



# Network News

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

SUMMER 2026

## Outsmarting a clever mom

The Feline Network received a call about a mom cat with a litter of tiny kittens hidden in a hedge in a San Luis Obispo neighborhood. When I arrived, I found the kittens, probably only 2 or 3 weeks old, tucked in the nest with their mother. My plan was to trap Mom first, then take the whole family into foster care.

I baited two humane traps and left them overnight. The next morning I trapped a tomcat, but Mom was still in the hedge with her kittens. I decided to try a different type of trap—a Roadrunner-and-Coyote "drop trap," where you bait it and lie in wait for your target to go underneath. Then you pull the rope and the cat is trapped.

While Mom watched from a distance, I removed the kittens and placed them in a large bowl with a warming disk, then put it under the drop trap. Then I waited...and waited.

Four hours later, I realized Mom could see me sitting in my car, so she wouldn't go near the trap. I called my husband, who brought me lunch and traded cars. His has dark tinted windows. Within 30 minutes Mom cautiously emerged from the hedge. She looked at the kittens under the trap, looked at the car, and then walked completely around it sniffing the tires. It was nerve-wracking and I held my breath.

Finally, she headed straight for her kittens. As soon as she stepped beneath the trap, I pulled the rope. Success! The folks



**Only one thing could lure this cautious mom into the trap: her kittens. The bowl kept babies warm and safe while Elaine waited for the perfect moment to spring the trap.**

who had called for help watched the entire rescue on their security cameras and came out to help move Mom safely into a transfer trap. Timing is everything. Once a feral mother knows her nest has been discovered she'll usually move the kittens, and my time was limited because I was flying to Seattle later that day.

The kittens were placed in foster care and later adopted into loving homes. Mom was spayed, vaccinated, ear-tipped and returned to the neighborhood she calls home.

—By Elaine Genasci



## Plucked from a pipe

**Daring rescue at SLO city maintenance yard**

We usually think of rescuing cats from trees. But how about from inside a steel pipe?

That was the challenge

facing SLO city workers after a tiny kitten was spotted wandering in the maintenance yard off Prado Road. The little stray was caught but its three littermates darted into a long, heavy pipe and refused to budge.

Volunteer Pamela Werth, who assisted with the rescue, believes the kittens' mother may have hidden them in what

seemed like a safe place, but for some unknown reason she disappeared.

After attempts to coax the kittens from their hiding place failed, it was time to bring in the big guns—in this case, the heavy equipment. Using an excavator with a long-reach claw, workers carefully lifted one end of the pipe and out slid the kittens into a waiting box.

The very first kitten caught, dubbed Piper, sadly did not survive. She was cold, dehydrated and underweight, as were her littermates. At only four weeks old, Pamela believes they likely wouldn't have survived

another night.

One of the rescued "pipe kitties" was adopted by a city maintenance worker, while the remaining two are thriving in Pamela's foster care. "They're little love-

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**Up it went...and down they slid into the waiting box.**

**An all-volunteer, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the spaying and neutering, care, rescue and adoption of cats and kittens**

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

**805-549-9228**

**felinenetwork.org**



# To Honor and Remember

## In Loving Memory of

**Fred Bogden**, by his sister Louise Justice  
**Nancy Carlson**, by Nancy Brown  
**Clark Hendrickson**, by Diane Hendrickson  
**Clark Hendrickson**, by Linda Sue Coville. "Clark & Diane loved animals, were dog walkers and helped out wherever they lived."  
**Mayo McKee**, "our good friend," by Rosemarie & Kenneth Miller  
**Dash**, "beloved kitty of Alan & Carrie Forrest," by Beth Wyatt  
**Dora & Jag**, by Karen & Rick Lewis  
**Frankie**, by Kathleen & James Walker. "We didn't realize how much he filled our lives until we were left with an empty house."  
**Princess & Blondi**, by Arlene Nunes-Day  
**Sweet Oliver, his Royal Highness**, by Ruth Laitila, "and in appreciation of Roxanne Bohn, his faithful servant."  
**Tuxedo**, "my dear feline companion who passed away October 31, 2025," by Lannie Erickson

## In Honor of

**Dr. Kholood Hassan**, by Anonymous  
**Jill Gamble's birthday**, by Auntie Louise Justice  
**Our friend Courtney Olsen's birthday**, by Mongo (her cat that we took in when she moved to a 'no pets' apt. in Oregon), by Stephen Taylor & Laura DeLoura  
**Kristin & Patrick Perl**, by Janice & Bob Contons  
**Schuyler Johnson**, by Anonymous. "In honor of her birthday."  
**Simon & Abby**, by Daphne & Paul Swedberg

