



STREET TAILS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

July 2005

Issue No. 14

Celebrating 10 years!

Could it really be 10 years for FCCO already? Time flies when you are busy helping thousands of cats every year!



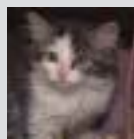
Cat 1,000

Our efforts continue to add up, but just what has happened these past 10 years?

It all started in 1995 when a group of veterinarians from the Portland Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) animal welfare committee wanted to create a spay/neuter program targeted for feral cats. They founded the Feral Cat Coalition of Portland in March, had the 501c3 nonprofit designation by May, and held the first clinic on June 25, 1995. At that landmark clinic, we helped 16 cats...and it took us all day! Today we care for an average of 85 cats per clinic.

For two and a half years we held clinics monthly in Portland at vet offices on Sundays when they were closed. Our founding President, Ellie Shelburne, and her husband and Treasurer, Peter, hauled all our supplies to each clinic in a trailer towed by their little red Honda. While this approach worked – we helped 1,861 cats this way – it was cumbersome and inefficient.

In 1998 when our mobile hospital was completed, we changed our name to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and began helping cats in cities throughout the state. We have now held 283 clinics in 20 communities and have



Cat 20,000

spayed/neutered and improved the lives of more than 22,000 cats. From our fabulous founders, to our donors and

volunteers, and from our board of directors and staff to the caregivers in the trenches, every person has contributed to the longevity and success of our program.

We will celebrate our 10th Birthday at our clinics this summer with clinic tours and, of course, birthday cakes! We will also hold a special celebration at our Annual Meeting on October 8, so please save the date. All the details will be on our website as the event nears.



Cake from the June 26 clinic in Salem.

There continues to be strong and even growing need for our spay/neuter services, and we want to be there for all the cats who need us. With your continued support, we will be.

Stories From The Streets

Ochoco Mountain Cats

I wanted to send you a story of our cats here on the Rager Ranger Station, in the Ochoco National Forest. We are located 78 miles east of Prineville, in the Ochoco Mountains, and are the most remote Forest Service station in the lower 48 states.

In April of 2003, I noticed two little kittens hiding inside a culvert not too far from the west entrance of our ranger station compound. I began leaving food and water for them, figuring that they must have been dumped. They disappeared not too long after this.

The following February, we began seeing them both, now full grown, down near our barn. There are lots of mice down there, or I should say, were

lots of mice. We had noticed that the mice in our fire warehouse, and other outbuildings, had also begun disappearing! We took up a collection from the employees and I trapped them both and took the female into Prineville for spaying and shots.

I was able to take the male to Bend's FCCO clinic. I am happy to report that both cats are still doing fine,

Ochoco continued page 2



President's Corner

by Brenda Smith, DVM



Brenda Smith, DVM

Though summer is getting a slow start in the Pacific Northwest this year, the cats haven't seemed to notice. That terrible time we

like to refer to as 'kitten season' is in full swing. I know it is going to happen every year, but I keep hoping that all the efforts of all the non-profit animal groups in our area will keep it from happening. All our open admission shelters are overflowing with cats and kittens. There just aren't enough adopters to keep up with the supply of especially adoptable adult cats.

It makes me very sad to see how many really nice cats can't find a forever home. First I get depressed about what sometimes seems a hopeless situation. Then I shake it off and get even more motivated to help find the solution through educating people about spay/neuter and preventing so many unwanted or unneeded litters. I try to tell all the clients I see who want their children to experience kittens to sign up as a foster volunteer at their local shelter,

to help take care of the kittens that have already been born because of people who neglected to spay/neuter and now are 'getting rid' of what they see as a hassle.

This isn't a problem we can adopt our way out of. We have to prevent the population explosion, and spay/neuter is the answer. We at FCCO are trying to figure out a way to expand our program to help more cats. Since our Sunday schedule is filled, we have tried a few weekday clinics. We are now assessing our volunteer resources, caregiver availability, and how efficiently the clinics can be run. Veterinarians and especially certified technicians have been the hardest volunteer positions to fill. If you are available for weekday clinics, please let our volunteer manager, Devon, know. You can email her at volunteer@feralcats.com.

What else can each of us do to help? Adopt a shelter cat and encourage your friends to do the same. Encourage everyone you know that early spay/neuter is healthiest for their pet and will help solve the overpopulation problem. Volunteer and donate to every animal organization you are able to that promotes spay/neuter. And of course, remember FCCO when you are writing your checks! Thanks for being part of the solution.

Ochoco *continued from page 1*

and keeping our buildings free from mice. Several of us make sure they are well fed during the winter. They sleep under our mess hall that is heated year-round, so the ductwork keeps that space warm. I would love to find them real homes, but they are very wild and will not let you get within 30 yards of them. Thanks for helping us prevent what could have been a large population of wild cats at our ranger station.

Kathleen Martin

P. S. I should add that I learned my lesson at my last remote ranger station in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Someone dumped a pregnant female cat at our station in the dead of winter. She had her kittens under someone's trailer and we started seeing her a lot the following spring. Unfortunately, we did not think about populations, and she AND her three daughters all got pregnant later that summer. The following spring we had 15 cats and kittens running around our ranger station. I again took up a collection and found a veterinarian who took group rates! After their surgeries, we found all of them homes with farmers in the area who took good care of their barn cats. So, when I saw these two kittens on my present ranger station, I did not waste time trapping them and getting them in for surgery!!

