

Feral Cat Foundation

www.feralcatfoundation.org



Winter 2008

An All-volunteer non-profit organization

OUR COMMITMENT

The overpopulation and suffering of homeless and unwanted cats in our society demands a humane solution. Feral Cat Foundation (FCF) 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.

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.

After five days in the hospital, Steammie was finally out of the woods, and was sent to another FCF member's home for recuperation. Internal injuries

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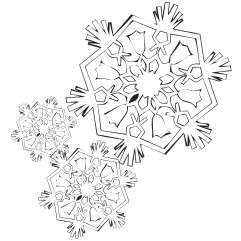
were so severe that Steammie needed to be syringe fed every two to three hours daily, just to give her liver time to heal and begin functioning properly again. She received daily exercise and therapy for her broken hip and leg, and a huge amount of love and good care. Finally, after two weeks, she started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

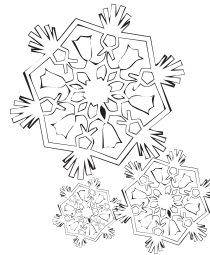
Again this holiday season we continue the tradition of featuring some of our adoptable adult cats. We hope for loving homes for all our rescued cats, but the adults, especially, need to have a chance for a loving, forever home. There are many adult cats on our website from which to choose. Our list is 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.



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.



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.