

# Feral Cat Foundation

Serving Alameda & Contra Costa Counties



APRIL 2005

[www.feralcatfoundation.org](http://www.feralcatfoundation.org)

Tax ID # 68-0411209

## SPRING MEWSLETTER

### IS IT SANTA CLAUS?



You could hear the kitten howling a block away. Born on the roof, the 4-week-old kitten had ventured out of the nest after her mom, who had gone hunting. Mom went up this funny looking wall – so of course, the kitten could follow. Or could she? The kitten clawed half way up the chimney, to a ledge that was just barely wide enough to support her little bottom. She kept climbing, but got her dewclaw caught in the stucco. And now she was stuck, suspended by her dewclaw, with her back feet barely touching the ledge below.

The homeowner called her vet, where it just so happens, two FCF members work. The members went into action. Borrowing a ladder, up on the roof they went. Sometimes, it's down in the storm drain, sometimes into a hole, but they always go! Fully expecting to be shredded by the little feral kitten, the FCF member gingerly and carefully reached up to pluck the tiny kitten from her perilous perch. Surprise, surprise! The little ball of fur snuggled into the rescuer's hands, looking up as if to say "Thank You!" Down from the roof and into a foster home she went.

After a month of special care, the beautiful 'torbi' kitten was spayed and her injured dewclaw was removed. Since the vet had recently lost one of their clinic cats to cancer, newly named Nala—the intrepid adventurer—became clinic cat Eddie's new friend. Nala now greets all with abandon. Since her chimney adventure, leashes with 100-pound dogs at the other end are no challenge to this little hunter.

Mom and her other kitten proved elusive at first, but patience paid off. Both have been spayed and returned to the homeowner who now cares for them. And you thought just Santa and his reindeer are masters of the roof!

**Kitty Kumbaya** and boundless loving thanks to **Dr. Raj Aulakh and his staff at ABC Pet Clinic in San Ramon**. This incredible group often spays and neuters more cats in one day than most other practices do in one month. And most practices never consider spaying an unsocialized cat. Dr. Raj and staff are always thoughtful, kind, compassionate, extremely competent, and ready to laugh either *at* a spay that is really a neuter, (well you can't tell the girls from the boys these days!), or *with* us, when we slide down hills trying to grab a tiny kitten, (our own version of the cat Olympics!). They tirelessly give advice to our members, often after hours, and will go the extra mile if need be. And they cry when we cry, because they truly care.





## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

Happy Spring, Fellow Feline Lovers!

I am very proud of FCF's accomplishments throughout our first seven years of saving homeless cats in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Our spaying, neutering, trapping, and where possible, finding homes for these souls has set records and focused public attention toward animal compassion. And we couldn't have done it without you! Thanks and meows from the bottom of our hearts! Your tax-deductible donations are a life-saving source of income to FCF and we are grateful for all of your continued support.

Ensuring all homeless cats find forever homes is our mission and the only way through this is together. The Contra Costa County Animal Shelter in Martinez, ARF, and other local rescue groups refer all calls about feral cat to us—and with kitten season upon us yet again, we're in overdrive. In 2004, FCF spayed and neutered over 1,000 cats. Adoptions were slower at 400, all by the efforts of our tireless members. And we sure could use your help. Working together with loving compassion will get us to our vision of no more homeless cats. Providing a foster home, feeding kittens, socializing traumatized kitties, assisting in trapping, being the feline helper in your own neighborhood are the ways to our goal.

Big thanks to those of our members who are tirelessly on the streets and in the trenches, doing whatever it takes to save a life. Huge thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors—we could not function without them. Overwhelming gratitude for our veterinarians who help FCF be the success it is. And to all of our members—you are integral cogs in the wheel of cat compassion and I thank you.

Our mission statement says it all: "The overpopulation and suffering of homeless and unwanted cats in our society demands a humane solution. Feral Cat Foundation accepts the challenge to promote public recognition of this problem, to pursue workable solutions and, without euthanasia, to humanely reduce the population while improving the quality of life for these innocent victims of human neglect."

Thank you, for and on behalf of the cats,

Estelle Breitmayer, President



**FIX OUR FERALS** offers free spay/neuter clinics in the East Bay for homeless cats. Established in 1998, this group assists to control and reduce the numbers of homeless cats by using the cruelty-free strategy of TNR-Trap, Neuter & Return. This method is proven and very successful. Call (510) 433-9446 or visit their website [www.fixourferals.org](http://www.fixourferals.org) to reserve space, borrow traps, and assist homeless cats in your own neighborhood.



## HANNAH'S HALO AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

For some of our rescued cats, the road remains rocky for quite a long time. Hannah and her two siblings came to FCF from a construction site. Apparently without a mother, these little ones were found thin and starving. Via FCF member Lynn, into Randy's loving foster home they went to be nurtured, pampered, and fussed over. At 8 weeks of age, Hannah and her brother BooBoo tested positive for FIV (their sibling tested negative and was adopted right away). Dr. Raj Aulakh at ABC Pet Clinic (San Ramon) advised more food, care, and pampering for Hannah and BooBoo, and retesting at a later date. Both tested negative a month later and were cleared for adoption. Adopted together, we were thrilled.

