



# StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON SUMMER 2016

## Story from the Streets



Feral Nicholas likes looking in at his brother, Lucky, but isn't ready to join him inside.

We are grateful we now have a 'closed' colony. Everyone is spayed or neutered and getting a little fatter and sassier every day. Back in the Fall of 2014 we contacted FCCO for help, and over three months brought 12 cats and kittens in to the

*STORY cont. pg 2*

## When Adoption Isn't an Option

A typical request for help and why your support matters

**From:** An overwhelmed caregiver

**Subject:** Too many feral cats

**Message:** I need help. I have four adult females (the mothers) and about 14 kittens between them! Some are actually tame and playful and don't seem to mind human contact. Some are shy and prefer not to be handled but will tolerate it if you can catch them. Some are just down-right wild and feisty. They are all about eight weeks old. I want to find homes for a



Kittens grow into mother and father cats in just five months. They can be spayed/neutered at eight-to ten-weeks or two pounds.

couple of the ones that seem to like playing and being held by humans but I'm not sure if we can tame the others. They are all in an enclosure with a litter box and a cat habitat they seem to really enjoy. We sit in there to play with and feed them but there are too many and as they get bigger that won't be ideal. I want to trap the mothers first and get them fixed, and then I want to fix the kittens. We can keep two of the moms and five of the kittens as we have a large farm but we do not want them fertile. Can you help?

It started a year ago when one adult female was dropped off with a male and two kittens. The kittens have disappeared; the

*REQUEST FOR HELP cont. pg 3*



**Help us earn donations while you shop!**  
Link us to your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!



## Fred Meyer Rewards Credit Expired – Relink Today!

Help make sure FCCO maintains this generous community funding source

If you are one of the many who linked your Fred Meyer rewards card to FCCO to help raise funds for the cats - thank you! Last quarter, 259 households raised an incredible \$842.73 in donations, but all of those household links expired on June 30!

Please help us maintain this generous funding source by RE-linking your rewards today! It's also a great time to SIGN UP, if you haven't already. You get all the regular rewards and bonus coupons, and the cats also get rewarded!

With Fred Meyer Community Rewards, when you shop and use your Rewards Card you earn rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, and you also help FCCO earn a donation. To relink your card or sign up for Rewards, go to [fredmeyer.com](http://fredmeyer.com) and scroll to Community Rewards. When making your non-profit selection, search for Feral Cat Coalition. We are grateful to Fred Meyer for their contributions – and thank you for making them happen!



## President's Corner

by Kris Ellingsen, DVM

Spay/neuter saves lives



Dr. Kris Ellingsen

FCCO is embarking on a plan to help low-income residents get their pet cats fixed. We will

now have a greater impact

on the prevention and reduction of homeless cat populations, a leading source of feral and stray cats. This in turn can reduce the number of cats ending up in shelters, which improves overall cat health, increases adoption potential, and reduces euthanasia rates.

The impact of TNR (trap-neuter-return) and subsidized spay/neuter can be seen across the country as well as locally.

In Florida, 2014: A study assessed the effect of TNR concentrated in a region of historically high cat impoundments. A two-year program was implemented to TNR at least 50% of the estimated community cats in a single ZIP code. The result: shelter cat impoundment from the target area decreased by 66% during the study period, compared to a decrease of 12% in the rest of the county.

In our own backyard: The Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland, a coalition of area shelters and animal welfare organizations including FCCO, collaborated on Spay & Save to provide low-cost spay/neuter services for cat owners in need of financial assistance, as

well as people who feed stray or feral cats. The program has altered more than 52,000 cats in five years and has decreased the number of cats entering Portland Metro area shelters from the public by 38% since 2010.

Though FCCO is excited to offer affordable spay/neuter for those who qualify, we will continue to focus on reaching as many feral and stray cats as possible. While it is important to know that our efforts are making a difference in the big picture, we also recognize



Our pet cat services began with this kitty on April 28, 2016.

the benefit our service has upon each cat or kitten, and each individual caregiver.

*On another note: please welcome two new members to our Board of Directors: Hilary Matarazzo, DVM, and John Maddigan. We are very excited about the new ideas they have already brought to FCCO. We're also thankful for the years of service provided by Michael Sulis, who recently retired from the Board.*

## Getting Our Email?



We email WebTails monthly and other notices occasionally. If you aren't seeing them contact us at [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com).

### STORY cont. from pg 1

clinic. We were able to find homes for six beautiful kittens, and six feral cats remain with us. Two of the ferals can now be touched but are still very independent, and two are 'formerly-feral' and have moved inside.

Beamer was our first feral to be brought to FCCO. She was a 'left behind' kitten. I read about weaker cats struggling within a colony, and it seemed that's what happened to her. She was always the last to get to eat and always pushed aside. Then one day mom and Beamer's siblings disappeared. Beamer was easier to tame because she seemed painfully lonesome. Now, although still skittish, she is so grateful for love.

