

# Friends of Felines

**“An association of people who care”**

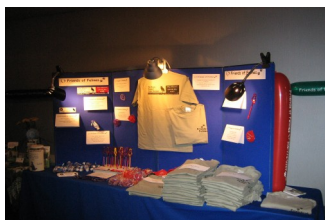
## Update on the Bentley Colony

Our Bentley colony started with approximately 40 healthy cats. One day in January of 2008 when Ray Huff went to feed them, he noticed that half of their food was still there. Then, he also noticed that there were very few cats waiting to be fed. Usually, he has half the colony winding around his legs, or waiting close by when he visits. He started investigating, and discovered dead cats. Over the next week or so, he and the landowner continued to discover dead cats. There was no trauma to any of the bodies. It wasn't the coldest part of January either—they had weathered the coldest part without a

problem. So what was killing the cats? The location is very isolated—5 miles from any other property. So poisoning was very unlikely. He thought about the deadly form of the Feline Calici Virus that had been discovered in California. After consulting with Sarah Pratt, DVM, he carefully gathered 3 of the corpses and they were sent to K State for necropsies. We are pleased to report that the VS-FCV, or Virulent Systemic Feline Calicivirus was not found in any of the cats. The only commonality was Feline Herpes, which is one of the most common upper respiratory viruses found in cats.

This virus is generally not fatal, but apparently has contributed to the deaths of 13 cats in our Bentley colony. The remaining cats appear healthy and happy. I don't know if we will ever really know why so many died of a very common virus, especially since they had all been vaccinated. We are continuing to monitor the status of the remaining cats, and if they need to be relocated at a later date, we will again ask for your help. Thanks to those of you who did offer assistance with relocating this colony when we put out a plea in the last newsletter. Your generosity is so appreciated.

## Wichita Cat Fancy Cat Show



Our Booth at the Show

Thanks to those of you who visited us during the show, we raised nearly \$500 to help feral cats in our area. There were some beautiful kitties as you can see from this Maine Coon. Don't forget to visit next year!



What a big boy!!!

### Newsletter

#### Volume 3 Number 1

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#### Trap/Neuter/Return

Friends of Felines is committed to an ongoing program to rescue as many cats as possible

#### Upcoming Events

June is “Adopt a Shelter Cat Month”

# Alley Cat Allies Happenings

If you are not registered with Alley Cat Allies, it is a simple task that you can do to keep abreast of the activities that they are involved in around the country. Recently they have sent out email pleas regarding the feral cats in Cape May, NJ and also in Randolph, IA. In Cape May, the city government was going to discontinue the 12-year TNR program that had proven to be very successful. In Randolph, the mayor had placed a *bounty* on cats—anyone could bring a live cat to him (to be killed!!!) and he would give them **five dollars**. The state vet condemned his

idea, and the city council voted it down as well.

The involvement of Alley Cat Allies and its many supporters has helped save the lives of these and countless other cats.

Go to their website, [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) and sign up to be a supporter and join their email news list, [Feral Power!](#) Just reading their website is enough to rev you up in support of feral cats.

Show your support by registering with both Friends of Felines and Alley Cat Allies.



## Diary of a Feral Cat Advocate-Part 1

Some people become advocates the first time they see a stray cat. Others, well, it takes a little time. Read and see if you know someone like this.

Sunny summer day, 2006—My neighbor has 4 cute half-grown kittens. Gee, they don't seem to feed them much, and really, now that it is getting hot, nobody really pays any attention to them. They come over to my backyard

to drink and take shelter, but I'm not going to feed them, or they will hang around. I don't dare pet them, or they will think I like them. (Awfully cute!)

A few days later—Poor kitties, they aren't getting much to eat at all. They look really hungry. I'm sure those folks won't get them spayed/neutered, so we sneakily take them to the humane society for adoption.

Cold day in autumn, 2006—What a pretty little grey kitty. She sure is afraid of me, but she looks hungry. There's water for her, but I'm not going to feed her, or she will hang around.

Colder day in autumn, 2006—Man, that poor grey kitty. She must know I love cats. But I just can't feed her, or she will hang around. She's pretty wild. She'll survive. ([To be continued](#))

## Tips

It's starting to get warmer, and if your house is like mine, that means it's time for those pesky little ants to invade. If you feed a colony of feral cats, those ants just love to get in their food bowl, as well as their food supply.

Ants can't swim, so using a water barrier is a great solution. But, just how do you go about doing that, without making the cats have to stand in a wad-

ing pool to eat? Well, I use those disposable plastic saucers that you use under flower pots. I get one somewhat larger than the food bowl and put the bowl in the saucer. Add enough water to cover the bottom, but not enough to make the food bowl float. The food supply is in a large can that sits on a few bricks. Again, a plastic saucer, just a bit larger than the bricks, works great. Make sure you have enough water in it,

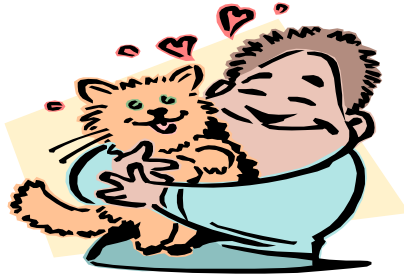
and change the water every few days so mosquitoes aren't attracted.

