

Feral Cat Foundation



Spring 2010

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.



Shelly finally had her babies. If she could talk, she would tell you that these are the most beautiful babies ever born. Aren't they all? There are 3 male kittens, and 4 females. And if she could talk she would also tell you her story:

A victim of the economy, Shelly has been on her own, and homeless, for about 3 years. These are not her first kittens. In fact, there had been at least one litter before this. She has no idea what happened to those kittens. Since being homeless, Shelly had wandered around looking for food anywhere she could get it. The occasional rodent, and sometimes food in someone's yard or front porch didn't fill her tummy, but did get her by. Until she got pregnant. A chance meeting with an unaltered tom, a few seconds of "getting to know you," and Shelly found herself in the family way. As her time grew closer, she looked and looked for someplace safe to have her babies. She finally built a nest under some bushes near a fence. Not great, but it would have to do. Shelly did find that just on the other side of that fence was a very small backyard colony of feral cats that was being fed daily. So she quietly jumped the fence (difficult to do because she was so big) just to get a few bites to eat. The cats that lived in the backyard took exception to her intrusion, and tried to run her off. But Shelly stood her ground, because she was starving. She finally was able to eat at least once a day when the other cats weren't around. When her babies were born, Shelly nursed them, cleaned them, and took care of them as best she could with her very limited resources. She was still able to sneak into that yard and grab a few bites, and hunting filled out her menu.

The trouble really began when Shelly's babies were up and running around. She needed to get them food, and the backyard was the only safe, sure thing she knew. So she found a hole in the

fence, and led her little family into the yard. Unfortunately, there was another un-spayed female in that yard, and this cat was absolutely not willing to share the food she considered hers, even though there was plenty. Survival of the fittest. After a few days of trying, Shelly gave up and took her babies away to find food elsewhere. We hope that her babies were picked up by some caring individual who took good care of them. But we don't know.

Shelly was much luckier last year. She still went back to that yard occasionally when food was scarce. And she had had another "getting to know you" moment with another unaltered tom cat, and was pregnant again. The very kind lady who lived in the house noticed that Shelly was getting bigger again. Her neighbor had told her about Feral Cat Foundation, and she made the call. As the home owner explained the situation, she described a very pregnant cat that could give birth any time. Two FCF members took her a carrier the very next morning, not wanting to take a chance on the cat giving birth before she could be caught. Because Shelly was previously someone's pet, and because the home owner had begun to form a bond with the cat, it was fairly easy to scoop her up and put her in the carrier.

We thought she was big when we picked her up, and that birth was very close. Because aborting a close to term cat puts the mother's life at risk, if we can allow the delivery we do. We had her three weeks before she delivered, and she was HUGE the day before! She has a nice warm box for her babies, and has been eating incredible amounts of food. This time Shelly and her kittens' story will end differently. We already know the ending, and it will be a happy one.

Do you have, or know of a cat or colony in your area that needs to be helped? FCF 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, 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 at (510) 433-9446, or browse their website at www.fixourferals.org. Or contact the Oakland SPCA for information on their spay/neuter clinics.

In 2009 Feral Cat Foundation spayed and neutered two thousand cats! We are a small but very dedicated organization working in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Our primary focus is to improve the lives of feral, stray and abandoned cats in colonies by practicing the non-lethal method of trap, neuter and release. We could not have done this work without the generous donations made by you, our dedicated supporters. FCF remains the only non-profit, all-volunteer group dedicated to helping feral cats in this area. We have no paid employees, and 100% of your donation goes to helping us help the cats. The need for volunteers to take on support and fund raising rolls is also great. This work 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 ways: **SHOP ONLINE** at the FCF website - just click on the shopping online button - participating merchants will contribute to FCF. **REGISTER** your Safeway Club Card or your credit card 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, or even a colony with donations of food or supplies. **FEED** a feral colony, even one day

a week would help our feeders. **DONATE** your old car to our car donation program.

Feral Cat Foundation has many private supporters. But there are also some businesses that have gone beyond the call to help us in our efforts to help the cats. We would like to sincerely thank:

Petco in Dublin - they have provided permanent adoption cages in their store, and we are included in every event in which the store participates. Petco in San Ramon has provided an adoption venue for many years, resulting in many forever home adoptions.

Tri Valley Emergency Clinic has helped us save many cats who were injured in the middle of the night, or on a weekend, always keeping our budget in mind.

Pet Food Express in Montclair and Berkeley have provided adoption sites for many of our members, for many years. We sincerely appreciate their efforts to help us help the cats.

