Feral Cat Foundation would like to begin this Holiday Season letter by sincerely thanking all those people who have so faithfully supported us over the years. Times are tough, and serious decisions must be made in each family about where to spend their money, and which cause to support. We realize that there are many worthy organizations asking for donations. FCF has been greatly blessed because so many of you have recognized the good work we do, and see the need to help us continue to help the abandoned and feral cats.

Your generous donations allowed us to help “Steammie,” a small kitten lost in a large apartment complex in San Ramon. Everyone in the complex saw her; but as is often the case, everyone thought she belonged to someone else.

Spring turned to summer, and then fall. With winter fast approaching a concentrated effort was made to find the owner of this now teenage kitten, but to no avail. It appeared the kitten was abandoned.

One family had taken particular interest in Steammie, and she appeared to be attached to them as well. She spent more time in their patio area than anywhere else. Alas, with only part-time jobs and a daughter off to college, the family could not agree to take on the responsibility of another mouth to feed. An FCF member arranged for the kitten to be tested for disease, spayed, and vaccinated. An agreement was made with the family to care for the kitten (on a foster basis) until a permanent home could be found.

This arrangement worked well for a few months, but then tragedy struck. Steammie did not come for breakfast one morning. A search was launched, but no calico kitten! The next morning she was again on the back patio, but she was severely injured and unable to move. The Emergency Clinic advised the frantic foster and the FCF member that the kitten had probably been hit by a car, but she was 100% fixable. However, a great deal of money was necessary immediately. Searching for alternatives, the FCF member contacted Bishop Ranch Veterinary Hospital, and they agreed to give an examination and a second opinion. Steammie could indeed be fixed, but she needed to be stabilized before any surgery could be performed. When surgery was performed two days later, what had been an anticipated two hour procedure turned into a five-hour marathon with three doctors working to fix this little girl.

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were so severe that Steammie needed to be syringe 
fed every two to three hours daily, just to give her liver 
time to heal and begin functioning properly again. She 
received daily exercise and therapy for her broken 
hip and leg, and a huge amount of love and good care. 
Finally, after two weeks, she started eating on her 
own, and had four paws firmly on the road to recovery.

After the intense emotion of the last month, everyone 
finally breathed a sigh of relief. And now what to do with 
this kitten? The foster family finally decided that they 
could each do with a little less in order to be able to afford 
the necessary ongoing costs of owning a pet, and so they 
adopted her. Steammie loves her family, and she will 
have a loving, forever indoor home with them. Because 
YOU were generous this story has a happy ending.

There are many ways you can help FCF, in addition 
to your tax-deductible cash donation. 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, or you can go to the eScrip website. 
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 felines in Alameda and 
Contra Costa Counties. A gift card list is available for the 
asking. Use the 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. Call our hot-line (925) 
829-9098 and we will return your call to answer questions 
or help you purchase scrip. For pet-related jewelry, or 
rewards for the pet that has everything, check out www. 
ashleyandco.com. Feral Cat Foundation gets a portion 
of your purchase, and you get excellent quality jewelry.

Minnie is a really sweet cat who just wants to be 
loved. She was left by her family when they lost their 
house. A little shy at first, she warms up quickly. 
Mamacita is an absolutely gorgeous long 
haired snow shoe with white markings. She 
also is a little shy, but loves to be fussed over. 

Again this holiday season we continue the tradition 
of featuring some of our adoptable adult cats. We hope 
for loving homes for all our rescued cats, but the adults, 
especially, need to have a chance for a loving, forever 
home. There are many adult cats on our website from 
which to choose. Our list is even longer because we 
receive many calls from neighbors of abandoned homes 
where the pets have been left behind. Please check out 
our website to view all our adoptable cats. If you have a 
place in your heart and can provide a safe and loving 
forever home to a sweet and deserving adult cat, contact 
us. These “feline senior citizens” deserve to have warm 
laps and loving care in their later years. Won’t you please 
help? Your love will be returned ten-fold, and your feet 
and lap, as well as your heart, will be warm all winter long.

Here are just a few more. Check our website 
for a full listing, with lovely colored pictures. 
Simba is a mellow, big guy with a very big heart. 
Pumpkin is delicate and very sweet. Oscar just loves 
attention. Cheri is affectionate and easy going, but 
Zana, as beautiful as she can be, wants to be alone. 
If you have lost your feline companion recently and 
need some help coping, a new Companion Animal Loss 
support group has been formed in our area. They meet 
the first Monday of each month in the Program Room of 
the Dublin Library. Call 683-8463 for more information. 

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 for years to come.