

Cat's Tale

FRIENDS OF FERAL FELINES

WINTER 2002



(Left to right) Anne-Marie Gearhart, Beverly Sammarco & Lisa Steffy work booth at Cat Show.



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 5: (first Tuesday of the month) FFF meeting at Morrison Regional Public Library, 6:30pm - 8:30pm (small community room), Refreshments provided, New members welcome! Call 704-348-1578 for more information.

FEBRUARY 9 & 10: FFF will have tables at two upcoming cat shows in the Charlotte metro area. The Carolina Sophisticats show will be held in Fort Mill, SC at the Charlotte Hornets Training Facility. The training facility is on Gold Hill Rd. (Exit 88 off I-77).

IN THE WORKS FOR THIS SPRING: FFF is planning a low cost spay/neuter clinic for feral cats. We hope to spay/neuter about 50 cats at our first clinic. FFF needs to purchase more traps as well as vet supplies for this and future clinics. If you

would like to make a donation of a have-a-heart trap, crates or any veterinary supplies, we could sure use them!

MARCH 5 & APRIL 2: (first Tuesday of the month) FFF meeting at Morrison Regional Public Library, 6:30pm - 8:30pm (small community room), Refreshments provided, New members welcome! Call 704-348-1578 for more information.

APRIL 6 & 7: The Friskies Crafty Cat show will

be held at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart April 6-7. The Merchandise Mart is at 2400 E. Independence Blvd.

DON'T WAIT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! If you have a feral cat in your neighborhood, don't wait! One cat is responsible for thousands of offspring. Call FFF and talk to one of our representatives about how you can control the feral cat population in your area. It's simple, low cost, and the right thing to do. Call 704-348-1578 for more information.

FERAL UPDATE

over 1266 cats sterilized to date!



Bubba is the "main man" at UNCC feral colony #3.

Feral cat trapping at UNCC has been extremely successful with a total of 72 cats having been trapped/neutered/released so far. And a special thanks to Anne-Marie Gearhart who didn't even let the snow stop her from her goal.

Many of our members and supporters trap cats on a regular basis, wherever they see a cat in need. If you have a cat in your neighborhood that doesn't seem to belong to anyone, or see a colony of cats at the dumpster where you work, contact FFF and we will advise you on getting that colony under control through our T/S/V/R program.

FFF is made up entirely of volunteers, existing as an organization to humanely manage feral cats through a trap/sterilize/vaccinate/release program. FFF also strives to educate the public on dealing with our community's feral cats in a compassionate manner.

Help FFF prevent as many unwanted births as possible. Your donation will go straight to work spaying and neutering cats. Please send your tax-deductible donation to: FFF, P.O. Box 561103, Charlotte, NC 28256. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time, please contact us at 704-348-1578.

A PRAYER FOR ANIMALS



Hear our humble prayer, Oh God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

Albert Schweitzer

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

Memorials

In memory of Lit'l Booger, Tucker & Mary-Anne - beloved felines of MH Cat Sanctuary

In memory of Dusty & Brandy - beloved felines of Patsy and Ray Ledford

In remembrance of Alex & Rudy - beloved felines of Dick and Nancy Wright

In honor of...

Cecilia Smith - a devoted animal caretaker
Sophie & Theo - who now have a happy home
All our generous and caring supporters

Thou art the Great Cat, the avenger of the Gods, and the judge of words, and the president of the sovereign chiefs and the governor of the holy Circle; thou art indeed...the Great Cat.



—Inscription on the Royal Tombs at Thebes



FRIENDS OF FERAL FELINES
P.O. Box 561103
Charlotte, NC 28256

THANKS!

Thank you to Courtney Brown-Creedmore for being the editor and publisher of "Cat's Tale" from 1998-2001. We hope that she will continue to be a contributing editor.

Thank you to our wonderful quilt makers, Carol Heck and Cynthia Payne. They provided us with beautiful hand-embroidered quilts for our raffle. This was a great fund-raiser for 2001.



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, Freedom Animal Hospital

Without whom, we would not exist.

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

Thanks to our volunteers whose hard work and efforts have helped over 1,200 cats by trapping and 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
- Pick-up Truck (good condition)
- Towels • Electric Blankets • 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 at 704/348-1578.





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

In the physical year 2001, of the 8,439 cats were brought into Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control, 7,058 cats were euthanized, 1061 cats were adopted and only 182 cats were reclaimed.

The "Trap-And-Kill" method has failed to control or reduce the number of cat admissions coming into the shelter. Trap/Neuter/Release is the most humane, ethical and cost-effective way to manage homeless cats.

Spring is around the corner. February begins the new birthing season for kittens, both domestic and feral. Please keep track of your feral colony or homeless cats. Keep rabies shots current. Spay/neuter/vaccinate any new-comers in your colony. FFF will continue to subsidize the spay/neuter as our funds permit. Call our hotline: 704-348-1578 for assistance.

