

StreetTAILS

Winter
2009

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

Grant Awarded for Salem Clinics

We're excited to announce that FCCO was recently awarded a grant from the Karen M. Schroth Charitable Foundation for Animals. The \$13,220 grant is to spay/neuter 400 cats in Salem in 2009. Included in the grant is assistance for seniors, residents of apartments and trailer homes, and those caring for colonies of feral cats. FCCO has provided services for 4,973 cats in Salem over the past ten years. This is the fifth year that funding has been provided by this Foundation.



Numbers Show Tracks of Success

You may have heard that we spayed/neutered a record 4,050 cats last year. This was based on our *fiscal* year which runs from October through September. To help that many cats in a year is significant, but in the *calendar* year we helped even more cats – 4,276, including our 35,000th cat in November! Just as impressive, there were 888 individuals, companies, and foundations that all made donations, as well as 701 volunteers who contributed their time. It's clear that working together we can make a big impact on the lives of feral cats.

Story from the Streets

A year ago I only had one cat—a rescue kitty named Balti. Then last January during a really bad cold spell, the feral cat assigned to our neighborhood decided I could rescue her, too. I knew her on sight. She was a beautiful black and white cat. She was also smart, wary, and very wild. She was not friendly. In fact, she couldn't tolerate even being looked at by a human. So when I saw her on our back porch meowing and acting submissive, I knew she was in big trouble. She was starving.

A day later I was feeding her on a regular schedule. A month later she was still coming to eat twice a day. It looked like she was there to stay. And I began to worry about her getting pregnant. By the end of March I was able to touch her for the first time while she ate. She didn't like it, but she tolerated it. At that rate I thought I could catch her and take in her to be spayed by June at least.

Then I heard about FCCO and called to make inquiries. I learned that I didn't have until June. Time was running out fast. I got an appointment for her for the second week in April. Three days before the clinic, she disappeared to give birth to a litter of four. Bummer! I called Carma at FCCO. "Not to worry," she reassured me, "as soon as she weans the kittens, you can have her spayed."

By the middle of May she—now known as Mama Kitty—moved the kittens under our porch. Mama Kitty turned out to be a remarkable mother — a firm disciplinarian and ferocious protector. Her kittens turned out to be every bit as smart as she. And just as independent.

In the middle of June I surprised Mama Kitty at breakfast and squeezed her into a cat carrier for a visit to FCCO. For my trouble she gave me a matched set of incisions across my right hand. That night she was home again and ready to start a new life.

In September, in a classic Three Stooges routine, I managed to catch and cage all four kittens and get them to the FCCO clinic. In October, as the fall rains arrived, I built a cat barn for them out of scrap lumber, bales of hay and a tarp. They all moved in immediately. Last week, as the Great Blizzard of 2008 set in, I used a picnic table, moving blankets, tarps and lawn furniture cushions to build an igloo for them on our porch. They moved in while construction was

I Thought I Was A Fairly Normal Person - So How Did I End Up With Seven Cats?

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President's Corner by Kris Ellingsen, DVM



Dr. Kris Ellingsen

A new year encourages a fresh start, one that many of us would be only too happy to contemplate after the early winter we've experienced.

Add to that trying financial times that aren't likely to improve soon, and an optimistic attitude can be a challenge. At FCCO we understand the difficulties out there and know that the work we do for feral cats may now become even more necessary. Our day-to-day operations have also become affected by the financial downturn, thus the Board of Directors must be vigilant in maintaining a solvent organization that will continue to be available for these cats and their caregivers. FCCO will make every effort to be as efficient as ever while still working toward our goal of spaying/neutering feral cats to stem their overpopulation.

It is more important now than ever that donors remember that FCCO needs support. The Furball, our biggest fundraiser, is May 2nd and is a chance to have a great time in support of feral cats. Joining MEW or making a donation in honor of Spay Day are other great ways to help

assure the long-term solvency of our compassionate and vital services.

On a very positive note, the move to our new home base has been a resounding success! It was wonderful to meet many of you who were able to attend our Open House. If you missed it and would like to arrange a tour, call 503-797-2606 or send an email to info@feralcats.com.

As a veterinarian who volunteers at many clinics, I can tell you how much more streamlined the experience has become! No more scrubbing in with water poured from a jug or tight surgery quarters like we have on the truck. We now have a warm and dry place for all people and cats at Portland clinics. But most of all, the cats experience a quicker, less stressful process. In the more compact space communication is easier, keeping the flow from anesthesia apace with the doctors' abilities to perform the surgeries. We even require fewer volunteers, making it easier to hold more clinics. We are very happy with our move, but our ability to use this space to its utmost potential depends on continued financial support, as well as both lay and technical volunteerism.

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still underway and have taken the fifteen inches of snow in romping stride.

This spring I'm going to build a wire corral for them. I'm afraid their free-range adventures have come to an end. They will be entering their hunting prime. And after working for ten years to plant our yard for birds, snakes and bugs, I'm not ready to turn it into an all-you-can-catch cafeteria for cats.