But just two years later, BooBoo was brought to Dr. Raj after being missing from his home for four days. Much to our dismay, we were unable to save BooBoo, as he was so covered with fleas and dehydrated. Then, the staff at ABC Vet Clinic remembered that BooBoo had a sister. Where was she? A call was made to the owner, who was convinced to bring Hannah down for a checkup. Hannah was also in sad shape. Weak and also flea-infested, she was kept at the hospital for the next week. Her owner surrendered Hannah. From the hospital, Hannah went to member Drucie's home. Drucie gave her special high-calorie food by hand for several days, and finally Hannah was able to eat small amounts on her own. Then Hannah caught a cold and Drucie was back to square one. With medicine and loving care, Hannah slowly regained the ground she had lost, all the while being exceptionally sweet, loving, and very patient.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect—Hannah was well just in time for the Blessing of the Animals Day where because of the rough times she'd been through, Hannah was blessed not once, but twice. And it must have worked because and at the very next adoption day not one, but two people fell in love with Hannah. It was obvious that Hannah wanted Joan and her husband—and we understand that she is now 'queen of the manor', loves and is loved by her new humans. She is the light of their lives. For this 'miracle girl', we wish dear Hannah only the smoothest of roads for the rest of her life.

## Kitty Kudos Korner

**Claws and Paws Up** to Dr. Larry M. Downes, DVM of All Creatures Veterinary Hospital in Dublin for refusing to declaw cats. This inhumane and mutilating practice is catching the compassion wave throughout the country. It's against the law to declaw in Beverly Hills, CA. Forward thinking Dr. Downes made the commitment to stop the declawing practice at his hospital. From this procedure, he has seen too many cats with long lasting traumas. Inappropriate urination is a huge problem. Cats remember where bad things were done to them, and that fear is transferred to the vet practice. Due to this fear, vet staff are often unable to handle declawed cats. Huge paws up to a community leader spreading the compassion throughout his practice.





## THESE CATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IMMEDIATELY



### Let's show Bill that nice guys finish first!

Bill defines unconditional love. A devoted lap guy and talker—at eight years young, Bill is a lovable gentleman, waiting to be yours and ready to listen to you and show you what love is all about. Bill also wants me to tell you that he absolutely loves to be scratched on the tip of his nose. Bill is waiting for you. Call Corene at 925-376-6937 to adopt Mr. Bill.



### MOMMY DORA AND DAUGHTER PUNKIN

"The best of both worlds! Dumped on the street, they're spayed, vaccinated, and waiting to be loved forever by you. Let's make it a special Mother's Day for Dora and Punkin. These two loveable, dedicated 'cuddle bugs' are waiting patiently for you. Mommy and daughter prefer to be a package deal! Call Kim at 510-265-4493 or email Kim at [thinkright@aol.com](mailto:thinkright@aol.com).



### MINGO'S A MUSHBALL!

This smart, lovable, curious, and super gorgeous guy is the cat's meow. He's a lynx point Siamese. The perfect soul for eternal love and wisdom. Mingo's looking for everlasting love. Call Estelle soon to adopt Mingo: 925-376-6727  
How about a forever home for this lovey?



### GOOD BUDDIES ELLIOT & HARLEY

These two friends were saved off the streets as kittens and love to play chase. They love cats and people. Harley loves women, and Elliot likes to talk about it! Let's show these buddies that love and homes can last for keeps. Contact Twillah by e-mail at [DPReimers@Juno.com](mailto:DPReimers@Juno.com).



### TIGER'S A ROCKER!

Tiger's had it rough (it really is a jungle out there!). Now he prefers to chill inside with lots of love and KFOG on the radio! He's a shy guy who loves adults, other cats, and rock n' roll. Super loveable, Tiger's ready to soar to the top of the charts in your forever home. Call Corene at 925-376-6937 to adopt this jungle GQ doll.



**REGAL REGGIE** is looking for a throne on your lap. Eager for love and waiting for you, this handsome king likes other cats and wants to live in your castle

for keeps. Will you roll out the red carpet for Reggie? Call Porter 925-837-7291, or [port2@comcast.net](mailto:port2@comcast.net).



**OUTSTANDING OSCAR** is a lover! This trusting and boundlessly loving gent is playful and outgoing and will be a forever family member from the get

go. Dog-like Oliver love love loves people and quickly adapts due to his confident and oh so friendly disposition. Hurry and adopt Oscar, he's a winner! Contact Alison at 925-938-1267 or 510-325-6033.

*Go to our website for more kitties waiting to adopt you!*  
[www.feralcatfoundation.org](http://www.feralcatfoundation.org)  
925-829-9098



# WE KNEAD YOU!

**April Showers bring on Kittens:** It's raining kittens and we are already swamped with calls for help from the public. Volunteers are needed to help trap, recover, foster, transport to and from the vet. Just a few hours a week is all we need.