Have other suggestions concerning food, water or pest issues? Got possums? Skunks!? Let us know how you handle them and we will print them in the next newsletter. Email to [Sue@felinefriendsks.com](mailto:Sue@felinefriendsks.com). Enjoy!



# Cats in the News

Gracie Mae—the 10 month old tabby sneaked into her owner’s suitcase, and ended up secretly flying from Florida to Texas. She had gone through the airport X-ray undetected, then made the entire trip in the cargo hold. Once at their destination, another passenger accidentally picked up the suitcase and when he opened it, the cat jumped out!!! Meanwhile, the owner’s wife in Florida was tearfully looking for the cat at her home. Imagine the relief when the man called the phone number on her collar and the owner knew Gracie Mae was safe.



Snowball’s descendants—These are Ernest Hemingway’s six-toed cats living at his old home in Key West, Florida. The SPCA complained about the cats ability to wander off the property. The USDA considers the cats to be one of

the museum’s exhibits and thinks the cats should be treated according to the Animal Welfare Act, which requires a license to display them, and perhaps cages or an electric fence to confine them. The cats are a wonder for visitors to enjoy, and loved and pampered by the museum staff. They have had to install a misting system and wire mesh to attempt to keep the cats inside the fence. If the USDA insists on caging the cats, they plan to give the cats away to good homes instead. What a sad situation for the cats who have had free roam of the area for over 40 years.

## Good Reading

Read any good books lately about cats? Share your insights with us and our readers by email.

This quarter’s selection is Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover’s Soul by Canfield, Hansen, Becket, Kline and Shojai

If you are really a cat lover, you have read this, or know somebody who has. It is a collection of stories featuring cats, some which warm your heart,

some which make you cry, and some that just make you smile with satisfaction. In order to read it properly, you need to be sitting in a comfortable chair, with a purring cat in your lap.

Check out their website at [chickensoup.com](http://chickensoup.com)

The stories are short enough to just read a few, or you can fill up on cat love and read a whole chapter.

Did you know that you can submit stories of your own and they could be published in the next edition? So if you have a wonderful cat story, first, send it to us if you want our readers to get first crack at it—then, send it to them and see if it gets printed!!

## Think You Know All About Cats?

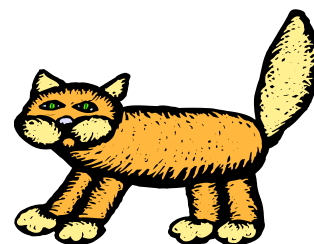
More cat facts from the November, 2007 issue of Cat Fancy. Excerpts from “30 Things You Might Not Know About Cats”

- While it’s commonly known that the cat was highly revered in ancient Egypt, not so well-known is that the ancient Romans admired the cat almost as much. They considered the cat to be the God of

Liberty, and it was the only animal allowed into Roman temples.

- Ancient Rome’s emperor Julius Caesar’s troops introduced the cat to Britain in 54 B.C. They invaded the continent when Britain joined forces with Gaul (now France) to fight Rome, and soldiers carried cats with them as lucky mascots.

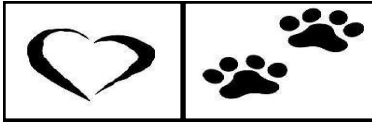
- The oldest-known female cat was “Crème Puff” of Austin, Texas. She died of old age at 38 years old in 2005.



## Friends of Felines

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Sue@felinefriendsks.com



We're on the web!  
[www.felinefriendsks.com](http://www.felinefriendsks.com)



### Mission Statement

Friends of Felines mission, in the interest of feral and stray cats everywhere, is to support cat caretakers, gain recognition of the beneficial role that caretakers perform, implement the trap, neuter and return (TNR) method of population control, and promote the adoption of long-term, caretaker-based solutions regarding feral and stray cats.

*Specifically, our purpose and commitment are to:*

- Facilitate the work of caretakers in caring for feral and stray cats and controlling their population growth by trap, neuter and return.
- Provide a communication network and support resources for caretakers.
- Project a strong unifying voice for feral/stray cat caretakers and their colonies
- Work with and educate property decision makers and governmental agencies in appropriate and humane solutions for feral and stray cats

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b> -Ray Huff	email: <a href="mailto:Ray@felinefriendsks.com">Ray@felinefriendsks.com</a>
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<b>Vet Consultant</b> -Sarah Pratt DVM	

## Looking For Ways To Help?

Friends of Felines welcomes volunteers, whether you want to assist with our TNR efforts, or be a caretaker for a colony.

We also gladly accept donations of money or equipment/supplies.

We are always looking for locations to relocate cats. If you have a place, or know someone who would be able to be a great caretaker for a colony, please let us know. Requests come in for cats that are in danger of being trapped and killed, and without a safe place to take these kitties, that is just what will happen. The rewards of allowing these cats to live out their natural lives in a safe, caring environment are known to many of us. Please, give your heart to kitties in need.

**Albert Schweitzer**  
said, "There are two  
means of refuge from  
the miseries of life:  
music and cats."

To contact Friends of Felines, Email at [Sue@felinefriendsks.com](mailto:Sue@felinefriendsks.com)

For membership information, or to mail donations

Friends of Felines  
1910 N. Cranbrook  
Wichita, KS 67206

Or go to our website

[felinefriendsks.com](http://felinefriendsks.com)

You'll be glad you did!!!



**Thank You!!!**