Junior and Peaches

Two years ago a friend of mine and I were helping some stray cats. She did the trapping and I took them in to be spayed/neutered. I then worked on finding them homes or taking them to no-kill shelters. I hadn't heard of your organization at that point.

A couple of the cats were particularly wild. When I took them to

Junior continued page 3



Thank You Cat Adoption Team!

The Cat Adoption Team (CAT) has donated space for FCCO to hold three spay/neuter clinics this year. It is wonderful to work with such a great organization, and we are most grateful for their support. CAT is a no-kill cat shelter in Sherwood, Oregon. Consider adopting your next feline family member from them. Foster families are also greatly needed. They can be reached at www.catadoptionteam.org.



2005 Clinic Stats

At each clinic, the question of the day typically is "how many cats do we have today?" It not only helps gauge the length of the clinic, but it is also a way for volunteers to gain a sense of accomplishment. Driving home and knowing you just helped 89 cats, lifts your spirits and warms your heart. You know you just made a difference.

Below you will find FCCO's clinic stats for the first six months of 2005. We hope you, too, experience that warm feeling that comes from helping those in need.

Number of clinics – 18
Total cats spayed/neutered – 1399
Males – 652 Females – 747



Junior *continued from page 2*

the vet for exams, shots, and neutering, he patiently explained these cats had already been neutered and showed me how he knew this. The right ear of each of the cats was missing – they had been ear tipped! It sure saved these cats a great deal of unnecessary stress.

I kept the cats in my garden room over the winter, and made no progress taming them. They ate well, but hissed if I got too close and clearly wanted to be outside. My husband built an outdoor cat house for them, and when spring came I set them free. Well, they have been here ever since. They are healthy and happy, and I can now even pet them. They are clearly a bonded pair. They groom each other for hours and are always together. The male (Junior) rubs against my leg and demands to be petted. The little female (Peaches) is still too shy for that, but I'm hopeful.



J. Harmon

Carol Lee

EBAY IS FOR THE CATS!

Going once...going twice...sold, to you! Well, maybe to you, if you join in FCCO's first-ever auction on eBay. Our auction begins on **Monday, July 18** and will run for seven days. You can help raise much needed funds for spaying/neutering feral cats by bidding on wonderful auction items from the comfort of your own home.

We have something for everyone including art, home décor items, brand name items and apparel, and of course some adorable cat-themed items. Never bought or sold anything on eBay before? No problem, visit our website at www.feralcats.com and click on *Events* and then *eBay Auction*. We have full instructions on how to find our auction and everything you need to get you set up to bid.



Even if auctions aren't typically your thing, you can still help make this first FCCO eBay auction a success by spreading the word to your friends. Helping feral cats has never been easier!

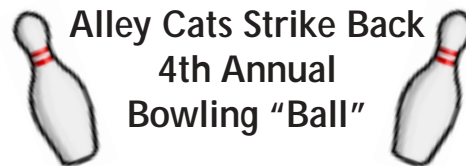
Feline Groovy

by Karen Kraus

The crowd was definitely feeling groovy on Saturday, May 7, at the World Forestry Center-Miller Hall as FCCO hosted the **Seventh Annual Furball – Feline Groovy**. Chaired by Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams, the event was attended by more than 250 guests. Our donors are amazing and very dedicated, and showed their support by making this our best Furball yet!

This year's winner of the Furball raffle for the \$1,500 prepaid Visa card was Bob Johnson. We later found out that he is the husband of one of our volunteers! Congratulations to the Johnson family!

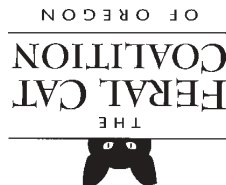
On behalf of the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and all the feral cats in need of our services, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, donors and volunteers who were part of making this such a wonderful and successful event. We couldn't do it without you.



The 4th Annual FCCO Bowling "Ball" is rolling into town on **November 5, 2005**. This event is fun for all ages, and you don't have to be a bowler to have a good time. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending. You don't want to miss it!

Job Opportunity

Currently, we have a rare opportunity for a Certified Vet Tech to join our team as a staff member. If you are a licensed technician, will be soon, or know someone who might be interested, please contact us. For more information about the position, please visit our website at www.feralcats.com or send your resume and cover letter to Karen Kraus in care of FCCO, PO Box 82734, Portland, OR 97282.



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Clinic & Event 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 full schedule on our website at www.feralcats.com.

7/17/05	Portland	503-797-2606
7/27/05	Sweet Home	541-367-3184
8/7/05	Eugene	541-607-4282
8/21/05	Portland	503-797-2606
8/28/05	Bend	541-382-3537
9/11/05	Coquille	541-396-4439
9/18/05	Portland	503-797-2606
9/25/05	Salem	503-585-1522
10/2/05	Eugene	541-607-4282
10/8/05	Annual Meeting	503-797-2606
10/16/05	Portland	503-797-2606
10/23/05	Fall Feral Fix	541-754-8381
11/5/05	FCCO Bowling Ball	503-797-2606

General Message Line
503-797-2606
www.feralcats.com

Coalition Contacts

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