

StreetTAILS

Summer
2009

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

The Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland Gains Momentum

The Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP), a working coalition of local non-profit animal welfare organizations, public animal agencies, and professional veterinary associations, is well-positioned to undertake its "10K Cat Spay" project. ASAP seeks to dramatically reduce the euthanasia of cats across the Portland metro area during the next five years by creating a high-volume spay/neuter program serving low-income pet owners and feral cats. Recently, Maddie's Fund contributed \$40,000 to support the effort. With a total budget of \$3.08 million over five years, the project will deliver 62,000 spays/neuters in the four-county area. FCCO is a lead agency in this coalition and will provide the surgeries for 2,500 feral cats per year through the ASAP program.



A feral mama cat nursing her offspring

Cats Get the Most



With 90% of income going directly to our program services, FCCO is an efficient organization. When you donate to FCCO, 90 cents of every dollar is directed to our mission of spaying/neutering and education. We operate our clinics efficiently so we are able to help as many cats as possible as safely as possible, and we manage our organization effectively so that our donors' funds are applied to helping as many cats as possible while ensuring the long-term viability of our program. You can have confidence when you donate to FCCO that your support will be used productively in providing our life-saving services. 🐾

Story from the Streets

Never Say Never

It's the tragically familiar story: Someone takes on feeding two feral cats but fails to spay/neuter them. Before



Violet, a once-feral cat

long, four kittens have joined their harsh, difficult world. But luckily for these cats,

someone else knew exactly what to do.

I learned about the black beauties when they were about six months old, after they and their parents had been spayed/neutered and treated by a vet. The adults had been returned back outside; the kittens were now indoors, out of the severe winter weather, but getting sporadic attention. The only other option – turning them outside – was unthinkable for everyone involved.

On my first visit I saw terrified little cats huddled together in pairs, and I was told how they had thrown themselves into the window when placed in the room; smears on the window glass corroborated this. Only one, a male

tuxedo later named Romeo, showed any promise of becoming a friendly cat. One female constantly tried to keep her head hidden under a sister's warm body.

We knew they should have been socialized sooner and sensed an uphill struggle. I consulted websites that warned about taming older kittens, only to be left with phrases like, "kittens not handled at an early age remain feral," pounding in my head. Still, daily visits were helping, so I offered to take the shyest pair home to immerse them in a gentle, but more concentrated, social situation. Two became four when they were all diagnosed with upper respiratory infections, better overcome

Story continued page 3



Summer Events

President's Corner *by Kris Ellingsen, DVM*



Photo by Kathi Lamm

Dr. Kris Ellingsen

FCCO has committed to spay/neuter 5,000 cats for the 2009 fiscal year. Because of our new, freestanding facility, we have that

capability. Continued financial support and tight budgeting enable us to hold the extra clinics to accomplish this goal. But... this spring we have found that we have been unable to fill our Portland clinics to capacity. This includes our monthly 100-cat Sunday clinics and weekly 50-cat Friday clinics. Why? We aren't sure...

Operations Director Leah Kennon feels that spring is traditionally a difficult time for caregivers to trap feral cats – by then the females are off giving birth and the males are off “catting around”! As we move into summer, the females are able to be out getting food again (and hopefully getting trapped), and even the growing kittens are more likely to be trapped. But how do we avoid this springtime gap? Is it education of the caregivers, to encourage them to be more vigilant in winter and early spring, and thus avoid unspayed females producing litters in early spring? Is it a matter of reaching out to the public in general, to make

more of the Portland-area community aware of our services? We all know there are plenty of feral and stray cats out there reproducing who we could be helping.

The FCCO Board of Directors will soon be coming up with a plan to prevent the slow-down in capacity next spring. And, as the Board sits down to review our Strategic Plan, we will be assessing our accomplishments as well as goals still on the table. Please let us know if you have suggestions and input.

Meanwhile, we are ever grateful for continued donor support to keep doing what we do! In recognition of our most significant donor, Roger James, we have named our new facility in his honor. A commemorative plaque has been placed above the cat receiving area inside the doorway. Our Recovery Room was also named to honor the generosity of donor Ed Cauduro. These plaques, in addition to the names gracing our mobile hospital, recognize donors who remember us so generously, and we can't thank them or you enough for helping feral cats.

Final thanks go to Kimberly Dauphin, DVM, who has been a dedicated clinic volunteer for the past four years and also a Board Member, even serving as Treasurer, since 2007. We all wish her well as she moves away from the Northwest.

**July 7, 6:30 - 8:30pm and
July 12, 10am - noon**

FCCO Trapping Training in Portland
Learn how to trap feral/stray cats for TNR, especially those interested in volunteering as trappers and/or trap depots. For details, call 503-797-2606 or email cats@feralcats.com.

July 15, 7 - 10pm
50% Night at POUR

Pour Wine Bar & Bistro in Portland features wine and local/seasonal food. On this special night, 50% of proceeds go to FCCO. Come out for an epicurean delight while supporting cats. Visit their website at pourwinebar.com.



The “cat days” of summer: a good nap in a sunny bed of catnip

July 17 - 19

Portland International Beerfest

A beer festival celebrating the world's most legendary brewing styles and the nations that made them famous. Come taste over 150 world-class beers from more than 15 countries. **100% of proceeds are donated to local animal groups, including FCCO!** Visit their website at www.seattlebeerfest.com.

