



StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON SUMMER 2023

The Kitten Caboose Program From the Streets to Forever Homes

Six years ago our Kitten Caboose program was established to help kittens born to feral or stray mothers find forever homes and a better, healthier life. When caregivers schedule spay/neuter appointments for kittens through FCCO, they can opt to release tame kittens to the Kitten Caboose program where they will be transferred to partner shelters to be adopted. We are excited to share that well over 2,000 kittens are no longer living on the streets because of this program. This success lies in the compassionate hands of their caregivers who went to the effort to tame them while they were still very young.

To be eligible for the Kitten Caboose program, kittens must be tame before their appointment with FCCO. Several signs can indicate whether a kitten is tame or becoming more comfortable with human interaction:

1. Approachability: A tame kitten will willingly approach humans without excessive fear or hesitation. It may show curiosity and seek attention or play.
2. Ease of handling: Tame kittens are generally more relaxed and cooperative when being handled. They will allow you to pick them up and hold them without struggling or displaying signs of stress.
3. Playfulness: Tame kittens often engage in interactive play with humans. They may chase toys, pounce, or playfully bite or scratch without causing

KITTEN CABOOSE *cont. on pg 2*

Story from the Streets

In January of 2021 we saw a cat in our yard. We decided to feed her and make her a little cat house. Then in July she showed up with four kittens. We kept feeding them, built them houses and gave them outdoor litter boxes (which they loved). We also bought them cat toys and scratching posts. As the number of cats increased, we knew we had to get them fixed. A neighbor told us about TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and the wonderful people at the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. With the help of FCCO we have fixed 23 cats with just three more to go.

The red kitty, who we call Gus, was born feral like all the others but he has a curious and fearless nature and he basically tamed himself. The rest of the cats are all over the feral spectrum but by watching Gus, who showed them that we were safe, they have become less fearful.

~ Regan, Sandy, Oregon



Gus (at left) seemed to help his colony-mates (above) understand that Regan wants to help.

President's Corner

Help Guide FCCO

Nena Baker

A few years ago, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon Board of Directors formed committees to give Board members more input into FCCO's policies and activities. These three committees (Governance, Finance, and Development) tap into members' interests and expertise in fulfilling FCCO's mission. Each committee deals with topics that may require research, review, and action, and each prepares recommendations for the full board to approve or reject.

FCCO's organizational bylaws, for example, were recently updated by the Governance committee, which is primarily focused on the vision for the Board and for recruiting new Board members. The bylaws now provide for non-Board members to apply to become committee members.

If you receive and read our newsletter, it's likely you already support FCCO, have used our spay and neuter services for stray and feral cats, or both. If you'd like an opportunity to participate more deeply in FCCO – perhaps with an eye toward joining our Board after you get to know us and we get to know you – please consider applying for committee work.

At the moment, the governance committee is preparing for a strategic planning session later this year. The committee, which I chair, is envisioning how FCCO can

best serve the cats and their caregivers over the next five years — and beyond. The idea is to dream big, research everything that FCCO needs to fulfill those dreams, and then present our recommendations to the full Board.

The finance committee, which is chaired by Board Treasurer Ken Hick, reviews monthly financial statements and budgets, oversees investment strategies, recommends how to use Board-restricted funds, and keeps watch over FCCO's overall financial health, among other responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the development committee, chaired by Board member Connie Terwilliger, works with FCCO staff envisioning and planning fundraising efforts and events that engage and grow a diverse audience of support, recognize and thank donors, and develop new funding sources. Outside-the-box thinking is encouraged.

Board committees are the beating heart of our Board and organization. If you're interested in helping or would like more info, please contact FCCO's Executive Director, Karen Kraus, at kkraus@feralcats.com for an application. I promise the work is very rewarding, and very much appreciated!



Nena Baker and Iris

KITTEN CABOOSE *cont. from pg 1*

harm. This playful behavior demonstrates trust and comfort around humans.

4. Purring and kneading: Contentment and trust in humans are often displayed through purring and kneading. When a kitten purrs while being petted or kneads its paws against a soft surface, it's a sign of relaxation and a positive association with human touch.



5. Relaxed body language: A tame kitten will exhibit relaxed body language in the presence of humans. This includes a loosely held tail, ears in a natural position (not flattened or pulled back), and a generally calm demeanor.

