



StreetTails

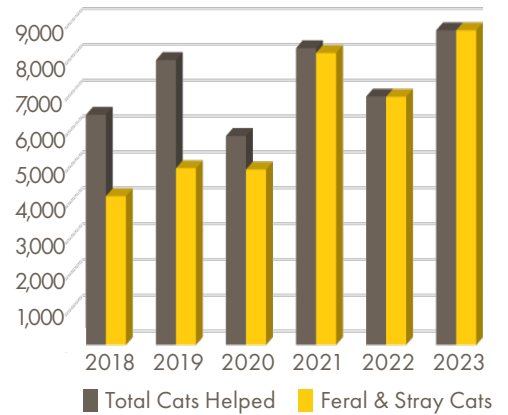
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON SPRING 2024

Keeping our Focus on Ferals

FCCO is the leading feral cat spay/neuter program in our region and one of the largest in the nation. Last year we helped a record 8,777 cats – and all of the cats were feral or outdoor stray cats or were offspring of them. We have seen a sustained increase in the need for our services, with our number of feral cat surgeries doubling since 2018. This prolonged need stems from many factors, including limited spay/neuter options during the pandemic and the resulting population boom, followed by staff shortages and increased costs in veterinary medicine.

“I really appreciate the service. I am not in a situation where I have disposable income to use on taking care of stray cats. They had two litters before I got to you and that was a lot!” ~ J.F., Battle Ground

We are reminded daily that the kind people looking after these cats did not ask for them and are willing to help them, but they need assistance. It’s why our services remain donation-based for them, and why we are so deeply grateful for your support.



Story from the Streets

Preventing a Colony from Expanding in a Shrinking Environment

Georgia and her family have brought 31 cats to FCCO since late 2021 and soon hope to trap the remaining six to be spayed/neutered. But this tale is not just about numbers; it’s about the transformation of the once-surrounding farmland into condos, where amidst the urban sprawl a feline community thrives. Georgia suspects some of the original cats were abandoned, but knows

STORY cont. on pg 3



The sound of a ringing dinner bell brings these cats to their feeding station. Most have been spayed/neutered and have the eartip indicating this, like their colony mate, Turtle, pictured above. Their caregiver, Georgia, plans to trap the remaining ones for their spay/neuter appointment coming soon.

President's Corner

Nena Baker

I once asked a feral cat caregiver why he undertook the responsibility of caring for a cat colony – an effort he oversaw and organized for many years while skipping vacations to do it.

"I saw a need," he said.

"And I thought I could make it better."

He did make it better for the cats who were fed, looked after, and spayed or neutered. He also made it better for wildlife and for the environment by making sure the colony did not grow more.

Identifying a need and stepping up to meet it goes to the heart of volunteering. Volunteers do not get paid for the hard work they do. But improving and helping communities they care about can be its own reward.

April is National Volunteer Month – a great time to salute the volunteers who give so much to FCCO. Every year, our dedicated volunteers contribute thousands of hours to help FCCO improve the lives of free-roaming cats through our spay and neuter services.

Volunteers help check cats in and out of the clinic; assist in the clinic with non-medical tasks; help with data entry; and are involved with outreach and fundraising events.

They help plan and execute FCCO's annual Furball (please

Nena Baker and Iris



read about this gala event on the next page and join us if you can!). And they serve on FCCO's Board of Directors, helping the organization execute strategy for meeting the growing demand for our services.

We would not be able to do what we do without our compassionate and dedicated volunteers. So let me say it now: **Thank you, FCCO volunteers. You make us what we are!**

Among our volunteers, we have two new Board Members to introduce.

Alicia Young, a CPA, joined the Board as Treasurer. Her expertise ensures careful stewardship of the funds so generously donated to FCCO. Alicia has already assisted with our annual financial review, documented cash flow trends, and improved financial policies.

At the same time, we are delighted that Becca Waker has joined the Board, serving on the Development and Furball committees. Becca has worked for– and yes, volunteered for– several animal-welfare non-profits. She brings a Gen Y energy to the Board, and we couldn't be more pleased as we look to the future.

Welcome Alicia and Becca!

Catios: Not Just for Cats

Spring is an especially important time of year to help migrating and native bird species. Keeping cats indoors, in a catio (outdoor cat enclosure), or walking them on a leash will help protect birds as they pass through or stay and raise their young. If you have a cat who is indoor/outdoor, please consider keeping the cat inside more during the day to reduce predation on the nesting birds.

If you do have a catio, please consider signing up to be a Catio Host and inspire others to keep their cats safe at home!

