

The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

P.O. Box 526, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

(805) 549-9228

www.felinenetwork.org

Winter 2022

Sawyer, Waffles and The Alpacas

At Feline Network, we pride ourselves on finding a wonderful home for every cat that comes into our program. We take each cat's particular needs and preferences into account when selecting forever homes. The right home for one kitten may not work for another. Such was the case with Sawyer, a beautiful, husky black kitten with huge golden eyes and strong opinions.



Sawyer and his sister were part of a feral colony and were trapped as older kittens. Though his sister became tame and docile almost immediately, Sawyer was not impressed with his new life. He was surly and

difficult with anyone who tried to handle him. He was so cantankerous that he wouldn't even let anyone handle his sister; screaming, striking, and trying to bite anyone who opened their cage! Eventually it became clear that Sawyer's future would not be as someone's beloved pet. But where to place him?

Finding a good home for a mouser is no easy task, and it was clear that Sawyer would need extra codling as he was still only five months old.

Luckily, we didn't have to look far! Daphne Capaldi at the serene Capaldi Ranch in Paso Robles agreed to take Sawyer on as a companion for an-



Waffles and Sawyer hard at work.

other older feral kitten, Waffles, who had just been placed on the ranch a month earlier. To everyone's delight, Sawyer and Waffles bonded immediately and now mouse the hay barn at



Alpaca petting with a cat t-shirt.

the center of the 44 acre bed-and-breakfast and working alpaca farm. And the best part? Alpacas keep coyotes away! Capaldi Ranch has not lost one single feral cat to a coyote or car in the 17 years they have been in operation. It is the perfect home for Sawyer and Waffles to live out their lives in peace and happiness, free from pesky human interaction.

So if you ever decide to stay at Capaldi Ranch you may just spy a handsome black cat and a beautiful, sleek tortoise shell cat curled up together on one of the bales in the hay barn, lovingly cleaning each other. Tell Sawyer and Waffles we wish them all the best.



"When ordering from Amazon, shop Amazon Smile and support the Feline Network. Go to <http://www.smile.amazon.com> to learn more."

Donations may also be made through our website at <http://www.felinenetwork.org> and on our Facebook page.

Season's Greetings from the Board

Most of our kittens are usually adopted by fall, when our volunteers begin to experience a well-deserved break until kitten season starts again in the spring. Of course our trappers don't get much rest, as trapping goes on year round, but they are loyal and dedicated and determined to reduce the population of unwanted cats.

This fall is unusual in that we rescued a litter of five two-day-old kittens and a litter of three two-week-old kittens at the end of October. They were placed in the capable hands of experienced bottle-feeders. We cannot remember a time when we rescued kittens this young so late in the season. We also have many kittens still awaiting adoption but, on the bright side, we know that they are well cared for and that sooner or later they will find their forever homes.

We thank you all for your support. Your generous donations enable us to continue with our rescue efforts, and we are grateful. We wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Sincerely, The Feline Network Board



'I'm just two days old.'

The Kitten Whisperer



*"Everything will be all right,"
whispers Cricket into
Catya's ear.*

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We are holding periodic Adopt-a-Cats. Please visit our website at www.felinenetwork.org, our Facebook page, Petfinders and Craigslist for information and to see our kittens and cats.

Kittens come into Feline Network's care from all backgrounds and with a diversity of special gifts and talents. Some play fetch with athletic endurance that rivals a dog's, some balance on the top of your head for extended periods of time, and some offer unparalleled emotional support to humans and other animals.

Catya is a tortoiseshell kitten who continued to be fearful, protective, hissy, spitty and feral after a month in foster care where she was encouraged to feel safe (through shelter and regular food access), confident (through play and rewards), and loved (through regular attempts at cuddling and soft chatting). In the foster world, we say she has major 'tortitude,' as many tortoiseshell kitties have a tendency to be high-strung and ... individualistic.

