

Street TAILS



Fall
2006

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

National Feral Cat Day

The saying goes, every dog has his day. It turns out that cats have their day, too! National Feral Cat Day is held on October 16. This year, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is celebrating this important event by holding a special spay/neuter clinic in Portland on this date, and we are reaching out to the community with information about feral cats.



National Feral Cat Day was founded by Alley Cat Allies, a national feral cat resource organization. This year, the focus is on dispelling myths about feral cats. We gathered the following "Feral Cat Truths" from Alley Cat Allies' National Feral Cat materials, and we encourage you to share the information with friends and family. Armed with the right information, people can make compassionate choices that help feral cats.

The Truth about Feral Cats.

Although there are tens of millions of feral cats living in the U.S., most people don't realize there is a

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Stories From the Streets

Jowels Finds a Home

Jowels had lived in our neighborhood for eight years. We trapped him in November 2004 because he appeared injured. After administering anesthesia, the vet called me to say his injuries were extensive and he might not live. Something had been caught around his neck and he had put one front leg through it trying to get it off. The object that was now gone had cut deeply into his skin and muscle tissue, completely surrounding his neck and one leg. For many months prior to trapping him we thought he was wearing a red collar, but it was really raw flesh we were seeing.



Jowels

The vet tested and neutered Jowels, and cleaned and treated his wounds. We brought him back home to live in our woodshop where he resided for a year. Slowly he began to trust us. Since then he has become a wonderful cat who lives in our house and sleeps on my bed. He lives peacefully with our cats and dogs. He brings a lot of love to us, and we are so glad we trapped, neutered and treated him. Feral cats can make loving companions if given time and care.

by Bernie Harrison

Finding More than Money at the Bank



DJ BoBo

I feed a lot of feral cats! I have a special story I would like to share about a feral cat I rescued from behind a bank in Wilsonville, Oregon. There were nine cats that had either been dumped off or somehow ended up in the woods behind the bank. I discovered this situation one evening when I was using the ATM. I began feeding them as I have a heart for abused, abandoned cats. There was one young orange kitten who stood out from the rest. This kitten let me pet him, and eventually let me pick him up. The others would not even get close – they just wanted the food!

The bank's management got word of the situation and left a note asking that I not feed the cats anymore. So, I asked my friends to help me trap the cats and try to find them homes. It took several attempts, but the cats were finally caught and

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President's Corner *by Marla McGeorge, DVM*



Marla McGeorge, DVM

The anniversary of 9/11 caused me to reflect on the human capacity for acting for the benefit of others – always a good thing to acknowledge when so many examples of bad human behavior abound. And that led me to thinking about people who act for the benefit of animals...and from there to the volunteers of FCCO.

At each clinic I watch people going about the many support tasks that our operation requires. I am always amazed and gratified that so many people unselfishly give their time and efforts to help feral cats. It gives me hope for our species. It's comforting to belong to a group of like-minded people, all united to help these wild and admirable creatures.

I am sure that I speak for the entire Board of Directors when I say thank you, thank you, thank you. I'm not sure that I speak for the cats. I have yet to meet any cats who feel obliged to thank those whom they consider their slaves. But fortunately for cats and humans, the relationship is satisfying to both groups.

As we enter our new fiscal year on October 1, we are looking at some exciting new growth and development of our program. It wouldn't be possible without our amazing donors and volunteers. It is my pleasure to work with all of you for the benefit of our betters – the feral cats of Oregon.

Same Location with New Offices

As you read in our last newsletter, FCCO has been looking for a new building to call home. Our lease on the warehouse space in North Portland was due to expire on September 30, and the search was on for a new location. We thank everyone who offered us ideas and suggestions.

In late August, we worked out a deal with our landlord to extend our lease for at least a year, possibly two. Our low lease rate and central location were hard, if not impossible, to beat.

In addition, we were able to add some office space. Up until now, all of our employees worked from home. This common office space is an important next step for our program as it will greatly enhance communication, efficiency, and allow us to expand our operations. We will keep you posted on how we are doing and invite you to come down for a tour once we are settled in. This is an exciting time and we are thrilled you are a part of it.

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they all found good homes. I kept the orange cat and named him DJ BoBo. He is the most precious cat I have ever had. He waits for me to come home, and then follows me around from room to room. This routine is repeated every time I return.

