



The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

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Spring 2022

Feline Network Celebrates 20 Years!

The Feline Network is pleased to announce that it is celebrating its 20th year as a humane organization! Since our formation in 2002 until the end of 2021, we spayed and neutered 21,135 cats and kittens! Imagine how many litters were not born! One of the indicators of our success is a significant reduction in the number of feral cat feeding stations that some volunteers have faithfully maintained, day after day, year after year. Many of these volunteers have had multiple stations with multiple cats. We honor and thank these faithful feeders!

Two Fairytail Endings

Most people have heard the story of the ugly duckling that turns into a swan, but this story is about a near-death, mangy feral cat that turns into a rare beautiful Scottish Fold/Siamese mix and the end of an era for a Feline Network volunteer who spent 19 solid years feeding cats in Oceano.

Annie Dreizler started trapping cats in Oceano in 2003. Trapping, neutering and returning (TNR) truly works to humanely lower the population and suffering of feral, unwanted cats being born. Several pockets of feral cats that had been spayed or neutered and returned did not have a food source, so she set up feeding stations. She would stop by before work to put food and water out for the feral cats. At one point, Annie had to leave an hour and a half early for work to stop at 13 feeding stations to feed about 165 cats! She even had to hire pet sitters to take care of all of her ferals if she left town. Over the years, most of the cats died naturally. Her backyard is a cat cemetery! When cats needed medical help or became geriatric, she moved them to her house for extra TLC, where she has al-

ways had between 8 and 12 cats at any given time. Annie was down to her very last two cats in Oceano and so close to shutting down her last feeding station. One of the cats, Paige, had moved a few doors away where a neighbor named Darlene would feed her. The other cat was very trap-wary, having been trapped previously, and Annie planned to abandon him in June when she retired and make him find his way to Darlene's house. She did not want to make another long-term commitment to the feeding station.

In an unusual twist of fate, that day came much sooner than expected. A clipped-eared feral cat that was emaciated, sickly and covered in thick layers of mange appeared mysteriously in Darlene's garage. Its eyes were glued shut with crust and its head was scratched until it bled from itching. Darlene took the cat to a vet to be treated. Annie and another volunteer, Anna Stewart, took care of the cat for the next two months, photographing its progress. When the cat's eyes opened it was apparent it was a Siamese mix, but it wasn't until six weeks had passed that Annie was able to positively identify the cat as Scotty, a Scottish Fold/Siamese mix, the last cat eating at her last feeding station. When Anna said she would give Scotty a forever home, Annie closed down her station. It was the end of an era for Annie and a happy ending for both Annie and Scotty.

Annie still has eight cats living at her house and is part of a crew that feeds feral cats at a farm, so she is not cat-free, but there is light at the end tunnel for someday having a reasonable number of cats to care for.



Scotty before...



...and after



Annie's rescued ferals Minou and Elsie, though camera-shy, are like putty in her hands.

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

In Loving Memory of

Nic Gaudiuso, by Cassandra Erpenbach.

Michelle McDaniel, by Clark & Diane Hendrickson.

Diane Oldt, by Evelyn Plemons.

Greg Shue, by Clark & Diane Hendrickson.

Betty White and Emma, "my dear one-eyed tortie," by Lynette Storrs.

Betty White and our kitty Zipper, "RIP," by Josh and Sarah Diggs.

Bagheera, by Betty and Noel King, "our beautiful black cat that passed away 1/23/22.

"He was in our lives for 14 years and our hearts are broken. He was precious, beautiful, intelligent and dignified to the end."

Boris, by Linda J. Clarke.

Cleo, Milika'a & Ponani, by Judith Monroe.

George, "our little orange Manx," by Kim Martin & David Norton. "He was a determined pugilist for 15 years despite his size. We will miss him very much."

Ginger, by Jerry & Joanne Connolly.

Lalique, by Lois George. "I adopted her at Santa Maria Petsmart 16 years ago as an adult cat. She is missed."

Laptop & Ansel, "furry, purry pals forever!" by Ed & Penni Powell.

Madison, by Beth Wyatt. "Madison was a beautiful tabby and one of the dearest, friendliest cats I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I will miss him."

Truffles, by Kim Griffith.

In Honor of

Roxanne Bohn, by Ruth Laitila.

Heather Burns, by Kristin Perl, "for her offer to take care of our kitties while we were away."

