

# Feral Cat Foundation



Spring 2009

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.*

While you were enjoying the start of your holiday season at the end of last year, warm and snugly in your homes, the many homeless and feral cats in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and indeed in every other county, were hiding under whatever cover they could find to keep out of the wind and rain. In a week or two, despite the cold weather, the tom cats were out looking for “someone.” By early February, while you were receiving your valentines chocolates, that “someone” was delivering another litter of kittens. The showers of April will bring not only flowers, but hundreds more unwanted, homeless kittens. And the cycle continues each year - year after year, as in the following story.

The little cat scurried across the yard, unsure of what was happening to her. There was pain in her stomach, and a strange smell. What was happening to her was this: this cat, only a 10-month old baby herself, was delivering a litter of kittens. Because she was so young and inexperienced, this new momma didn't know what to do, and so she abandoned her kittens where they were dropped. She had a very serious infection, probably pyometra, in her abdomen. Barely alive herself, she had no milk to offer her tiny new babies, even if she had delivered in a nest.

The woman who lived in the house where this little feral lived had watched with concern as the mom dropped her kittens. After the third kitten was left in the dirt, this kind-hearted woman went and picked them all up, warmed them up, fed them some milk replacement, and called the Feral Cat Foundation hotline.

An FCF member was there quickly to collect the kittens. Because the mom was so sick herself, she was literally picked up also. Another FCF member was able to take the little family to start bottle feeding the babies and help the mother. After three days in the hospital on IV fluids with antibiotics, the mom began showing improvement. She finally started eating food out of a dish instead of a spoon, and her temperature slowly returned to normal. (It had been 104 degrees.) The one surviving kitten is doing well, and his eyes are starting to open. In two or three weeks the mom will be spayed, and returned to her colony. A large trapping program was begun two days after this colony was discovered, and most of the cats there have now been tested for aids and leukemia, altered, and vaccinated. They were returned to their colony and will be fed and cared for by the people who live in the neighborhood.

Did you know that in one year an un-spayed female cat will (on average) be responsible for the birth of 72 kittens? This is because unspayed female cats older than about five months (as with our mom cat in the story) can give birth to several litters every spring and summer. It is not uncommon for female cats to nurse two litters of different-age kittens at the same time. Equally important is the need to neuter male cats - they help create all the babies.

Do you have, or know of a cat or colony that needs to be helped? Feral Cat Foundation offers trapping assistance to the public by giving guidance and advice, loaning traps and recovery cages, and making appointments with nearby Veterinary clinics. Visit our website, [www.feralcatfoundation.org](http://www.feralcatfoundation.org), or call our hotline (925) 829-9098 to leave a message. Fix Our Ferals offers free spay/neuter clinics for homeless cats at various locations throughout the East Bay. Contact Fix Our Ferals to help control and reduce the numbers using the cruelty-free strategy of trap/neuter/return--the only method that succeeds. Call (510) 433-9446 or browse their website at [www.fixourferals.org](http://www.fixourferals.org) to reserve space or borrow humane traps. Or contact the Oakland SPCA for more information on their spay clinics.

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

Some of our donors have questioned why we seemingly spend large amounts of money on a particular cat when that money could perhaps have been better spent on spaying and neutering many other cats. The members of Feral Cat Foundation have many avenues of fund raising open to them. One source of donations is our See's Candies Program, the proceeds of which go directly to our Medi-Cat fund. This fund is set aside specifically for extremely sick or injured cats. Often when a cat needs extensive medical care, special fund raising jars are set up at our adoption sites and participating veterinary offices, the proceeds being designated for a specific cat. Many of our members also send out pleas for help to their friends. Because of these efforts, the drain on FCF funds is lessened. Donation funds that are earmarked for spays and neuters are carefully monitored to be sure the money is used as it was intended. Many FCF members are very experienced, with many years of rescue work behind them. We have several registered veterinary technicians in our group, as well as Veterinarians who will offer advice and treatment plans which can be carried out in a member's home, and members who are equipped to handle almost any situation. Feral Cat Foundation recognizes our responsibility not only to the felines we are helping, but also to the many loyal donors who help us year after year to continue to do the work to which we are committed. We could not accomplish as much as we do without the generous help of the public. In 2008 FCF was able to alter almost one thousand cats, because you cared enough to help us. Will you help us again in our efforts to stop overpopulation and suffering?

As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization with no paid staff, the need for volunteers to take on support and fund raising roles is great. It is also particularly rewarding because each volunteer can be confident that the funds they raise and the time they donate go directly to help the cats. You too can **help FCF** - here are some of the many ways: **SIGN UP** for an FCF credit card, and a percentage of each purchase is automatically donated to FCF. **SHOP ONLINE** at a website that supports nonprofits - participating merchants will contribute to FCF. **REGISTER** with the eScrip program and many popular participating merchants will contribute to FCF. **PARTICIPATE** in the United Way Donation Program, or another matching funds program through your work. FCF's United Way Agency Number is 14167500. **CONTACT** an FCF member and offer to **sponsor** a cat or kitten with donations of food or supplies, or **foster** a litter of kittens until they can find their forever homes. **DONATE** your old car to our car donation program.

