



StreetTails

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON WINTER 2024

With Immense Gratitude



Our purrs of thanks go to so many people and businesses for wrapping up 2023 with a real gift for the cats: a healthy start to the new year!

Feral and stray cats are “community cats” and it takes a community effort to help them. We are very honored that FCCO came in 10th place among the 250 nonprofit organizations raising funds through the 2023 Give!Guide, with a total of \$103,838 from individuals and donation matches.

We are incredibly thankful to all our donors, volunteers, and caregivers for your role in improving cats’ lives. See more details at FeralCats.com/gratitude. Thank you!

Story from the Streets

The End of a Wonderful Era.... The End of the Snowbabies...

We have co-existed with three feral cats, Rascal, Pico, and Cuddle Bear – we call them the “Snowbabies” due to the time of year they were born – for about 14 years. We had them fixed at FCCO and have fed them every day... and given them snacks every night. And we have loved them dearly, even though they always maintained a safe distance from us. They never



Rascal, left, and Cuddle Bear

wanted to be house cats, but they always made sure we knew they wanted to eat.

Things changed rapidly over the last several months... very rapidly. Rascal, the sweetest one, got sick and died very quickly in July 2023. Pico, the smallest and most shy, was killed by coyotes in November 2023. And now, Cuddle Bear is gone too.

He never let us touch him (after all these years he still hissed at me if I got too close) but he was always there for

STORY cont. on pg 2

A Year of Cats!

FCCO’s Annual Report for our fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, is included with this newsletter or you can find it on our website at FeralCats.com/about. In it you’ll see patient and clinic stats and how your support helped 8,286 cats (more than 1,000 over our goal).

Our fiscal year and calendar year surgeries are often similar, but that wasn’t the case in 2023 when we helped 8,777 cats, making this the biggest calendar year ever! The greatest reason for the difference between our fiscal and calendar year numbers is that we began requiring all cats to come in live traps. Many benefits come



from using traps because our medical team doesn’t need to transfer cats from carriers. Bypassing the transfer process is safer for staff and less stressful for the cats, and ultimately allows time to help more cats. The average clinic size grew by ten cats with this change.

We hope you enjoy our Annual Report and see what a difference we are making together – for the cats, caregivers, and communities who rely on our services.

President's Corner

Nena Baker

My heart sank when I opened the December 25, 2023, issue of *The New Yorker*. Jonathan Franzen – celebrated novelist, avid birder, and staunch critic of trap-neuter-return (TNR) for feral cats – had penned a news feature about free-roaming cats such as those served by FCCO. I braced myself for the same tired arguments against TNR.

But instead of a screed condemning TNR for returning sterilized cats to colonies where they live outdoors, Franzen's article presented a more nuanced and thoughtful view of the issues surrounding no-kill animal shelter initiatives, TNR, and cat predation on birds.

Franzen argues the burgeoning no-kill movement, premised on the worthy notion that no healthy pet should be euthanized for lack of shelter space, has resulted in more cats outside while taking the focus off the larger problem of cat reproduction. I tend to agree.

Demand for FCCO's services has never been higher. During the calendar year 2023, FCCO helped a record 8,777 cats, and spay/neuter appointments continue to fill as soon as they are open. One reason is the changing role of animal shelters – with a focus on no-kill, fewer cats are entering shelters, and that shifts the burden to other nonprofits and spay/neuter programs such as FCCO.

Fortunately, FCCO has long worked collaboratively with

Nena Baker and Iris



conservation programs, including Portland Audubon and now Bird Conservation Oregon, along with county shelters, to humanely reduce free-roaming cats on the landscape. "We have adopted a multi-dimensional strategy of which TNR is a major part, but not the only part," says Bob Sallinger, director of Bird Conservation Oregon. "We work together on a continuous basis to look for strategies that serve the needs of cats, wildlife, and our community."

The Cats Safe at Home program, of which FCCO is a founding partner, is a prime example. Here, community members can learn about the importance of spay/neuter and about keeping pet cats safely indoors through enriched environments such as catios and enhanced indoor play. Our wildly popular annual Catio Tours have inspired hundreds of cat owners to help cats and birds by preventing their cats from roaming freely.

FCCO and its partners are ahead of the curve when addressing cat overpopulation in a humane and environmentally responsible way. With the continued support of our generous donors, we will lead this charge into the future.

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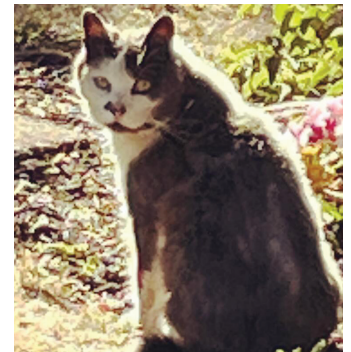
his daily meal and late-night snack. On New Year's Day Cuddle Bear did not come to the front porch in the morning. We assumed Cuddle B's disappearance might've been due to New Year's Eve fireworks. But on other nights with fireworks, he was always the first one there in the morning. Always.