The first high volume, low-cost clinic is a work in progress. Fortunately we have volunteer veterinarians, vet techs and helping hands standing by. This is a great start. We are in need of a facility to help make this happen. Suggestions are welcome. This clinic will function in addition to our daily veterinary network.

Thank you for your continued efforts -
Ann Gross



Cat people are different, to the extent that they generally are not conformists. How could they be, with a cat running their lives?
-Louis J. Camuti, DVM

FOCUS FELINE

Mr. Kitty, X-feral "gone to the dogs"



Dear FFF,

I thought Friends of Feral Felines might like to see "Mr. Kitty" a feral cat I trapped in April (2 years ago). (FFF brought me a trap I successfully used.)

Mr. Kitty had been prowling my neighborhood for over a year - I trapped him - had all tests and shots done and had him neutered - brought him home, released him - and within a month I had tamed him so that he would let me pick him up! Gradually he became very friendly - and is now a member of our family. Even our Lab "Magic" loves Mr. Kitty - as you can see them share Magics bed in our den.

Mr. Kitty has brought us much happiness. The vet eye surgeon operated on his right eye and saved it this year. So far so good.

From Mrs. Ross Andresen of Charlotte

Send your letters, comments, photos to:
K Jones at KsCats28@hotmail.com
or P.O. Box 196, Paw Creek, NC 28301
Photos & Design by K Jones

**Feral Cats
Now Have A
Place To Call
Home!**

The "Margaret Hailey Cat Sanctuary" (MHCS) - a virtual playground for the feral (wild) cat, where she can run free, have a constant food supply, and most importantly, remain safe from harm.



Friends of Feral Felines and Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control receive dozens of calls daily concerning feral cats habituating areas where someone doesn't want them. These poor animals are constantly threatened by property owners who don't want "footprints" on their cars, who object to the cats sleeping under their bushes, or who simply don't want to see them around.

The Margaret Hailey Cat Sanctuary (MHCS) is the answer to all those calls from apartment dwellers whose manager has threatened to poison the feral cats that live in the parking garage, and those ferals needing relocation because they are losing their habitat due to urban sprawl.

MHCS is a feral cat sanctuary, accommodating up to 70 of these unwanted cats, who, through no fault of their own, have not had contact with human beings. They have feelings, are highly intelligent, and show love, care and concern for others of their species.

Once brought to MHCS, these feral cats start out in large 12 x 12 enclosures to prevent escape. The large enclosures have several feeding stations, litter areas, shelters, cat tree and daily maintenance. The cats are monitored on a day-to-day basis to ensure good health.

The admission requirements for feral cats to come to MHCS are simple: FeLV/FIV negative, vaccinations and spay/neuter. No kittens. Plus -- only the "bad and the ugly" need apply. This is not a place for housecats to spend their retirement years. It is designed for feral cats, some of them physically disabled and others emotionally traumatized.

K Jones spends time each day with these cats, giving each one individual attention geared to that cats wants and needs. A few cats may graduate to seek permanent adoption in homes elsewhere. But if not, that's okay too. This will be home for life.

So far none of the 65 feral cats at MHCS fight with other cats. Maybe it is because there are so many perches and special places that each cat can feel secure in some favorite territory. When visitors come, most of the feral cats seem to disappear. To the feral cats, dog, 11 hens, and 4 guinea hens who live here, this is paradise!

Right now, MHCS consists of 4 large 12 x 12 outdoor pens, and 2 indoor pens and a small barn. We plan to fence in the 5 acres farm this spring. A fountain with a stream will be added to supply a constant change of fresh water.

Some cats have come to MHCS from abuse cases usually involving police and animal control, our hopes are that instead of these large numbers of cats being euthanized when impounded, that they be tested for FeLV/FIV, vaccinated, spay/neutered and then turned over to MHCS for rehabilitation and hopefully adoption through local rescue groups. Others will come from Friends of Feral Felines.

COST OF CARE

Each cat is fed Solid Gold cat food which is an organic/holistic food geared towards total nutrition. They are treated for internal parasites once a year and for fleas are kept on Advantage. They receive vet care from Belmont Animal Hospital as needed. The average cost per cat is \$20/month. You can sponsor a cat by visiting MHCS's website: www.mhcatsanctuary.org. Donations are greatly appreciated and needed.

SOLID GOLD PET FOODS

MHCS is a distributor of Solid Gold. MHCS sells this high quality food and Supplements to raise the funds needed to feed the 65+ cats at the Sanctuary. To get your free samples and a catalog, please call 704-392-4360 or e-mail KsCats28@hotmail.com (or place an order). If you are a rescuer, you can save up to 20% OFF dog or cat food if you order your Solid Gold from MHCS.



