



StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON SPRING 2016

Expanding Services for Cats

by Karen Kraus, FCCO Executive Director

Since FCCO's inception we have been committed to preventing future generations of feral cats. We are proud that, after more than twenty years in operation, we are the only program in the area whose mission remains focused on helping this underserved population of cats, and reducing their numbers living on our streets.

Over the years, as our efficiency improved and our surgical capacity grew, so did the types of cats who qualify for our program. In addition to feral, stray, and barn cats, we also help other nonprofit animal welfare programs spay/neuter cats prior to adoption.



It's estimated that at least 10% of pet cats are not altered. When allowed to roam outdoors and reproduce, they become a source of feral and stray cats.

With our new building we will again expand the number and type of cats we can help. We now have the capacity to address a leading source of feral and stray cats – unaltered pet cats. By helping low-income residents get their pet cats fixed, while continuing to focus on reaching as many feral and stray cats as possible, we will have a greater impact on prevention and reduction of homeless cat populations.



We are excited to announce that FCCO will soon be listed on the Oregon Spay/Neuter Fund coupon. This discount coupon is a tremendous resource to the community for individuals who need an affordable way to get their cat spayed/neutered. In addition to surgeries done with the coupon, we will provide surgeries for cats belonging to low-income residents through the Spay & Save program of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland. We will also look for opportunities to partner with other nonprofits to ensure that more cats benefit from our services.

FCCO has been a steady force in reducing cat overpopulation in our area for decades because you care. Your dedication and support of our work has made the difference. Together we are building a brighter future for cats. Thank you!

Story from the Streets

Two feral cats, bonded for nine years, are still inseparable

One August day in 2007 I noticed a scrawny cat crossing the street and entering my yard. I didn't give it much thought until I saw the cat make the same trip a few more times over several days. When I went out to see if I could determine where the cat was going, I discovered 'it' was a 'she' and there were two half-grown kittens with her. The mom cat growled at me and the kittens hissed up a storm. I had no idea what to do, but they were so thin I knew they needed to eat and started setting food out. Since I was leaving town for a few weeks I instructed the sitter for my indoor cat to put out food for the wild ones too.

When I returned I was surprised to see a fourth visitor, a thin black cat of undetermined gender. The tip of his right ear was missing, I thought maybe as the result of a fight, although the edge was very smooth for a tear.



Uncle and Silverboy snuggle together

I created a "temporary" covered feeding area in my back yard (it's still there!), propped it open, put cat beds in my greenhouse, and commenced to worry about the cats. I knew Momcat



President's Corner

by Kris Ellingsen, DVM

How One Stray Cat Becomes a Large Colony



Dr. Kris Ellingsen

Feline mating season is upon us, and homeless/unwanted cats, and even kittens, could be pregnant soon. I'd like to revisit FCCO's favorite equation:

because she's either pregnant or nursing a hidden litter somewhere.

We are very fortunate that residents in the Portland/Vancouver metro area value cats, and that we benefit from a wonderful cadre of organizations that assist with finding them care and homes. Most shelters spay/neuter prior to adoption, but for

$$\text{Cat Face} + \sum_{n=1}^{10} 4(4)^{n-1} = 1 + 4 \left[\frac{1-4^{10}}{1-4} \right] = 1,398,101$$

What happens when cats multiply. Calculation is based on one unaltered cat and all offspring having a litter of 4 each over a 10 year period.

This mathematical calculation reminds us that a female cat can become pregnant at just five months of age, having three litters per year of, on average, four kittens each time. That's a lot of cats!

It reminds us of the importance of spay and neuter of not just feral cats, but also pet cats who are allowed outdoors. No matter the good intentions, even with locked doors: hormones take over, kitty escapes, male cats who were never seen before show up in the yard, and in 60 days there are more mouths to feed. Or, a feral kitty shows up at the back door, hungry

groups that can't, we are able to provide the surgeries. However, there are still many other people who find a cat – or are found by one. These stray cats are often unaltered, and are likely to continue to have outdoor time. It is especially important in the upcoming months, also known as Kitten Season, to help these households that have cats who fall between the cracks.

Because our FCCO family of supporters cares so deeply about community cats, our goal will be ensuring there is care for all cats, until every cat has a safe place to call home.

Show Off Your Catio!

The 4th Annual CATIO TOUR
Saturday, September 10, 2016

Do you have a catio (cat patio or enclosure) and want to show it off? We want to hear from you! We are accepting submissions for this year's Catio Tour through June 15.

CATIOtour



We will be selecting up to 12 catios in the Portland metro area and are looking for a great variety, ranging from D.I.Y. to high design.

