



# The Feline Network

*A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation*

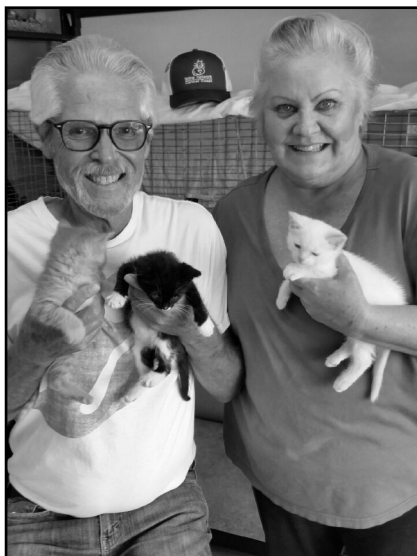
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Fall 2017

## They're Baaaack!



**"We three little kittens are smitten with Gay and Trapper Dave"**

They're baaaack! And with a vengeance. This kitten season has been like no other. We are overloaded with kittens. Some say the past rainy season produced so much water and food the kittens just multiplied. Whatever the reason, we have many more kittens than in past years. This puts a tremendous strain on our foster homes, our trappers and our finances.

There are so many kittens we do not have enough foster homes for all of them. It breaks our hearts, but we find ourselves having to return kittens as young as 9-1/2 weeks old back to where they came from, after they have been spayed or neutered, provided there is someone to look after them.

We attend to at least 98 percent of the trapping calls that come in. Although sometimes people have to wait, we eventually get to all the situations. Almost all the calls have involved stray or feral mother cats and their kittens, mostly from the South County. We are very fortunate to have a new trapper, Dave Richards, who was inspired to call about trapping after reading the article in last winter's newsletter about our trapper Clint Whitney. He met with Clint, Clint showed him the ropes, and voila! Dave took to trapping like a fish to water. He even had "Cat Man" hats made for himself and Clint. Dave now traps full time with the help of his wife Gay. They even stepped up to the plate when no foster homes were available

and are now fostering kittens from one of his trapping situations. We have another South County trapper, John Fleming, who traps when his schedule allows it, and he is a big help. But we do need more trappers! Dave said to please call him (559)930-7328 if you are interested in trapping. He would be happy to share his experiences. Or you can call Lynette at (805)556-0717.

As the numbers of kitten have multiplied, so have our expenses. Spaying and neutering as well as veterinary costs for cats that need medical care are the highest ever. Expenses for food, litter and medical supplies have also increased dramatically. Although

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## A Plethora of Kittens!

*Can you count all nine?*

We have had many large litters of kittens this year, but it still came as a surprise when a cat gave birth to nine kittens in late July. This was probably her second litter. The Feline Network was trapping feral cats in a yard in Grover Beach. Scott and Jim, who live there, were caring for the cats but most had not been fixed. They had seen the mama move her kittens and hide them three times. When she was moving them a fourth time, Jim decided to scoop the kittens up before she could hide them again. The kittens were about three weeks old. They were taken to our kitten expert, Julie Coleman, for triage before distributing some of them to foster homes for bottle-feeding. Two kittens were so malnourished that Julie continued to care for them herself. We're happy to report that all the kittens are doing well.



**"Please help! We kittens can't count but we can multiply."**

# The Story of Atticus, One Lucky Kitty

*by Judy, an Avid Cat Lover*

I was shopping at Petco in SLO one recent day and when I went to my car I thought I heard a faint meow. I was parked in the very center of the hot parking lot. I thought the sound must have come from a bird, but then I heard it again...



**Don't miss Atticus in the new blockbuster movie "Feline Fast and Furriest"**

I looked all around a nearby planter, hearing sounds like the meows of a very young kitten. I thought surely the kitten must be in the planter and was too small to be seen above the groundcover.

There were three cars parked nearby, and soon my ears were unmistakably drawn towards one of them. I looked under the car, no kitten, looked in the car, no kitten...then came the dreadful realization that the sound was coming from under the hood!

With no one in sight in the half hour that I was there, I called the SLO Police Department to see if they could look up the owner via the license plate number. They sent an officer to try to help. Luckily, the owner of the car came out just as the officer arrived.

We opened the hood and thought the capture would be easy, but nooooo, not this tiny kitten. He was so small and frightened he escaped our every attempt to catch him, even as car parts were being removed to gain greater access. The officer brought food from Petco, an employee came out to help, and at the height of the rescue there were six people lending a hand.

Finally, victory!! We caught a beautiful fluffy orange kitten looking relatively unscathed, a miracle since the car owner said she had driven to SLO from over Cuesta Grade the previous night. She said she had noticed kittens playing near her car before she left. That means the kitten was in the engine compartment for the ride down the Grade, spent the night there and stayed there until 4:30 pm the next day when the rescue occurred!

Thankfully, I knew Pamela Werth from the Feline Network, and she agreed right away to foster the kitten until he was old enough for adoption. Thank you, Feline Network!! Another precious life saved!

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## Feline Network Volunteer Helps Spay/Neuter Campaign in Hawaii

I have been trapping cats for spay/neuter for about 25 years now. Twenty of those years I have been involved with the dedicated people of the Feline Network. When I recently became aware of spay/neuter campaigns that were operating internationally, I filled out an application with Animal Balance, a group from the United States, to participate in a week-long MASH unit performing high-volume spay/neuter services in Hilo, Hawaii. Animal Balance was founded in 2004 and since has been serving communities in 10 island countries. They are currently focused on the Galapagos Islands, Cuba, American Samoa and Saipan.

