

# StreetTAILS

Summer  
2010

official newsletter of the feral cat coalition of oregon

## FCCO's Mobile Hospital

This year FCCO celebrates our 15th anniversary. For the past 12 years our mobile hospital has been "on the road to ending cat overpopulation" - serving 21 communities. Before our free-standing clinic was built nearly two years ago all spay/neuter surgeries took place on "the truck." Today all clinics outside of Portland still utilize the truck.

FCCO veterinary technicians always drive the truck, and have done so through many rain and snow storms, as well as over some seriously winding roads. It's a large truck with few comforts, but the payoff always comes with the look of appreciation from the caregivers and volunteers in the host city, who typically have limited alternatives for feral cats.

Salem has hosted 57 clinics, more than any other city, and helped 5,622 cats. Corvallis is second, hosting 35 clinics since 1999. For most of those years Nick Wannemacher has volunteered to coordinate the Corvallis clinics, including volunteers and caregivers bringing cats! Thank you, Nick! Although still volunteering, he has now stepped down from the coordinating role. This was a huge void to fill, but for clinics in March and May students in the OSU Shelter Medicine Club and the OSU Pre-Vet Medical Association stepped up. Through their leadership, they are responsible for the spaying/neutering of 174 cats. Kudos to them. One of the largest challenges for the



**Mobile Hospital** *continued page 2*

## Independence Spay Special

Throughout the month of July FCCO will be offering an *Independence Spay* special to give cats the "freedom from breeding." The special provides all qualified feral and stray cats the chance to be spayed/neutered for free at our Portland clinic. Space is limited and appointments will fill quickly. For more information, call us at 503-797-2606.



## Story from the Streets

Slowly I pull in the driveway watching all the cats scatter. Even though the sun has been up a few hours, the air is crisp and cool. I have just gotten off work from a 12-hour night shift and everyone is hungry.

As I approach the back porch, some of the cats race ahead of me waiting for food, while others wait in the shadows. Many cats that are on the porch meowing around my feet will run if I reach out to them. Still, they are all beautiful - the friendly ones and the untouchables alike. As I fill all the various dishes on the back porch and in the barn, I marvel at how many different colors and lengths of hair they all have. I see a cat peering from behind a barrel in the barn, step back, and tell her it's ok to come out and eat now. I walk back to the house watching them all eat; a few run as I approach the back porch. They will return to eat as soon as I go in the house.

I sit down at the desk staring at the little piece of paper with a phone number on it. Today is the day I will call FCCO.

This was a big step for me, but very necessary. I love all my cats, but many are untouchable and are reproducing like wildfire. Showing me how to set the traps, the FCCO trap depot volunteer reassured me I was doing the right thing. I practiced setting the traps in front of her until she was satisfied I would successfully capture the cats. I went home and started setting the traps on the back porch, baiting them with canned salmon cat food. As soon as I turned my back to set the next trap,

**Story** *continued page 3*



## President's Corner by Kris Ellingsen, DVM



Photo by Kallie Lamm

Dr. Kris Ellingsen

I have always felt that collaboration among like minds is one of the best ways to accomplish goals, and so it has been gratifying to see the animal shelter community, along with passionate individuals in the greater Portland area, come together to form the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP). FCCO is a founding member of ASAP.

ASAP seeks to dramatically reduce the euthanasia of cats across the Portland metro area during the next five years by creating a high-volume spay/neuter program serving low-income pet owners and feral cat caregivers. Trap-Neuter-Return is a better solution for feral cats, as they in particular will react adversely if taken to a shelter and will be deemed unadoptable in that environment and ultimately euthanized.

ASAP's "Spay and Save" program,

which supplies low-cost feline spay and neuter for qualified families, is up and running as of this past February. FCCO's key role in this project is to provide the spay/neuter services for feral and stray cats. Our Spay and Save goal is an additional 2,500 cats per year through our Portland clinics. These cats must come from Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington or Clark counties. Can a program like this really save cat lives? Time and tracking the numbers will tell. The challenge is reaching the public that has this need, and educating them to see it as a priority.

