



StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON WINTER 2021

Annual Report

FCCO's Annual Report for our fiscal year, October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020, is included with this newsletter. You can also find it at feralcats.com/about.

In the Report you will find a breakdown of patients by gender and type of cat (feral or pet), clinic stats, where the cats came from, how your contributions were used to help cats, and much more.

Given the eight-week hiatus in clinics and necessary safety changes due to Covid-19, we are very excited that we were still able to help so many cats. We hope you enjoy the report and see what a difference we are making together – for our communities and for the cats!

An Outpouring of Gratitude

What a compassionate and generous community we have, filled with a sincere commitment to helping cats and the people who love them. This kindness has been especially heartwarming this past year.

We worried about the pandemic's impact on raising much-needed funds. Ralph and Sandi Miller generously stepped up with a Challenge Match to inspire people to give. Then Western Partitions, Inc. (WPI) followed with another \$20,000 match. Purrs of thanks for all the donations we received – 612 donors contributed to make sure we fully met both of these challenges.

We also received 2,208 pounds of food for our Season's Feedings cat food drive to help provide nutritious meals for feral cats this winter. Many thanks to all the individuals and the following stores that donated and collected food: Happy Tails, Healthy Pet - Lake Oswego, Healthy Pets NW, ROAR, and Sellwood Pet Supply.

Last but far from least, we are grateful to FCCO Board members Karen and Cliff Deveney, and Shawn Mangum (and his wife Lisa!) for donating funds for FCCO to design and install a protective awning on the building. The building is closed to the public during the pandemic so we are doing outdoor check-in and check-out of cats and traps. We needed a way to protect people and cats from the outdoor elements and the awning is making a big difference.



Share Your Love for the Cats!



February, the month of love, is also Spay/Neuter Awareness Month! Celebrate both with us by putting your paw on our online **Wall of Love!**

Filled with paw print hearts, you can select one or multiple. With your minimum \$10 donation for each paw print heart, you will help a feral cat receive our caring services. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 to spay/neuter and vaccinate 100 feral and stray cats. Your paw can make the difference!

You can choose to make your donation in honor of someone special and you can easily send a heart and e-message to them. It's a fun and sweet way to show your Valentine(s) you care.

Put your paw on the **Wall of Love** today and share your love for the cats! Thanks for being sweet to feral and stray cats!

Find our Wall of Love at givinggrid.com/love4cats

President's Corner

A Few Final Words

Kris Ellingsen, DVM

FCCO Past President



This is my farewell column, as I am stepping down as President of the FCCO Board of Directors after many years, though I will remain on the Board as a member.

FCCO has changed so much since I began volunteering as a surgeon in 2001 and subsequently joined the Board. I have been honored to play a role helping Executive Director Karen Kraus and Medical Director Leah Kennon, both of whom have been at the helm since I have been involved, with growing FCCO into what it is today. I see more and more cats and their caregivers receiving help every year. This has included expansion from the mobile surgery vehicle, holding clinics once monthly hosted at various locations, to a leased free-standing clinic, and now to our own building where surgery is offered up to four days a week. The clinic structure has also evolved from mostly all volunteers to paid staff, including technicians and contract veterinarians. These transitions all led to better care for the cats, with more efficiency and capacity, and greater safety.

I am also proud to see how the Board has evolved, from only veterinarians at

FCCO's inception to adding members with varied skills and backgrounds that have been helpful in the growth of our organization.

While 2020 proved challenging, we have found the strength and resilience to overcome many barriers, and I can't say enough how much is owed to the staff for leading the way. I have also been extremely grateful to our FCCO community who stepped up to help keep FCCO afloat, to be able to resume our services which are needed now even more since the Covid-19 shutdown. The Board's prior strategic plans pretty much went out the window when the pandemic occurred, so there will be a fresh perspective with the new year, and into the future. There is much for us to take from the efforts of the past year as we move forward. Thank you for being there with me on this journey!

Vice President Nena Baker became Board President this month. I would like to thank two members who are stepping down from the Board: John Maddigan and Sarah Moses – we appreciate your service to FCCO.

Purrpetual Partners Make a Lasting Difference!

Did you know that there is an easy way you can make a difference in cats' lives for years to come while also giving yourself peace of mind? By including FCCO in your estate planning, you can make a lasting investment in the lives and health of cats in our communities.



While right now it may feel impossible to plan anything for tomorrow, next week, or even next month, it's a great time to plan your future planned giving or reassess what you already have set up.

FCCO is hosting a virtual information meeting with our pro-bono attorney, Vanessa A. Usui of Duffy Kekel LLP, about a variety of estate planning opportunities. During this meeting you will learn about your giving options, including: bequests and wills; life insurance, retirement, and similar designations; trusts; donor-advised funds; charitable gift annuities; plus tax incentives and other financial benefits, as well as increased financial security.

