

StreetTAILS



Fall
2007

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

FCCO Reaches Milestone 30,000th Cat!!



This beautiful, young, tuxedo male cat received the royal treatment at the FCCO September 16th clinic in Portland.

Why was he so special? He was the 30,000th cat to be altered by the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon! Our volunteers gave him a little extra TLC at each station and took photos of him as he went through the clinic.

As we take pause to celebrate this accomplishment, we remember that this important milestone not only underscores the importance of our program, but also the significant work that still lies ahead. We are already looking at how we can reach the next 30,000 cats who need our help. With your continued support, we will get there.

National Feral Cat Day Tuesday, October 16, 2007

by Kris Ellingsen, DVM

They didn't ask to live this life. Many were born or adopted into homes with people, but for whatever reason ended up abandoned on the streets, and in the alleys, farms and parks of our communities. They, and especially their offspring, became more and more removed from human interaction and life as pets, but still are not truly wild and completely self-sufficient... these are feral cats. They are homeless domestic animals who have no choice but to survive "in the wild."

Cats have kept company with humans for 8,000-10,000 years, and stray and feral cats have probably been around in the U.S. since the first colonists brought their cats to the New World. Humans created the feral cat problem by failing to adopt, spay or neuter, and the reluctance to make a lifetime commitment to cats in their care. Our goal is to end the homeless cat crisis. And caring people around the globe are acknowledging this and organizing to help feral cats.

These days, feral cats are often in the news: In Connecticut, the state Agricultural Department just launched a grant program to provide \$40,000 for feral cat sterilization and vaccination. In May, the Illinois House of Representatives

For decades, the public has been apathetic regarding the plight of homeless animals. It is time to take responsibility for the tragedy we have created.

Spay/Neuter Pilot Project

by Karen Kraus

FCCO is part of a multi-county coalition of animal shelters called Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP). The group's first project was identifying the zip codes where high levels of cats were entering the shelters and being euthanized. The 97206 and 97266 zip codes were targeted for a pilot spay/neuter program. This pilot project, named CatNIP (Cat Neuter-Incentive-Program), got off the ground earlier this year and has altered close to 250 cats, of which 117 have been feral. The goal is to see fewer cats entering the shelters from these zip codes.

On September 16, FCCO held a joint clinic with CatNIP. Multnomah County Animal Services (MCAS) brought their transport van and mobile

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Our Mission: *The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is dedicated to the humane treatment of feral cats and to the prevention of future generations through spay/neuter programs and education.*



President's Corner *by Marla McGeorge, DVM*



Dr. McGeorge

A few months ago a young adult, long-haired black tomcat appeared at my feral feeding station. He spent several weeks slowly working

his way to the food dishes, getting the resident ferals to accept him. He quickly learned that “kitty, kitty, kitty” meant food would appear. I decided to try “domesticating” him – not because I wanted another house cat. Heaven forbid! No, I hoped to condition him to handling, so that I could pick him up and put him in a carrier for a trip to my clinic for neutering. Why not just use the live trap I have for him? Well, it breaks my heart to see the fear and panic in the cats I have trapped. So this time I thought I would avoid that moment when the trap snaps shut. I have been diligently working at getting Black Kitty to accept me – and he has adapted very quickly.

Of course, what I failed to consider is that now having earned his trust, I am about to violate it by trapping him in a carrier. This is why for me “trap” is the hardest part of trap, neuter and return. My guess is

that there are many other people who find this part of caring for feral cats very difficult. We begin to feed these cats because we feel compassion for them and we are motivated to protect them as best we can. Anything that causes distress to the cats causes an equal amount of distress in us.

But, of course, getting the cats neutered is just as important as feeding them. Aside from the overpopulation issue, unneutered cats have hard lives. Tomcats fall prey to diseases and wounds from fighting. Queens are weakened by frequent reproduction, and their kittens suffer from poor nutrition. By neutering feral cats, we spare them many of the vicissitudes of the feral life. It just takes a little dispassion: the human ability to accept stressing the cats for a brief time in order to provide them with a better future.

I have a strategy for minimizing my feeling of guilt when I catch Black Kitty this week. I’m going to remember how my other cats carry on when I put them in the carrier to go to the clinic – and more importantly, how fast they forgive me. I think Black Kitty will forgive me, too. And, your feral cats will also forgive you.

Feral Cat Day *continued from page 1*

adopted a House Resolution proclaiming October 16th as National Feral Cat Day throughout the state. This resolution, together with a law enacted last August, endorses Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to manage and reduce outdoor cat populations in Illinois.

In the past twelve years since FCCO was founded, some 200 TNR programs have sprung up in almost every major metropolitan area here as well as other countries, championing non-lethal control of feral cats. And, with FCCO’s help, education, information, spay/neuter assistance and compassionate care have blossomed throughout Oregon communities.