He also seems to continually thank me for saving him. He is so special; I just don't know what I ever did without him. From the beginning, he would use his paw to tap me on the arm because he wants to be held. He has me well trained and I am happy with this arrangement. Everyone should be aware that cats make loving and wonderful friends – especially the feral ones.

by Ann Fore

Job Opening for a Licensed Technician

If you are a licensed technician or will be one soon, we want to hear from you! If you know someone who might be interested, please send them our way. FCCO is seeking to hire a part-time Certified Veterinary Technician from the Portland area to work at our clinics and help with clinic readiness. This is a great opportunity to share your skills to make a difference for thousands of feral cats. For more information, please visit our website at www.feralcats.com or send your resume and cover letter to Karen Kraus at info@feralcats.com.

Wish List Items

- Brochure holders
- Space heater
- Folding chairs
- Distilled water
- Bleach
- Canned air
- Office Depot gift cards
- Home Depot gift cards
- Large white board & markers
- Small filing cabinets
- Paper towels
- Vacuum cleaner

To donate from our wish list, please call 503-797-2606.



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sensible way to manage and reduce their numbers: Trap, Neuter, and Return or TNR. Tragically, this lack of information leads to millions of cats being killed in shelters every year because they are not tame and therefore unadoptable.

- **A stray cat is not a feral cat.**

A stray is a cat who has been abandoned or who has strayed from home and become lost. Stray cats can usually be re-socialized and adopted.

- **A feral cat is an unsocialized cat.**

Either he was born outside and never lived with a human family, or he is a house cat who has strayed from home and over time reverted to a wild state.



- **Feral cats should not be taken to local shelters.** Feral cats are not pet cats. They're considered unadoptable and are killed at most shelters. Even no-kill shelters are not able to place feral cats in homes.

- **Feral kittens can be adopted.**

Feral kittens can often be tamed and placed in homes, but they must be tamed in their first weeks of life. This is a critical window, and if they aren't handled in time, they will remain

feral and unadoptable.

- **Feral cats have about the same lifespan as pet cats.** And they contract diseases at about the same low rate. The incidence of disease among feral cats is no higher than owned cats.

- **Feral cats are not the cause of wildlife depletion.** Studies show that the overwhelming cause of wildlife depletion is destruction of natural habitat due to man-made structures, pollution, pesticides, and drought.

- **Trap and Remove does not work.** Not only would you have to continue to remove cats, this process is extremely costly to communities.

What's more, other cats move in to take advantage of the available resources and they breed prolifically, quickly forming a new colony. This "vacuum effect" is well documented.

- **Trap-Neuter-Return does work.**

No more kittens. Cat numbers gradually reduce. The annoying behaviors of mating cats, such as yowling or fighting, stop. The cats are vaccinated, and they are fed on a regular schedule. This ongoing care creates a safety net for both the cats and the community.

ALLEY CATS STRIKE BACK! - BOWLING BALL

Iron your bowling shirt and lace up your shoes - the 5th Annual "Alley Cats Strike Back" Bowling Ball is rolling into town!

Saturday, November 4, 2006

Hollywood Bowl - 4030 NE Halsey
3:00 to 6:30 pm

For just \$25 you can bowl two games, mingle with great people, bid on cool silent auction items just in time for the holidays – and help neuter a cat to boot! You can find the full registration form on our website at www.feralcats.com under "Events" or clip this quick registration form and mail it back to FCCO.

Our goal is to have 100 bowlers – can we count on you to be one of them? If you have any questions, please call Linda Holy at 503-249-8861. We look forward to seeing you there!



Yes, I was born to bowl - sign me up!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ people (\$25/person).

Dang, I'm not able to attend, but I'd like to donate \$_____ to help cats.

Name: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to FCCO and mail by October 30, 2006 to
FCCO - PO Box 82734, Portland, OR 97282

TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

Clinic dates are subject to change. The full 2006 schedule is on our website, and it has the most current information. Please visit our website at www.feralcats.com for more info about the clinics or upcoming events.

10/8/06	Portland	503-797-2606
10/16/06	National Feral Cat Day	503-797-2606
10/22/06	Corvallis	541-754-8381
11/4/06	FCCO Bowling Ball	503-797-2606
11/5/06	Longview	360-578-0454
11/12/06	Portland	503-797-2606
12/3/06	Eugene	541-607-4282
12/10/06	Portland	503-797-2606
1/14/07	Portland	503-797-2606
1/17/07	Annual Board Meeting	503-797-2606
1/21/07	Salem	503-585-1522
1/28/07	Corvallis	541-754-8381

General Message Line: 503-797-2606

www.feralcats.com

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

Coalition Contacts

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