

Cat's Tale

FRIENDS OF FERAL FELINES

SUMMER 2002



Jack was either discared or lost and had to reverted to his wild ways to survive.

occasionally allow being touched. They are not usually suitable as pets as they are very shy and only learn to trust one person. Some stray cats revert to their feral ways for survival, but when given the opportunity will tame back down some degree but rarely ever back to the house cat they may have once been.

Most ferals are content in their own territory, provided they have food and water available to them on a daily basis. A simple shelter with straw hay (not pinestraw) can provide warmth and dryness on inclement days.

Don't believe that feral cats would rather be in your home. They would not. There are plenty of friendly cats awaiting adoption at your local shelter and rescue organizations.

Feral cats are survivors and resilient. All they need is a little help from a friend (human).

Friends of Feral Felines works only with feral and homeless abandoned cats. At this time there is only enough funding to help these throw-away animals. Throw-away because most of these cats aren't lucky
See STRAY OR FERAL inside



Found a Cat? Is it a Stray or Feral?

Stray (homeless) or feral – aren't they the same? No, actually. While both cats are homeless, stray cats are friendly, able to be touched and will usually adapt to becoming part of your household. Feral cats, on the other hand, are afraid of people. They have been taught this defense by their mothers in order to survive in our world. They usually cannot be touched and run and hide when they are approached. The exceptions to this are the feral cats that are fed regularly by the same person. The cats will eventually come to trust that person enough that they will rub up against them, and will

FERAL UPDATE

over 1425 cats
sterilized to date!

ATTENTION All Feral Cat Caretakers

If you suspect one of your feral cats is missing, you should contact Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Control at 704/336-3786 and the FFF hotline at 704/348-1578.

FFF will occasionally receives calls from Animal Control regarding feral cats marked with clipped left ear that have been brought into the shelter.

Animal Control will contact FFF when a cat with a clipped ear is brought in; however, FFF has only a week to locate the caretaker through our records. This process is time consuming and not always successful. We definitely need your help in reclaiming these cats before they are euthanized.

Unfortunately, FFF is unable to reclaim cats on a regular basis due to a shortage of relocation sites.

Spay-Neuter Ferals



Crazy Feral!

FFF's first high-volume, low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic for feral and stray cats in Charlotte

With the goals of relieving the suffering of homeless cats and reducing their staggering numbers, Friends of Feral Felines would like to operate a High Volume Clinic for Charlotte area ferals and homeless cats. Our efforts towards this efficient high-volume approach are getting closer and we expect to hold our first clinic this Fall.

Donations of cash and medical supplies are still very much needed to make this program successful. We have had much support from our veterinary community and a facility has been secured.

The need for large-scale sterilization of feral cats here in the Charlotte and surrounding areas is great. FFF feels very much committed to seeing that a high volume program exists here in Charlotte. This commitment is paying off with your financial support, donations and volunteers.

FFF's First Annual Yard Sale

The First Annual Friends of Feral Felines Yard Sale was a huge success!! The weather was good to us on June 22nd and so were our customers! It was hustle and bustle for a little while but all in all, we had a great time raising money to support our TNR program.

Margaret Healey Cat Sanctuary also set up tables and raised much needed funds for the feral cats at the Sanctuary.

We very much appreciated all the donated items...we wouldn't have been successful without them. If you have not received a receipt, please call our hot line at 704/348-1578, leave your name and home or e-mail address and a receipt will be sent to you.

The sale wouldn't have come together without the hard work of our wonderful volunteers who loaded and unloaded the truck, drove the truck, set up the tables and merchandise and assisted customers. Very special thanks to Barbara Babst, Victoria Crosland, Theresa Gahren, Ann Gross, Cheryl McDermott, Cheryl Nedopak, Michelle Nedopak, Steve Polilowski, Beverly Sammarco, Lisa Steffy, and Toni West.

We plan to have our next yard sale next spring, so look for information in upcoming issues of Cat Tales, on our website, www.friendsofferalfelines.org and at upcoming cat shows. It really was a fun day for a very worthy cause...the cats. Come join us next time!