I look forward to FCCO's partnership in this group aiding even more feral cats in the next few years, especially as the program ramps up and the word gets out. Because word-of-mouth is the most common way the public hears of our service, YOU are the mouthpieces for FCCO! Please spread the word that we can help. Thank you for your efforts to help these cats, whether they are currently feral or pet cats that are potentially the next generation of feral cats!

## Stray Notes and Kudos

- Many thanks to the *Ed Cauduro Advised Charitable Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation* for the matching challenge of \$25,000 in support of the 2010 Furball. We surpassed the goal by raising \$31,300 toward the match at the event! We very much appreciate the support of everyone who participated in this special appeal, as well as the Furball - *The Wizard of Pawz!*
- For efficiency and to better help feral cat caregivers, the main FCCO phone line, 503-797-2606, is now answered "live" by volunteers Monday through Friday from 10am - 2pm.
- FCCO's 15th Anniversary "Equation" tee shirts sold fast but we just reordered and now have a new supply available. They are available in S, M, L, XL, and now XXL as well. Shirts are \$15 and sold at clinics and also on our website at [feralcats.com/merchandise.html](http://feralcats.com/merchandise.html) (add \$3 s/h for online orders).
- We'd like to add a section to our website, [www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com), called "Your Stories." If you have a story about using FCCO's services and being a caregiver, please send it to us and include a digital photo, if possible.

## Mobile Hospital continued from page 1

students is finding time for fundraising. If you are in the Corvallis area and can help, please let us know.

At our recent annual strategic planning meeting, the Board of Directors explored options for helping more cats, including how to maximize the use of the mobile hospital. With a goal of helping 6,500 cats next year, increased marketing of our services will be necessary. It will take everyone's participation. We have fliers and brochures that can be printed at [feralcats.com/brochure.html](http://feralcats.com/brochure.html). Please do so and distribute as many as possible. As always, let us know your ideas for helping feral and stray cats.

## WISH LIST

Donations to our Wish List 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) with any questions. Whenever possible, we prefer to use "green" earth-friendly products.

- 1-inch masking tape
- 1-inch 3-ring binders (*white with view pockets on the front, back and spine*) (10)
- AA batteries
- Distilled water
- Duct tape
- Heavy-duty, 33-gal. garbage bags
- Laptop with XP (PC)
- Office supply store gift card
- Paper cups (hot/cold 12 oz.)
- Paper towels (tri-fold and rolls)
- Postage stamps





## FCCO Events and Opportunities

### Independence Spay Special

For all of July qualified feral and stray cats will be spayed/neutered for FREE at our Portland clinics, giving caregivers and cats freedom from the burden of future litters of kittens!



**INDEPENDENCE  
SPAY 2010**

*Freedom from Breeding*

### Mississippi Street Fair

July 10th, 10am - 9pm  
North Mississippi Avenue  
[www.mississippiave.com](http://www.mississippiave.com)

### Portland International Beerfest

July 16th, 17th & 18th  
Pearl District North Park Blocks  
[www.seattlebeerfest.com](http://www.seattlebeerfest.com)

### 2010 LPGA Safeway Classic "TICKETS Fore CHARITY"

August 16th - 22nd  
See information at right.

### FCCO's "NO LABOR" Day Event

Watch your mail in late August for your "invitation" to this *non*-event, where you do nothing but support feral cats!