Pets add a new dimension to our lives. We love their closeness and unconditional love. When it is time to say goodbye to your friend, there is a new service available so that your friend can remain at home until the end. Heaven From Home is a service that comes to your home and helps your pet on the final journey with love and compassion. All arrangements are made with Dr. Wensing, to your specifications. When the time comes, go to the website: HeavenFromHome.com for more information. Also, losing a beloved pet is very difficult. Should you need help coping, or just a comforting listener, consider the pet loss support group, Grief and Pet Loss. Contact them at for more information at: michele5cents@yahoo.com. Phone number (925) 683-8463

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 form below 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 donations made in 2009, and our hearts go out to those who have lost their loved ones.

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Willie Whiskers by Lorna Laskey, Sylvia by Joan and Frank Holm, Peanut by Carol Sparks, Taz by Connie Pueblo, Jerry Nerton by Sara Laughlin, Tucker by Susan Montague, Mr. Garfield by Meredith Andersen, Kitty Henry V by Carole & Edward Ludwick, the four slain Oakland Police Officers by Mary Green, Kitty Marcel by Lisa Tarman, Gus by Warren Brown, Hootie by Diana Gray, Mercedes Brucker by Theresa & Gus Felmery, Spook & Spider by Guylene Hegarty, Jake, Lucy and Cali by Bob Hartmann, Bubba by Diana Puckhaber, Glen Doyle by Katie Doyle and the cats Katie and Kado, Elliott by Margaret Smith, Glen Doyle by Norlene Hunt, beloved feral cat, Smokey by Sonja Woodham, Little Boy by William Mazzoli, Louise Bossi by Helen Wilcox, Nancy by Karen Eckerson, Gabi by Janet Fulton, Sparky by Joan Balzarini-Robbins, Sandy by Rita Hinde, Toes by Marilyn Raia, Kitty Boo by Jerry & Phyllis Hobson, Chloe by Stacia Kato, Kitty Cindy Lou by Gloria Wilt, John Philbrook by Stacia Kato, Isaac by Tara McGuinness, Millie, my little feral kitty by Sue Choate, Luke Carbone by Joanna & Jerry Carbone, Sorrel by Charlene Carter, All the Nice Cats we've had by Joanne Wood, Gideon by Randi Kozara, Little Boy and Ojay by William Mazzoli, Nikki, Gus, Simone and Natasha by Johanna Erickson, Cleo, a feral who won my heart by Susan Hess, Vahram Keosian, Sr. by Toni

Keosian, Conrad Anderson by Mary Abbott, the cats Callie, Blackie, Alexander, Buttons, Penny & Socks by Everlyn Bell, Steamy by Faheem Khan, Sunny by Christina Albino, Dorothy Culver by J.D. Culver, Jack Egan, my father, by Joanne Egan, Consuelo Wanek by Maria Wanek, Alex, another feral by Nancy Bartholomew, Buddy my Renata Schmitt, Maxwell's Plum by Mary Cuthbertson, Winnie & Abby by Jack & Maribel Fraser.

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

Scooter by Sheila Balthasar, Janette Meyer by Cynthia Halderson, Mary Creedy by Dana & Deborah Ellingson, Beverly Chamberlain by Gloria Wilt, Barbara Burch and Deb Gobin by Betts Sanderson, Christine Olson by Karen Alingog, Dharma by Erica Larson, Ostar (aka Q-tip) by Elva Granat, Cab & Meri by Jan McIlroy, Kitties Annie & Sadie by Carmen Clay, Tommy the Cat by Andrew Schaal, Roy & Rufus by Allison Brown, Perry (my sweet kitty who came from you) by Cynthia Price, Sebastian & Savanna by Melissa Wibom, Joanne Kuge by Tim Horgan, Sam, Astra & Zoe by Andrea Greenberg, Prince "Fatty" by Deanna Leetch, Gibson by Mary Cuthbertson, Janette Meyer by Eve Halderson, Maxwell, Duncan, Zeke, Katie & Maggie by Susan & Fred Estes, Gloria Geller by an anonymous donor, Pippin by Debra Crandall, Mac, PC and Jingle by R. Lynn Craig, M.D., the Sohrensens Family by Cindy Sohrensens, Tisha & Max by Valerie Simnetti, Janette Meyer's amputee cat by Ceena Negrych and Frank and Joan Holm, Laurie Dalton by Susan Hughes, Aphrodite by the Gerards, Tinker by Anne Palotas, Laura McKay by Yolanda McKay, Patricia Allan by Meredith Anderssen, the Medicat Fund by Margo Chapin, Steve Syrick's birthday by Olene Sparks, Striper & Nada by Valerie Sinard, Shadow & Frankie, our feral kitties by Milton and Charlotte Gentry, Jake & Callie's 15th birthdays by Stacia Kato, Denise Pare-Muirhead by Mary Mark, Bandit by Barbara Rinehart, Teeva by Richard Kurzberg, Cheeta by Heather Pruett, the Medicat Fund by George Oryall, Kira Feorino by Diane Jacobson, Ursula Spekner by Susy Weisse, Bhagerrd & Gini by Andrew & Rita Schank, Patricia Chubb by Harold Chubb, Holly & Zip by Mary McKieman, Annabelle by Linda Hyde, Cab & Meri by Felicia & Tony Scranton, Sheba by Gloria Passmore, the Medicat Fund by Eve Halderson, Donna Persechino by Stacia Kato, Alison Good by Amy Friedli.