We brought Catya to my home hoping that a change of scenery might assuage her fears, but to no avail ... until she met Cricket. Cricket is a happy-go-lucky orange tabby kitten without a care in the world that was bottle-raised in foster care. Upon seeing Catya in distress, Cricket promptly ran to her aid with cuddles and kisses, performed absurd prancing routines that distracted Catya from her worries, and laid his arm across her back when she cowered and pretended to be invisible.

When Cricket was in her midst, Catya shed her fears and relaxed her shaking body. Her eyes became calm, her ears sprang from down flat to upright, her tail fluttered happily, and she ignited her rumbling purrrrr. Catya adored Cricket. He relieved her anxiety and encouraged her to explore the world around her with her new-found friend at her side.

Cricket ultimately found his forever home with another buddy "Rooney." Fortunately for Catya, she was reunited with her blood brother "Opi" a few days later when they were adopted together. The kittens had been separated in an attempt to socialize Catya, who was very shy and feisty in the presence of her brother. Opi immediately welcomed Catya back, snuggling with her and grooming her. The pair will be forever loved in their new home.

By Kristin Perl



"This is my love grip."

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

PROVIDERS OF DISCOUNTED SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES AND/OR MEDICAL CARE FOR OUR FOSTERS

AND COMMUNITY CATS: Animal Hospital of San Luis Obispo, Atascadero Pet Center, Cat & Exotic Care of the Central Coast, Coast Veterinary Clinic, Five Cities Veterinary Hospital, Laguna Veterinary Care, Los Osos Pet Hospital, Pismo Beach Veterinary Clinic, Veterinary Ophthalmology Services, Woods Humane Society

FOSTER HOMES

Stacy Ballard, Kim & Gerrit Berg & family, Roxanne Bohn, Brenda & Richard Bowen, Jill Cooper & family, Sue Cusick & family, Sue Dailey & Hanna, Patti, Mike & Jaide Davis, Stephanie Davis & Warren, Paula Farrar, Elaine Genasci & Dan Andoetoe, Nicole Gilsdorf, Deannie Greenelsh & family, Judith Hasting, Tammy & Joe Herz, Christine & Randal Husk, Nichole Johnson & Lilly Ferra, Valarie Koos, Danielle & Amalia Lamoreux, Darcy & Bruce Lazar, Shelley Massa & Watson Gooch, Laurel Mitchell & Ric Miller, Jennifer & Kylie Namba & Henri Hart, Sandy Olinger, Scotty Osburn, Kristin & Patrick Perl, Gay & Dave Richards, Jennifer & Jeremy Salinas, Lisa Schott & Ron Leverett, Kathy Schwanitz, Lauren Sligh, Benita & Craig Smith, Anna & Norm Stewart, Georgina Stiegler, Mia Supple, Sylvia & Jenni Torres, Melanie & Jayden Von Burg, Pamela Werth & Kevin McCracken

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TRAPPERS

Carol Brookshire, Linda Cohen, Elaine Genasci, Dave Richards, Lauren Sligh, Jill Stavros; occasionally Dawn Kurtz & Pamela Werth

NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

Iris Alexandra, Vicky & Craig Johnsen, Judy Michener, Buzzy and April Stokes

PURCHASING & DELIVERING CAT FOOD

Sally & Jack Adam, Raul Castillo, Elaine Genasci

OTHERS

Adoption Team: Marketing &/or Posting our Cats/Kittens for Adoption: Roxanne Bohn, Lori Brief-Chavez, Elaine Genasci, Darcy Lazar; **Screening Potential Adopters & Referring them to Foster Homes:** Roxanne Bohn, Lynette Crane, Kristin Perl

Animals in Need Fund & Nipomo Dog and Cat Hospital, collaborating with Feline Network to provide low-cost spays and neuters for hundreds of cats and kittens in the South County

Roxanne Bohn, helping coordinate rescues and overseeing foster homes

Lori Brief-Chavez, holding pet food drives in her community and collecting food, toys and monetary donations

