



# STREET TAILS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

September 2003

Issue No. 7

## President's Corner

by Brenda Smith, DVM

After a hot and dry summer, we now have the cooler and shorter days of autumn upon us. This time of year we are in the middle of planning for our



Brenda Smith, DVM

Fall Feral Fix, a special spay/neuter clinic in honor of National Feral Cat Day.

Established last year by Alley Cat Allies, National Feral Cat Day is recognized on October 16, 2003. To quote their website, it "is one special day for those who advocate nonlethal feline population control." They have a three-fold purpose:

- to explain nonlethal control to segments of the public who do not know either the severity of feline overpopulation or the solution to it, but they know they don't want cats killed.
- to enlighten animal welfare professionals who do not yet know, or care, about Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).
- to proclaim to their communities that TNR works.

We are holding the Fall Feral Fix on October 26 in Corvallis with the goal of spaying/neutering 180 cats. It is a multi-community clinic, with volunteers and cats coming from Corvallis, Eugene, Salem and Sweet Home. If you are interested in helping and have volunteered at a clinic

before, please contact the coordinator in one of the participating cities or call the main phone line at 503-797-2606 and leave a message for Leah Kennon.

We have some really big news: the 17,000th cat was altered at the Portland clinic on September 21! I find it nearly impossible to estimate how many births and suffering kittens we have prevented, but well over 100,000 is the most conservative figure. If this is as satisfying to you as it is to me, I'd like to ask you to remember to support FCCO's annual funding appeal. The letter should be out in November, so watch for it and reach as far as possible into your pockets to help the cats. Thank you in advance for your ongoing generosity and support.

On October 4, we held our Annual Meeting at Willamette Valley Vineyards in Salem. The setting was beautiful and we thank those who attended. The Annual Report was made available at the meeting. If you were not able to attend and would like to review the report, please call Karen Kraus, Executive Director, at 503-797-2606. Four new members joined the FCCO Board of Directors at this meeting as well. A photo of each along with a brief introduction follows. Their backgrounds are diverse, and they are all passionate about helping feral cats and are dedicated to FCCO's mission. We are excited to have their involvement and very proud to introduce you to our newest board members.



**Michael Rensing**  
Michael is the new FCCO Treasurer. He has an accounting degree and worked at Consolidated Freightways for 15 years in their accounting department. He cares deeply about all animals and put this passion to work when he founded Dignified Pet Services three years ago. He shares his home with an 18-year-old cat who has been with him since she was 6 weeks old. His vast managerial, cost and financial accounting experience will help to keep FCCO financially on target.



**Sally Jepson, DVM**  
After graduating from vet school at the age of 48, she did an internship at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah. At any given time, they have 600-700 cats in residence plus a very active TNR program. Working at Best Friends confirmed her belief that she wanted to devote the majority of her veterinary career to working with nonprofit animal welfare groups. She spent the year of 2002 overseas doing volunteer veterinary work for humane society groups in Bhutan, Nepal, Palau and the Cook Islands. Previously, she was an educator and these skills will enhance FCCO's education efforts.

**Board Members** continued page 2



# Stories From The Streets

## Old Colors

The Sweet Home rural route postal carriers ARE angels, you know. They discover so many needy cats on their routes, then they help them. They had found a 50-cat colony, all unfixed, out beyond Holly and they moved in. I helped them out with trapping. On the first stint, we trapped 21 cats in a downpour of driving rain, wind and hail. Just before leaving, I saw an old calico with a missing eye crouched under a junked van. We tried briefly to net her, but she ran off quickly into impenetrable berry vines. The colony caregiver told us she was at least ten and had at least two and sometimes three litters every year. We left disheartened we had not caught her.

I had three spots in a Eugene FCCO clinic and immediately thought of "Colors," as this calico was called. I decided to head to Holly, although it was late and rain was pounding. I set a trap beneath the same van where we'd spotted her two weeks earlier. She was very pregnant, I'd been told. I checked it ten minutes later and found an already fixed male inside. But sitting beside the trap, almost begging to be trapped, was Colors. I quickly released the male and reset the trap. Colors immediately entered. She was spayed in Eugene and after two days of recovering, she was released back into the colony.

I was in Holly a few weeks later, trapping for the Corvallis FCCO clinic with Skeeter, a postal carrier, and was shocked when a small calico with a missing eye raced out from under the house and rubbed against my leg. She was tame! It had been a few weeks since her spay and she'd been wild as all get out before that. Skeeter and I had to put her into a carrier for the duration of the trapping because she entered every trap. Skeeter later told me she couldn't

get her out of her carrier when she was ready to leave, and that again, she went into a trap and she had difficulty getting her out. This sweet old girl saw her trappers as her saviors and wants a real home now. And we want her to have one.

*by Jody Harmon*

## Zapato

Zapato is a feral, polydactyl, black male who was among a group of 50 abandoned cats at a local residence last summer. In August he was rescued, vaccinated and neutered.

By September, I had welcomed two cats from this colony into my home. The initial idea was for them to be fostered and tamed. But Zapato had other ideas. While the female adjusted well to human touch and to being an indoor cat, he remained feral and was quite unhappy as a house cat. Zapato needed a home that worked for him.

On April 14, 2003, Mrs. Oslund lovingly welcomed Zapato into her life. Thankfully she was willing to provide a loving environment where he can live a happy, well-cared-for life as one of her barn cats. He joined her family that includes several cats, two dogs and horses. His new home is working out wonderfully and it is such a pleasure to see him so happy.

