

# StreetTAILS



Summer  
2007

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

## Story from the Streets

### *TNR Comes to Baker City*

Baker City, Oregon, is a rural town of about 10,000 people located in Baker County in northeastern Oregon. In the months leading up to February 2007, Police Chief Wyn Lohner found himself spending increasing amounts of time addressing citizen complaints about feral and domestic cats. He began seeking a positive solution to the problem that did not require police action. When he typed in "feral cats" on the internet, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon popped up and he contacted Karen Kraus, the Executive Director, to discuss options. She introduced him to the concept of Trap-Neuter-Return and let him know that FCCO would be willing to visit Baker City to meet with the community to talk about TNR.



*Cat trapped in a live trap.*

Chief Lohner realized that this approach might be his answer, being respectful, humane, and more effective at feral cat population control than trap and kill. His Animal Control officer, Officer Shannon Regan, put him in touch with the Mollie Atwater and Friends Spay/Neuter Fund, which is a

**Baker City** continued page 2

## Hope for the Future

*by Karen Kraus*

Having been part of this organization since its inaugural year in 1995, I am proud to see how FCCO has grown over the years and all the tremendous accomplishments along the way. What started as a grassroots organization holding monthly spay/neuter clinics in Portland has grown into a program that helps more than 3,300 cats each year in seven communities. And through the remarkable dedication from our wonderful volunteers and support from our amazing donors, we continue to make strides in preventing future generations of feral cats – in just a few months we will celebrate our 30,000<sup>th</sup> cat!

Throughout the years, we have seen the need for our services grow as more people learn about trap-neuter-return (TNR) as the humane solution to feral cat overpopulation. At the same time, the number of cats in our country continues to also increase. The number of cats exceeded the number of dogs in American households for the first time in 1992 – 62 million cats vs. 53 million dogs – according to surveys from the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association. Their 2004 study indicated that there were 90 million pet cats in the United



States. This is a significant increase in the number of cats living in our households in just 12 years.

Sadly, far too many cats still do not find homes. In 2005, more than 25,000 cats were euthanized in Oregon – many of them because there simply are more cats than available homes. We need to work together to end this tragic and needless loss of life. It is going to take major increases in the number of spay/neuter surgeries, and FCCO is driven to take action. We have the experience and capability to spay/neuter many cats in a short amount of time, and we plan to use our unique skills to help even more cats.

As part of our annual strategic planning, the Board of Directors and staff looked at how our program could have a greater impact. We set a 5-year goal to reach 10,000 cats per year. To reach this lofty goal we will need your support more than ever.

**Hope** continued page 2



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

### THE WIDESPREAD, FAR-FLUNG, OMNIPRESENT CAT COMMUNITY



*Dr. McGeorge*

I am constantly amazed at and gratified by all the various people who put themselves out in some way to help cats. Recently, a young woman brought a cat to my clinic who had been abandoned at her apartment complex several years ago. Over the years various tenants had fed and cared for the cat, but no one had claimed her for their own. This kind-hearted person brought her in for a check up and some medical care and has made it her responsibility to find a home for this friendly, middle-

aged cat. Although I wish that this cat had been adopted into a home along the way, there were people who were at least willing to keep her from starving. And yes, she is spayed. Her original person did that much.

Last month, I attended the FCCO benefit hosted by the owner of POUR and the Tiki bar, Thatch. This very astute businessman clearly has a place in his heart for feral cats. This is the second year he has helped raise money for our cause by donating half of all the proceeds from the evening's food and beverage sales. And one of the waiters at POUR, a friend who was volunteering his time, had helped trap feral cats at PGE Park some years ago.

Also this week, I met two wonderful people and their beloved cat, who was at the end of her life. These good Samaritans had rescued a pregnant female cat 19 years ago and had kept her and all her kittens. This was the last of the litter. But they are not catless; recently a feral tom found his way to their house. They made sure that he was neutered and now offer him food and shelter. There is no doubt in my mind that other cats will find their way to this "refuge."

These are only a few of the many, many people who are willing to step forward and help homeless and feral cats. Each person who succumbs to a needy cat's gaze gives a little more or a little less, but all give something to help the lives of these admirable creatures. All of us are a part of the cat community. And that's a good feeling.

## **Baker City** *continued from page 1*

local group that provides spay/neuter vouchers to Baker County residents. We met and he asked if we would be willing to take on the issue of feral cats using the TNR approach.

We had set aside a small amount of money (\$749) for feral cats, but this wasn't going to go far. We decided to approach the City Council of Baker City to see if they would contribute \$5,000 for spaying/neutering feral cats IF the community matched or exceeded this amount in a two-month period. The net result would be \$10,000 and a large enough sum to make a difference. I ran it by Chief Lohner, as his support was key. He was immediately on board and willing to lend his support of the project to the City Council. I also ran the idea by Councilors Beverly Calder and Andrew Bryan and asked for their help in presenting the idea to the Council. We went before the City Council multiple times. The Police Chief and members of Baker City spoke on its behalf. On March 13, the City Councilors voted 6-1 to set aside \$5,000 for the challenge.