I paid for my travel and arrived in Hilo in mid-July with a long list of supplies and the willingness to work 12 hours each day. Our days began at 7am and ended at 7pm with just enough break time each day to inhale a sandwich and run to the bathroom. I have never worked so hard in my life. At the end of each day I went back to the hotel, showered off the sweat and cat hair, ate some dinner and fell into bed. My job was in the recovery section, which included giving each cat a vaccination, wormer injection and subcutaneous fluids and then placing the cat back in its carrier.

Within five days we had spayed or neutered 683 cats. We had to stop because we were running out of medical supplies. The director said we worked like "a well-oiled machine" and that this was the largest number of surgeries the group had performed in five days' time.

We could not have done this without all of the individuals and groups that came together to make this happen. Because of the Hilo community response, Animal Balance is in the process of planning another MASH unit for Hilo in the near future. I am humbled by the dedication of everyone involved, as well as the warm welcome we received from the people in Hilo, and I plan on joining another MASH campaign in the near future.



**Elaine Genasci (second row, far left) and her dedicated MASH team**

*by Elaine Genasci, Feline Network volunteer and one of its founders*

## TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

### In Loving Memory of

**Barbara Mori & Saki**, by Judy Saltzman-Saveker.

**Marie Davis**, by Debbie Davis.

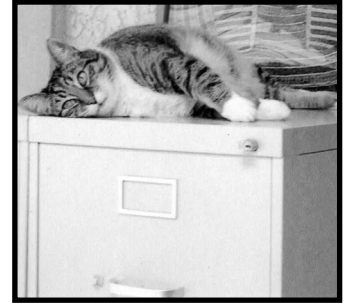
**Anne Gaffney-Machala**, "an avid cat lover and amazing woman," by Jennifer Knauss.

**Millie**, by Elora Curtis, "my faithful companion for the past eight years after my husband passed away. One of her favorite places to doze was on top of the file cabinet on the sunporch."

**Maui**, "our sweet tortoise shell", by Jodie & Ryan McLean

**Nicki**, by Laura Price

**Amber**, by Collette Marie.



Millie

### In Appreciation of

**Lynette Crane**, by Edon Smith. "Shasta is feeling so much better after you got her in to see Dr. Berg. The antibiotic shots seemed to really help our little feral! Many thanks."

### **The Feline Network**

By Tina Cottini. "Thank you so much for spaying and neutering the ferals from Quintana Road in Morro Bay. Thank you, Alice (Welchert), for your support and dedication to the cats."

By Glori Keech. "Thanks to you all. The stories are so worth the read. You all have your challenges and I hope you are getting finances sufficient to meet all those needs."

By Donna Herbst. "This is to thank you for everything you do for all the wonderful kitties."

By Leslie Michel for Jenny Michel & Ella Staples. "The enclosed donation was raised by Jenny and Ella, two Los Ranchos 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students, for their 'Project for Good' They held a bake sale that raised \$160."

By Wayne W. Mills. "Thank you so much for the expert help of Dave, Lynette and Karen in handling Momma Katz and her kittens, the four "Tally Ho Terrors" as Karen lovingly nicknamed them."

By Erin & Garrett Momburg. "Thank you so very much for all of your help, guidance, advice and finding homes for the feral kittens and my whole crew! I feel we have a handle on our cat population and it is all because of the Feline Network."

By Grace Plemons. "I appreciate the work you do and especially the efforts of Roxanne Bohn, whom I see as an "angel in disguise" when it comes to helping our feline friends!"

By Roslyn Risner. "Roslyn, aided by her sister Brinlee, celebrated her birthday again this year (her 9<sup>th</sup>) with a 'Support the Feline Network' theme. Cat food, toys and other gifted items were donated to the Feline Network."

By Olana G. Wax. "Thank you for sheltering Cleo. Cleo was left by our previous neighbors and I didn't feel I could be responsible enough to care for her. Thank you for your good work finding new homes for these abandoned cats."

## They're Baaaack!

(Continued from page 1)

we consider ourselves primarily a spay/neuter organization, we try to help sick or injured community cats (strays that live in our neighborhoods) with veterinary care when asked to do so. We have exceeded our budget due to the intense kitten season, and we are not able to provide medical treatment for all the cats that need it.

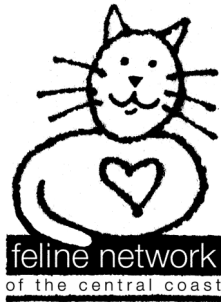


"Your help saved our lives."

It is for this reason that we ask for your help and hope you can find it in your heart to make a generous donation so that we can continue our important work. We are only able to do this because of donors like you, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your past donations and continued support. We are an all-volunteer organization and all donations go directly to help the cats. Thank you for helping us help the cats.

### **Support Feline Network when you shop on Amazon**

When you shop at **AmazonSmile**, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Feline Network of The Central Coast. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com/about](http://www.smile.amazon.com/about) and click on "Learn more about Amazon Smile" to find out how you can support us every time you shop at Amazon.



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**Scarlett and Lizzy say, "Adopt in pairs for double the pleasure and double the fun!"**

## **A Well-Ordered Home**

*"Hi Roxanne and Anna. We are just sending a note because we are celebrating our four-month birthday this week. As you can see, we are getting along well. There is a doggie here but we have her under control. There are two people here but we have them under control too! We think of you often and all you did for us!"*

***Scarlett & Lizzy***

The kittens and their mama were trapped at Paulding Middle School. The mama rejected the kittens when they were three weeks old. Anna Stewart bottle-fed them until they were weaned and Roxanne Bohn fostered them until adoption. Todd and Jeanne Katz wanted to adopt one kitten, but when they met these two and saw how bonded they were, they took both!