Christine Collie, by Sharon Kamm. "Thank you again for all your wonderful work! Dearest, Boo & Grey Kitty are all well and happy. We are blessed to have such sweet furry friends."

Lynette Crane, by Maxine Colin, "for her amazing help in rescuing a feral cat and getting him all set up with the vet. She's wonderful!"

Annie Dreizler, by Lawrence Mirels, "Annie is a long-time friend. This is in recognition of her lifetime of helping animals of all varieties."

Marilyn Forselles, "for feeding kitties many years," by Mary Leizear.

Elaine Genasci, by Sharon Dobson, "who TNR'd 338 cats in 2021!"

Lynn Lane, my sister, by Amy Ming, "on Betty White's 100th Birthday."

Angelo Murphy-Grant, our son, by Colleen Murphy. "He earned the money and chose the charity."

Kristin Perl, by Janice & Bob Contons. "We are so impressed with all you do for our feline friends. Keep up the great work!"

Michael Perl, by Patricia & Larry Laitinen.

Kathy Schwanitz, by Isabel & Larry Smith. "She is, as are we, very proud of the work your organization is doing."

Betty White and Feline Network, by Chis Wilbert. "Thanks for all you do for the kitty kats."

In Appreciation of

A Cat named Peanut, "that you had spayed on 2/22/22," by Joan Davis.

Christine Collie & Feline Network, by Patti & Bruce Everett. "Thank you for our rescue cat Milo and to Christine for fostering him."

Lynette Crane & Feline Network, by Wendell Shultz. "Thank you for all you do for the cats on the Central Coast. I especially want to thank Lynette who gave me some useful suggestions."

Darcy Lazar & Feline Network, by Mike Norwine. "All the volunteers have been so nice and helpful. A special thanks to Darcy who we adopted our cat from. She has been great while we were waiting for our new kitty. While we were sick with Covid she would send us a picture of our new kitten each day until we were able to pick him up. Very special!"

The Feline Network

by Dearest, Daisey, Boo, Grey Kitty & Sharon (Kamm) too! "with grateful hearts for all the work you do."

by Sally & Jack Adam. "Thank you for all the incredible work you do to save lives, lessen suffering, ease pain, give back lives and bring comfort & joy to so many kittens and cats."

by Martha Aivaz. "I trapped 'Shorty' four years ago and she gave birth to six kids. Five of her kids and she now live in the house with me. Merry Christmas from all my kitties and me. Your hard work and kindness do not go unnoticed."

by Paul Allen. "Keep up your great efforts."

by Steven Buck, "for the wonderful help finding Sam a new home."

by Jasmine Dalldorf (whose family adopted two kittens last summer). Jasmine made Feline Network her Ocean View Elementary Genius Hour project. Not only did she inform her class about how Feline Network helps needy cats and kittens, but she also held a bake sale and donated the very generous proceeds to Feline Network.

by Gaylen Davidson & Peter Podgorny. "Penelope's surgery with Dr. Sikes was a success. She is a different cat. She is more affectionate and playful with a prodigious appetite. Your organization's taking responsibility for Penelope's plight was honorable and commendable."

by Lannie Erickson. "Thank you for your fine work."

by Don Lively. "Thank you for having a vet see Gray Kitty for an injured paw."

by Nancy Malk. "I had agreed to match the donations for November in the 'matching funds campaign'. Your organization exceeded the original goal of \$5,000! So here is the remaining 'match,' as promised.

Thank you for all the good you do for our feline friends."

by Jodie & Ryan McLean. "Thank you for taking care of all the sweet kitty babies."

by Elana Peters. "Thank you for all the loving care you give."

by Liz Woods. "Thank you for your dedication to the kitties in need. Paisley is doing well...at age 20!"

Betty White

We received over 70 donations in Loving Memory and in Honor of Betty White, too many to list here.

We thank you all for "paying forward" Betty's humane work and honoring the Feline Network with your donations!



Malia Hennings saved money from her allowances throughout the year as well as from a garage sale to donate to Feline Network. She is a 6th Grader at Oceanview Elementary. The Henning family adopted Peanut and Lulu (pictured above) from us in 2019. Malia is starting over and hopes to save more money in her kindness jar this next year!

