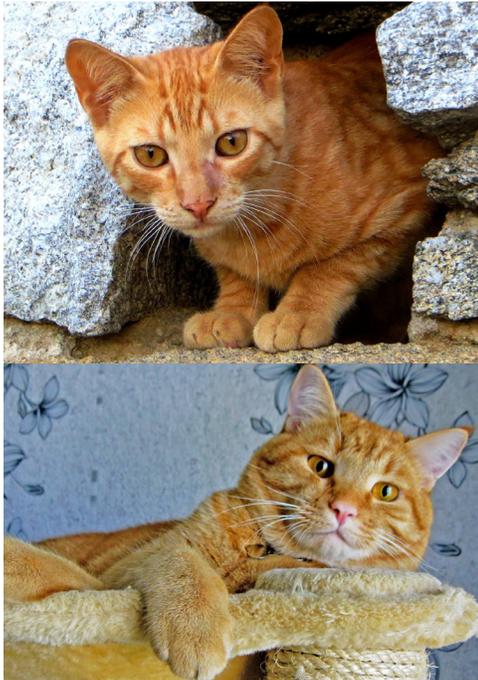




# StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON SUMMER 2019



*In time, abandoned pets can become more feral, just as outdoor feral cats can decide they actually prefer the easy life indoors.*

## From Feral to Friendly

by Karen Kraus

Recently I was asked how FCCO defines a feral cat. By definition, it is simple: a feral cat is an untamed domestic cat - they are fearful of humans and avoid us.

As I responded, I knew the definition is just part of the story. The main difference between a feral and a pet cat is that one is fearful and one is friendly with people. They are the exact same species with no biological difference. One way to think about it is that cats lie on a continuum from friendly to feral, and each cat's position isn't necessarily static. An abandoned housecat can lose their trust of humans and become more feral. Feral kittens are often socialized and tamed, like Walter in the story below. And we hear from countless caregivers how once-feral tom cats become family pets after they are neutered. There are endless stories of cats becoming more friendly or less friendly over time.

With such a wide variety of cat temperaments, it is important to know that true feral cats are only a segment of the population. What is more

**FERAL TO FRIENDLY cont. on pg 2**

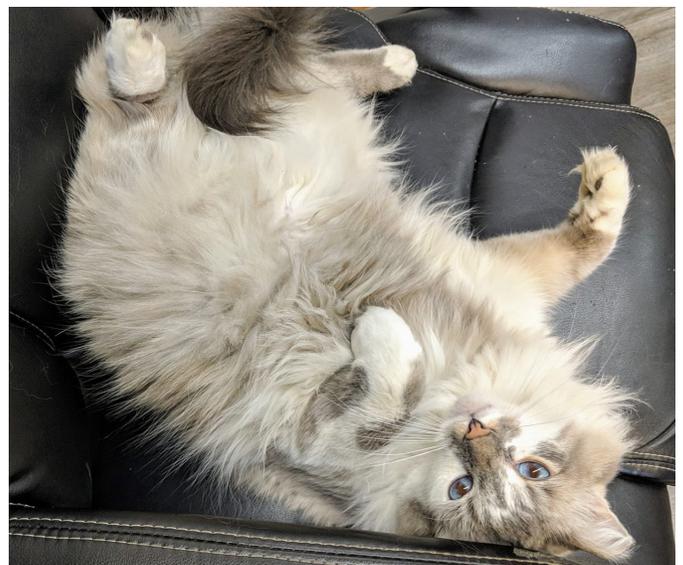
## Story from the Streets

Walter was born feral, but is quite the opposite now. In fact, he now LOVES tummy rubs!

Walter's feral mom cat gave birth to a litter of four outside our truck shop three years ago. We got everyone fixed to prevent more litters. Feral Momma was returned outside where we keep food and water available for her. Her kittens were all tamed and found forever homes, with Walter and his sister Jewels staying here as our office kitties.

Fun fact about Walter: after he uses the litter box he goes into the bathroom and washes his paws in the toilet!

- Trina P., Lebanon, Oregon



**FCCO's Landmark 100,000th Cat Helped this August!**

# President's Corner

## Kittens: Tamed and Feral

Kris Ellingsen, DVM



Our Kitten Caboose program has been chugging along since May of 2017. More than 600 kittens who were brought to FCCO for spay/neuter have taken a ride to the Oregon Humane Society for adoption after their surgery. These kittens were born to feral or stray cats and were either social or were tamed by their caregivers who wanted them to have the opportunity for a better life through this collaborative program.

Wouldn't it be wonderful for all of the youngsters at our clinics to have this chance? Unfortunately, a truly feral kitten at the minimum qualifying age of eight-to-ten weeks for their surgery is generally beyond the ideal age human socialization. After about seven weeks, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to bond with humans, unless a caregiver or adopter is especially committed to that end. Feral kittens would likely not socialize well in a shelter setting should they end up there, similar to adult feral cats, so adoptive homes would be difficult to find. Feral kittens are thus placed back in their colonies with their siblings and families to live under the watch of a kind caregiver.

Some caregivers are quite bonded to the kittens and want to keep them, and have planned for providing

care for them and possibly even continuing to work on socializing them. Whether they choose to utilize our Kitten Caboose or not, we are thankful for the caregivers' commitment and compassion.