After calling for him for over an hour I eventually found him. He was hiding in a shelter under our back deck I had made for him and his siblings. He didn't want to leave the shelter – a shelter he had completely avoided for the last five years. He eventually started to hide in a bush next to our front door – another space where he felt safe. But then he was in neither of his safe spaces. He, like his brother Rascal, just disappeared.

It's been a very short and very sad span of time... we have taken care of the Snowbabies every day for all these years and in less than six months they are all gone. We are grateful for every day they were in our lives.

~ Byron Beck & Juan Martinez, Portland

Pico was the smallest and most shy of the Snowbabies



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!

- Masking tape - 3M, 1" (we use 24" per cat at our clinic to track them and their trap!)
- Distilled water (gallons)
- Fleece fabric for trap covers (cut into rectangles 28" x 46", if possible)
- Newspaper (folded to 8.75" wide rectangles to fit in taps, if you can)
- 25 or 31 gallon totes for shelters (Rubbermaid Roughneck or HDX Tough)



Can You QCD?

There's an alphabet of acronyms when it comes to financial planning and requirements by the IRS. Depending on your age, it may be worth knowing about QCDs and how they might benefit you – and the cats.

Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs) let you pull money directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) after you reach the age of 70½ and give it directly to a nonprofit and it is not taxable to you – a purrfect way to give to your favorite charity. Additionally, if you are 73 or older and have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), you can satisfy it through a QCD instead of taking a taxable distribution to yourself. Some key points:

- **Age Requirement:** You need to be at least 70½ years old to qualify.
- **Traditional IRA:** This strategy applies to traditional IRAs, not Roth IRAs.
- **Direct Transfer:** Funds are transferred directly from the IRA to the charity, bypassing the account holder and not included in the individual's taxable income.
- **Giving Without Increasing Taxable Income:** Since the QCD is given directly to the charity, this kind of distribution is not included in your gross taxable income.
- **Satisfies RMD:** If you are 73+, a QCD can also count toward satisfying your required minimum distribution without being included in your income for the year.

QCDs can be a great option but it's always important to consult with a tax professional or financial advisor first.

Planning for Your Pets

Learn about options for including care for your pets in your estate plans. This insightful half-hour presentation, with Q&A time to follow, will be presented by Vanessa A. Usui of Duffy Kekel LLP, whose practice focuses on estate planning.

WHEN: February 21, 2024, 5:30pm

HOW: Zoom

RSVP at FeralCats.com/register

Join us for our 26th Annual Furball at a new event center, Avenue Portland!

Milano Miao!

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Milano Miao is inspired by Italy's love of fashion and felines. We'll transport guests to the mecca of Italian design as we celebrate our *l'amore per i gatti* (love of cats). With your support, we'll turn heads and hearts as we raise much-needed funding for spaying/neutering cats in our region.



Help us make this Furball a spectacular success for spaying/neutering cats in 2024! Tickets and tables are on sale now on our website.

Can't attend? Help put together a basket for an auction packages! Your donation filled with creativity, lodging for a getaway, bottles of wine, or other unique contributions will help bring flair to our auctions!

Get Event Info, Tickets & Auction Package info at

FeralCats.com/Furball

February is for Ferals!



February is **Spay/Neuter Awareness Month** and the month of love, so at FCCO we say February is for Ferals! Our popular online Wall of Love is a great way to honor friends, family, and furry loved ones. You make a donation, put their name on the heart, and can even send an e-message to them. It's a sweet way to show your love, sweeten someone's day, and help cats. Turn a paw into a heart on the Wall of Love at GivingGrid.com/felinelove. Check it out!

Along with the Wall of Love, FCCO will be hosting a variety of other fundraisers for ferals in February. Each offers a donation to FCCO, and we hope you find at least one that's a fit for you. Please share with your family and friends! Details of each are at FeralCats.com/February.

- 🐾 **Buffalo Exchange:** Portland Downtown store, Tokens for Bags until June!
- 🐾 **Krispy Kreme:** 2/3/24 - 2/17/24, 50% of sales of a dozen glazed donuts purchased online to be redeemed at any point, at any location
- 🐾 **Crisp Salads:** 2/10/24, 10% of sales donated at both locations
- 🐾 **Oswego Noodle House:** 2/28 from 5pm-9pm, 15% of sales donated
- 🐾 ...and other fun fundraisers! More at FeralCats.com/February.





**FERAL CAT
COALITION
OF OREGON**

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Trap-Neuter-Return in Action!

On her walks in Donald, Oregon, Angela met a woman who feeds these two feral cats daily. The caregiver worried that kittens would surely be coming in spring but, as a senior living on a very tight budget, she couldn't afford to get them spayed/neutered. Angela told her about FCCO and then even offered to help transport the cats, bringing much relief to their caregiver - and good health to these cats!

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.

Volume 7, Issue 24, of *Street Tails* printed January 2024

FeralCats.com | 503-797-2606



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February, the month of love, is also Spay/Neuter Awareness Month! Celebrate both and put your paw on our online

Wall of Love!

Filled with paw print hearts, you select your heart(s) and if you make your donation in honor of loved ones you can even send a heart and e-message to them. It's a fun and sweet way to show all your Valentines you care.

Find our Wall of Love at
GivingGrid.com/felineLove

