

# StreetTAILS



Winter  
2010

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

## Another Record Year

You may have heard that we spayed/neutered 4,763 cats last year – more than ever before! This total represents the number we helped during our *fiscal* year, which ended on September 30.

Some fiscal year accomplishments:

- Number of cats helped: 4,763
- Number of females: 2,605
- Number of males: 2,158
- Clinics held: 76
- Weekday clinics, average cats per clinic: 46
- Sunday clinics, average cats per clinic: 82
- Caregivers helped: 1,424
- Number of cities served by FCCO: 7
- Number of volunteers: 735

When we look at the *calendar* year, the total leaps to 5,172 cats. For the first time ever, we helped more than 5,000 cats in one year! FCCO has the skills and ability to help thousands of cats every year, but we aren't able to help even one cat without your support and involvement. Thank you for making this milestone and future ones possible.



### In Memory of Beta

This donation is in memory of "Beta", who died last year. Beta was one of two feral kittens who came in our cat door. After taking her to the vet, she became an indoor kitty. Beta always was wary of humans. I was the only one who could pet her, and then it was only for a few minutes at a time when she was ready. Still, when she did trust me, I felt like it was a gift. She always

came to say goodnight to me, or rather so I could say it to her. She'd carry her toys to whatever room I was in and drop them at my feet. Though she retained many feral cat tendencies, I loved her quirky personality.

Thanks for all you do to make the lives of feral cats better.

*P.S:* Beta was over fifteen years old. She lived a good life!

*K. Kunst, Portland*

## 2010 Equals 15 Years

*by Karen Kraus*

Call it twenty-ten, or call it two-thousand ten, either way this year represents the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon's 15th year in operation. From our modest beginnings when a group of veterinarians met after work to talk about how to help feral cats to our 40,000th cat surgery last November, our organization has come a long way. We believe this success comes from a solid mission, attentive management, impressive support from the veterinary community, dedicated volunteers (past and present), and donors who open their hearts and pocketbooks to help feral cats.

When we held our first clinic on June 25, 1995, we spayed/neutered 16 cats and it took us all day. By November we were able to help 67 cats in a day. We were fast learners. We needed to be because we only held clinics one Sunday per month in Portland and as word spread about our services, the calls for help grew. For our first three years we held clinics in willing vet hospitals on Sundays when they were closed. Our first President and founder, Dr. Ellie Shelburne, and her husband, Peter carried all of our supplies to and from each clinic in a trailer they pulled behind their Honda Civic. As we closed in on spaying/neutering our 2,000th cat, it was clear we needed another approach.

That new approach was our mobile hospital. It was designed by our Board veterinarians for optimal efficiency for spaying/neutering feral cats. We held



*FCCO's 40,000th Cat Helped!*

**15 Years** *continued page 3*

## Stories from the Streets

### A Thank You to FCCO Volunteers

I am sending a note of great appreciation for all the great assistance I received during the clinic. So many of us who love kitties appreciate all of you for what you do; for all the time you give to this Coalition; and for what you do for those of us caregivers who help the sick and abandoned kitties.

*D. Benson and 10 spayed and neutered healthy kitties*



## Spay Day Events

FCCO is holding a “Beat the Heat” special in honor of Spay Day, which is February 23, 2010. To help cats *before* they get pregnant, we will celebrate Spay Day throughout the month of February



by spaying/neutering all qualified feral cats for only \$15 at Portland clinics. Visit [www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com) for more information and an appointment.

Also for Spay Day, you can win prizes and raise lifesaving funds for spay/neuter by entering your pet’s picture in the Spay Day 2010 Online Pet Photo Contest, which runs from January 20 to March 4, 2010. Each vote for your favorite photo costs just \$1. Last year FCCO raised over \$2,000 from the photo contest! Details are at [humanesociety.org/issues/spay\\_day](http://humanesociety.org/issues/spay_day).

## Universal Cycles Match Made!

In celebration of our 40,000th cat, we had a goal to raise a dollar for every cat we have spayed/neutered. Universal Cycles, a Portland-based online bike shop, generously agreed to donate \$10,000 - if we could raise \$30,000 by year end. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach the goal, and a huge thank you to Universal Cycles!

A major part of our fundraising effort was through the *Willamette Week* Give!Guide. We are very grateful to be a part of this publication for the awareness that it brings to FCCO and our services. This year we came in sixth out of 79 nonprofits!

## President’s Corner *by Kris Ellingsen, DVM*



Photo by Kathi Lamm

Dr. Kris Ellingsen

Where my own furry companions are concerned, 2009 had ups and downs.

You may recall that in early fall 2008 my family rescued

two kittens on a rural Yakima Valley road. Although with good intentions to find them homes - since two adult cats were already in our home - after a month that notion was impossible. They became permanent residents and the older cats adjusted, and in one case enjoyed joining in the rambunctious kitten play.

Soon the issue of indoor vs. outdoor status arose. The two adult cats were used to outdoor access for various reasons, most notably outdoor potty preference and spraying issues. So it was difficult to keep kittens from darting outside and oh, how they reveled in racing around the yard and ravine - more space to play! With another family member believing the cats were happier outside, it became a battle restricting outdoor access.

Though near downtown Portland, we live in a forested ravine that is

a perfect environment for coyotes. They can be heard yipping on a nightly basis. One kitten escaped one morning. A search of the ravine found him treed by a coyote, which slunk away from the base of the tree at our approach. Lesson learned? Unfortunately, like other youngsters, our cats must feel invincible.