The Furball Lady cares for orphaned kittens.

Who is The Furball Lady?

The Furball Lady Rescue & Adoption is a non-profit rescue agency that provides temporary care for orphaned, abused and stray cats and kittens through foster homes. We are currently showing cats for adoption at the PetsMart on Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia and the Petsmart on South Blvd. in Charlotte, as well as Pet Essentials in Charlotte when volunteers are available.

We need foster homes to provide loving care for our cats. If you are interested in being a foster home for us, we will provide the food, litter and other necessary supplies. If you would like to volunteer to help us show our cats for adoption, let us know what location and time is convenient for you.

If you have any questions, would be interested in fostering, helping us show our cats and kittens, or considering adoption, please call Debbie or Christina at 704-333-6026.

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #3801
Charlotte, NC



FRIENDS OF FERAL FELINES

P.O. Box 561103
Charlotte, NC 28256

Memorials
In memory of Reggie,
beloved pet of Victoria Crosland
In memory of Minnie Mouse,
beloved pet of Tom & Travis

In Honor of...
Generous contribution made in the name of
Joseph Bondurant
by Valerie & Race Farlow & by Bill Archer

Thanks!

Friends of Feral Felines would like to give a warm thank-you to Brian Little who was our previous web-master for our previous Pixelforge web-site.

Brians contribution towards our organization was very much needed and appreciated. Good luck Brian in your future endeavors.

We welcome a new veterinarian to our network. Dr. Kessler of the Gaffney Animal Clinic. We are grateful to have her professional services and that of her staff. Thank you to our dedicated veterinarians and vet staff: Park Cedar Animal Hospital, Monroe Road Animal Hospital, Pineville Animal Hospital, Matthews Animal Clinic, Carolinas Veterinary Clinic, Belmont Animal Hospital, Eastridge Animal Hospital, Carolina Place Animal Hospital, Veterinary House Calls/Mobile Care, and Gaffney Animal Clinic without whom, we would not exist.

Thank you to our kind and generous supporters for their contributions. All the funds raised will allow us to continue our TNR/R/Program for the homeless feral cats in Charlotte and surrounding areas.

Thanks to our volunteers whose hard work and efforts have helped over 1,300 cats by trapping, taking them to our veterinarians for sterilization and then released back where they came from, healthy and with food, water and shelter.



WISH LIST

- Cat Food • Carriers • Large Crates
- 12 x 12 dog pens • Cat Furniture
- Dog or cat houses • Humane Traps
- GRANT WRITERS • Towels • Blankets
- Cat loving volunteers & Foster homes
- Permanent homes for feral cats
- Farms for barn cats

If you can help out in any way, please contact FFF.



**A Letter From
Ann Gross
Co-director of
Friends of Feral Felines**

Our dedicated volunteers are working in many areas including daily appointments for low-cost spay/neuter/vaccination of feral cats, a very successful garage sale in June and plans for a low-cost spay/neuter/vaccination clinic for feral cats in November 2002.

The clinic is a work in progress with all volunteer veterinarians, veterinary technicians and lay volunteers offering their valuable skills and services. We have possible clinic sites offered. We will need many more volunteers for this clinic, so please call our hotline if you would like to help (704-348-1578). Your efforts would be most appreciated and would directly benefit these innocent animals

MEANWHILE, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS:

- Please consider giving some of your valuable time to be:
- Telephone Volunteer (need experience with T/N/R and FFF)
- Volunteer Drivers to Gaffney and/or Return to Charlotte
- Assist in Trapping Feral Cats
- Fundraising Volunteer – assist with various functions; cat shows, yard sale, etc.

A very special thank you to Beverly Sammarco, coordinator of our successful garage sale and the many volunteers who helped.

Thank you all!