Also indoors is Lucky, a baby that Mama-Too left while moving her litter at about four days old, and we rescued and bottle-raised. Nicholas and the rest of the litter stayed outside though he and his brother Lucky remain close and curious through the glass.

Our 15-year-old Lhasa Apso dog is now completely blind and deaf and the colony has adopted her! Nicholas and Lulu guide her with head bops and body rubs to the lawn and back when we let her out, keeping her from running off the sidewalk or into harm's way...it is an unusual but charming sight!

We are so grateful FCCO was there for us.

- Cindy and Rhiner J., Portland, OR

## Miss our Grand Opening Celebration?

Clinic tours are held at 10am the last Thursday of each month. Check our website for details.



## FCCO's Grand Opening Celebration!

Official ribbon cutting ceremony held June 25, 2016



FCCO's Board of Directors held the ribbon for Leslie Durst to cut. Left to right: Lew Woods; Jacqui Neilson, DVM; Michelle Baird-Johnson; Hilary Matarazzo, DVM; Leslie Durst; Ken Hick; Kris Ellingsen, DVM; Leah Kennon, CVT; John Maddigan; and Karen Kraus.

Over 200 people came to celebrate, including some of our original donors and volunteers who reminisced about clinics in past locations. Kids operated on toy kitties, excitement surrounded the trap race game, and the mood was festive!

## How You Can Help

We have open volunteer positions, including some new ones. Even if you haven't volunteered in a while or never have, we'd love to hear from you. Some roles need a regular commitment: *clinic help, office help, and landscape watering.* Other positions are episodic: *cat transport, event help, and yard maintenance.* If you want to help, please send an email to [volunteer@feralcats.com](mailto:volunteer@feralcats.com).

Another way to help is by donating items on our **WISH LIST**. Many of these are used during each clinic. Check out our [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) Wish List or contact us at 503-797-2606 with any questions. Below is a partial list of needed items:

- 1" 3M masking tape
- AA batteries
- Kitten food (wet & dry)
- Duplex copier
- Stamps (Forever)
- Newspaper
- Heavy-duty, 30-gallon black trash bags
- Bed sheets for trap covers

*Thank you for your commitment to the cats!*



### REQUEST FOR HELP *cont. from pg 1*

male is obviously still here but we don't see him. I hope you can help!

Although the above seems like a unique situation, it's not. Population explosions among cats take very little time, which is why it is important to spay/neuter all of the cats and kittens in a colony. That's why we exist.

This caregiver had the right idea: spay/neuter the tame kittens and find them homes. But adoption isn't an option for the cats who retain their wild nature. For them, the best solution is TNR (trap-neuter-return). Life as a farm cat won't ever be as easy as that of a couch kitty, but spay/neuter removes the burden of breeding and prevents future generations of homeless cats.

No one asks to be a feral cat caregiver, but the cats need help so people step up. Your support enables us to be there to help them. We thank you.

### CATIOtour



### The 4th Annual Catio Tour Saturday, September 10, 2016

Join FCCO and the Audubon Society of Portland for this year's Catio Tour, featuring a variety of catios that are keeping Portland cats safe while providing them a fun environment. Some catios are designer and others DIY.

**The Catio Tour is self-guided and open from 10am - 2pm.** Before the Tour you'll get a

complete guidebook that includes photos, construction information, and directions so you can choose your route and which ones you want to check out. Catio Hosts are on-site to point out their catio's features.



A suggested donation of \$10 per registrant supports the Catio Tour as well as the Cats Safe at Home™ program. Register today!

**Sign up at [feralcats.com](http://feralcats.com)!**

This catio uses an enclosed skybridge to connect to the house. Six cats enjoy this special space - check it out on this year's Catio Tour!



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**TNR in Action!** This kitty is FCCO's 80,000th cat helped. This spring her caregivers noticed her around their shop and put out food. They tried to trap her, but the morning of her spay appointment she disappeared for two months. She returned, with four kittens in tow, and this time went in the trap.

## Who We Are

### FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Kris Ellingsen, DVM
- Treasurer: Claire Rolfs
- Secretary: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Board Members: Jacqui Neilson, DVM, Lew Woods, Ken Hick, Hilary Matarazzo, DVM, and John Maddigan
- Executive Director: Karen Kraus
- Operations Director: Leah Kennon, CVT
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Kraus

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) is the only spay/neuter clinic in the Portland region providing donation-only services for feral and stray cats and low cost services for pet cats.

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Visit our website, call, or follow our posts for more info!  
[feralcats.com](http://feralcats.com) | 503-797-2606



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**FREE SPAY/NEUTER**  
 for feral & stray cats & kittens

It's time for our  
**Summer Spay Spectacular!**

Are you feeding feral or stray cats? Do you know someone who is? Now is the time to act! We have a FREE spay/neuter special throughout August.

You can also help spread the word! Please go to [feralcats.com](http://feralcats.com) to print a flyer and hang it up in your grocery store, coffee shop, library – everywhere!

This special is generously sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society and Rachael's Rescue.