

# Friends of Felines



**"An association of people who care"**

## Friends of Felines Fall Project

Ten volunteers worked an entire weekend in November to assist a caregiver in cleaning up her property. There are 30+ cats in this colony, and all of them had parasites, ranging from fleas, tapeworms and roundworms to ear mites and ringworm. Many also had upper respiratory infections, evidenced by eye infections, sneezing, nasal discharge, and a general look of illness. The cats were exposed not only to their own waste, but also to that of dogs living on the property. There were only temporary, makeshift shelters available. We decided that the only way the cats could regain their health

would be for them to have a clean environment, adequate outdoor shelters, and appropriate treatment by the vet, including spay/neutering. We also requested the caregiver to limit the amount that the dogs spent in the front yard where the new shelters were located. This was not because there was any aggression by the dogs, but to limit the contact the cats had with the parasites that are contained in the dog waste. We wanted to limit re-infection of the cats once they had been treated for parasites.

Since fleas carry tapeworm eggs, we also wanted to treat the outdoor property

for fleas to limit contact from fleas in the yard.

We started the transformation by giving them a cleaner environment, high-quality food, fresh water and new, weatherproof shelters. Then after being spay/neutered and treated at the vet, this colony would have the best chance to regain their health.

We also worked with the caregiver so she knew more about parasites and their transmission.

The caregivers responsibility would be to maintain the care that we had instituted and contact us if she saw evidence of illness in any of the cats.

## Do You Have E-Mail?

Technology can be a wonderful thing. And, it can also help us use our limited funds more wisely.

We are glad that you are interested in what we do, and want to keep sending you our newsletters. But, if

you are getting this by USPS and you do have e-mail, *please*, contact Sue and let her know that you want to get your newsletter by e-mail instead. We do not share our address list with anyone, even if we

knew how. With limited volunteers, we can accomplish more by using existing e-mail, and it will save money on stamps. If you don't have e-mail, don't worry. We want you to still enjoy our newsletter as is.

### Newsletter

**Volume 3 Number 4**

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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

The Wichita Cat Fancy Cat Show will be Feb. 7 and 8. Hope to see you there!!!

## “But It’s Only a Feral Cat...”

You know you’ve heard someone say this. Maybe they think that since the cat is feral, it has less worth. Well, let me tell you a little story.

I had trapped some cats and took them in for spay/neutering. They appeared healthy, even to the vet tech and the vet. One of them, a young male tabby, was pretty active. They had drawn blood for Feline Leukemia testing, and thought that his blood looked a little different. They proceeded with his neutering, which only takes a few minutes, when you’ve done it so often. Suddenly, the kitty stopped breathing.

They quickly started breathing for him, but his heart stopped.

Now, here is the point where some folks would say, “But it’s only a feral cat”. I guess that means they think nothing should be done to try to bring that kitty back to life. Well, read on.

When the vet tech called me, she did sound upset. She said they did CPR and tried hard to bring that kitty back. But in the end, nothing worked. She

told me she was sorry, and sincerely sounded like she was. Later, when I saw the vet, he also was upset about losing that little kitty. I felt sad for both of them.

Clearly, these professionals take their roles seriously. It didn’t matter whether this was somebody’s expensive show cat, or “only a feral cat”. Each animal that comes to them deserves all the care they know how to give. Every loss is meaningful to them. My hat is off to the caring professionals who treat our feral kitties as though they are the most important cats in the world.

**Be sure to tell your vets and their staff how much you appreciate them!!!**

## Tornado Season Isn’t That Far Away

The older we get, the faster time seems to go. Before we know it, here in the Midwest, we will hear that familiar droning of the tornado sirens. And, more folks will be devastated by tornadoes like the one that hit Greensburg.

If you want to do something to help and didn’t know what you could do, we have an answer for you. We have our Mobile Rescue Unit that we want to

have up and running. In order to get it going though, we need more folks who can get certified and be able to help out. We will be helping to trap pet cats that have been misplaced by a disaster. That could be a tornado, flood, or any other situation that FEMA would need our assistance.

Imagine that your family’s home has been destroyed by a tornado. Now

realize that your cats got terrified, and are out there somewhere. You don’t know where to begin looking for them. And, you have the rest of your home to think about. Our trailer and volunteers will help find your cats and reunite them with you.

Wouldn’t it feel great to be able to help folks in that way? Contact Wayne and find out how you can get certified.

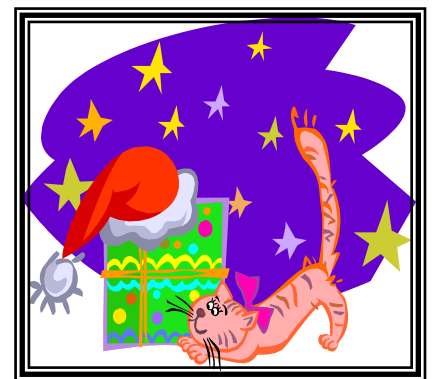
## A Wonderful Gift

Earlier in the year, we trapped 2 cats for Linda. We had to find a place quickly to relocate them, as she felt that they were in danger if they stayed there.

We were so pleased to receive a cute Christmas card from Linda, with a note inside. Linda wanted to get her daughter, Lisa, a Christmas present. Lisa didn’t want a present, she wanted the money to go to Friends of Felines to

help more cats. So Linda enclosed a generous check with her card from her and Lisa, for the cats. Her donation will help prevent unwanted kittens from being born.