FOCUS FELINE



Our Last Time

*His last heartbeat was against my heart.
His last breath was smelling my scent.
His last sound was me whispering my love.
His last touch was my arms around him.
His last sight, with the sun on his fur, was his flowered cushion and my face saying goodbye.
Then he closed his eyes, went to sleep,
and went on to heaven.*

April 29, 2002
For Reggie, Sir Reginald Cat
In Memorium 199? - 2002

From your Mom, Victoria. Thank you for the best six years of my life. I love you more than everything, I miss you so.

ANIMAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS - CHARLOTTE AREA

- Animal Fund** - 9117 Eakers Court, CHARLOTTE, NC 28215
Phone: (704) 536-5583 • msloanii@aol.com
- Animal Rescue Center** - 801 Claremont Rd., Charlotte NC 28214
Phone: (704) 393-5988 • Email: CATS@peoplepc.com
- Cabarrus Animal Protection Assoc.** - 3220 Old Salisbury Rd
CONCORD, NC 28025-1546 • Phone: (704) 455-9562
- Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control** - (704) 336-3786
- Friends of Feral Felines** - P.O. Box 561103, CHARLOTTE, NC 28256
Phone: (704) 348-1578 • www.friendsofferalfelines.org
- Margaret Hailey Cat Sanctuary** - P.O. Box 196, PAW CREEK, NC 28310
Phone: (704) 392-4360 • www.mhcatsanctuary.org
- Gaston Humane Society** - P.O. Box 2334, GASTONIA, NC 28053-2334
Phone: (704) 824-8990
- Humane Society of Concord & Greater Cabarrus County**
P.O. Box 3104, CONCORD, NC 28025 • Phone: (704) 784-4434
vannoate@email.uncc.edu • www.dogsaver.org/cabarrushumane/htm
- Humane Society of Union County** - P.O. Box 101, MONROE, NC 28111
Phone: (704) 821-7291
- Mecklenburg County Humane Society** - 1815 Park Drive
CHARLOTTE, NC 28204-2444 • Phone: (704) 377-1714
- Project: HALO** (Helping Animals Live On)
2500 Taimi Drive, PO Box 667924, Charlotte NC 28266
Phone: (704) 395-2995 • Email: projhalo@aol.com
- The Animal Connection** - 6401 Mounting Rock Rd., Charlotte NC 28217
Phone: (704) 522-9094 • Email: cbdoolittle@yahoo.com
- Wolfs Paw Adoption Agency** (all pets)
Email: WindSweptWolf@AOL.com
http://www.anglefire.com/nc2/wolfspawrescue/index.html
- Humane Society of Charlotte** - P.O. Box 221028, CHARLOTTE, NC 28222
Phone: (704) 377-0534 • http://www.clthumane.org/
- The Tropics Exotic Bird Refuge** - (704) 932-8041
- Carolina Raptor Center** - (704) 875-6521 • www.birdsofprey.org
- Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas** (Wildlife) - (704) 552-2329
- Wildlife Rescue** - (704) 892-1010
- SOUTH CAROLINA:**
- Adopt-A-Pet of York County** - P.O. Box 1253, YORK, SC 29745
Phone: (803) 684-5353 • Fax: (803) 325-2053 • Adoptapal@aol.com
- Animal Adoption League** - P O Box 2453, Rock Hill, SC 29732
Phone: (803) 529-6900 • Email: mynextpet@yahoo.com
http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/2615/
Matthews and Pineville PetsMart on Sat and Sun 1-5pm
- Animal Outreach of Rock Hill SC** - 1938 Oak Pond Rd., ROCK HILL, SC 29730
Phone: (803) 328-2793 • samd@cetlink.com
http://www.members.tripod.com/annoutreach/home.html
- Union County Humane Society** - P.O. Box 101, UNION, SC 29379-0101
Phone: (864) 427-1594 • Fax: (864) 427 3177
- York County Humane Society** - P.O. Box 10261, ROCK HILL, SC 29731
Phone: (803) 802-0902 • Fax: (803) 779 0838
- Recycled Pets Inc.** - 2354-A Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill, SC 29731
Phone: (803) 981-5087 • (803)328-0217 • Email: bck@perigee.net
http://www.recycledpetsonline.org/

Who are Friends of Feral Felines?

