

# StreetTAILS

Summer  
2008

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

## On the Way to "10K Spay"

by Karen Kraus

As you have read in previous newsletters, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is part of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP). The group is focused on working together to end the euthanasia of healthy cats and dogs in the metro area. The first project ASAP took on was CatNIP (Cat Neuter-Incentive-Project), a targeted spay/neuter initiative for feral or pet cats living with low-income residents in the 97206 and 97266 zip codes in Portland. As an organization proficient at spaying/neutering a large number of cats, FCCO took on the management of the project in March of this year. We will be spaying/neutering all of the cats coming from these zip codes as we wrap up the project this summer. When it is done we expect to have altered 333 targeted cats, and then the group will measure the impact on shelter statistics, giving ASAP a spay/neuter model on which to expand. The next major project for ASAP is to annually provide approximately 10,000 targeted cat sterilizations in the Portland metro area. This project is currently called "10K Spay." Of this total, 2,500 sterilizations will be for feral cats and FCCO will provide these surgeries. These target numbers are population-based and reflect data collected from successful spay/neuter initiatives in other parts of the country. By altering an additional 10,000 cats each year for low-income residents, the impact will be fewer cats entering shelters and fewer losing their lives. This is a long-term strategy that will take a commitment on all of our parts to see a day when healthy cats no longer die because of overpopulation.



"10K Spay" is a joint effort to spay/neuter cats

## Story from the Streets

### Harley's Story

It was a cool and rainy night in 2000 when a very hungry, tough-looking tomcat showed up at our sliding glass door. No one is allowed to go hungry at our house so we immediately got a bowl of food for him. He was extremely wild, and as soon as we opened the door he was gone. It didn't take long for him to come back to check out what was on the menu. In about five minutes he had emptied the bowl and continued to do that each day. It took six months for him to finally decide that he didn't need to eat all of the food in one sitting. As a result, he started eating only when he was hungry and showed his appreciation by finally allowing us to touch him on the head, but only while he was eating.



Harley at the home he chose

Since he appeared to be staying with us, we decided he needed a name. We settled on Harley, since it seemed to fit his "tough man" personality. We tried to find someone who would neuter a cute, but vicious, feral cat but no vet seemed to be willing. Most places recommended trapping him and having him euthanized. There was no

## Senior Assistance is Available

It is very common for seniors to feed feral cats. They feel companionship and a sense of being needed, even if they can't pet or hold the cats. Since most seniors are on fixed incomes, just being able to buy food can be a challenge. Spaying and neutering is an expense that isn't in their budget, and without it the cat numbers escalate, making it even harder for them to feed the cats. The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon received a \$3,000 grant from the Leslie G. Ehmann Foundation for Animals to help seniors spay/neuter the feral cats they are feeding. We expect to help 100 cats through this grant. If you know someone who is 65 or older, on a limited income, and in need of our help please have them call us.

Harley continued page 3



## President's Corner *by Kris Ellingsen, DVM*



*Dr. Ellingsen*

This spring, along with increased hours of sunlight, came increased news coverage of issues regarding feral cats. It was gratifying to read of programs by

grassroots groups and welfare organizations aimed at helping feral and stray cats. The initiative to stop the killing of cats by animal control pounds and shelters and to promote humane care is a movement whose time has come. In May, a feature article in the popular daily newspaper *USA TODAY* highlighted this growing movement to help feral cats in America. Attention to feral cats isn't always supportive – consider a bounty on their heads in Iowa; a threatened roundup and disposal in Fairfax County, VA; and other elimination plans across the country. But the author noted multiple instances where action is being taken in a positive and humane way to improve the lives of these cats, especially through trap-neuter-return.

The recognition of feral and free-roaming cats as a community problem is becoming more common, even in smaller municipalities. This FCCO newsletter reported last summer of success in

Baker City, OR, between animal welfare groups, the city council and the public to manage their feral cats. FCCO was instrumental in getting them on track with the specifics of running a TNR clinic. Then there is the Abandoned Cat Team, an all-volunteer, non-profit spay/neuter project in Winthrop, WA, a place I visit when spending time at my cabin in the Methow Valley. In April an editorial in *The Methow Valley News* reported ACT received a grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington to help with the group's goal to reduce stray and feral cat numbers through spay/neuter. And while vacationing in the small Mediterranean coast town of Nerja in Spain last summer, I noticed outdoor cats in the condo complex we stayed with ear tips, the universal mark of a feral cat that has been altered. It turns out that the multi-national condo owners, themselves vacationers to their second homes, had formed a group to raise funds to take care of the feral cats in this community.

As donors and volunteers to FCCO, we appreciate the help these cats and their caregivers need, and it is up to us as an organization to educate the compassionate public with our knowledge and services. And maybe even more important is supporting the prevention of new strays and ferals by encouraging spay/neuter and an indoor home for all pet cats.

## KUDOS

Betty Emerson, FCCO's Salem Clinic Co-Coordinator, was recently honored with the Willamette Humane Society's annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award recognizes a person or group who exemplifies the WHS's mission of promoting the welfare of animals through leadership, education, and action. Thank you, Betty, for everything you do for all animals!