Policy & Guidelines for Handling Ferals

If you wish to help FFF by sterilizing one or more ferals in your neighborhood, these guidelines will help you. Remember: to get FFF's help with veterinary care, before any cat is trapped an FFF representative must make an appointment for you at the vet's office! Every appointment must be made by an FFF representative. Please allow 1-2 days notice. (If trying to trap a kitten, please call for more information.)



Lisa S. covers trapped feral cat.

TRAPPING FERAL CATS

1. If you have been feeding the cats, withhold food for 24 hours.
2. Bait trap with tuna or mackerel (or similar strong-smelling fish).
3. After cat is trapped, cover trap with a towel or sheet immediately. (This helps to reduce the cat's stress level.)
4. Place covered trap on blocks, with newspaper under trap to catch bodily waste.
5. Make sure cat is kept at a comfortable temperature and in a quiet place.

FERALS AT THE VET

1. That evening after trapping, no food after 10pm, and no water after midnight (these are absolutes).
 2. Cats must be in a humane trap (WARNING: do not attempt to transfer a feral cat to a carrier).
 3. A recovery carrier and towel/blanket must be left at the Vet's office with the feral cat in trap so the cat may be placed directly into it after surgery.
 4. Please be on time and courteous with the staff (remember, we couldn't do it without them!).
 5. Fill out and print our Standard Vet Work Form, and take it with you to the appointment. Leave it with the staff when you drop off the cat.
 6. Confirm the time of pick up with the veterinarian/staff.
 7. We ask the vet to test*, spay/neuter, vaccinate against rabies, and clip left ear.
- *FFF's policy is to not test cats for FIV/Felv unless:
- the colony is known to have positive members
 - the colony has a high death/disappearance rate
 - the vet has sufficient evidence that the cat is likely to be positive (If a cat is tested and is positive, it must be euthanized.)

RECOVERY PERIOD

1. The cat needs to recover in a medium to large carrier (recovery carrier).
2. Each carrier must contain: bedding (towel/blanket), small litter box (shoebox size), food and water.
3. The cat will hide in the back of the carrier, so food, water and litter should be at the front of the carrier.
4. To water, use a squirt bottle ("sport" type bottle) to fill bowl through the closed carrier door.
5. To feed, use a knife to scoop moist food into the bowl through the closed carrier door.
6. If litter is provided and needs to be changed, use heavy gloves, quickly remove the litter and close the door tightly! The cat will take any opportunity to escape. (You don't want a wild cat loose in your house.)
7. Judge the cat's recovery by its behavior (alertness, growling, and hissing are signs that the cat is ready to be released).

Post-Surgical Recovery Times:

MALES	FEMALES	PREGNANT
Minimum 24 hours	Minimum 24 hours	Minimum 48 hours
Maximum 48 hours	Maximum 48 hours	Maximum 96 hours

These times are "health and weather permitting." As Becky Robinson, cofounder of Alley Cat Allies pointed out at the 1998 Carolina Cat Conference, "Keeping feral cats for longer than four days is cruel."

RELEASE

1. Feral cats should be released at their site of origin, so long as there is ample food (plentiful dumpster, or regular caretaker), and shelter (doghouse, shed, etc.).
2. If a location is deemed unsafe, the cats should be (a) sterilized, released, and re-trapped once a farm or other land is found, or (b) euthanized.
3. For information on relocating feral cats to farms, please contact Friends of Feral Felines.
4. Please remember: only healthy cats should be released. It is inhumane to "put out" a cat that cannot fend for itself, due to disease, crippling injury, blindness, etc.

DISCLAIMER

FFF would like to remind the public that feral cats are wild animals. They should never be underestimated! USE EXTREME CAUTION! Any fees, injuries and/or damages that occur as a result of interaction with feral/domestic cats are the responsibility of the individual(s) handling the cat(s). Friends of Feral Felines and its representatives are in no way liable.

ANIMAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS - CHARLOTTE AREA

Animal Fund - 9117 Eakers Court, CHARLOTTE, NC 28215
Phone: (704) 536 5583 • msloaniii@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 S.P.C.A. - 6319 Fair Valley Drive, CHARLOTTE, NC 28226

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control - (704) 336-3786

Friends of Feral Felines - P.O. Box 561103, CHARLOTTE, NC 28256
Phone: (704) 348-1578 • www.pixelforge.net/fff

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: 803-324-8499 • 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/annsoutreach/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/

FOR EVERY CHILD BORN
THERE ARE 64 CATS BORN AND 49 DOGS.
FOR ALL THESE CATS AND DOGS TO HAVE A
HOME EACH PERSON WOULD
HAVE 113 DOGS AND CATS,
A FAMILY OF 4 WOULD HAVE 452.

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOMES FOR THEM ALL!
PLEASE SPAY/NEUTER YOUR PETS!