Friends of Feral Felines is a nonprofit organization committed to the humane management of feral cats. We help the public trap, sterilize, vaccinate and release feral cats. FFF is the only rescue group of its kind in the Charlotte metro area.

We serve as a resource center by:

- Educating the public
- Renting humane (live) traps
- Lending carriers and cages
- Providing information about low-cost spays and neuters
- Publishing the quarterly newsletter "Cat's Tale" to keep you informed
- Maintaining a Web site: www.friendsofferalfelines.org

We constantly seek the Charlotte metro community's help in alleviating the suffering of feral cats.

FFF Mission Statement: *Friends of Feral Felines exists in order to humanely manage feral cats through a trap/sterilize/vaccinate/release program, and to educate the public about feral cats.*

STRAY OR FERAL... continued

enough to find someone that will take responsibility for them. They spend their lives struggling, searching for food from trashcans, behind restaurants, golf courses, universities, apartment buildings, and parking lots. They live to make it through one more day. Friends of Feral Felines exists to help people make a difference in the lives of these innocent animals. They deserve a chance to be free from starvation and disease if they remain entrenched in a colony with a responsible caretaker.

Friends of Feral Felines is a non-profit organization of volunteers who assist the public in T/N/R – Trap/Neuter/Return of homeless/feral cats. We loan out humane traps, recovery carriers, provide instruction (written and verbal) on T/N/R, have a low-cost veterinary network, offer a subsidy to those in need and provide information concerning feral cats. We publish a quarterly newsletter, "Cat's Tale" and website, www.friendsofferalfelines.org -- Visit our newly designed website

If you have found a tame domestic cat, please report its description and location to Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control (704-336-3786) so the owner will have up to one week to claim the cat. You do not have to turn the animal over to Animal Control. The description simply goes on a list. Also put signs up and down local street saying "FOUND CAT – PLEASE CALL (TELEPHONE NUMBER)." If anyone calls, have them describe the cat's color and sex. Do not turn the cat over to anyone who cannot describe the cat accurately. Observe the person/cat relationship if they come to claim the cat. Ask for their veterinarian record and check it out. If you are not comfortable with the situation, simply say there have been more people putting in a claim and you need time to investigate. Be advised - there are people called "bunchers" who collect free cats/kittens and then sell them to research laboratories for experiments. Please use caution in turning the cat/kitten over.

If you are unable to find the owner, then please consult one of the tame cat adoption/rescue agencies listed in our newsletter. They will assist you further in having the animal seen by a veterinarian and follow-up for possible adoption. And when leaving the cat with this organization, please include a donation to help with its care until it is adopted.

Feral kittens between the ages of 4 weeks and 12 weeks are able to be socialized with a dedicated caretaker. Kittens must remain with their mothers until the age of 4 weeks to obtain the proper nourishment and care. Instructions on "Taming Feral Kittens" can be obtained from www.alleycat.org. or from one of our representatives.

I've met many thinkers and many cats, but the wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.– Hippolyte Taine



CALENDAR

AUGUST 6: FFF MEETING at the MORRISON REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY. 6:30-8:30pm. Call 704-336-2109 Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served. New Members Welcome!

OCTOBER 1: FFF MEETING at the MORRISON REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY. 6:30-8:30pm. Call 704-336-2109 Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served. New Members Welcome!

PREPARATIONS FOR FFF'S LOW-COST SPAY NEUTER CLINIC WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS CLINIC PLEASE CONTACT THE FFF HOTLINE AT 704-348-1578

Send your letters, comments, photos to:

**K Jones at
KsCats28@hotmail.com
or P.O. Box 196,
Paw Creek, NC 28310
Photos & Layout by K Jones**



Feral cat hiding under her shelter at MHCS.

After becoming used to people, these kittens can become loving indoor pets.

