



STREET TAILS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

January 2004

Issue No. 8

President's Corner

by Brenda Smith, DVM



Brenda Smith, DVM

As the end of the calendar year finishes with some very pretty snow, it is time for us to reflect on our past year. Our biggest measure of success is in the number of cats we were able to reach. 2003 was a record-setting year at the clinics, with a final count of 3,217 cats assisted. In addition, 60 cats were spayed/neutered through our CertifiCAT program, bringing our overall total closer to 3,300 cats. Since our inception in 1995, we have now cared for more than 18,000 cats! Our wonderful Operations Director, Leah Kennon, deserves much of the praise for making our clinics more efficient while maintaining safety for the cats. She and our licensed technician, Caitlin Bennett, put in some very long hours as did the clinic coordinators and volunteers at several extremely large clinics, and we must thank all of these people for their devotion to the organization and the cats.

After four years on the Board, Barbara Cannon's term ended at the close of 2003. She will be missed, as she is devoted to being the voice for the cats, always reminding all of us that it is the welfare of the cats that we are working so hard to protect. We

thank her for all her work and leadership. She will continue to stay very involved working on the board's Statistics Committee and CertifiCAT program as well as continuing to be co-coordinator of the Salem clinics. We are grateful for her continued participation.

We'd like to introduce you to our newest board member, whose term began at the first of January: Leanne Eggert, DVM. Leanne began volunteering with FCCO in 1997--long before she became a vet or even entered vet school. She helped in many capacities at Portland clinics and also assisted in scheduling volunteers. She now lives in Veneta, Oregon and since becoming a practicing veterinarian, she volunteers at clinics in Salem, Eugene, Sweet Home, and other cities as needed. While in vet school in Washington, she saw the great need for a trap-neuter-return program for feral cats. She founded the Feral Cat Solution in Palouse and it continues to operate today. Leanne's understanding of the feral cat overpopulation problem, her organizational skills and her dedication to helping feral cats will make her an invaluable addition to our board.

Late last year we assembled a group of area veterinarians to serve as a Veterinary Advisory Board. The purpose of this group is to evaluate



Leanne Eggert

the professional aspects of our policies and clinics and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Recommendations that have been passed by the board include the creation of a minimum standard of care policy on surgical procedures, surgery after-care policies and microchip scanning procedures. We are grateful for the commitment from the veterinarians on the advisory board as well as the widespread support we receive from the veterinary community.

As we look forward to another year of helping thousands of homeless cats, we are reminded of how grateful we are for the donors and volunteers who make our program possible.

Thank you!

Helping feral cats on the web

If you haven't been to the FCCO web page in a while, now would be a great time to take a look! Over the past several months, we have expanded and updated the site.

We are very excited about all the information we have for caregivers, donors and others interested in helping feral cats. We thank Karen McGill for creating and maintaining our fabulous new site.

You can find us on the web at www.feralcats.com.



Stories From The Streets

As you know, FCCO helps thousands of cats each year through our clinics. What you may not know is the large number of cats we help who often do not use our program. Here is a story we received via email.

You kindly answered an email from me requesting trapping tips and where to get a trap to catch a semi-feral young cat. I thought you might be interested to hear how our little cat's story turned out. This little grey cat had been getting through a small hole in the fence into the day yard for our chickens and eating Layeena (chicken food) and spending his days in one of their nests (pretty smart as Layeena is almost all protein and a nest is a pretty cozy place to be)! Of course he would run away when we got too close, but we would always see him within a day or two hanging around our house or back in the chicken yard. Sometimes he would meow back to me when I could get near him - I just knew he was trying to join our family and that he was very special.

We rented a trap from Green Hill Humane Society last week and, lo and behold with a little canned mackerel we were able to catch him! With lots of attention and food (he was starving) he is now doing very well and has become very friendly and social--a special little guy. In fact, he is warm and cozy curled up on some blankets in our mud room right now! Next week he goes to the vet for exam, shots and neutering. Thought you would be happy to know how well it all turned out. Thank you for your help!

Jim and Katrina

Coos Bay Colony

At first the steep bramble-covered hillside seems an unlikely place for a feral cat colony. But upon closer inspection of the site, which lies between a shopping mall and a fast-food outlet,

one sees the assorted food and water dishes, the homemade shelters and the multitude of paths that lead the cats into the safety of the brambles.

The latest count shows 24 cats living in the colony and being tended by Michael and Mary Lowe. For more than four years, the Lowes have made daily trips to feed these cats and another colony located near the Mill Casino. Mary Lowe cooks up big batches of chicken to provide the cats with extra protein during the winter.

The fact that more and more people know about the colony is both heartwarming and worrisome. During the summer an anonymous person placed three well-constructed wooden shelters within the colony perimeters, and the cats have been making good use of them this winter. However, public knowledge of the colony's location leads to more dumping of cats. And we're acutely aware that it would take but one cat hater's complaint to the fast-food outlet, which has thus far been supportive, to turn the colony into a controversy.

Friends of Animals With Needs (FAWN) has taken on the challenging job of getting the cats spayed and neutered. The majority of the cats have been spayed/neutered at FCCO clinics over the past year and a half and most



recently, seven cats were trapped and brought to the Coquille FCCO clinic on November 2. FAWN is proud to have been the sponsor of this



clinic and six previous Coquille clinics. Of the seven cats trapped, three were kittens that were successfully socialized

and placed in homes. The other four were returned to their colony.