Please consider being a Catio Host and help inspire others to build a safe outdoor space for their cats. More information can be found at feralcats.com/catio.

Please share this with friends who you think have a great catio and encourage them to submit their catio, too.



Do You Mew?

We rely on the generosity of donors for all that we do for the cats. The easiest way to give also helps sustain our program the most – MEW (Monthly Electronic Withdrawal). MEW members have two options: either give through your checking account or through PayPal (charged to your credit card). Use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to sign up with your checking account, or go to feralcats.com/mew for more info - it's simple to sign up, and then you are always helping the cats!



Save the Date for
Our Grand Opening!
June 25, 2016

Tour our new home! Details to come.



STORY cont. from pg 1

would quickly get pregnant again and the female kitten would, too, in short order. But I hadn't a clue how I could catch them, and if I did...then what? They were wild as the wind.

I turned to the internet and searched "feral cats portland oregon" and (cue trumpet fanfare) discovered FCCO! I read about the eartip and sent a photo of the black cat, and they confirmed he had been neutered and eartipped.



Back then FCCO held only one clinic a month. The logistics of trapping the cats and taking them in seemed impossible to me, so they suggested a nearby vet who worked with feral cats. I purchased a trap and set about capturing the cats one by one. I'd call the vet's office to make an 'appointment' by telling them I was going to attempt to trap the cats the next morning. It took some time but eventually all four were spayed/neutered.

Sadly, after a couple years Momcat disappeared and less than a year later Tortyfats vanished, too. Uncle and Silverboy remain. As they get older they spend less time roaming and more time in my greenhouse and yard. In past winters I set up a heat lamp in the greenhouse, but this year I added a heated bed to share.

They still remain close to their feral roots. Silverboy will allow me to pet his head on occasion and hangs out nearby when I'm working in the garden. However, Uncle continues to be skeptical of my motives even after nearly nine years, and prefers me at many arms' lengths.

Tina M., Portland, OR



Join us on May 7 for CATSABLANCA! We'll be in the aptly-decorated Kridel Grand Ballroom at the Portland Art Museum. Our live and silent auction will feature almost 100 amazing packages including art, travel, wine and beer, and of course items for cats!

This event will also feature live piano music, and we may even ask our pianist to "*play it again, Sam.*" There will also be delicious food from Elephants Delicatessen, local drinks from New Deal Distillery and Script Cellars and friends, a photo booth, as well as some entertainment from our cat-loving host Matt Zaffino of KGW-TV.

Catsablanca We'll be celebrating in the glamorous style of the original film, but the best part will be how many cats are helped with this event.

The Furball often sells out, so gather your friends, go to feralcats.com to get your tickets, and prepare for a grand evening of 1940's Moroccan-themed fun and fundraising!

Special thanks go out to our Honorary Chair and lead sponsor, Leslie B. Durst. Also, many thanks to the Ed Cauduro Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation; Bob's Red Mill; the Petco Foundation; Animal Care Group of Lake Oswego; Back on Track Vet Rehab Center; Annie Bellman and Michael Woods; Karen and Cliff Deveney; Sean and Valerie McMahon; Margie Miller, Architect; Drs. Neilson and Van De Walle; Suzanne Keller Prideaux; Colleen Sorensen of Java Jacket; and Connie L.F. Terwilliger. We are also grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their incredible support.





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TNR in Action! Imagine feeding 16 feral cats. That's a lot of mouths to feed, but Melanie made that commitment to a colony of feral cats, including Casper (pictured here). She knew the colony would multiply rapidly if she didn't act fast, so she contacted FCCO – and now the cats are all spayed/neutered.

Who We Are

FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Kris Ellingsen, DVM
- Treasurer: Claire Rolfs
- Secretary: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Board Members: Jacqui Neilson, DVM, Lew Woods, Ken Hick, and Hilary Matarazzo, DVM
- Executive Director: Karen Kraus
- Operations Director: Leah Kennon, CVT
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Kraus
- Counsel is generously provided pro bono by Jasmine Hites, Troutman Sanders, LLP

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) is a spay/neuter program for feral and stray cats living in Oregon and SW Washington.

Volume 6, Issue 6, of *Street Tails* printed April 2016

Visit our website, call, or follow our posts for more info!
 feralcats.com | 503-797-2606



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Spay Your Stray in May!

Are you feeding a stray cat? Act now before that kitty surprises you with a litter of kittens also looking for food!

The Petco Foundation has generously funded a FREE spay/neuter special going on throughout the month of May. Call 503-797-2606 or get info and flyers for sharing at feralcats.com, but don't delay - it's "Kitten Season!"

