



STREET TAILS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

October 2005

Celebrating 10 years

Issue No. 15

A Place to Call Home

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon has leased a warehouse space in Portland – we have a place to call our own!

Having a location demonstrates our dedication to helping cats for the long term. This is very appropriate as we celebrate our Tenth Anniversary this year!

The move to our own location came about for several practical reasons. We needed a secure location to store the mobile hospital and FCCO supplies. We also needed a location to hold meetings,

volunteer orientations, Board meetings, training sessions and mailings.

Another driving force is our desire to expand to help more cats each year. Demand for our services is strong and growing as more people learn about trap-neuter-return (TNR) as the most effective method of reducing feral cat populations. With our weekend schedule full, we naturally need to hold clinics during the week. Over the last several months, we have successfully held midweek clinics and needed a location that would give us the opportunity to increase the number of these clinics. When this opportunity

presented itself, we jumped on it.

The new space is a warehouse that came to us at a much reduced price. It is located near the Rose Quarter and on the MAX line, making it very accessible for both caregivers and volunteers. We are subleasing this space, making access limited to clinics and other FCCO meetings and functions.

If you are not able to attend a clinic and would like to see the facility, please contact Karen Kraus at

503-797-2606 for a tour.

A significant feature of the space is that the mobile hospital is able to pull right inside. This will serve us well for our midweek clinics as well as our monthly Portland clinics, and the truck will have a safe and secure indoor home. Our first clinic at the site was the Portland clinic on September 18. We spayed 67 females and neutered 37 males for a total of 104 cats. It was a great inauguration.

This is an exciting time for FCCO. We thank you for being a part of it.



M. Lee

First clinic at our new site.

Story From The Streets

Shyly's Saga

I first met Shyly three years ago. I'd been called in to help a man living in a filthy trailer piled high with moldy urine-soaked junk. Twenty-seven semi-feral

unfixed cats also occupied that collector's hovel. My face would break out in a rash the moment I entered from the ammonia smell. Shyly, an adult Siamese-Himalayan mix, was one of the cats pulled from that horror. So was Shyly's brother, Samson.

Most of the trailer cats were fixed at Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon clinics, including Shyly and Samson.

Samson is a seal-point Siamese who got lucky. I contacted Siamese Rescue in Virginia and requested help placing him. Siamese Rescue sent his need out on the Siam list. A surgical nurse responded. Suzanne Martin came all the way down from Vancouver to pick up Samson. Since that day, Suzanne and I have become good friends.

Shyly was adopted by a couple in Albany. The adoption went well and I visited her twice afterwards. I thought Shyly was set well for life. I was wrong.



J. Harmon

Shyly

Shyly continued page 2



President's Corner

by Brenda Smith, DVM



Brenda Smith, DVM

By far the most exciting recent news for the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is our new warehouse space. Our program runs on very limited

funds and we direct all the resources we can toward helping the cats. With this in mind, it was a major decision to lease a building. It will serve our program well.

As FCCO celebrates our 10th year in operation, I begin my 5th year as President for this amazing organization. The dedication of our Board Members, volunteers and donors continues to impress me. FCCO has spayed/neutered 23,434 cats, a nearly unimaginable number, because so many people care and are willing to help. Thank you!

As a veterinarian, I help the cats at the clinics and see they are receiving a high level of care and compassion. What I rarely, if ever, have the chance to witness are the cats outside of the clinic environment. That's why when I came upon a colony on a recent walk, I was inspired and reminded of the impact our program is having.

I was walking on a well-known Portland trail with Karen Kraus, our Executive Director, and Leah Kennon, our Operations Director, when we saw a black cat scurry across the

trail. We wondered what, if anything, we could do for this cat so we followed her. When she paused and looked back at us, we saw she had an ear tip! Karen knew of the existence of a colony living in this area, and that there were several people who had been trapping and working on the colony. A little further down the trail we found a feeding station and watched the nearby bushes where we were able to count 9 more little black cats, each with an ear tip and none without! They all looked healthy. We were excited to realize that these cats had come through an FCCO clinic and Leah commented on how much better of a life they will now have as the result of the care of our organization.

Seeing the impact of our program on this colony was rewarding and motivating. Each individual cat we help is important, and each colony is even more significant. With your continued donations, we can reach out to more cats desperately in need of our services.

As a final note, we all know this hurricane season has been devastating. Personally, I am headed to Mississippi and Louisiana to spend a week helping animals in need. I hope everyone has been as generous as possible to the relief effort there, and I encourage you to also remember the cats here in Oregon who rely on your ongoing support.

Shyly *continued from page 1*

A year or so later, I went over to visit a couple of friends, who had moved to the same Albany street where the young couple lived who had adopted Shyly. During this visit, my friend wanted to show me the cat she'd been feeding for several months. I spotted the cat and gasped, "That's Shyly." I pointed out the house where the couple that adopted her had lived. She told me they had split last summer. Both moved out. Shyly had been left behind.