Linda Cohen, collecting and distributing food to feral cat feeders

Lynette Crane, coordinating rescues & foster homes in the South County as well as answering several of our phone lines

Mike Davis, picking up cat food from retail stores, storing it and distributing it to feral cat feeders

Annie Dreizler, rescuing, fostering and rehabilitating feral cats in need of medical attention, and picking up food from our South County donation barrels and distributing it to feral cat feeders

Elaine Genasci, maintaining and updating our Facebook page, overseeing several foster homes, and entering the intake and adoption information into our database

Christine Husk, picking up and sorting Feline Network mail

Lemos Feed & Pet Supply, providing litter at a discounted price

John Michener/Mediaspring, hosting website

Ellen Nelson, finding suitable placement for feral cats

Kathy Oles, holding a garage sale and donating a percentage of the proceeds as well as making beautiful blankets for our cats

Kristin Perl, recruiting and overseeing foster homes and fundraising, both online and through garage sales

Pismo Beach Self-Storage, storing our South County supplies

Gay Richards, checking our feral cat line and coordinating trapping

Karen Richards, registering microchip numbers and helping us locate owners of lost cats

Kathy Schwanitz, ordering our cat food online as well numerous other supplies

Shelby and Karl, website editing and design.

Pastor Jason Sisk & United Church of Christ, providing a room for our board meetings

Laura Sisk, bookkeeping services

Sue Smith, use of her shed for storing our South County supplies

Anna Stewart, vaccinating and overseeing

medical needs of many foster cats and kittens in the South County and fostering many of our most at-risk kitten litters

Charmaine & Steve Taylor, transporting supplies between the South County and SLO

Jenni Torres & Ruth Laitila, making beautiful blankets for our cats

Victoria Wood, collecting items throughout the year for our volunteer gift baskets



Maddie Davis, a student at Rocky Mountain Art School in Colorado, painted two of our Feline Network donation barrels with elaborate designs. They were previously decorated with stickers that were faded and peeling. Greg Hadley sanded the stickers off, primed the barrels and repainted the silver trim. The barrels are now works of art and something to be proud of! They are located in Von's and Lemos in the South County. (Maddie is a granddaughter of Mike Davis, one of our dedicated volunteers.)

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

November 2021 thru October 2022

We especially thank our Very Generous Donors

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(Continued on page 5)

HEARTFELT THANKS

Golden Paws

(Continued from page 4)

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(Continued on page 7)

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

In Loving Memory of

Mary Ellen Fox, "a good friend who fostered and companioned hundreds of cats in her 93 years," by Sheryl Patton.

Don Hartley, by Debbie Kraft.

Barbara Howder, my beloved cousin, who lived always loving animals," by Beth Wyatt.

Brooks Lambertson, by Diane & Clark Hendrickson.

Lynn Marie Lane, by Gail Eastman.

Gloria Pautz, long-time supporter of Feline Network, "from which she adopted her much-loved (but ill-named) cat, Serena," by Shirley, Tony & Doug Stewart.

Apricot, by Claudia Schalk.

Bella, "a very sweet yellow lab," by Beth Wyatt

Carol and Ted, by Alyce Thorp & Bob Mayberry. "We so miss them. The best pets we ever had!"

J.J. aka Precious Boy, by Elana Peters. "He went to kitty heaven in July. He had three really good years with me, from the streets to the Ritz Carlton. Thanks for your caring hearts."

Beautiful Kona, by Beth Wyatt.

Leo, "beloved cat of Rhet and Linda," by Nancy Malk.

Perky & Henry, "best cats, best friends," by Wanda McDonald.

Ms. Piggy, "rest in peace," by Carol Prickett & Jean Rotta.

Sammy Simpson, by Scott & Sandra Naumann.

Teddy, by Robynne Davidson.

In Honor of

The Cat's Nest kitties and their families, by Carolee & Emilee Hunt, "in honor of our clients."