Submissions to be on the 12th Annual Catio Tour are now open. Spread the word to friends and family who have catios and encourage them to apply, too.

We created this fun annual event along with Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon) and are happy to now welcome Bird Conservation Oregon to our partnership. The Catio Tour is designed



to inspire cat parents to build or buy a catio, which keeps cats safe from outdoor dangers while protecting birds and wildlife from cat predation. And it's working! We know of more than 1,200 catios in the Portland metro area.

The 2024 Catio Tour will be on September 7th. For more info about catios and to apply to be a Catio Host go to CatsSafeatHome.org/catio.



STORY cont. from pg 1

others were born into the colony. One litter of five came from a young mama cat who was basically a kitten herself.

Many of the cats have names, a testament to the personal connection forged between human and feline: Mercedes, Princess Lea, Gemini, Oreo, Ying, Yang... Some will come near Georgia. Others are more skittish, and dart in and quickly back out for food.

Some of the cats enjoy a multi-level shelter that Georgia built, others go under sheds/buildings, and some have taken over a tree house no longer in use by kids. They are all fed daily. About half of them were fed by a former neighbor who trained them to come to a bell. The neighbor sold his property, but he supplies food for Georgia, and the cats continue to come to the bell. It is clear that the power of the human-animal bond thrives here.



FCCO Wish List

Our Wish List at **Amazon.com** has these items and more for easy delivery to FCCO. To see our full list, or to buy locally, the list is also at **FeralCats.com/wish**. Thank you!

- Cordless Vacuum Cleaner - Dyson Cyclone V10 Animal
- Masking tape - 3M, 1"
- Distilled water (gallons)
- Newspaper (folded to 8.75" wide rectangles to fit in traps, if you can)
- Kitten food - canned
- Forever postage stamps
- Laminating sheets - 9"x11.5", 3mil
- Paper - office copy paper
- Paper - white card stock



Join us For a Fashionably Feline 26th Annual Furball

Milano Miao!

Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Avenue Portland

It will be a celebration filled with fashion, fun, and feline flair!

Cocktail Hour | Plated Dinner | Auctions
Wall of Wine | Raffles | Not-to-Miss Fashion Show

Honorary Chair **Linda Holy**
Emcee **Matt Zaffino**, KGW Chief Meteorologist

Seating is limited. Scan the QR for tickets, tables, and more info or go to **FeralCats.com**.



Special thanks to:

FCCO's **FERAL-GAMO**, *Leslie B. Durst*
Ralph Miller, in celebration of Sandi Richardson Miller

Karen & Cliff Deveney | Lisa & Shawn Mangum
Sonja & Daniel Farris | Linda Holy & Bob Durston
Ken Hick & Cheri Cooley | Script Cellars



**BECKER CAPITAL
MANAGEMENT**



More Ways to be a Part of Furball!

Use the enclosed envelope or contribute online and **your Furball Donation will be matched** up to \$20,000 thanks to the Ed Cauduro Fund of Oregon Community Foundation!

Bid on fantastic items during our **Furball Online Auction** May 5 - 12, 2024! Watch for it at **FeralCats.com**.





**FERAL CAT
COALITION
OF OREGON**

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Trap-Neuter-Return in Action!

Spot and her colonymates have been living the wild ways, but are now spayed/neutered and won't be feeling the same springtime friskies this year. Their caregiver, Barbra, bought a home in a rural area and was surprised a few months later when a cat showed up, and again when the cat had kittens. Now she won't need to worry about any more surprises!

Who We Are

FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Nena Baker
- Vice President: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Treasurer: Alicia Young, CPA
- Secretary: Alana Carson
- Past President: Kris Ellingsen, DVM
- Board Members: Jacqui Neilson, DVM, DACVB;
Cliff Deveney, MD; Karen Deveney, MD;
Shawn Mangum; Connie Terwilliger; and Becca Waker
- Board Member Emeritus: Ken Hick
- 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

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) is a spay/neuter program offering donation-based services for feral and stray cats.

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What's Inside Street Tails

Keeping our Focus on Ferals... page 1

Story from the Streets... page 1

President's Corner... page 2

Catios: Not Just for Cats... page 2

Furball: Milano Miao! (May 4, 2024)... page 3



National Volunteer Week is April 21-27, 2024

We celebrate all of our amazing volunteers for their compassion and dedication to the cats every day. We know we could not have helped more than 8,000 feral cats each year without your support and are grateful for all you do.

Purrs of thanks to you!