WHAT: Planned Giving Info Session

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2021

TIME: 5:30-6:30pm

HOW: Zoom

REGISTER at FeralCats.com/legacy

Enjoy peace of mind knowing you, your family, and causes dear to your heart are all taken care of in the future. Everyone's situation is different and it's good to know the best options available for you.



To learn how Purrpetual Partners make a lasting difference for cats visit:

FeralCats.com/legacy

Story from the Streets

Here is Murphy (pictured at right) relaxing on our bed. He was so peaceful that I didn't want to move him so I could make the bed. It has taken a full year to get him to this stage.

It took five months after this stray kitty wandered into our lives for Murphy to trust us enough to let us pet him. For all those months he would be sitting by the back porch starting at 7am, then returning three to four times during the day. We fed him each time and would talk with him, too. Finally, in September 2019, he came in the house and we brought him to FCCO to be neutered and vaccinated a few months later.

Murphy still won't use the litter box and seems to prefer to go outside. He is so good about it, though, and when we think it's time for him to come back in after about a half hour all we do is call and he comes. We do everything we can to keep this boy safe!

- Ann S., Portland, OR



Murphy found his way into Ann's heart and home.

A Mission to Help the Cats!

Planning for the 23rd Annual Furball, our largest fundraiser each year, is underway.

2021: A Spay Odyssey will be a stellar virtual event featuring a Mission Control, satellite sponsor locations, and crew members joining from far and wide for an evening of exploration and raising much-needed funds for spaying/neutering feral cats.

NASA's motto is "For the Benefit of All" and it is also a good one for FCCO and the services we provide our community. Here's how you can be involved:



SAVE THE DATE: May 6, 2021 – virtually!
5pm Pre-Launch Countdown, 5:30pm Launch

BE A SATELLITE SPONSOR!

You'll get a "Satellite Party Kit" delivered to you to make this Spay Odyssey an outstanding event, plus be invited to a special star party!

DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM!

There will be an online auction as part of this event. Do you have a cat/ space-themed item to donate? That would move us Full Speed Ahead!

DO YOU KNOW AN ASTRONAUT?

We'd love to include them, virtually from their home or from up in space!

SHARE YOUR STORIES!

We're creating a video and want to include as many stories as we can:

- ★ about your feral and stray cats and what inspires you to feed them
- ★ why you donate to FCCO
- ★ why you volunteer with FCCO

Videos should be approximately one minute long and must be in horizontal format. Multiple videos are welcome and extra videos of cats are encouraged!

CONTACT MISSION CONTROL

Furball details can be found at FeralCats.com/Furball. Please send videos, questions, and offers for auction items to Furball@FeralCats.com.

FREE Spay/Neuter for Feral Cats!



February Only!
Appointment Required

Traps Available
+
Vaccines Included!



503-797-2606
FeralCats.com

Join us in celebrating *FREE-bruary!* Spread the word and help more cats have healthier lives and prevent unwanted litters this spring. Get more info at FeralCats.com.





**FERAL CAT
COALITION
OF OREGON** Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon
PO Box 82734
Portland, Oregon 97282

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
Paid
Portland OR
Permit No. 383



Trap-Neuter-Return in Action!

Annette lives on a farm in Brush Prairie, WA, where three cats frequented her barn. Before she knew it there were kittens, and the population grew quickly. Her vet clinic recommended FCCO. In one trip Annette brought ten cats to be spayed/neutered, including Rosie, in front, who had three litters in just 18 months!

Who We Are

FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Nena Baker
- Past President: Kris Ellingsen, DVM
- Treasurer: Alana Carson
- Secretary: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Board Members: Jacqui Neilson, DVM, DACVB;
Ken Hick; Cliff Deveney, MD; Karen Deveney, MD;
Shawn Mangum; and Connie Terwilliger
- Executive Director: Karen Kraus
- Medical Director: Leah Kennon, CVT
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Kraus

Counsel is generously provided pro bono by Vanessa A. Usui, Duffy Kekel LLP

FCCO is a spay/neuter program with services that are no-cost for feral and stray cats. Low-cost options for pet cats are not currently available.

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FCCO Wish List

These items, as well as others, are on our **amazon.com Wish List** for easy delivery to FCCO. The list is also on **FeralCats.com** if you prefer to purchase locally and deliver to our clinic (due to our Covid-19 precautions, please call us at 503-797-2606 to schedule a time to deliver items).

- LED flashlights (small)
- LED tube lights
- Microwave (1,000W, max 24"x15"x15")
- Vacuum (Dyson for pet hair preferred)
- Fleece for cage covers
- Copy/printer paper
- Garbage bags (heavy-duty, 30-gal.)
- Masking tape (3M, 1")
- Paper towels
- Forever postage stamps
- Black Sharpie markers

Thank you for your support!