First Kittens (and Mama) Rescued in 2022



We rescued Jasmine from an auto salvage yard in the South County. When we took her to the vet, he said she was "ready to pop." Valarie Koos provided a foster home, and on the fourth day Jasmine gave birth to four kittens. Valarie describes her as a fantastic mama. The kittens tripled in weight in less than two weeks, and all are doing very well.



Pippa and Paddington were four weeks old when they were found on a rural property in the upper Lopez Lake area.

BonBon



This is on behalf of BonBon, and for all the kitties who come to us and leave too soon.

BonBon came to our home nine days ago. A smushy, mushy, round little ball of fur, missing half his tail but always smiling with his entire body. From the moment we opened his carrier and he stepped out into our kitty room it was all purrs. The walls would vibrate with those purrs, and when he flopped over on his back you simply had to stop everything you were doing and go flop down with him. And because he was a lone foster I spent extra time with him, day and night. He filled my heart right up. Just a few days ago I was holding him and telling him, "This is all that matters. You, me and love." He loved being talked to, he loved everything, and we loved him.

BonBon was sick and no one knew it. And then he got sicker and sicker, no matter what we tried, and like so many other critters we've poured our hearts into while hoping for the best, he just couldn't make it. Nine days in our home but I feel like I've lost a lifelong friend.

I'm so grateful for the Feline Network - the shared knowledge, support, funding, and endless loop of hope even when some endings are so sad and so unfair.

By Darcy Lazar

Homemade Incubators

Several Feline Network foster homes specialize in caring for newborn kittens that somehow become separated from their mothers. The survival of these tiny kittens depends on around-the-clock bottle feeding and an environment with closely -controlled temperature and humidity. Commercial incubators are designed for this but cost \$1500 per unit (ideally, Feline Network would have three units). Pamela Werth found a blueprint online for building incubators and set the ball in motion. Pamela, Benita Smith and Kristin Perl modified the design to accommodate our kitties' specific needs and, with power tools in hand, assembled the incubators in the Perls' garage. Our experienced bottle-feeders now stand at-the-ready, better equipped to care for newborn orphans.

Kristin Perl hosted a Facebook fundraiser to finance the project. A major thank you to Judy Michener (a long-time supporter) for contributing the full \$500 toward the project, and to all of the donors who helped us surpass our goal and took us to \$840 in funding! You made this project possible! Each completed unit cost \$120, and the surplus funds purchased our first major order of powdered kitten formula for this season's "bottle babies."



Pamela and Kristin hard at work.

Snip & Chip

More than 100 cats and dogs were altered and vaccinated (and some microchipped) during the first Snip & Chip SLO Pet Wellness Clinic at Nipomo Dog & Cat Hospital. The Feline Network was one of the sponsors and donated \$2,500 to the event! C.A.R.E. 4Paws, AIN (Animals in Need) and ASAP (Animal Shelter Adoption Partners) hosted the event, and it was a great opportunity for collaboration between the groups. Plans are afoot to hold the event monthly.



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Return Service Requested

Trapper Makes Big Dent in Feral Population

"In 2021, I trapped at 52 different locations and had a total of 343 cats spayed/neutered and returned to their original location. Six of the sites had 20 to 35 cats each. Many of the other sites had more than 10 cats. A caring person feeds and provides shelter for the returned cats at each location.



An Extraordinary Trapper

I could not trap at these large sites without the monthly "Tip a Tuesday" spay/neuter clinic at Woods Humane Society in Atascadero, where I can have 15 to 20 cats spayed or neutered in one day. Woods typically spays and neuters 60 to 80 cats on a "Tip a Tuesday" clinic day. In order to transport more than 20 traps and cats, I use my husband's van. While the first 15 or 20 cats are at the clinic, I usually return to the site and set more traps to get any stragglers. It is a very involved process, but it is also very satisfying to get a large group of cats fixed in one swoop!

2022 has started out just as busy. As of today, March 14th, I have trapped 87 cats at 11 sites. Two sites had more than 20 cats each. I have traps set at three different sites to-night. I am looking forward to the next BIG trapping site!"

By Elaine Genasci



On their way to having a better life.

It is absolutely remarkable the number of cats Elaine traps for spay and neuter year after year. This is not easy work and it is very time-consuming! She has singlehandedly made a huge dent in the feral cat problem in our county. She was an original board member when the Feline Network was formed in 2002, although her spay/ neuter efforts began way before that time. Thank you Elaine! We appreciate and are grateful for your super-sized contribution!