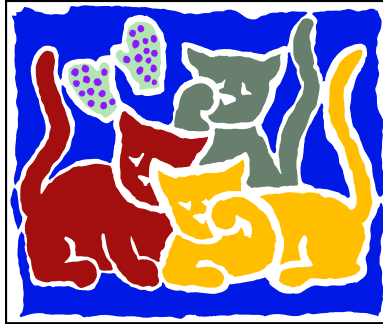
If someone wants to get you a present, but there’s nothing you really have to have, think of the cats like Linda and Lisa did. What a loving, selfless act to help our feral friends. Thanks, Linda!!



# Feral Cat Day Pledges

We want to thank those of you who participated in our first annual Feral Cat Day Pledge. By pledging to either get one of your cats spayed/neutered or donating \$60 to help another caregiver, you have prevented literally thousands of feral cats from being born. That may not seem possible, but just think about it. One cat can have at least 2 litters a year, and if there are 5 kittens in a litter, that is 10 kittens a year from the original cat. Now the next year, the original cat has 2 more litters, then the female kittens have litters, and the male kittens mate with other females, and it

just goes on and on. According to The Cornell Feline Health Center, a conservative estimate of the impact of one male and one female cat and their offspring over 7 years can be 175,000 cats!



Did you know that a female can come into heat by 6 months of age? It can be very difficult or even fatal for such a young cat to have kittens. So you see, by getting just one cat spayed/neutered, you have really made an impact on the future.

If you donated to Friends of Felines for your pledge, you should be hearing from us soon to let you know a little about the cat or caregiver that you helped. Mark your calendars for next **October 16th**, as we will have our Second Annual Feral Cat Day Pledge. The cats thank you!!!

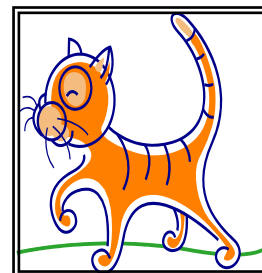
## Good Reading

This issue I am not reviewing a book, rather giving information on some wonderful cat-related websites. If you have more sites to share, please let me know about them.

Of course there is Alley Cat Allies, [Alleycat.org](http://Alleycat.org), which deals with feral cat issues. If you are looking for feline health issues, a great site is Cornell Feline Health Center, [vet.cornell.edu/](http://vet.cornell.edu/)

[fhc/](http://fhc/). Another good feline health site is [peteducation.com](http://peteducation.com) which is the Drs. Foster and Smith site. You can look up articles on cats or any other common pets there. There is always Cat Fancy's

[Catchannel.com](http://Catchannel.com) for some interesting items on cats. A really fun site for the jewelry lover is [JustCatJewelry.com](http://JustCatJewelry.com).



You can find lots of fun jewelry for the cat lover at this site. Have fun looking around the web!!!

**Don't forget our website,  
[Felinefriendsks.com](http://Felinefriendsks.com)**

## Bye, Toby Boy

There are tears falling on my keyboard as I write this. Today, Toby went to Kitty Heaven.

Toby was a feral cat who I trapped this summer. When I was trapping for a caregiver who lives a block away from me later in the summer, there sat Toby. Gail said that he has been eating at her place for years. He wouldn't let me approach him at all, and always had a

very sad look to his face, like he had been abused in his past. I was glad that he had Gail as his caregiver.

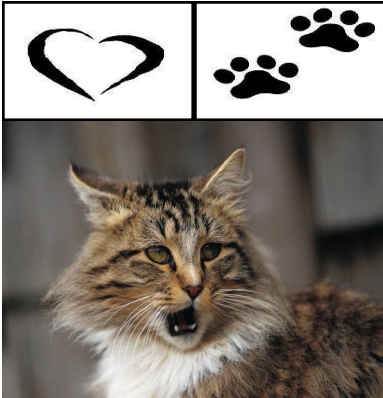
A few weeks ago, Toby showed up at my house again. He looked pretty skinny. He still wouldn't let me touch him, but I could get within a few feet of him. A few days later I noticed that he had diarrhea all the time. I put a litter box out and got a sample, and off we

went to the vet. He got an antibiotic shot, as he was an old boy and his teeth were in bad shape. I took him home and brought him inside. He seemed to get better for a few days, and then stopped eating. He would crawl into my lap, this "feral" cat, and seemed content to stay there forever. I knew he was in pain, and as hard as it was, we took him in today so he could pass over to the land of rainbows. Bye, Toby boy.

## Friends of Felines

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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**

**President**-Ray Huff

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**Vet Consultant**-Sarah Pratt DVM

## Ways You Can Help

We are coming into "Kitten Season", so are really wanting to get as many cats TNR'd as we can. If you are interested in learning to trap cats and want to help, please contact Sue. We will be happy to work with you so that you can be one of our trapping experts. We usually trap in the evenings and return the cats the next evening. If you work during the day, you can still trap in the evening. I would like to be able to assign trappers to one night a week, every week or every other week, so it wouldn't be a huge chunk of your time. You can get the opportunity to meet and talk with other caregivers and share thoughts and ideas.

Think how much you would be helping the cats by volunteering your time for this important task.

#### Our wish list includes:

Cash

Places to relocate feral cats

Pickup toppers

Straw

Cat Food

Volunteers

For membership information, or to mail donations

Friends of Felines  
1910 N. Cranbrook  
Wichita, KS 67206

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

Or go to our website

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

You'll be glad you did!!!



**Thank You!!!**