



After the holidays Charlie might need to go on a diet. You laugh, and say, “Yeah, along with the rest of us.” But Charlie is different than the rest of us. Charlie is an older cat—estimated to be about 10 years old at this writing – long haired and black. He appeared at one of our member’s feral feeding stations this summer, so thin that he almost looked like two pieces of cardboard glued together.

Once the feeder had gained his trust, Charlie was incredibly friendly, and wound himself in and out of the feeder’s legs. So she snatched him up, and Charlie started his trip through the caring embrace of the Feral Cat Foundation. Before Charlie even made a visit to the veterinarian he needed to be treated for fleas, de-wormed, and fed for a week or two. He was so emaciated that we needed to pump him up before we could even test him for FIV (aids) and leukemia. Luckily he was negative for both, and so his recovery began.

Charlie settled nicely into his new foster home, accepting the other cats with grace and dignity. After all, he was the elder gentleman. He ate everything in sight, and everyone else’s food, as often as he could. The other cats did not seem to be bothered by him, appearing to realize that this new resident needed extra help, and tolerance. After a week of gluttony, Charlie started to gain a little weight.

Seldom do the members of Feral Cat Foundation have the luxury of knowing what the previous diet of a newly-rescued cat had been. And so we often experience gastric distress in the cats we take into our homes. Charlie had gastric distress in extreme! He had diarrhea for the next 5 days, which meant he got home-cooked chicken, human baby food, and cooked rice.

All this good food did the trick, and finally he again began to gain weight. But (and there usually is a “BUT”, isn’t there?), it appeared there was something else going on with poor old Charlie. His fur was still very dry, and although he ate constantly, he didn’t seem to gain any more weight. Off to the veterinarian he went again, this time for blood work and another complete checkup. When his blood work indicated that Charlie had thyroid problems, he was started on the appropriate dose of medicine. Three days later Charlie stopped eating altogether. Not a good situation for a cat that should have weighed 11 or 12 pounds, and now tipped the scale at 5 pounds.



His new medicine was stopped for a week, and then restarted at a much lower dose. Sometimes cats cannot tolerate certain medicines at the full dose initially, and so we go back to square one and start over, at a half dose. This time Charlie did better, and so we very slowly increased his dose over the next month to where it should be.

He is now doing very well, and as you read this letter Charlie is recovering from having his teeth cleaned, with a few extractions. He, like so many other adult cats in the care of Feral Cat Foundation, is up for adoption to a permanent, loving, keep-your-cat-indoor only, family.

*Volunteers helping feral and forgotten cats and kittens*

## *Feral Cat Foundation - 2007 Winter Holiday Newsletter*

The members of Feral Cat Foundation have committed themselves to relieve the suffering and misery of feral, stray, and abandoned cats. We choose to make a difference in a positive way by giving these cats the attention and help they need to live their lives out safely. The cats live in our homes as part of our families until they can each find their own “forever” family. Expenses for the maintenance of these cats are absorbed by our members – Feral Cat Foundation has no paid staff, and remains an all-volunteer organization. Your donation is applied directly to medical expenses. Whether lost, abandoned, sick, or injured—each cat has a story. With your support, we can help where help is needed. With your assistance, we can give hope to the forgotten felines we care for daily. With your generous donation we can help each cat’s story have a happy ending. Please send your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope TODAY!

There are many other ways you can help FCF. eScrip is an easy, automatic way to generate funds for FCF every time you do your normal shopping. There are many participating merchants—you can search/browse the list, or view the newest merchants from the eScrip Merchant’s page. FCF will automatically get a percentage of your purchases.

The Safeway Club Card is another really easy way to help. Just register your club card using the link on our website, [www.feralcatfoundation.org](http://www.feralcatfoundation.org), or you can go to the eScrip website. Be sure to renew your commitment to this program on an annual basis.

There are also gift cards, with hundreds of merchant participants. Yes, you can purchase these same gift cards at your local grocery store. But your purchase through FCF will help us to help the less fortunate feral felines in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. A list is available for the asking. Use the gift cards like money and FCF will benefit in a big way. The holidays are just around the corner, and gift cards are an excellent choice for someone who has everything, or for those who live a distance away. You may leave a message on our hotline (925) 829-9098 and we will return your call and answer questions or help you purchase scrip.

For pet-related jewelry, or jewelry for the pet that has everything else, check out [www.ashleyandco.com](http://www.ashleyandco.com). Feral Cat Foundation gets a portion of your purchase, and you get good quality jewelry. The cats and kittens really need your help.

This holiday season, may your hearts find peace and love. In a world filled with uncertainty, stress and frustration, please take time to enjoy whichever holiday tradition you honor. And take time to allow into your life an animal that will surely give you happiness and unconditional love.

P.S. With our 2007 Winter Holiday Newsletter, we continue the tradition of featuring some of FCF’s adoptable adult cats on the following page. We hope for loving homes for all our rescued cats, but the adults, especially, need to be considered. There are many adult cats on our website for you to choose from. Some, like Charlie, have been abandoned, or just plain dumped because they were no longer wanted. Others are homeless because their human has passed away and no one cares about them. Please contact us if you have a place in your heart and can provide a safe and loving forever home to a sweet and deserving adult cat this holiday season. These “senior feline citizens” deserve to have warm laps and loving care in their later years. Won’t you please help? Oh – and Charlie probably won’t have to really go on that diet. But we do hope that someone out there will open their hearts, and their home, to him as well as to the many other very adoptable older cats on our website. Then maybe next year Charlie will have been so well loved and well fed that he will have to diet. A few of our adoptable adult cats are featured here. During this holiday season, please consider giving a safe, forever home to one of these deserving adult kitties. They will return your love ten-fold, and will keep your feet or lap warm all winter long.

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**Autumn** – With cream and grey markings and stunning blue eyes, this delightful cat waits patiently for someone to offer him a home.

**Mary** - A dainty, loving cat, she acts like a kitten.



**Rainbow** - Affectionate and trusting, you just can't resist this wonderful guy. With one blue eye and one green, this lovely white cat longs for a permanent home.

**Humo** - Very affectionate, this grey and white giant longs for a winter snooze on a nice warm lap.



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**Sascha** - He prances when he walks. A mellow lovebug, he would love someone to dote on him.

**Big Boy** - A single cat household is essential for this gentle giant. Stunning blue eyes, this delightful cat waits patiently for someone to offer him a home.



**Caden** - A quiet household would be great for this shy, loving guy.

**Zana** - A gorgeous blue eyed lady, Zana would prefer to be the only love in your life.