M. Hoeye, Milwaukie



WISH LIST

- 6-foot ladder
- 6-foot plastic folding tables (2)
- 13- and 30-gallon garbage bags
- AA rechargeable batteries
- Duct tape
- HE laundry detergent
- Office supply store gift cards
- Paper towels
- Postage stamps
- Feral cat stories and photos

We are making an effort to use as many earth-friendly products as possible, like the rechargeable batteries. If there is something that you can provide, please call FCCO at 503-797-2606, email us at info@feralcats.com, or bring the items to the next clinic in your area. Your donation offsets our need to purchase these items, allowing more funds for spaying and neutering cats.

HAPPY MEW YEAR!

MEW, our Monthly Electronic Withdrawal program, is a great way to support FCCO: it allows you to give each month without any effort and allows FCCO to budget our income better. A simple gift of \$5 each month adds up to enough in a year to spay/neuter two cats! A monthly gift of \$15, *less than 50 cents per day*, will help a colony of six cats. Please look on the flap of the enclosed envelope for more information about how you can set up a regular giving plan.

Here's a New Year's special incentive! Join MEW or increase your current MEW contribution **by February 28th** and you'll be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to Wildwood, a consistently top-ranked restaurant in NW Portland!



Spay Day USA

Spay Day USA is **February 24, 2009**. FCCO will celebrate throughout February by spaying/neutering 400 cats. Spay Day USA is an annual event to inspire people to save animal lives by spaying or neutering pets and feral cats.



Spay/neuter is a proven way to reduce the vast numbers of animals who are born only to die prematurely and without a family who loves them.

Take part in Spay Day!

1. Get an animal spayed or neutered. Check out the FCCO Clinic Schedule on the back page of this newsletter.
2. Help a friend get an animal spayed or neutered.
3. Sponsor a feral cat to be spayed or neutered for just \$30 (see the enclosed envelope).

All Aboard for the 11th Annual Furball! The Cat-anooga Choo Choo



Saturday, May 2, 2009
6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
World Forestry Center, Portland

Join our Honorary Chair, Susan Sokol-Blosser of Sokol-Blosser Winery, and our Emcee, Matt Zaffino of KGW, for this spectacular evening.

This year our annual Furball Raffle will have three chances to win: a \$500 Visa card or one of two \$250 Visa cards. Help us make this the most successful raffle yet! To buy or sell raffle tickets, email Anna Mueller at furballraffle@feralcats.com.

We also need your help to make the auction a success - we're looking for exciting travel packages. Do you have a "getaway spot" that you can offer? Either local or distant, it could be a personally owned condo, time share, or even a cabin.

Watch our WebTails for info about tickets, the raffle, and how you can be a part of the Furball's success!

Universal Cycles Challenge Met

Many, many thanks to everyone who made a gift this winter toward the challenge put forth by Universal Cycles. Your support enabled us to garner an additional \$10,000 that will make a critical impact on our budget. In addition, donations through the Give!Guide totaled \$27,215 putting us second in the Animal Groups category and just shy of the top ten overall.

Clearly the attention drawn from the Give!Guide campaign worked, as almost 40% of the donors were new to FCCO. Our gratitude also goes out to Jerry and Earlene Claussen for encouraging new donors by matching contributions up to \$1000.

GIVE... WITHOUT SPENDING MONEY

OPPORTUNITY # 1

Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate a penny to FCCO *each time you search!* Visit GoodSearch.com and be sure to select Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon.



Also, shop at more than 600 merchants through GoodShop.com including Amazon.com, Best Buy, and others, and a *percentage of each purchase* will go to FCCO! Bookmark the page and be sure to tell your friends and family to **GoodSearch for FCCO!**

OPPORTUNITY # 2

It's tax time, and although that phrase rarely brings joy, you can make the most of your tax preparation by using H&R Block. For all NEW clients (you did not use their services for your 2007 taxes), H&R Block will donate \$25 to FCCO! Call FCCO at 503-797-2606 or send an email to djahn@feralcats.com to get the info.



H&R BLOCK®

Preparing America's Taxes Since 1955

OPPORTUNITY # 3



Did you know that by including a charitable gift in your will or estate plan, you can help to continue FCCO's work well into the future? **Leave a legacy...** It's easy, just make sure you have an up-to-date will (or living trust) that reflects your charitable objectives. Think beyond cash: you can leave stocks, real estate, insurance policies, and even personal property. Contact your financial advisor for more information.

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PO Box 82734



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TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

January 16, 23, 30 - Portland: 503-797-2606

January 18 - Salem: 503-585-1522

January 25 - Corvallis: 541-754-8381

February 1 - Roseburg: 541-464-4313

February 6, 8, 13, 20, 27 - Portland: 503-797-2606

February 22 - Longview: 360-673-7300

February 24 - Spay Day USA (see page 3 for more info)

March 1 - Coquille: 541-396-4439

March 6, 13, 15, 20, 27 - Portland: 503-797-2606

March 8 - St. Helens: 503-366-8223

March 29 - Corvallis: 541-754-8381

April 3, 5, 10, 17, 24 - Portland: 503-797-2606

April 19 - Salem: 503-585-1522

April 26 - Longview: 360-673-7300

Save the Date! May 2 - 11th Annual Furball (*details on page 3*)

General Message Line: 503-797-2606

www.feralcats.com

Are you receiving our **WebTails** via email? If not, send your email address to info@feralcats.com to receive current events.

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

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Development Coordinator *Devon Jahn*

Volunteer Coordinator *Debbie Norr*

Newsletter Editor..... *Karen Kraus*

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

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