The challenge ran from April 1 to June 1. The \$749 paid for ads that kept the community informed about the status of the challenge, asked for volunteers and cat traps we could borrow, and the location of feeding stations. Officer Regan was the contact for the caregivers, demonstrating again the Police Chief's support. Our two local newspapers, the Record Courier and the Baker City Herald, ran press releases, did articles and wrote editorials in support of TNR and our efforts. Their support helped raise awareness about TNR and provided exposure we could never have afforded. The Baker City Herald provided all kinds of help with ad development. FCCO provided information about logistics, procedures, and trapping methods, allowing us to

## **Hope** *continued from page 1*

We will start this July by holding an additional clinic each month in Portland with a goal of spaying/neutering 50 cats per clinic. While the clinics will be held in Portland, they will be open to cats from other cities as well – and we want to hear from you if you are interested in bringing cats to these clinics. Over time we will continue to expand as we strive to help more cats.

We hope you will join us in our vision of a day when no cat becomes feral and no cat is killed or suffers due to overpopulation. Together we will make it happen.

## Our Mission:

*FCCO is dedicated to the humane treatment of feral cats and to the prevention of future generations through spay/neuter programs and education.*

**Cat Stats**  
Surgery totals for the first  
6 months of 2007:  
Males - 766  
Females - 948



## MEW for the Kitties

MEW (Monthly Electronic Withdrawal) is FCCO's monthly giving program that allows you to contribute through an automatic bank transfer. Your monthly support will provide us stable funding for our much-needed spay/neuter services. Donating through MEW is safe and secure, convenient for you, and cost-effective for us – so more of your money can be applied to our mission of preventing future generations of feral cats. Sign up today, or if you are already a MEW donor, consider increasing your contribution. A sign-up form is on the inside of the enclosed envelope. Joining MEW is an investment worth making.

## Walk Like an Egyptian!



*FCCO Executive Director Karen Kraus, Honorary Chair Sharon Kitzhaber, and Furball Committee Member Harold Rains.*

This year's Egyptian-themed Furball was a huge success! A record crowd of more than 270 guests packed the World Forestry Center-Miller Hall for the festive evening. We thank Sharon Kitzhaber for being our gracious Honorary Chair, Matt Zaffino for emceeding the event, and our fabulous sponsors, guests and donors who opened their hearts and wallets to help feral cats. For more photos from the event, please visit our website.

## Easy Ways You Can Help Feral Cats

### Summer or Fall Escape?

If you are still looking to plan a special summer or fall getaway, remember "Cline's Condo for Charities" where the owner will donate the rental fee to charitable organizations like FCCO!

The condo's name is *Sandcastles and Sunsets*, and it is rented through Blue Pacific Vacation Rentals. Visit their website to find out how you can stay at this beautiful new 2-bedroom oceanfront property. (1-877-459-3287 / [www.bluepacificvacationrentals.com/LCRentals/pacwin/sandCastles.htm](http://www.bluepacificvacationrentals.com/LCRentals/pacwin/sandCastles.htm)).



### Do you Goodsearch?

Every time you search the web with GoodSearch, a penny is donated to FCCO. To do this, visit their website at [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. That's it! 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 and start searching!

### WISH LIST

Donating an item from our Wish List makes a big impact on our program. Your donation offsets our need to purchase these products so we can direct more funds to spaying and neutering cats. See something you'd like to help us with?

- New paper shredder • New box or oscillating fan
- HP 49A LaserJet ink cartridge • Office copy paper • Postage stamps
- AA size flashlights • AA batteries • Paper towels
- Laundry detergent • Bleach • 30 gal. garbage bags
- Your personal feral cat stories and photos

If you would like to donate something, please call 503-797-2606, email us at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com), or bring the items to the next clinic in your area. Thank you!

## **Baker City** *continued from page 2*

tap into their knowledge and experience in order to maximize our chances of success. On May 30, two members of the FCCO journeyed to Baker City to meet with the community and lend their support and experience to our efforts.

June 1 arrived and at 5:00 pm the bank account totaled \$5238.75, more than enough to trigger the City Council's \$5,000 match! About 130 people had contributed. On June 17, the first flyers were distributed in a 2-block radius alerting the community that we would begin by trapping in their area. Dusk on June 18 found 3 adult cats and 2 kittens in the traps, and the following night we trapped 6 adult cats and 3 kittens. We are off to a great start and we are excited to see what we can do as a community to help feral cats. A lot has changed since February and we are grateful for all the support we have received locally and from FCCO.

*by Suzanne Fouty*



Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
Paid  
Portland OR  
Permit No. 383

## 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.

7/8/07	Salem	503-585-1522
7/15/07	Portland	503-797-2606
8/5/07	Eugene	541-607-4282
8/19/07	Portland	503-797-2606
9/9/07	Coquille	541-396-5804
9/16/07	Portland	503-797-2606
9/23/07	Roseburg	541-464-4313
9/30/07	Salem	503-585-1522
10/7/07	Eugene	541-607-4282
10/16/07	National Feral Cat Day	
10/21/07	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

### Board Officers

President ..... *Marla McGeorge, DVM*  
 Vice-President ..... *Kris Ellingsen, DVM*  
 Interim Treasurer ..... *Michael Rensing*  
 Secretary ..... *Roz Simon*

**Board Members** ..... *Kimberly Dauphin, DVM*  
*Linda Holy*  
*Mickey Lee*  
*Alison Lord, DVM*  
*Kristin Sulis, DVM*

**Counsel** (pro bono) ..... *Ron Adams*  
*Black Helterline, LLP*

### Staff

Executive Director ..... *Karen Kraus*  
 Operations Director ..... *Leah Kennon, CVT*  
 FCCO Technicians ..... *Kerri Blaney, CVT*  
*Christy Lee, CVT*  
 Development Manager ..... *Carolyn Smrcka*

Newsletter Editor ..... *Karen Kraus*