Summer 2009

Your House Party!

Do you always throw a big summer barbecue? This year, make it a *fundraiser* for FCCO! We'll supply a video, materials, and a donation jar for you to set on the table next to the grilled corn and fresh berries! For supplies and other ideas, contact FCCO at 503-797-2606 or info@feralcats.com.

WISH LIST

1-inch masking tape
AA batteries
Canned air
Distilled water

HP LaserJet 49A ink cartridges
Laminating machine sheets
Office supply store gift cards
Paper towels (preferably recycled)

Postage stamps
Two 8-foot plastic folding tables
White office paper

If you can help with any of these items, please call 503-797-2606, email us at info@feralcats.com, or bring the items to the next clinic in your area.



Story *continued from page 1*

in a warmer home. Nervously, my husband and I gathered them up and gave them our all. We've concluded that with enough time, attention and patience, even older feral kittens can become adoptable.

Of the four, Romeo was by far the most adventurous, and it didn't take long to realize that this lover boy was ready for a permanent home, which he quickly found. His sisters were much shyer and stayed with us longer, but Goldie's curiosity and affection grew every day and Daisy began craving attention, even sitting on my lap during quiet times, although I couldn't hold her for more than 20 seconds. I worried about the third sister, named Violet for her timidity. Although she had progressed to purring while being stroked and rolling on her back submissively, I could not lift her more than an inch off the floor without being impaled by claws. Six weeks into fostering, Goldie and Daisy left for OHS in search of permanent homes. Because I imagined a terrified Violet huddled in a shelter cage, hissing at everyone who came near, we decided to keep her, despite our five other cats. She would always be the painfully timid cat who would run off at the hint of unfamiliar sounds or sights—or so I thought.

Almost immediately Violet emerged from her shell. It was incredible: She sought attention, wanting to be held and cuddled. She purred from contentment, not stress. She integrated herself into our home with the grace of a confident little cat, quietly and calmly respecting the hierarchy that exists in our feline-dominated household. Certainly it's reasonable to think it was the removal of her siblings, with their comfort and familiarity, that encouraged her to bond with us. But we know better: Sweet little Violet – now full grown and absolutely charming – plotted the whole thing.

E. Stark, Portland

FCCO's Freestanding Clinic Named for Roger James

Roger James, FCCO's most significant donor, toured a June clinic and participated in the unveiling of a sign commemorating his support for our program and services. Roger was able to see first-hand how our new facility has expanded our ability to help feral and stray cats. At this particular Friday clinic, 53 cats came. One, however, was just a tiny black kitten hiding next to his mother. Named "RJ" in honor of Roger, a clinic volunteer decided to become a "permanent foster" for the kitten, ensuring that he never roams the streets.



Roger James (center), FCCO Executive Director Karen Kraus (left) and President Kris Ellingsen, DVM (right) hold the new facility sign. Holding 3-week-old kitten "RJ" is Roger's caregiver, Penny.

The new FCCO facility in Portland, and the addition of weekly Friday clinics with a goal of 50 cats each, set the stage for FCCO to spay/neuter 5,000 cats this year. None of this would be possible without the support of Roger James and donors like you. *Thank you!*

A Big Thanks to FCCO Clinic Coordinators!

Currently, FCCO holds clinics in six cities outside of Portland. We couldn't be in these cities without the hard work and dedication of the Clinic Coordinators. Most of them have been with FCCO for many years. Below are the numbers of cats helped at each city, and the Clinic Coordinators who make it all happen.

Coquille: 1,633 cats - Claudine Nored since 1999

Corvallis: 2,635 cats - Nick Wannemacher since 2004

Longview, WA: 1,188 cats - Cynthia Johnson and Cheryl Stonier since 2004

Roseburg: 142 cats - Samantha Lea since 2008

Salem: 4,157 cats - Betty Emerson and Karen Scott since 2004

St. Helens: 719 cats – Laura Snyder since 2001 and Kim Bauer, Cyndi Furseth, and Sue Nelson-Mullett since 2008



There are many ways to help feral cats. Consider donating a car, boat, RV or truck to FCCO. In the past year, eight vehicles were donated to FCCO and effortlessly raised \$3,000. That is the equivalent of helping 100 cats - or an entire clinic! Contact Devon Jahn to learn how easy it is to help: please call 503-797-2606 or email djahn@feralcats.com.

Cars Can be Good for Cats!

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Portland, Oregon 97282



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SPAYNEUTER

TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

July 10, 17, 19, 24, 31 - Portland: 503-797-2606
July 12 - Coquille: 541-396-4439

August 7, 14, 16, 21, 28 - Portland: 503-797-2606
August 23 - St. Helens: 503-397-3333

September 4, 11, 18, 20, 25 - Portland: 503-797-2606
September 13 - Roseburg: 541-464-4313
September 27 - Salem: 503-585-1522

October 2, 9, 11, 16, 23, 30 - Portland: 503-797-2606
October 4 - Coquille: 541-396-4439
October 25 - Corvallis: 541-754-8381
Be sure to check out our Summer Events on page 2!

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

Want to help save resources? We can email you the *Street Tails* newsletter instead of sending a print copy! Send an email to djahn@feralcats.com to have the newsletter delivered to your inbox, plus receive our monthly *WebTails* with current events.

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

President..... *Kris Ellingsen, DVM*
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