## Love Pizza?

**On Sunday, July 27, Old Town Pizza in Northeast Portland will donate 20% of all lunch sales to FCCO. Join us for a delicious lunch and meet other friends of feral cats while supporting your favorite spay/neuter group!**



**11am - 1pm on July 27th  
5201 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97211  
phone: 503-200-5988**

## WISH LIST

- 1-inch masking tape
- 30-gallon garbage bags
- AA batteries
- AAA batteries
- Canned air
- Feral cat stories and photos
- Paper towels
- Postage stamps

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? Please call FCCO at 503-797-2606, email us at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com), or bring the items to the next clinic in your area.

## MEW: Cats Do It and So Can You

MEW stands for *Monthly Electronic Withdrawal* - a simple giving program that allows you to support FCCO on a regular basis. A commitment of just \$5 a month will spay or neuter two cats each year. A monthly gift of \$30 will spay or neuter twelve cats annually. After you authorize these donations from your checking account, you won't need to do anything but know that you are making an impact on the lives of many cats, their caregivers, and our community. Contact FCCO for more information at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com) or 503-797-2606.



## Harley *continued from page 1*

way we could agree to such a thing, even though our resident cats seemed to think that would be a good plan. After 18 months of searching for a solution, someone told us about FCCO and explained they are experts in dealing with feral cats. In the summer of 2002, Harley was trapped and taken to one of the FCCO clinics where we met an amazing group of compassionate and dedicated people.

After being neutered Harley became more accepting of us. It was a very long process, but over the years he finally let us pet him even when he wasn't eating, then he would get in our laps if we were outside, and eventually allowed us to pick him up. For years he sat outside our sliding glass door and watched us, but he seemed to have no desire to come in, and he wasn't really invited in either. He remained our best friend, when we came outside. Last fall he started rather forcefully coming into the house whenever the door was opened, but he couldn't get back outside fast enough.

Eventually, he stayed longer before heading to the door which turned out to be a real blessing. Harley had a sore – or should we say “hole” – on his side that wouldn't heal. We took him to our vet and found out that he had several medical issues that were contributing to his sore not healing. He is now on medication twice daily and had surgery to close up the sore, and while in surgery his teeth were cleaned and bad teeth removed. Harley has learned to use a litter box and is a very happy house cat and wants to be in your lap whenever you sit down. He is still spooked by loud noises and certain movements, but it is hard to believe that the cute, loving cat sleeping on the couch was once wild and scared to death of humans. Now he is happy to make new human friends whenever possible.

*Rhonda & Bob Johnson, Portland*

## A Plan for the Future

With a clear vision and plan in place, FCCO is ready to spay/neuter more cats! The demand for our services outstrips our capacity in all the cities we serve. In Portland alone last year, we received phone calls to help 6,700 cats, but only had the capacity to spay/neuter 1,852 cats.

Last month the FCCO Board of Directors held two strategic planning sessions focused on how to build our capacity to help spay/neuter



*A promising future for feral cats*

more cats. We already increased capacity this year – we are on pace to spay/neuter 4,300 cats – a thousand more surgeries than last year! We plan to expand again next year to reach 5,200 cats, with a goal of providing 10,000 surgeries a year by 2012. This level of growth is very needed, but it will have challenges. We will grow from holding 45 clinics last year to 80 clinics next year, and many more in the years to come. To accomplish this we need a new Portland facility where we can hold more clinics, additional equipment and supplies, and new staff members. As part of this growth, the Board

approved increasing the minimum donation request to \$30 per cat, up from \$25. This amount only covers the supplies and staff time to treat the cats at clinics. Your donations support our program and those who can't afford to pay the suggested amount. Thank you!

The Board is committed to this growth and we know we can't do it without our dedicated volunteers and donors. Please join us in our expansion with your ongoing support, so more cats can receive our vital trap-neuter-return services today and tomorrow.

# Think all cars are bad for cats?



## Think again.

**There are many ways to help feral cats. Consider donating a car, boat, RV or truck to FCCO. Your vehicle will be auctioned and up to 80% of the proceeds will benefit feral cats. Contact us to learn how easy it is to help. 503-797-2606 or [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com).**



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## TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

Please visit our website for the complete 2008 schedule and for more info about the clinics and upcoming events. The clinics listed below are our TNR (trap-neuter-return) clinics.

*Clinic dates are subject to change.*

7/13/2008	Coquille	541-396-4439
7/18/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
7/20/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
8/8/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
8/17/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
8/22/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
8/24/2008	Corvallis	541-754-8381
9/7/2008	Roseburg	541-464-4313
9/12/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
9/14/2008	St. Helens	503-366-8223
9/19/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
9/21/2008	Portland	503-797-2606
9/28/2008	Salem	503-585-1522

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

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

Are you receiving our **WebTails** via email? If not, send your email address to [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com) to receive current events.

## Coalition Contacts

### Board Officers

President ..... *Kris Ellingsen, DVM*  
 Vice-President ..... *Alison Lord, DVM*  
 Treasurer ..... *Kimberly Dauphin, DVM*  
 Secretary ..... *Roz Simon*

**Board Officers**.....*Frank Dyl*  
*Jacqui Neilson, DVM*  
*Claire Rolfs*

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

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 Operations Director ..... *Leah Kennon, CVT*  
 FCCO Technicians ..... *Jani Johnston, CVT*  
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Development Coordinator..... *Devon Jabn*  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....*Debbie Norr*

Newsletter Editor..... *Karen Kraus*

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

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