Julie Coleman, by Judy Wooten. "The boys say thanks for finding and rescuing them. I hope all their littermates turned out equally sleek and beautiful."

Annie Dreizler, "for her care of Paquito," by Michelle Johnson.

Elaine Genasci, "in support of her Trap/Neuter/Return work," by Darlene Bates.

Jill Stavros, "in recognition of her efforts and endeavors," by Robert Whitmore.

The "A-Team", by Mary Donnelly & Duane Wall.

Shadow, "19 years old!" by Lori Singleton.

So fe Lion, by Rosemary Cadieux, "We are so grateful to you, Christine."

Brave Trike, by Chris Shell.

In Appreciation of

Carol Brookshire & Feline Network, by Heidi Carr. "Thank you so much for all your help in trapping & spaying my feral kitty! She is in my house and doing well. Carol was amazing! Keep up your great work!!"

Christine Collie, Elaine Genasci & Pamela Werth, by Tami Dickerson. "Special thanks for the 9/21/22 Santa Margarita rescue."

Lynette Crane & Feline Network, by Pam & Gary Biglioni. "This is a small token of appreciation for the work you all do, and for finding a loving forever home for the kitten who found us, now known as 'Primrose.'"

Lynette Crane & Feline Network, by Carol Prickett. "Thank you so much for your precious help with Ms. Piggy. She thanks you for being a godsend in my situation. Keep up the work. It helps a lot."

Elaine Genasci, by Emily Chapman & Tim Baumann, All Signs & Graphics. "Thanks so much for all your efforts. It's really appreciated."

The Feline Network

by Corliss Campbell & Richard Schmidt. "Love our 3 FN kitties."

by Nicolle Gilsdorf. "I am so happy to have found Sadie! She is perfect for me, and I for her! Thank you for all you do."

by Walt, Cecilee, Jonathan, Lucy & Luna Kohnke. "Thank you for our cat Luna. She has been an awesome addition to the family. She is a really great cat! Keep up the good work!"

by Linda Lamanuzzi. "You are all angels!! You are making a huge difference and I am forever grateful."

by Laura Lippincott. "I adopted a cat through you. He's doing great. He's a sweetie."

by McLean Roofing. "We are always so happy that the Feline Network exists! You all do what we want to but aren't able to do! Thank you! Love, Ryan & Jodie McLean and Maximus and Monroe McLean, our Siamese Babies."

by Elizabeth Nagano. "Thank you for rescuing so many sweet souls."

An Abandoned Kitten's Happy Ending

In the story "Abandoned" in our last newsletter, we wrote about kittens that were left on the side of a rural Nipomo road in a plastic bin. We rescued five healthy, well-fed kittens that were about two weeks old and another kitten about five weeks old that was emaciated and covered with fleas.

The older kitten, now named Sneakers, has been living with foster mom Sylvia Torres. He arrived in her home with many health issues. He had a fever, slow weight-gain, and upper respiratory problems, with a left eye so damaged that it needed to be removed. He has been affectionate and playful throughout, according to Sylvia. "I don't think he ever stops purring." She created a fundraiser on her social media account and was able to raise \$900 to go towards his eye removal surgery!

Sneakers met his best buddy and playmate Pirate while in foster care. They are inseparable and have been adopted together into their forever home. "This little guy is worth every tear I cried and plenty of sleepless nights! He is a special little guy. I would do it again in a heartbeat."



Sneakers before surgery for his left eye, and buddy Pirate

HEARTFELT THANKS Silver Paws

(Continued from page 5)

Sharon Reese
Diane Reinert & Mark Dragna
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All in a Day's Work



"Don't mess with my babies," says the protective mom.

man who took care of the cats had passed away. The man's family worked with me to rescue five tame cats that were inside the business, including a mama cat with three four-week-old kittens. When I was trying to pick up the kittens with my hands,



"Yum, yum, looks safe to me."