The busy kitten season is in summer when most kittens are born, and we are in the thick of it. Our hope is that more and more caregivers will accept the rewarding challenge of taming feral kittens before they get to our clinic so they, too, will ride the Kitten Caboose to their new homes! For information about feral kittens, including an age guideline and socialization tips visit [feralcats.com/kittens](http://feralcats.com/kittens). All Aboard!



*This kitten was born to a feral cat. His caregiver socialized him, brought him to FCCO to be neutered, and then he found his forever home through the Kitten Caboose program.*

**FERAL TO FRIENDLY** cont. from pg 1

important to remember is that **all cats can add to homeless cat populations**, so it is important that there be accessible and affordable spay/neuter services for all of them.

FCCO has been committed to improving the welfare and reducing the population of feral cats for nearly 25 years. With our 100,000th cat coming later this summer, our dedication is unwavering. Our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for feral cats and our low-cost spay/neuter services for pet cats provide the most comprehensive options for population reduction.

With cats who are on the more feral end of the spectrum, it can be difficult for caregivers to get them needed medical attention. We are pleased to share that we recently expanded our feral cat services and now offer vaccinations, parasite treatment and wound treatment for cats who have already been spayed or neutered. These services are among our most requested and will improve the welfare of the cats.

Because you care and support our work, we are able to expand our safety net to help more cats. We are very excited about these incredible new services for the cats, their caregivers, and the community. Thank you!

## FCCO Wish List

These needed items, and others, are on our **amazon.com Wish List** for easy delivery to FCCO. The list can also be found at **feralcats.com** if you prefer to purchase locally and bring items to our clinic. **Thank you!**

- Kitten food (canned)
- Gel heating pads
- Video projector
- Bluetooth speaker
- Masking tape, 3M, 1"
- Office copy paper



# get inspired!

## Catios are Trending

Catios are definitely becoming more mainstream, which is great news for the cats and wildlife they aim to keep safe.

We already knew the cool cats of Portland were interested in building a catio, as shown by how quickly a **Portland Community College** class on catio construction filled up. But when we saw a lengthy *New York Times* article on catios (linked to us!) and inclusion in the “trend” section on **StyleCaster** online we realized people truly are inspired to build catios.

When it comes to home style, Martha Stewart knows all. While catios can be frugal and functional, we suspect she has a more elaborate vision. We’ll all find out when the topic of catios is included in the “Ask Martha” section of the September issue of *Martha Stewart Living!*



## The 7th Annual Catio Tour Saturday, September 7, 2019 10am - 2pm

\$10 per participant

Tickets: [CatsSafeAtHome.org/catio](http://CatsSafeAtHome.org/catio)



**Register for the 2019 Catio Tour today because this popular event will sell out!**

Hosted by FCCO and the Audubon Society of Portland, this self-guided tour features a variety of catios keeping cats and wildlife safe. Get inspired to build your cats a fun, enriching outdoor enclosure!

This year’s Catio Tour stops will be from North to SE Portland. You’ll get a guidebook with photos, construction information, and maps to choose your route and which catios you want to check out. We hope to see you there!

## Transport Vehicle is Ready to Roll

We are so excited about our new transport vehicle! It features three sliding racks that securely hold a total of 24 traps (pictured here without cats or covers). The back doors are on hinges that open to a 90-degree angle, allowing for smooth maneuvering of the traps. Designed for proper ventilation, there is also a special fan system to keep the cats comfortable. To maximize space, there is a rack on the roof to carry additional empty traps.

The transport van will now help many cats who otherwise would not be able to access our clinic. We are very grateful to Shawn and Lisa Mangum for donating this truly special vehicle – be sure to look for it on the road!





Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon  
 PO Box 82734  
 Portland, Oregon 97282

Address Service Requested



Nonprofit Org  
 US Postage  
 Paid  
 Portland OR  
 Permit No. 383

Thank you for your vote!

### Trap-Neuter-Return in Action!

*Half Pint is FCCO's 99,000th cat helped! Mary found kittens on her property in Welches, Oregon, last winter. She realized after getting them fixed that she had missed one, who gave birth to Half Pint and his siblings. Mary trapped the mama cat and brought her, Half Pint, and his siblings to FCCO. Now all are spayed/neutered.*

## Who We Are

### FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Kris Ellingsen, DVM
- Vice President: Nena Baker
- Treasurer: John Maddigan
- Secretary: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Board Members: Jacqui Neilson, DVM, DACVB; Ken Hick; Cliff Deveney, MD; Karen Deveney, MD; Shawn Mangum; and Sarah Moses
- Executive Director: Karen Kraus
- Operations Director: Leah Kennon, CVT
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Kraus

FCCO is a spay/neuter program. Our services are no-cost for feral and stray cats and low-cost for pet cats. We serve Oregon and SW Washington.

Volume 7, Issue 7, of *Street Tails* printed July 2019

Visit our website, call, or follow our posts for more info!

**feralcats.com | 503-797-2606**



## What's Inside Street Tails

- From Feral to Friendly...page 1
- Story from the Streets...page 1
- President's Corner...page 2
- FCCO Wish List...page 2
- Catios are Trending...page 3
- The 7th Annual Catio Tour...page 3
- Transport Vehicle is Ready to Roll...page 3

*Volunteer to Help the Cats!*

In our clinic and office and out in the community spreading the word... we rely on volunteers!  
 Learn how you can help at [feralcats.com/volunteer](http://feralcats.com/volunteer).