## In Appreciation of

**Roxanne Bohn**, by Anonymous  
**Lynette Crane, Anna Stewart & FN**, by Elizabeth Hillis. "I am so grateful for your help throughout the years, especially from Lynette and Anna, who have given me timely advice anytime I called with cat questions."  
**Lynette Crane**, by Chris Capuano. "Thank you for all the guidance, support and kindness you showed me with my cat situation."  
**Elaine Genasci**, by Dennis & Gaylo Elston. "We'd like to say a special thank-you. She is amazing – kind to cats and people."  
**Elaine Genasci**, "for her help in getting a rescued cat spayed," by Alison Kerns  
**Elaine Genasci**, "for her help getting a family of seven cats spayed and neutered," by Denise Milardo

**Elaine Genasci**, by Teresa Miron. "Thanks for helping with our feral cat and being so generous with your time."

**Elaine Genasci**, by John Voegtli. "I am forever grateful to her for fixing my four sweet kitties."

**Karen Hass & Judy Enright**, "who supported me after the recent loss of my husband," by Diane Hendrickson

**Kristin Perl and FN**, "for rescuing our neighborhood cat and finding him a forever home," by Anonymous

**Pamela Werth**, by Jennifer Yost. "Thank you for helping my wild cat get fixed."

**Pamela Werth & FN**, by Kelly Quiros. "Thank you for your help and advice with our indoor feral cat, Socks. We learned a lot about each other and continue to progress with our domestication process."

**FN foster parents**, by Donna & Larry Herbst  
**FN**, "and all the people who give of their time, money and loving care to all the kittens," by Jackie Johnson  
**FN**, "in support of the busy kitten season," by Nora Lewis. "Keep up the good work."

**FN**, by Jodie, Ryan, Baji and Bohdi McLean and McLean Roofing. "We are forever grateful for the care you give to every cat and kitten."

**FN**, by Sheryl Patton. "You guys are awesome! Good luck with kitten season and all."

**FN**, by Elana Peters. "Bless your work!"

**FN**, by Sue Procter & Allen Siekman. "Thanks for all you do for the kitties that come into your caring network."

**FN**, by Dianne Sonksen. "My husband and I have enjoyed the company of many lovely kitties that came from your care."

**FN**, by Marion Soltz & Cara Wimer. "What Greater Gift than the Love of a Cat," Charles Dickens."



## A sad farewell

**Gabagail (Gabby)**, who may have been one of the Feline Network's earliest—and oldest—rescues, passed away this spring at the remarkable age of 22 years and nine months. Adopted in 2004 by Robin White's family, she spent more than two decades keeping everyone on schedule for meals, treats, and playtime. "Gabby was an amazing kitty," Robin says, "and her absence is felt daily."

—By Richard & Robin White

## Madge had a little lamb *Friendship blossoms between a rejected lamb and a motherly cat*

Giving new meaning to the old nursery rhyme, an abandoned lamb and a mother cat formed an unlikely



**Are you my mama? It didn't take long for Pepe and Marge to form a close bond.**

friendship at the Arroyo Grande home of Lorraine Alban.

Readers may remember Madge from an earlier story, "Help, My Kittens Have Been Stolen!" by volunteer Kathy Schwanitz. Kathy fostered Madge and her nearly identical sister, Penny Pink Nose (formerly Sister One and Sister Two) before they were adopted by Lorraine. When Madge had kittens, Penny famously "stole" them one by one, only for the sisters to end up nursing the litter together.

Pepe, a twin lamb rejected shortly after birth on Easter Sunday, came to live in Lorraine's house while she bottle-fed him. "A lot of times when twins are born, the mother will abandon the weaker lamb," she explained. From the second day on,

Madge became his babysitter. "He started following her around and they would seek each other out. She groomed him and he groomed her back." While Penny seemed to have lost her motherly instinct and ignored the lamb, Madge welcomed him as though he were simply another kitten.

The pair played and wandered the garden together until Pepe was weaned a few months later. He rejoined the family's flock of some 90 other sheep, which graze the Alban Vineyards and acreage and help reduce weeds and vegetation for fire protection. Madge returned to life with her sister, but Lorraine still smiles when she remembers the unusual friendship.

# What's in the attic?

Cindy and Brett Dodson had lived in Nipomo for nine years yet had never seen feral cats on their 5 acres. All that changed last fall, when they noticed a little calico hanging around. "She wouldn't let us get near her but we left food and water out," Cindy says. They assumed she was sleeping in an outdoor room off their patio, in a small gap between a refrigerator and the bottom of a cabinet.

Last fall, they started hearing noises in the attic.

Brett was recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon so couldn't investigate. Their daughter climbed up to take a look...nothing.