October 16, 2007 is National Feral Cat Day. Launched six years ago, it is a day to recognize the growing problems of feral cats, and their place in our lives whether we are aware of it or not. More than just thinking about feral cats though, it is a day of action. In honor of this important day, FCCO will hold a special spay/neuter clinic on Tuesday, October 16. What can you do? Sign up to volunteer with our program, donate to sponsor the spay or neuter of a feral cat, or help spread the word about feral cats and the importance of spaying and neutering. Anything you can do is appreciated and will make a difference.

Pilot *continued from page 1*

“Spay Station” trailer to the FCCO warehouse in Portland. While we saw 97 cats that day, 30 from the zip codes, MCAS altered 19 pet cats from the zip codes. The objective of the collaboration clinic was to raise awareness about the pilot project and build teamwork. Grant funding is supporting this pilot effort which will continue to be available for the next several months.



Multnomah County Animal Services' Spay Station.

If you have friends or family who live in these targeted areas, please have them call MCAS at 503-988-6275 about their pet cats, or call FCCO at 503-797-2606 about feral cats.

ASAP, which includes the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, Multnomah County Animal Services, Cat Adoption Team, Clackamas County Dog Control, Humane Society for Southwest Washington, Oregon Humane Society, and Washington County Animal Control, is looking into other programs we can develop to help animals in the Portland area. Working together is the only way we can end the euthanasia of healthy animals in these shelters.



Inspiring Young Donor



*Lena with her cats
Katzl and Betty.*

Earlier this summer, we received a donation with a note that said, "This check is to help feral cats live a very, very good life. Lena, age 9."

Hearing from young donors like this is always inspiring, so we called to thank her and find out what moved her to donate to FCCO. We found out that Lena loves cats and wants to become a veterinarian. She learned about feral cats from her care provider, who feeds two feral cats. When she learned that there are cats who don't have homes, she wanted to do something to help. Her parents encouraged her to give a portion of her allowance to charity. After

researching feral cats on the internet, she found FCCO and chose to give some of her allowance to us. We extend a special thank you to Lena for her contribution.

We are appreciative of all of our donors and know that each one has a special story of why they choose to help feral cats by contributing to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. We are ever grateful.

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.

Cat Stats

January through September 2007
surgery totals:

Males – 1,020
Females – 1,316

WISH LIST

Donating an item from our Wish List makes a big impact on our program.

- Fleece scraps or yardage
- Bathroom cleaning supplies
- Electric space heaters
- Home Depot gift cards
- Paper shredder
- Postage stamps
- AA batteries
- 30-gal. garbage bags
- Laundry detergent

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, or bring the items to the next clinic in your area.

Thank you!

The Sixth Annual
BOWLING BALL
Alley Cats Strike Back

Saturday, October 27, 2007
Hollywood Bowl - 4030 NE Halsey
3:00 to 6:30 pm

Black cats, scaredy cats, tom cats, feral cats. Dress up in your favorite costume and bowl for them all!

For just \$25 you can bowl two games, show off your favorite cat costume or enjoy others' costumes, bid on cool silent auction items – and help fund a cat neuter, too! Register online today at www.feralcats.com or call Roz Simon at 503-287-8679 for more information.

Sign up your team today!

TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

Please visit our website for the full 2008 schedule, and for more info about the clinics and upcoming events. The clinics listed below are our Sunday TNR (trap-neuter-return) clinics. In addition, FCCO currently holds 2 Friday clinics per month in Portland. For more information about these clinics or to volunteer, please contact us.

10/16/07	National Feral Cat Day	503-797-2606
10/21/07	Portland	503-797-2606
10/27/07	Bowling Ball Fundraiser	503-287-8679
10/28/07	Corvallis	541-754-8381
11/4/07	Longview, WA	360-673-7300
11/11/07	Portland	503-797-2606
12/7/07	Portland	503-797-2606
1/13/08	Portland	503-797-2606
1/20/08	Salem	503-585-1522

Clinic dates are subject to change.

General Message Line: 503-797-2606

www.feralcats.com

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

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

President	<i>Marla McGeorge, DVM</i>
Vice-President	<i>Kris Ellingsen, DVM</i>
Interim Treasurer	<i>Michael Remsing</i>
Secretary	<i>Roz Simon</i>

Board Members	<i>Kimberly Dauphin, DVM</i> <i>Mickey Lee</i> <i>Alison Lord, DVM</i> <i>Kristin Sulis, DVM</i>
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Counsel (pro bono)	<i>Ron Adams</i> <i>Black Helterline, LLP</i>
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Staff

Executive Director	<i>Karen Kraus</i>
Operations Director	<i>Leah Kennon, CVT</i>
FCCO Technicians	<i>Kerri Blaney, CVT</i> <i>Jani Johnston, CVT</i> <i>Melissa Guila</i>
Volunteer Manager	<i>Victoria Eggleston</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Karen Kraus</i>

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