Shelly's story is not unique in this time. Many people have lost their jobs and their homes, and have had to give up their beloved animals in the process. If you know of someone who is in a difficult situation, please encourage them to surrender their animal to a rescue group, instead of just abandoning it. If you know of someone who has not had their animal altered, please stress to them the importance of being responsible pet owners and taking that step. This spring thousands of unwanted, homeless animals will be brought into this world with no hope for adoption. Please help us help the cats by sending us your tax deductible donation in the enclosed envelope. Your generous donation will help Feral Cat Foundation continue to spay and neuter the cats in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, thus decreasing the number of kittens born. Thank you.

2009 Raffle Prize Winners

Thank You to all who supported our 2009 Raffle, and Congratulations to the Winners

1st PRIZE Winner - Gloria Passmore (Reno, NV)

7-DAY GOLD COAST MAUI, HAWAII VACATION

Condo courtesy of Lionheart, Macque & PC Craig; Travel allowance (\$1,000) courtesy of The Saddlerack, Fremont, CA (\$500) and Scott and Marnie Steele (\$500)
Approximate value \$4,150

2ND PRIZE Winner - Ray Zeeb

5- or 7- DAY WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA VACATION

Condo courtesy of Lionheart, Macque & PC Craig; Travel allowance (\$700) courtesy of L.J. Interiors, Livermore, CA (\$300) and J.M. O'Neill, Pleasanton, CA (\$400)
Approximate value \$2,250

3rd PRIZE Winner - Susan Williams (Antioch, CA)

7- DAY KONA, HAWAII VACATION

Condo courtesy of The Gordon Family; Travel allowance (\$600) courtesy of Jessmer Mechanical, Hayward, CA (\$300) and Interior Design Construction, Fremont, CA (\$300)
Approximate value \$1,600

4th PRIZE Winner - Cynthia Gassaur (Folsom, CA)

TANDEM SKYDIVE WITH VIDEO

Courtesy of Bay Area Skydiving
Approximate Value \$300

Cash Prizes

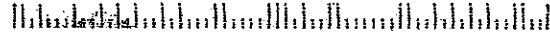
Darylne McDowell	\$300	Advanced Doorway, Livermore
Laurie Kho	\$250	Bigge Crane and Rigging, San Leandro
Chris Beleon	\$250	Dolan Concrete Construction, San Jose
Wendyann Cardwell	\$250	Hylton's Welding, Fremont
Reema Ahluwalia	\$250	Tollner Painting, Mountain View
Jane Burgury	\$200	Cozart Brothers, Livermore
Joan Hitlin	\$200	Demcon Stomping Company, Hayward
Delia O'Hara	\$200	Howell Electric, Santa Clara
Pauline Kavanaugh	\$200	Dr. William Jervis, Walnut Creek
Bonnie Wathor	\$150	Daley's Drywall & Taping, Campbell
J. Welsh	\$150	Kier and Wright, Pleasanton
Liliaya Boswell	\$100	BME Construction, Martinez
Victoria Raulino	\$100	Cansino Electric, Pleasanton
Troy Rong	\$100	Future Air, San Jose
Hilary Daneby	\$100	Grand Prize Glass, San Jose
R. Douglass	\$100	Nor-cal Steel, Union City
Angela Zoldos	\$100	Res-com Insulation, Hayward
Lito Famy	\$100	Suer Masonry, Pleasanton
Francine Welstrand	\$100	Westco Iron Works, San Jose
Delanie Norton	\$75	C&C Concrete, Lodi
Mary Pacini	\$100	Kim Tarmon
		Nordstrom Gift Card

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