at the Portland FCCO clinic and made a comment to one of the volunteers who was walking by with a cage that it was a wonder some of the little cats made it through the winter. Some of them look so half-starved. She replied, "I'll be surprised if this one makes it. She's so thin I can see her ribs, and she's awfully small." I looked into the cage and saw this little bundle of fur who was in fact half starved. My heart just broke for her because I feared that if she was simply released back into the wild, she probably wouldn't make it. I located someone who knew the caregivers and asked if she could inquire whether I could take the kitten home until she was well enough to release again. I wanted to care for her and fatten her up and give her a fighting chance.

The caregivers agreed, but I began to wonder if the kitten would make it home with me either. She wasn't waking up from the anesthetic after 5 hours. It was as if she didn't really have a reason to wake up.

She made it through the night and although it took her several days to get back on her feet, she started to eat and drink and move about. She was very frightened. In a few days I took her to my vet, who thought she was not feral, but likely a dumped kitten about 7 months old.

The rest of the story is purely heartwarming. She has grown and thrived and learned to talk and purr. She adores my other cats and is never further than a few feet away from one of us. She is very beautiful with long reddish-blond hair and a sweet little face. Her needs for affection and love are limitless, and we are delighted to shower it on her. Please tell her caregivers that this story had a very happy ending.

I learned a few things as a result of this event. First, I learned that you don't find cats, they find you. I'm so certain we were meant to be together that I've named her Karma. A few seconds off on the timing and I would never have seen her, and she most likely would not have survived. Second, I learned that no matter how many cats you have, there is always room for one more. And lastly, I learned that of all the successes I've had in my life, the sweetest is knowing a little cat had a chance for a much better life because I heard her little heart cry out. I plan for her to live happily ever after with us in a big house with tons of toys and a family of happy cats.

by Angela Dodge

Bend Cats cont. from page 1

Due to the cooperative effort between many people around Oregon and Washington, all of the cats were able to find homes. This is a success story for the cats rescued from a horrible situation. But it is also the story of what can happen when one does not spay or neuter their animals. The couple in La Pine started out with just two cats a couple of years ago, according to Kerstetter, illustrating the need to spay and neuter to control the animal overpopulation and help stop the flow of animals into animal shelters. Spaying and neutering are key in decreasing the number of animals that have to be euthanized every day. FCCO is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the solution.



* "AristoCat" Furball Fun

The Fifth Annual Furball was held on May 10, 2003 in Miller Hall at the World Forestry Center in Portland. As the sounds of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin filled the air, nearly 250 animal lovers, many in black tie, enjoyed

wonderful vegetarian and vegan food from Elephants Delicatessen and martinis courtesy of Hood River Distillers and O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar. The silent auction tables elegantly surrounded the room drawing guests to bid on the fabulous array of items. Everyone was seated for the live auction where fifteen very special items, including a surprise vacation package, were sold to the highest bidders. Hearts and wallets were opened during this wonderful event that raised \$80,000 for feral cats!



Guests enjoying the Furball.

Our sponsors are the heart and soul of the Furball, and play a pivotal role in our ability to raise the kind of money we did. We are so grateful for their support that we'd like to list them

for you:
Coolest Cat - Leslie B. Durst;
Top Cats - Portia Howard, Petco;
Cat's Meow - Sam & Gayle Cole,
Dignified Pet

Services, Lux Lighting, Nancy Roberts, Susan Stern; Big Purr - Janet Amundson-Splidsboel, Annie Bellman, Ed Cauduro & Paige Powell, Dr. Laird Goodman, Marilyn Downs & Becky Miller, Donald Falk, Michael & Chris Feves, Northwest Veterinary Hospital, The Parkway Veterinary Hospital, Rose City Veterinary Hospital; Feral Friend - Animal Behavior Clinic, Art For You, Tristan & Jenny Anydots, Geof Beasley & Jim Sampson, Business Services Northwest, Craig & Cherie Cline, Holistic Pet Center, Home Sweet Home Cat Sitting, Michael & Kathy Landert, Dolorosa Margulis, Pet Company, Ernest C. Swigert, Margaret Tilbury. Special thanks go out to Etta Wilkins-Foster & Jeff Foster, Premier Press, Steve Arel, Tazo, Elephants Delicatessen, and Hood River Distillers.

Many guests commented on how this Furball was the best one yet! It really takes the community to make this event a success. From our amazing sponsors, to our very dedicated committee members and from our incredible donors to our compassionate guests and volunteers, we thank you for reaching out to help feral and stray cats in Oregon.

IT ALL ADDS UP

Donations to charities tend to decrease during the summer months, but in FCCO's case the need multiplies – in the form of litters of kittens needing to be spayed or neutered. Here are some ways you can help:

- * Make a monthly contribution through MEW, or consider increasing your contribution.
- * Have a house party. You provide the friends and refreshments; we'll provide a speaker and our fabulous video to share the word about FCCO's mission.
- * Remember FCCO in your estate.
- * Ask family and friends to make a donation to FCCO on your birthday, anniversary, at Christmas or other special occasions. It's easy and can come in many sizes and never needs to be returned to the store!
- * Set aside items to donate to the annual Portland rummage sale August 9, volunteer to help at the sale, and come shop! (If you have a space we could use for this one-day sale, please contact us!)
- * Mark your calendar for this year's Bowling Ball and silent auction: November 1 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Get a team together to bowl, donate to the auction, or volunteer to help at the event.

Information about the rummage sale and Bowling Ball will be posted on the website, or contact Linda Holy at 503-287-8054 for more information.

Special Thanks

We thank the EUGENE HILTON and the VALLEY RIVER INN for hosting the FCCO staff and mobile hospital the night before each Eugene clinic. Their generosity helps direct more funds to cat care, and their hospitality enables us to get off to an early start the next morning.



Honorary Chair Max Grover and wife, Sheri.

And now for the question on many people's minds – who won the diamond ring? Our Honorary Chair for the event, Max Grover, drew the winning name immediately after the live auction concluded. Peter Goodkin of Lake Oswego was the winner.

* Congratulations to Peter!



Clinic Schedule

Clinic dates are subject to change. For a list of the clinics through the end of the year, you can find a copy of our schedule on our web page, www.feralcats.com.

7/20/03	Portland	503-797-2606
8/3/03	Eugene	541-607-4282
8/10/03	Sweet Home	541-367-3184
8/17/03	Portland	503-797-2606
9/7/03	Bend	541-382-4328
9/14/03	Warrenton	503-436-9522
9/21/03	Portland	503-797-2606
9/28/03	Eugene	541-607-4282
10/4/03	Annual Meeting	503-797-2606
10/5/03	St. Helens	503-397-3333
10/12/03	Coquille	541-396-4439
10/19/03	Portland	503-797-2606
10/26/03	Fall Feral Fix - Albany	503-797-2606

Wish List

Copy cards • Paper towels • Batteries • Garbage bags •
Office supply store gift certificates • Laundry detergent •
Digital camera • Feral cat photos

Coalition Contacts

President _____ Brenda Smith, DVM
Vice-President _____ Rebecca Birchmeier, DVM
Treasurer _____ Debra Oglesby
Secretary _____ Linda Holy
Members at Large _____ Barbara Cannon
Diane Hofmann
Mickey Lee
Roz Simon
Sheri Speede, DVM

Executive Director _____ Karen Kraus
Operations Director _____ Leah Kennon, CVT
FCCO Veterinary Technician — Caitlin Bennett, CVT
Newsletter Editor _____ Karen Kraus

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www.feralcats.com