### REMEMBERING FELINES AND THEIR FRIENDS

A donation to Feral Cat Foundation in the name of a pet, friend, or loved one is a wonderful way to help us help the cats. Please use the attached form to tell us if the gift is "in memory of" or "in honor of." We are happy to advise another person of your gift. We are very grateful for these 2008-2009 Living Remembrances:

#### IN MEMORY OF

Gus from Warren Brown - Suzanne Koppelson from Olene Sparks - Dusty and Sylvester from Denise Pare'-Muirhead - Wally from Bernadette Garcia - Greyfoot from Sara Johnson and John Griffin - Tina from Herbert G. Johnson and Delia O'Hara - the kitties: Mae & Cassie-Rebecca from Denise Pare'-Muirhead - Betts Sanderson's Aphrodite from Lisa Tarman - Monkey from Stacia Kato - Tucker from Susan Montague - Carol Jaques from Linda Jaques - Tori from Marti Elgin Masek - JR from Karen Holbrook - two feral kitties from Sara Johnson and John Griffin - Benjamin from Kim Tarman - Park Meiter from Denise Pare'-Muirhead - Spatches from Jeanne Smith - Aphrodite & Pandora from Betts Sanderson - Bob Miller from Richard Bruski - Bob Miller from James Lippert - Bob Miller from Thomas & Johanna Olsen - Bernie from Sue Collier

#### IN HONOR OF

Anne Atkinson from Dean & Barbara Rutledge - Nan LaRosa from Carole Del Grande - Lulu from Helen Brown - Bill & Jan McIlroy & their cats Mert and Cab from Felicia Scranton - Aimee Brown from Cheryl Echevarria-Leary - Janette Meyer from Joan and Frank Holm - Maxwell from Susan Estes - Divot from William Krebs Jr. - Ann-Kennie from Donna Shiroma - the Medi-Cat fund from Elva Granat - Teddy Kitty from Sharon Silberman - Annie & Sadie from Carmen Clay - Lisa Simirenko from Shelly Mandel - Patty Walters from Alan Hanson - FCF kitties Franklin & Cooper from Laurel McNeil Wong & Jonathan McNeil - Kitty Noche Chocolate Kramer from Faith Kramer - Constance Clare from Jonathan Creighton - Janette Meyer from Ceena Regrych - Karen Wecker from Marsie Sweetland.

# 2008 Raffle Prize Winners

Thank You to all who supported our 2008 Raffle, and Congratulations to the Winners

## 1st PRIZE Winner - Juliet Inac

### 7-DAY GOLD COAST MAUI, HAWAII VACATION

Condo courtesy of Macque & PC Craig; Travel allowance (\$1,000) courtesy of J.M. O'Neill, Inc., Pleasanton (\$500) and Scott and Marnie Steele (\$500)  
Approximate value \$4,150

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE Winner - R. Schmitt

### 5- or 7- DAY WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA VACATION

Condo courtesy of Macque & PC Craig; Travel allowance (\$1,000) courtesy of Bigge Crane and Rigging, San Leandro (\$500) and Bay Area Sky Diving, Byron (\$500)  
Approximate value \$2,750

## 3rd PRIZE Winner - Missy Davey

### 7- DAY KONA, HAWAII VACATION

Condo courtesy of The Gordon Family; Travel allowance (\$800) courtesy of Demcon Stomping Company, Hayward (\$400) and Dolan Concrete Construction, San Jose (\$400)  
Approximate value \$1,800

## 4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE Winner - Wendy Wiley

### 3 DAYS, 2- NIGHT SANTA CRUZ WEEKEND at "A GREAT PLACE TO STAY"

Courtesy of Pat Wood  
Approximate Value \$1,610

## 5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE

### PROFESSIONAL PET PORTRAIT

Gift certificate courtesy of the artist,  
Galen Hazelhofer.  
Original Handpainted Watercolor.  
Approximate value \$1,200

Winner - Carol Wilson

## 6<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE

### CLIFF HOUSE

### AT SHELTER COVE

2 nights, Courtesy of  
Janine & Alan Platt  
Approximate value \$350

Winner - W. Boswell

## 7<sup>th</sup> PRIZE

### TANDEM SKY DIVE, WITH VIDEO

Courtesy of Bay Area Sky Diving  
Approximate Value \$300

Winner - Patricia Herberth

## Cash Prizes

### Winners

Lynda Sullivan	\$350	Jesmar Mechanical, Hayward
S. Cipolla	\$300	American River Glass, Sac.
Schleyer	\$300	Interior Design Const., Fremont
Mary Mack	\$300	Kell Mechanical, Livermore
Leffingwell	\$300	L. J. Interiors, Livermore
T. Brown	\$300	Cansino Electric, Pleasanton
D. Joseph	\$250	Hylton's Welding, Fremont

### Winners

L.M.Downes, DVM	\$250	Suer Masonry, Pleasanton
Renee Anhorn	\$250	Tollner Painting, Mountain View
William Staggs	\$150	Daley's Drywall & Taping, Campbell
Deborah Santone	\$150	D. S. Baxley Co., Livermore
Sue Collier	\$100	Dr. William Jervis, Walnut Creek
Nicole Briana	\$100	Future Air, San Jose
R. & V. Wensing	\$100	Westco Iron Works, San Jose

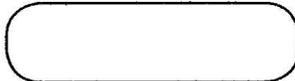
## POSTAGE AND PRINTING EXPENSES

\$250	Howell Electric, Santa Clara	\$200	Grand Prix Glass, San Jose
\$250	Kier & Wright, Pleasanton	\$200	King's Roofing, Patterson
\$250	Nor-Cal Steel, Union City	\$100	Mancebo Corporation, Fremont
\$200	Cozart Brothers, Livermore	\$100	Res-Com Insulation, Hayward
\$200	Golden Bear Fire Protection, Hayward	\$100	R O S, Inc., San Jose

**Feral Cat Foundation**  
**PO Box 1173**  
**Alamo, CA 94507**  
Tax ID. #68-0411209

**NON-PROFIT**  
**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**PERMIT 46**  
**LAFAYETTE CA**

**Address Service Requested**



----- Please cut along this line -----

**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 / 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.