*by Cheryl Haskell*

## Board Members *cont. from page 1*



*Kris Ellingsen, DVM*  
Kris' love affair with cats goes as far back as she can remember. When she graduated from vet school, she knew she wanted to

concentrate on cats only as a career. She moved to Seattle and enjoyed almost 10 years at one of the first all-cat veterinary hospitals in the country. She moved to Portland just over four years ago and is currently employed part-time at Cat Care Professionals. With TNR a hotly debated topic, she feels it is important for veterinarians in particular to play a role in advocating for these creatures that are being ignored and abused by a human society that often overlooks its mistakes.



*Susan Studd*  
Susan brings to the FCCO board a strong background in business, organization development and human resources. She

has a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Labor and Human Resources. Susan spent most of her career at Intel Corporation where during her 18 years with the company she held positions in many aspects of Human Resources, including staffing, employee relations, organization and management development. At the time she retired from Intel she was the manager of the corporate training and development group. She and her husband share their home with two dogs, four "official" cats and from two or more "unofficial" cats, some of whom are still feral but most of whom have found that a warm cat cozy on the patio is their preferred lifestyle. In addition to her love of animals she has a love for gardening and admits to being a "plantaholic."

## Wish List

- Paper towels • Batteries •
- Garbage bags • Duct tape •
- Canned air • Copy cards •
- Office supply store gift cards •
- Home Depot gift cards •
- Office paper • HP ink cartridges •
- Phone cards • Laundry detergent •
- Digital camera • Feral cat photos



# Rummage Sale



The FCCO rummage sale brought new life to old treasures while raising funds to improve lives of feral cats. The rummage sale was held in Northeast

Portland on August 9 and raised \$977.25! A wide array of items was donated, from home goods and books to furniture and pet supplies. There was something for everyone at this sale.

Special thanks to Linda Holy for organizing the sale, finding the location, storing the items in advance, and pricing most of them. We also thank the Miller family for lending their yard, Sheila Strahan for collecting a truck full of items, and all the volunteers who collected items and worked the day of the sale to make it possible.

# MEW



*Tom, a neutered male who was once feral, rests serenely atop a MEW application.*

Consider joining MEW (Monthly Electronic Withdrawal) and watch your donations add up. Through this program you contribute monthly through an automatic withdrawal from your checking account. You can change your monthly amount or stop at any time. We have 44 donors who contribute this way. Donations range from \$5 per month to a donor who gives \$80 per month – and her company matches!

Supporting feral cats has never been easier. No envelopes to locate or postage required. Join today! Check the box on the enclosed envelope to receive more information.

## Donate by Shopping

Shopping on the Internet has never been easier or more secure. With the holidays coming, if you plan to shop online, please visit [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) first and a percentage of your purchases can go to FCCO. Joining and using iGive.com is free and there are no additional charges or strings attached. You select FCCO as your charity of choice, and then go to any of the 400 stores linked on their site. It is that easy! They even have a special for new members: Join iGive.com and make your first purchase within 45 days of joining and they'll donate an **extra \$5** to FCCO on top of the money you raise by shopping through iGive.com. That's a deal worth checking out.

## ALLEY CATS STRIKE BACK - BOWLING BALL



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FCCO Bowling Ball is rolling into town again, so dust off your shoes and shirt and get ready to bowl! The festivities will take place again at AMF Pro 300 Lanes, 3031 S.E. Powell, in Portland, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Grab some friends and form a team of four, or come on your own and make some new friends that day. Registration is only \$25 per person - the cost of spaying or neutering a cat at one of our clinics! The afternoon's events include a silent auction with many great items, and a chance to win trophies for your bowling expertise (or lack thereof) and for the best bowling attire. Sign up now and help us ensure a great fundraiser and party!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I was born to bowl! Sign me up. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per player of which \$12.50 is tax-deductible)

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I am not able to attend, but I would like to make a tax-deductible donation for feral cats in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you formed a team or know who you want to bowl with, please list their names below. (Four players to a team maximum.)

Player 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Player 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Player 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to FCCO and mail to PO Box 82734, Portland, OR 97282. Mail by October 27, 2003. Call 503-249-8861 if you want to volunteer or have any questions. Thank you for your support!

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

10/19/03	Portland	503-797-2606
10/26/03	Fall Feral Fix - Corvallis	503-797-2606
11/02/03	Coquille	541-396-4439
11/16/03	Portland	503-797-2606
11/23/03	Salem	503-588-2364
12/7/03	Eugene	541-607-4282
12/14/03	Portland	503-797-2606
1/11/04	Corvallis	541-753-2858
1/18/04	Portland	503-797-2606

## Get Your FCCO Video

The FCCO video, "On the Road to Ending Feral Cat Overpopulation in Oregon," is now available. Videos are \$12 each plus \$3 for s/h. Send your check to FCCO at PO Box 82734, Portland, OR 97282.

## Coalition Contacts

### Board Officers

President	_____	<i>Brenda Smith, DVM</i>
Vice-President	_____	<i>Rebecca Birchmeier, DVM</i>
Treasurer	_____	<i>Michael Rensing</i>
Secretary	_____	<i>Linda Holy</i>

### Board Members

*Barbara Cannon*  
*Kris Ellingsen, DVM*  
*Diane Hofmann*  
*Sally Jepson, DVM*  
*Mickey Lee*  
*Roz Simon*  
*Sheri Speede, DVM*  
*Susan Studd*

### Staff

Executive Director	_____	<i>Karen Kraus</i>
Operations Director	_____	<i>Leah Kennon, CVT</i>
Veterinary Technician	_____	<i>Caitlin Bennett, CVT</i>
Newsletter Editor	_____	<i>Karen Kraus</i>

### General Message Line

**503-797-2606**  
[www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com)

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