"Then we started hearing all this scratching around up there," Cindy continues. Could it be rats? But every time they looked there was nothing. Finally they put a camera in the



attic "and about an hour later, lo and behold, there was the cat with four kittens!" she laughs. Somehow the little cat—they named her Coco—had been wiggling her way up into the attic and had given

birth to a litter. They contacted Feline Network and volunteers brought traps, showed how to use them and then helped with their little housemates after they were captured.

Upon entering the attic to set the traps, Brett pulled the ladder down and out tumbled two of the kittens, who were quickly caught. Over a week's time they trapped Coco, then the

black-and-white kitten and finally the orange one. The kittens were all taken to a foster home in SLO.

Coco was spayed and adopted by the Dodsons and is now a happy family member who even learned how to use the doggie door (she's kept in at night for her own safety). Fortunately, her babies were all adopted into happy and loving homes. Cindy still marvels at the determined little mother. "She worked so hard to care for her kittens, using every ounce she had to bring them food. She was a hard-workin' mama."



**Smile, you're on Candid Camera! Coco and her brood were finally caught on camera in the Dodsons' attic. (Left) All four kittens (one in hiding).**

## Beautiful inside and out *The sweet kitten with a gappy 'grin'*

Tiny Sydney was born with a cleft lip, an anatomical quirk that gives her a decidedly different look. But beneath her unusual appearance is a feisty, playful spirit that quickly wins everyone over.

Just a few months ago, her future



**Sydney—renamed Phoenix—was found alone and abandoned in a dumpster but has landed in the "best home ever."**

was uncertain. At just three weeks old, Sydney was found alone and abandoned in a dumpster after a passerby heard her cries. She was taken into foster care by longtime volunteer Pamela Werth, who was immediately smitten. Aside from having a cleft lip, her new charge was in remarkably good health. A veterinary exam confirmed that the defect is mostly cosmetic and does not extend into Sydney's palate—a much more serious condition that often requires surgery.

Sydney will always be petite and, according to Pamela is "a regular little rag doll—as floppy as a stuffed animal—super soft, sweet and playful. She's very trusting, and very affectionate. She's just a great cat."

When Sydney was about four months old, her crooked nose, gappy "grin" and loving personality won her a very special home. She was adopted by a couple that previously adopted Pamela's

one-eyed foster Atticus. "It's the best home ever," Pamela said. "Their animals are their children". The adopters renamed this remarkable little cat Phoenix. "She is the sweetest little baby and we are obsessed," they said.

### Please help

**with food & litter donations!**

Donation barrels are located at Lemos Feed & Pet Supply in SLO, Atascadero, AG and Nipomo as well as Von's in Grover Beach, The Pet House in Los Osos and Grocery Outlet in SLO and AG. We accept opened and/or damaged bags of dry food.





**FELINE NETWORK**  
P.O. Box 526  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

(805) 549-9228  
[felinenetwork.org](http://felinenetwork.org)

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## Trapped by mistake

Sometimes a cat is in the right place at the right time. This happened to a pretty boy with the most beautiful blue eyes. A couple in Arroyo Grande set a trap for a different cat, but the cat that really needed help went in! The two-year-old Siamese had a tail wound and was missing half his tail.

Thankfully the couple called Feline Network and he was taken to a vet where



his wound was cleaned up and he was neutered. I oversaw his recovery in my cattery, as cats and kittens with medical issues are my specialty. I named him Sinatra. He has been a very neat guest—always super good about his litter box and very cute playing

with his toys. Sadly, as is often the case with tail injuries, he would bump it and it would be painful and bleed, so he ended up having it amputated. He is still the same beautiful blue-eyed Siamese but with a Doberman tail.

When Sinatra recovered sufficiently, he was placed in a foster home where he is settling in very well. He is a super sweet purr machine and readily air-kneads with his paws. He is very happy when he has his person close by. If you want to learn more about Sinatra, call Kristin at 805-550-9064.

— By Anna Stewart



**'Ol Blue Eyes—Sinatra, a Siamese with beautiful blue eyes and a Doberman tail, is looking for just the right home.**

### Plucked from a pipe

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bugs but rascals,' she laughs, "They're very small for their age, but they're healthy, playful and fun."

For Pamela, it was a rescue unlike any she had experienced. "I'd never done one that necessitated heavy machinery before. We never would have gotten them out without it." She is quick to credit the City of SLO employees for refusing to give up. Pamela said the workers there have always been wonderful to work with, but that in this case they went above and beyond.

### *In need of a safe space*



**We are always looking for homes for our very shy but wonderful cats and kittens that need safe garden or garage homes. Call 805-556-0717 if you can help.**