This brings me to the “down” of my year. Raincloud, one of my adult cats, stayed out late on a balmy evening and never returned. In past disappearances, we’d discover him high up a tree, and three times I’ve had to call tree climbers to rescue him. No such luck this time. We presume he was caught by a coyote, and I can only blame myself for allowing him outdoors one last time.

It has increasingly been an internal struggle - should I have insisted on indoor status exclusively? I can’t answer that question for everyone, though I encourage it. The obvious answer for Raincloud’s safety would have been “yes.” I am now even more committed to keeping the “kittens” indoors, though it will be a challenge.

While feral cats don’t have much of an option, please remember the risks your cats face outdoors and the impact they have on other wildlife.

## WISH LIST

Our Wish List is compiled of items that FCCO needs, but are often easily “picked up” while doing your regular shopping. Donations offset our need to purchase products, which means more funds for the cats. Contact us at 503-797-2606 or [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com), or bring items to a clinic in your area if you can help with any of these items.

Whenever possible, we prefer to use “green,” earth-friendly products.

- 1-inch masking tape
- 6-foot plastic folding table
- 8-foot plastic folding tables (2)
- AAA batteries, rechargeable & regular
- Bathroom cleaner
- Duct tape
- Heavy-duty, 33-gal. garbage bags
- Office supply store gift card
- Postage stamps
- Soft Scrub
- Windex



## 15 Years *continued from page 1*

our first clinic in the mobile hospital in February 1998 on Spay Day USA. Again we helped 16 cats, but this time it didn't take all day. With our mobile hospital we have helped cats from Hood River to Klamath Falls and Longview, Washington, to Coquille. For ten years we relied on our mobile hospital for all of our medical and surgical procedures, and in that time we helped 32,398 cats.

Today we are both stationary and mobile. We still use our mobile hospital in our partner communities, and in Portland we use our free-standing clinic facility. The move into our new space is just over a year old and is proving to be very successful, allowing us to help literally thousands of additional cats each year. With this added capacity we added Thursday clinics and raised our goal to 6,000 cats this year. This nearly doubles the number of cats we were helping just three years ago.

It is remarkable how deeply people care about feral cats and their welfare. It is this compassion and commitment that you share, which allows us to grow to help more cats. You are an integral part of our 15 years of service. To celebrate what we have all accomplished, we will hold a special event in June to coincide with the anniversary of our very first clinic. Watch for more details. In the meantime, keep up the great work for our feral friends.



# The WIZARD of PAWZ

## The 12th Annual Furball

won't be "somewhere over the rainbow" - instead it will be at the World Forestry Center in Portland on Saturday, May 1st. If you have the courage, dress as The Lion, but have a heart and do join us. Details and tickets

will be available on February 1st on our website. And it doesn't take brains to help the event succeed: donations of wine with a value of \$20 or more will boost our popular "Wall of Wine," or you can buy and/or sell raffle tickets.

This year our Furball raffle has three prizes: a pre-paid Visa card for \$500, a pre-paid Visa card for \$250, and Lottery Scratch Tickets valued at \$100 (but potentially worth thousands!). For raffle ticket information, email [furballraffle@feralcats.com](mailto:furballraffle@feralcats.com).

We'd like to thank long-time FCCO supporter Ed Cauduro for his role as Honorary Chair, as well as Matt Zaffino of KGW-TV for serving as Emcee.



## A New Year's Resolution: A Legacy of Love for Feral Cats

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to finally get your will written? If so, please consider a charitable bequest to FCCO to help sustain our services for feral cats.

A charitable bequest is cash or property donated at your death to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. You can make such a charitable bequest through a will, trust or beneficiary designation. You can donate various kinds of property

including cash, stocks, real estate and life insurance, to name a few, when you pass away.

Something to consider: charitable giving after you pass away can reduce the size of your estate and lower the estate tax liability.

For more information, please call Karen Kraus at 503-797-2606 or email [info@feralcats.com](mailto:info@feralcats.com), or contact your attorney or tax preparation specialist.

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## TNR Clinic & Event Schedule

January 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 21, 22, 29, 31 - Portland: 503-797-2606  
January 17 - Salem: 503-585-1522

February 4, 5, 7, 12, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26 - Portland: 503-797-2606  
February 28 - Longview: 360-673-7300

March 5, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 25, 26, 28 - Portland: 503-797-2606  
March 7 - Coquille: 541-396-4439

April 1, 2, 8, 9, 16, 18, 22, 23, 30 - Portland: 503-797-2606  
April 25 - Longview: 360-673-7300

*SAVE THE DATE!* The 12th Annual Furball is May 1, 2010 at the World Forestry Center. Plan now to join us for this year's "Wizard of Pawz" event! See page 3 for more information and visit our website after February 1st to order your tickets.

**General Message Line: 503-797-2606**

[www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com)

To help save resources and have the newsletter delivered to your email inbox, plus receive our monthly *WebTails* with current events, send an email to [djahn@feralcats.com](mailto:djahn@feralcats.com).

## Coalition Contacts

### Board Officers

President..... *Kris Ellingsen, DVM*  
Vice-President..... *Alison Lord, DVM*  
Treasurer..... *Claire Roffis*  
Secretary ..... *Frank Dyl*

**Board Members**..... *Angie Casazza, DVM*  
*Susan Mentley*  
*Jacqui Neilson, DVM*

**Counsel** (pro bono) ..... *Ron Adams*  
*Black Helterline, LLP*

### Staff

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