*Chapman ferals on the car hood*

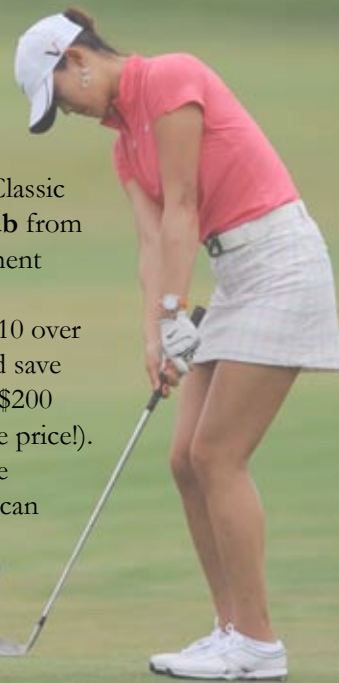
## TICKETS Fore CHARITY

FCCO is excited to be a part of the 2010 LPGA Safeway Classic "TICKETS Fore CHARITY" event. This is our first time participating - help us make it a great success! **Purchase tickets through FCCO and 100% of the money from each weekly tournament ticket purchase will go directly to FCCO.** The 2010 LPGA Safeway Classic will be returning to **Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club** from **August 16th to August 22nd**. Weekly tournament tickets are good for admission all days.

Weekly Grounds tickets are **just \$25** (save \$10 over gate price). Get a group of friends together and save more! A 10-pack of Weekly Grounds tickets is \$200 (save \$50 over advance price and \$150 over gate price!).

Your ticket gets you in to see the best female golfers in the world, and 100% of its proceeds can go to FCCO to help more cats! The event, originally called the Portland Classic, has generated at least \$1 million for charity the past four years.

Remember: **100% of your ticket price will go directly toward helping cats if you buy through FCCO.** Get your tickets now at [www.feralcats.com/Tickets\\_Fore\\_Charity.html](http://www.feralcats.com/Tickets_Fore_Charity.html).



### Story *continued from page 1*

BANG, the first cat was caught. I quickly placed the cloth over the cage as instructed and carried the cat in the trap to the shop. This went on throughout the day. The last few in the barn were harder to catch, but finally, the overwhelming smell of the delicious salmon was irresistible, and I captured the last cat.

I woke up at 5 am, ate a bowl of cereal, and started preparing my car.

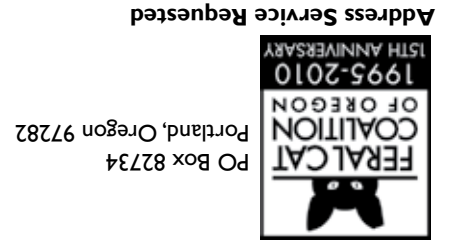
I put the back seat down, lined the bottom with feed sacks, and started placing the traps filled with cats in my car. My husband and I started the one-hour journey to the FCCO clinic in Portland, Oregon. We were both quiet as we drove to town, and so were the cats. I had expected them to be yowling, but they were not. They were as quiet as a mouse.

As we were unloading the cats at the clinic, a volunteer explained to me "the cats will be much happier and they will form a close family." This was reassuring. We drove home waiting for the call to pick them up. As we pulled in the driveway, it was weird not to see any cats greet us. Several family members dropped by and said how strange it was not to see any cats. I couldn't wait to bring my cats home as this brief encounter with a world without cats was unsettling.

Once we brought the cats home and released them after the prescribed wait time, all was back to normal. "This looks better - Grandpa's house with cats greeting me when I arrive!", said a visiting grandson. The volunteer was right, they do seem to be much happier, and so am I. I am so glad I made that call to the FCCO.

*- N. Chapman, Canby OR*

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## TNR Clinic Schedule

### Portland: 503-797-2606

July 8, 9, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30  
August 5, 6, 8, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27  
September 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 30  
October 1, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29

### Coquille: 541-396-4439

July 11  
October 3

### Salem: 503-585-1522

September 26

*Get Your TICKETS For CHARITY!*

See page 3 for more information and visit our website to order your LPGA Safeway Classic tickets today!

**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 Rolfs*  
Secretary ..... *Frank Dyl*

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

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

### Staff

Executive Director ..... *Karen Kraus*  
Operations Director ..... *Leah Kennon, CVT*  
Clinic Manager..... *Caitlin Schreiner, CVT*  
Caregiver Coordinator..... *Kellie Guess*  
Development Coordinator ..... *Devon Jahn*  
Newsletter Editor..... *Karen Kraus*

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