**Tame the Tigers:** Calling all love. Help needed to socialize streetwise kittens and cats. Duties include lots of love via petting, sweet-talking, and reassuring kindness. These kitties blossom into the biggest love bugs ever.

**Foster Homes:** Short stay homes needed so we can continue our rescue work. We are quickly getting at carrying capacity at our limited foster homes. A loving soul needs you to provide loving shelter as we continue our adoption events and kitty rescues.

**Kitten Feeding:** Bottle feeders needed for abandoned kittens too young to make it on their own.

**Feed the Colonies:** Folks needed to feed our kitties that don't have a home and the outdoors is the only home they know. Feeding a cat colony is extremely rewarding. Watch the skittish kitties warm up to you and feel your heart grow!

## FUNDRAISING:

**Network:** The only way to end the homeless situation is together. Spread the cat compassion word at work, church, grocery stores, everywhere. Tell all about FCF and the need to find homes for our rescued cats.

**Scrip Program:** FCF earns money every time you use your credit cards and Safeway club cards. Also paper scrip available in the form of gift cards from brand name merchants. You can even get a VISA card for all your purchases and FCF will receive cash incentives. Apply now at 1-800-559-8917 or at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). More info on our website.

**Donate your Car:** Got an old junker or new BMW you want to donate to FCF? We have teamed up with Car Donation Services, Inc. to save cats. CDS is a local nonprofit group that makes it super easy to donate your car. Go to our website for more information.

**Raffle Program:** Prizes needed for our annual fundraiser raffle. Cash prizes, vacation rentals, gift certificates, frequent flier miles, and car rental certificates are just some of the ideas for prizes. Call or e-mail us ([info@feralcatfoundation.org](mailto:info@feralcatfoundation.org)) to help.

**Recycle Ink Cartridges:** Help FCF and the environment by letting FCF recycle your printer ink cartridges. We receive cash for each cartridge received. Call Pat at 925-455-8519 for more information.

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### The Feral Cat Foundation needs YOU!

Your tax-deductible contribution provides much-needed (and appreciated!) support to FCF in its ongoing efforts to help improve the quality of life for feral and homeless cats and kittens throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties of northern California. Please mail your donation with this form to the: **Feral Cat Foundation, PO Box 1173, Alamo, CA 94507.**

\$15       \$25       \$35       \$50       \$100       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip-code: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Thanks, but no thank-you note is needed.	I am interested in these and other volunteer opportunities with FCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed a local feral colony</li> <li>• Help with the spring newsletter and holiday letter (writing, editing, stamping and stuffing envelopes, etc.)</li> <li>• Recover spayed or neutered kitties</li> <li>• Fostering</li> <li>• Publicity</li> <li>• Annual raffle</li> </ul> Please send me an application.
I am making this donation in (circle one) <b>memory</b> / <b>honor</b> of: _____ Please send acknowledgment of this donation to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip-code: _____	

The Feral Cat Foundation is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization (tax ID 68-0411209) funded solely by contributions from the public. Contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.



**Volunteers Randy H.** and his **daughter Stefanie** have helped many FCF members and kitties for over a decade! They specialize in mama cats and their litters. Randy and Stefanie allow the moms to raise the kittens while simultaneously working with those same kittens to ensure they are socialized and ready to be adopted when old enough. Hats off to Randy and Stefanie and heartfelt thanks to **wife Kim** who helps from the sidelines, even though she's highly allergic to cats.

**FCF member Drucie A.** is another treasure who has blessed FCF. She is always there to help, and an expert in helping special-needs cats and those with serious medical problems, and taming our many of our feral friends. Drucie has also graciously held our annual garage sale at her house for the last few years. And she feeds feral colonies every week!

A big meow and yowl of thanks to Randy, Stefanie, Kim, and Drucie!

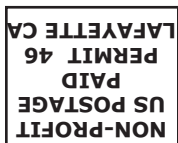
**A donation to the Feral Cat Foundation in the name of a loved one (2- or 4-legged!) is a wonderful way to assist us in helping the cats. We are grateful for the following donations and remembrances over the past year.**

***IN MEMORY OF:***

Julie Marie Aleva (beloved daughter of member Donna M.) by: Susan Choate, Allyn Teicheira, Estelle Breitmayer, Denise Pare-Muirhead, and Nell & John Randisi • 'Lucy' (beloved dog of Nell & John Randisi) and 'Buddy' (member of a feral colony) • 'Mathilda' (by Alison Good) • 'Mack' (by Jeanne Lucenti) • 'George' (by Martin Hammer)

***IN HONOR OF:***

Denise Pare-Muirhead from Mary Mark • Judy John from Monica & David Suddarth • 'Miss Puss' from William & Karen Goodwin • 'Oliver' from Paula Smith • Katie from Kathryn Woolley • 'Teddy' from Sharon Silberman • Pearl Lin from Stacia Kato • Judith John from Michael Courtney



Address Service Requested

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