"It's not my cat" is a plea we sometimes hear – but it is or has been someone's cat or their cat's offspring. It is at the very least – a community cat. It belongs to all of us. When the opportunity presents itself to you – what will you decide? Please do not turn your back on these homeless animals – they are out there reproducing in record numbers creating more homeless animals. Take a stand. Choose to care and make Charlotte and surrounding areas a haven for sterilized, vaccinated cats with a responsible caretaker. Help support nonlethal animal control for these innocent animals. Allow them to live out their lives in reasonable comfort with food, water and simple shelter. The end goal is the prevention of thousands of homeless kittens, and reduction of homeless cats in our community.

T/N/R – Trap/Neuter/Return is supported by the American Veterinary Association, Doris Day Animal League, Tufts Veterinary School, N.C. State Veterinary School, North Shore Animal League, San Francisco SPCA, Orange County Animal Control, Florida, CMAC, and many more humane animal groups.

Margaret Hailey Cat Sanctuary asks, "What are you feeding your pets?"

Why do we ask? Because your pets deserve to have a happy, healthy and active life. And because we want to help you provide that kind of life to your pets, we sell the highest quality pet food on the market today... Solid Gold!

Last year we noticed that many of the ailments in our cats was nutrition related. So, we got on the computer and sought out why, and were we ever shocked! You wouldn't believe what's in store bought pet food, it's disgusting! No wonder our pets get sick so often, have skin conditions, and don't live to be very old... we're feeding them junk food.

Last September MHCS started feeding the cats at the Sanctuary Solid Gold Katz-n-Flocken. After a few months the difference was amazing-their coats showed a shine plus softness. Their stomachs are less upset/ bloated and they are more active and playful.

Because we believe in this product so much, MHCS became a local distributor of Solid Gold. MHCS also offers discount prices to Rescue organizations. York Country Animal Adoption League, Great Dane Rescue of the Carolinas, FFF volunteers, and many individual customers believe that this is the best prepared food on the market today to feed the dogs and cats in their care as well as their own loving pets.

A few days ago one of our customers informed me that her cat was recently diagnosed with cancer, the cat was so sick the vet was reluctant to let her go home. The pet-owner put her cat on Solid Gold Supplements, "Life Exxtensions" and "Seameal" to help boost up the immune system. After two months her cat had gained back the weight she had lost and her vet found that the cat showed no signs of cancer - the tumors were non-existent.

It takes a commitment to feed your animals a high quality food and supplements, but it's worth it in the long run. It's nice to go to the veterinarian just for

routine exams than it is to constantly go for health problems related to nutrition, and most health problems are related to nutrition!

When your pets eat commercially bought pet foods they get a lot of corn, wheat, grease, fat, sugar, and salt... as well as preservatives, chemical dies, and what little meat there is, is not even fit for human consumption.



Solid Gold uses meat containing No hormones, growth promoters or medications such as antibiotics. No by-products or animal digest. No preservatives. No salt or sugar. No animal or poultry fat. No chemical flavorings or colors. No genetically modified grains. No soy, wheat, or corn. Solid Gold is made with Human Grade Ingredients – fit for human consumption.

Solid Gold specializes in the development of "non-allergetic" products, which work together to enhance total health, boost up the immune system and protect against disease.

For information about Solid Gold, Holistic/Organic Pet Food and Supplements, e-mail KsCats28@hotmail.com. MHCS sells Solid Gold to help raise the funds needed to feed this same high-quality pet food to our ferals. We believe this is what you should be feeding your pets. To find out more, visit www.solidgoldhealth.com or call/e-mail for a catalog and free food samples, please specify cat or dog.

MHCS is a new addition to FFF. As it grows to house more and more displaced feral cats, donations are always needed. Please send your tax-deductible donations to MH Cat Sanctuary, P.O. Box 196, Paw Creek, NC 28310. Our e-mail address is KsCats28@hotmail.com.

Feel free to come and visit the Sanctuary - call first for an appointment.