For now, we're happy to see the cats looking so healthy and well fed, but realize there is still work to be done--a

few more cats remain to be trapped. In the interests of making this a stable colony, we know that now is the time to roll up our sleeves and break out the canned tuna. Kitten season is just around the corner...

by Mary Wuerth

New Year's Resolutions

January is a popular time for New Year's resolutions and budgets! We hope that when you are making yours, you will remember feral cats and the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. A great way to donate without breaking your budget is through our **MEW** (Monthly Electronic Withdrawal) program. By budgeting the amount you want to donate monthly, you can actually increase your annual donation and help more cats! To find out more, visit our web page at www.feralcats.com or check the MEW box on the enclosed envelope.

If creating a will or updating an existing one is in your plans, please consider including FCCO as a beneficiary. You don't need to be wealthy to leave a legacy that will have a major impact on the lives of feral cats in Oregon. For more information check the planned giving box on the enclosed envelope.



SIXTH ANNUAL SPAYATHON

SPAY DAY



The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon holds a special Spayathon clinic each year in honor of Spay Day USA. The goal of the Spayathon is to spay/neuter 200 feral cats, while also raising awareness of the cat overpopulation problem.

The Sixth Annual Spayathon will be held on February 22, 2004. While the event will be held in the Portland area, cat overpopulation is a problem all over, and we can use your help. An easy way to participate in Spay Day is to sponsor a spay/neuter by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope.

This year we also have *Sponsor a Spay or Neuter* sign-up forms that you can use to get friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to sponsor the spaying and neutering of cats at our Spayathon clinic. Help spread the spay/neuter message while raising funds for feral cats! To make it more fun there will be prizes awarded for different levels of money raised. Sponsor forms and more information on the prize levels are available at our January clinics or by contacting Karen Kraus at 503-797-2606.

Myrna Shapiro Volunteer Award

FCCO is blessed to have incredible volunteers who are very committed to helping feral cats. At the Annual Meeting on October 4, the FCCO Board of Directors had the difficult task of selecting one volunteer for the Second Annual Myrna Shapiro Volunteer Award. Myrna was a founding board member of FCCO and managed the volunteer efforts until her death in 2001. This award recognizes volunteers who have shown the spirit and commitment that Myrna imbued to the organization.

The 2003 winner was Jeanne Brown. Jeanne has volunteered with

FCCO since our inception in 1995 and has worked nearly every Portland and Salem clinic along with Spayathons and Fall Feral Fixes. She works full days in prep and is very dedicated to providing the best possible care to each cat. Her



Jeanne Brown, 2003 Myrna Shapiro Volunteer Award winner, in action at an FCCO clinic!

devotion and compassion are inspiring to all who work with her. The nominees for this year's award were: Jeanne Brown, Vickie Gavin, CVT, Vince Strand, and the Women of Benton and Linn Counties (Clara

Knutson, Sharon Roosa, Jody Harmon, Vicki Lindley, Doris Garron and Julie Shoemaker.) The voting was very close as all the nominees were very deserving of this special recognition.

Furball 2004!

Elegance returns to the **Furball** this year with the theme, *Sequins & Tails*. The black tie optional event will feature light fare from Elephants Delicatessen and Catering, piano music by Matthew Kern, a martini bar, and both silent and live auctions filled with many fabulous and one of a kind items. Elaine Tanzer is Honorary Chair for this important event, and Ron Pedersen of KOIN-TV is emcee.

Saturday, May 8, 2004

World Forestry Center, Miller Hall
in Portland
6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars and watch for your invitation in early April. Sponsorship tickets with reserved seating start at \$250 and tables can be purchased for \$1,000. Tickets will be \$75 in advance or \$90 at the door.

The **Furball** is the largest annual fundraiser for FCCO. Please consider attending, donating an item to the auction, or volunteering to help work on the event. For more information, please call Karen Kraus at 503-797-2606.

Wish List

- Rolls of plastic sheeting •
- Tomahawk live traps •
- Paper towels • "D" batteries •
- Large garbage bags • Duct tape •
- Canned air • Copy card •
- Office supply store gift card •
- Home Depot gift card •
- Office paper • HP ink cartridges •
- Laundry detergent •
- HP 1300 Laser Printer

To donate items from the wish list, please call 503-797-2606. Thank you!

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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.

1/11/04	Corvallis	541-753-2858
1/18/04	Portland	503-797-2606
2/1/04	Eugene	541-607-4282
2/8/04	Sweet Home	541-367-3184
2/22/04	Portland Spayathon	503-797-2606
3/7/04	Salem	503-588-2364
3/14/04	Coquille	541-396-4439
3/21/04	Portland	503-797-2606
3/28/04	Eugene	541-607-4282
4/4/04	St. Helens	503-397-3333
4/18/04	Portland	503-797-2606

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

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

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Vice-President	_____	<i>Kris Ellingsen, DVM</i>
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Operations Director	_____	<i>Leah Kennon, CVT</i>
Veterinary Technician	_____	<i>Caitlin Bennett, CVT</i>
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