It's important to remember that each kitten has its own personality and may exhibit these signs to varying degrees. Taming a feral kitten can be challenging but rewarding, knowing that the kitten can be adopted into a permanent, loving home. Learn more about kittens and the critical age milestones for their development and taming at [FeralCats.com/kittens](https://www.feralcats.com/kittens). To find out more about the Kitten Caboose program, please call us at 503-797-2606.





MEW Giving Challenge Update

One year ago we issued a challenge to our supporters: *could we sign up enough new members to help 1,000 cats each year receive our life-changing spay/neuter services?*

The previous year our dedicated and wonderful MEW members (Monthly Electronic Withdrawal) contributed enough to help 788 cats.

We are very close to our goal, and we know with your support we can get there! MEW donors will help us care for an incredible 890 cats this year. MEW contributions begin at just \$10 a month and are an efficient and easy way to donate to help the cats. There's a level for everyone to MEW and it can be set up through your checking account or your credit card through PayPal. See the enclosed envelope or go to **FeralCats.com/MEW**.

Purrs of thanks to everyone who MEW's for the cats, including 12 Founders who signed up when the program began in 1998!

FCCO Wish List

Your donations make a difference! Our Wish List at **Amazon.com** has these items and more for easy delivery to FCCO. If you'd prefer to buy locally the list is also at **FeralCats.com/wish**. We're grateful for your support!

- Masking tape (3M, 1"- this brand is hard to find but works best)
- Garden hose (50')
- Dry cat food (adult & kitten)
- Distilled water (gallons)
- Fleece fabric (cut into 28" x 46" rectangles, if possible)
- Newspaper (folded to 8.75" wide rectangles, if you can)
- Swiffer mop refills (wet & dry)
- Broom, standard kitchen style

11th Annual Catio Tour September 9, 2023



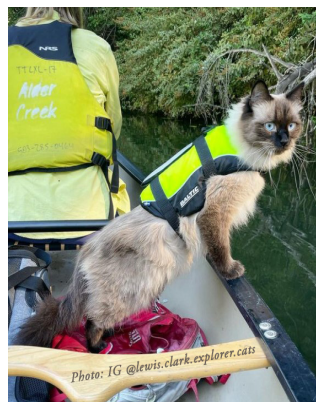
The 2023 Catio Tour will offer **in-person catio visits** and an **online video tour featuring different catios** so you can experience even more catios.

Included with both tour options will be **ideas for adventure cats** and their humans who want to let them safely explore the outdoors beyond their catio.



With catios that range from simple DIY designs to those skillfully constructed by a contractor, the Catio Tour will give you ideas that fit your budget and space for the perfect outdoor cat enclosure.

*Info + Registration is at
CatsSafeAtHome.org
or scan the QR code!*



Is Your Cat an Adventure Cat?

Before building a catio or even buying a lifejacket, consider your cat's personality. Some cats will relish the idea of outdoor stimulation, others will appreciate lounging in the sunshine behind the safety of a catio's fencing. Others, especially if raised indoors, may find these experiences traumatizing.

If these traits describe your kitty, you may have an Adventure Cat!

- ① Outgoing with a natural sense of curiosity and playfulness
- ② Comfortable exploring new environments and interacting appropriately with new people and other animals
- ③ Not easily startled or overwhelmed by new experiences
- ④ Tolerant of wearing a harness or sitting in a backpack
- ⑤ Possesses a good level of stamina and energy

Learn more at **CatsSafeatHome.org** and on the Catio Tour!





**FERAL CAT
COALITION
OF OREGON**

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Trap-Neuter-Return in Action!

A bunch of fluffy fur running around in a field near Jule's home caught her eye, and soon after she was going out twice a day with food. It took time, but she was able to get both cats, one male and this female, trapped and spayed/neutered and now doesn't need to worry about litters of kittens living in this field.

Who We Are

FCCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Nena Baker
- Vice President: Michelle Baird-Johnson
- Treasurer: Ken Hick
- 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 Stephen Erving
- 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 donation-based for feral and stray cats.

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Change for the Cats at Buffalo Exchange!

Stop by the Portland-Hawthorne Buffalo Exchange store through December 2023 and choose FCCO with their *Tokens for Bags*® program!

Buffalo
EXCHANGE®
New & Recycled Fashion

Instead of a plastic bag customers who make a purchase can get one "token" valued at 5¢ to donate to one of several local charities. It's a fun way to help the cats!

Shop Buffalo Exchange at 1420 SE 37th Ave. in Portland!