In September I was told there were more than 20 cats at an auto body shop in an industrial complex in Atascadero. I arranged for 20 spay/neuter appointments at Woods Humane North County and four at Coast Vet Clinic in Morro Bay.

I started trapping the evening before my appointments, and within two hours, I had 18 cats in traps! I left the remaining six traps set overnight and went back in the morning to collect six more cats. All of the cats are beautiful and super healthy, mostly Siamese mixes and some black cats. After I dropped the cats off at the vet clinics, I went back and set my last four traps to catch any remaining cats. Fortunately, I was successful and I took those cats to Dr. Berg's veterinary office in Arroyo Grande the following morning.

I kept all of the spayed and neutered cats overnight in a fellow trapper's garage before releasing them the next day at the site.

When I returned the following week to use my drop trap to get any remaining cats, I was told that the cats started screaming. Mama cat jumped at me several times to protect her babies. I ended up with a few scratches and bruises, but nothing serious. All in a trapper's day's work!

With the drop trap, I was able to catch five more kittens that were living outside. I later trapped another adult cat, and there are two that still need to be trapped. All of the kittens are in foster homes.

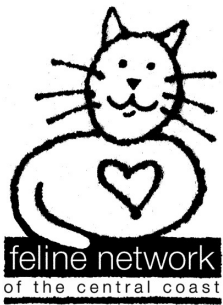
A total of 29 adult feral cats were returned to the site and four of the tame adult cats went to Woods Humane in Atascadero for adoption. The tame nursing mama, her litter of three and the five other kittens were all placed in foster care.

I recently talked with the owners of the industrial complex and they have agreed to set up a feeding station and let the cats remain on the premises. We have someone who is feeding them temporarily, but we need to find a person or persons who will feed them on a permanent basis. Please contact me at (805)458-3978 if you would like to volunteer.



Trapped cats wait in garage overnight before morning surgery.

By Elaine Genasci



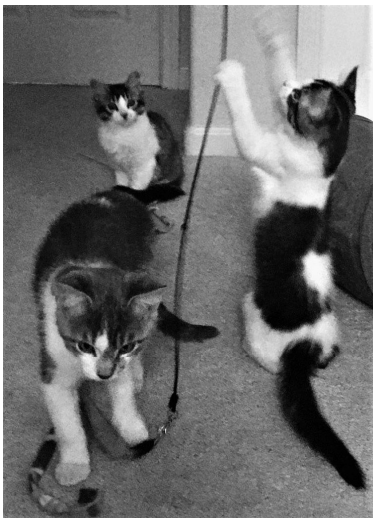
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The Cat House

Our trappers have a wide variety of experiences. Trapping situations can be difficult sometimes, but they can also be quite interesting! Linda Cohen received a call on September 8th for help with feral cats and kittens at a home in a Nipomo neighborhood. She had trapped there the year before, spaying and neutering the adults and rescuing the kittens. Richard, the owner, likes the feral cats. As a matter of fact, he leaves doors open in both the house and the garage all the time so the cats can come and go. He has bedrooms set up with cushy cat beds so they can get a good night's sleep and dishes for food and water.



"We started life under a pile of recyclables."

When Linda arrived at the home she saw large stacks of beer cartons and beer cans piled around. Richard's father, who passed away two months before, was keeping them to recycle one day. Richard said he thought kittens were under a pile of beer recyclables, so she dug through the pile and was able to hand-catch two five-week-old kittens.

Linda then set traps for the adults and caught five that night. As luck would have it, in the process of getting the cats to the vet for spaying and neutering, she tripped in a gopher hole, twisted her knee and was unable to continue with her job. Gay and Dave Richards picked up the cats at the vet and returned them to Richard's home.

A few weeks later when Linda was back on her feet, she caught a third kitten. The three kittens are lovingly cared for by foster mom Paula Farrar. There are three adults that still need to be trapped.

"Last year I thought the cat situation was pretty much cleared up, but the house seems to attract other cats," said Linda. "These are far better accommodations than living under a bush."