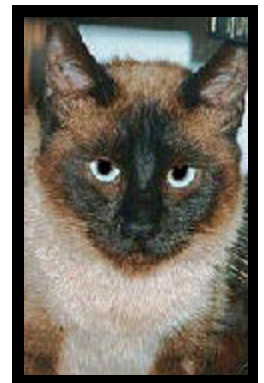
I was angry. But by some twist of fate, even though Shyly had been abandoned, she had been watched over by these sisters, who had just happened to move to that street and I just happened to know them because they, too, volunteer at FCCO clinics.

They re-trapped Shyly for me. She was severely parasite ridden and had foul-smelling breath with severely inflamed gums. Shyly needed a dental cleaning and six teeth pulled. Afterward, she was a different cat and began playing and became very affectionate.

I listed her need for a new home with Siamese Rescue who broadcast her on the Siam List, just like they did for Samson, her brother. A family in Arizona responded.

Shyly is a blessed cat who was given hope and life when taken from that horrendous trailer. And in incomprehensible twists of fate, she has been saved again. I thank you, FCCO angels of mercy and life. And the incredible intrepid Shyly thanks you, too.

J. Harmon



Samson, Shyly's brother

Jody Harmon



FCCO Wish List

Legal size office paper
 8 ft. lightweight plastic tables
 Garbage bags • Postage stamps
 Paper towels • AA batteries
 Liquid laundry detergent
 Home Depot gift card
 Feral cat stories and/or photos

To donate from our wish list, please call
 503-797-2606.

National Feral Cat Day October 16, 2005

Founded by Alley Cat Allies in 2001, National Feral Cat Day is a day to:

- Celebrate feral cat caregivers
- Educate about non-lethal population control methods
- Recruit people, organizations and communities to endorse or practice TNR
- Spay/neuter feral cats or support programs who do

 **Jewelry Auction**

Thank you to everyone who bid on items and made FCCO's first eBay auction a success. We sold 19 items and raised \$400 for feral cats!

Our second auction will be just in time for holiday shopping, with lots of great jewelry items to choose from. **The auction will begin on October 20th and run for seven days.**

Please tell your friends and co-workers about it and help make this auction better than the last. You can be stylish and help the cats at the same time!

Get details about how to place a bid by clicking on "Events" on the home page at www.feralcats.com.



Sign up now and get ready to have some fun - the 4th Annual FCCO Bowling "Ball" is rolling into town on Saturday, November 5th!

You don't have to be a bowler to enjoy this event - you only have to want to have a good time and help cats! For your \$25 registration - the cost of spaying or neutering a cat at one of our clinics - you get two lines of bowling and shoe rental.

Hollywood Bowl

Saturday, November 5, 2005
 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.
 \$25 per person

Call a friend, or two or ten, or come on your own and make some new friends! The afternoon's events include a fabulous silent auction with many great items - just in time for holiday shopping.

You can find the schedule of events and a sign-up sheet online at www.feralcats.com, or use the quick registration box below. You've never had so much fun wearing a pair of shoes that aren't yours!

Don't miss this popular and fun event. Register today! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Holy at 503-249-8861. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yes, I was born to bowl - sign me up!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ people (\$25/person)

Dang, I am not able to attend, but I'd like to donate \$_____ to help cats.

Name: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to FCCO and mail by October 30, 2005 to
 FCCO - PO Box 82734, Portland, OR 97282

Clinic & Event Schedule

Clinic dates are subject to change. Our full 2006 schedule will be available soon on our website, and it will have the most current clinic information. You can find a copy of our full 2005 schedule on our website as well at www.feralcats.com.

10/8/05	<i>Annual Meeting</i>	503-797-2606
10/16/05	Portland	503-797-2606
10/23/05	Fall Feral Fix	541-754-8381
11/5/05	<i>FCCO Bowling Ball</i>	503-797-2606
11/6/05	Longview, WA	360-578-0454
11/13/05	Portland	503-797-2606
12/4/05	Eugene	541-607-4282
12/11/05	Portland	503-797-2606
1/8/06	<i>Coordinator Meeting - No clinic</i>	
1/15/06	Portland	503-797-2606
1/22/06	Corvallis	541-754-8381
1/29/06	Salem	503-585-1522

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

Coalition Contacts

Board Officers

President	<i>Brenda Smith, DVM</i>
Vice-President	<i>Kris Ellingsen, DVM</i>
Treasurer	<i>Michael Rensing</i>
Secretary	<i>Linda Holy</i>

Board Members	<i>Charlotte Comito</i>
	<i>Leanne Eggert, DVM</i>
	<i>Marla McGeorge, DVM</i>
	<i>Roz Simon</i>
	<i>Kristin Sulis, DVM</i>

Counsel (pro bono)	<i>Ron Adams</i>
	<i>Black Helterline, LLP</i>

Staff

Executive Director	<i>Karen Kraus</i>
Operations Director	<i>Leah Kennon, CVT</i>
Volunteer Manager	<i>Devon Jahn</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Karen Kraus</i>

Celebrating 10 years
