



Friends of Felines



“An association of people who care”

FOF President and Founder Ray Huff named “Pet Person of the Year”

We are very proud to announce that our president and founder, Ray Huff, has been named “**Pet Person of the Year**” by the Wichita Veterinary Medical Association. He was selected from among 9 nominees. This yearly award recognizes people whose service and acts of kindness have improved and enriched the human-animal bond.

Ray founded FOF in 2003, and has volunteered thousands of hours doing everything from trapping cats and caring for colonies, to answering dozens of phone calls and email inquiries each week.

Since the founding of the

organization, the feral cat problem in Sedgwick, where Ray lives and works, has been virtually eliminated. Don’t get me wrong -you will see cats all over the town. But, thanks in large part to Ray’s determination, these cats have been Trapped, Spayed/ Neutered, and Returned to colonies, where they will live out their lives with loving caregivers who see to their needs.

Ray’s dedication to stray and feral cats extends way beyond the city limits of his small town. He has been instrumental in educating citizen groups and municipalities throughout the state about the need for

organized TNR programs. He credits Alley Cat Allies and its president, Becky Robinson with providing much-needed information and support along the way.

Please join the Friends of Felines members in offering Ray a hearty “**Congratulations**” for his loving care of and dedication to feral cats.



Humane Society Advocates TNR

The Humane Society of The United States has come out with a position paper advocating TNR. You can read the entire document at HSUS.org and search TNR.

They call for community-

based programs, not relying on just one organization for the entire program. They also point out the importance of managed colonies.

Other organizations, including the American Animal Hospital Association

and the American Association of Feline Practitioners also endorse TNR. So, why aren’t we seeing communities taking steps to make this a reality??? Call your local officials and educate them on the issues.

Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 2

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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

Want to learn to trap cats?? Email Sue to schedule a day to help out.

Member Visits Best Friends Animal Sanctuary

One of our members, Shirley, recently returned from 3 days of volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah. This huge sanctuary is home to about 2,000 animals every day. They include dogs and cats, as well as birds, reptiles and amphibians, and larger animals such as horses, goats, pigs, and also some wildlife. Shirley relayed that there are about 400 employees that work with these animals, many of which have special needs. She was amazed at the cleanliness of all the facilities. There was no odor of feces or urine to be had. I asked her about the

cat areas, and she reported that they had indoor and screened outdoor areas, and one novelty was the rafters. She said they had really wide rafters, so the wilder cats could go up there and not get as much human contact. There were areas in the rafters for food/water stations, as well as litter boxes and beds. When the cats got comfortable, they would come down, but they could always stay up high if needed. There is even a special double-screened area for

white cats, so they don't get sun-burned!!

She had so much more to tell, and hearing about the cemetery was very interesting. You will have to just visit and experience it for yourself.

Visit them at Bestfriends.org



Diary of a Feral Cat Advocate-Part2

(Read Part 1 in our last newsletter on our website-felinefriendsks.com)

Blustery December day, 2006—I feed the birds, so made a yummy concoction of peanut butter and bread, and wouldn't you know it—that grey kitty is eating it like there's no tomorrow. Oh well, she's probably hungry. But, I don't want to feed her or she will stick around. Later that day, I see her

hunched down on the porch, trying to get out of the cold wind. Poor kitty.

Mid June, 2007—I haven't seen that grey kitty for awhile, she must have gone elsewhere. Oh, here she is now—and **SHE'S PREGNANT!!!** Wow, I just can't refuse her now. I have to feed her and be sure she has water. I cut a hole in my fence so she can eat in a safe place. I need to email that organization

I saw at the cat show—**Friends of Felines** to see what to do next.

July 3, 2007—She's been going under the porch of that abandoned house across the street. Nobody else seems to notice. I sure am glad she comes over here throughout the day to eat. You know, I haven't seen her for a couple days, though. I hope she's alright. (To be continued again!!)

Tips

So, let's say you are out trapping some of your feral cats for TNR, and you notice that one of them is really pregnant. Maybe your first thought is that you will have to wait and let her have the kittens. (like in the story above) Then once they are old enough, say 12 weeks or so, you can attempt to trap the mom and now also all those kittens and get them fixed.

Well, it may come as a surprise to you, but you can go ahead and trap her when she is pregnant. The vets we work with do spay pregnant cats. Surgery of any kind always carries risks, but a feral cat having to bear and raise kittens has quite a few risks as well. And, that of course is just adding to the number of feral cats to contend with.

One of our members, Shirley, has

trapped many cats, and actually had one start to give birth on the way to the vet. The one kitten was fostered, and then mom was spayed. She went back to her colony without any problems.

At first it may not feel like the right thing to do. But now that cat can live out her life peacefully, never having to go through the stresses and risks of motherhood again.

Be a Volunteer For Our Mobile Rescue Unit-Here's How

Our board members and other volunteers are starting to become certified so that we can complete the first step in getting our Mobile Rescue Unit up and running. Before we are able to do any work on equipping the trailer, we need to have at least **25 volunteers** certified as having taken the first 2 FEMA courses, ICS 100 and ICS 200. The material can be read, the tests taken, and the certificates printed all online. If you don't have a computer, a friend who does can print the information for you and then you can mail your test in and get your certificates by mail. When

you get your certificates, please send a copy to Wayne at the address on P. 4.

When we get enough volunteers certified, a local vet will conduct a cat first aid course for us all to attend free of charge.

Please, if you have any interest in helping cats when disaster strikes, take a few minutes to contact one of us so we can answer any questions you may have.

If you are ready to start getting your certifications, then here is the information you need:

Go to the following FEMA website: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm

and look under the NIMS Courses. You want the ICS 100 and then the ICS 200 information. You can click on the Fact Sheets for both courses, and download the material and the tests from the Fact Sheets.

The courses will take a couple hours each to get through, but that will be time well spent for cats that will need our help when the next disaster strikes.

The cats thank you!!!

Good Reading

Thanks to Shirley for letting me borrow this quarter's book, The Official Cat Codependents Handbook, by Ronnie Sellers. This is a cute little cartoon book, extolling the facts that all "cat codependents" have to live with. There are chapters on symptoms, like, "If you know how many cats you have, you don't have enough"; causes-whether it is inherited, passed on like a virus, or a Freudian cause. And of course, the

financial consequences of cat codependence, including having the husband get a second job to pay for the vet and food bills.

The author also has Cat Codependent Calendars.

A cute book, that is sure to make any cat lover you know laugh and smile.



Cats in the News

Have you heard of the yodeling cats? Well, a Wichita, KS engineer, Paul Klusman has a video on YouTube entitled "The Engineer's Guide to Cats". It stars Klusman's 3 cats—the pudgy Zoey and her sidekicks Ginger and Oscar, and his fellow engineer T. J. Wingard. It is a 7 minute video of deadpan humor about engineers and cats. The cats yodel, fight (really just regular hissing and slapping-no real fighting), and

something he describes as "cat performance art". He adopted all 3 of the cats as strays, and has adopted others as well. He notes that a sad thing he has noticed is that when some people leave their apartments, they abandon their cats. He has adopted many cats from those situations. What a great cat advocate!!! And to think he lives right here in Kansas.

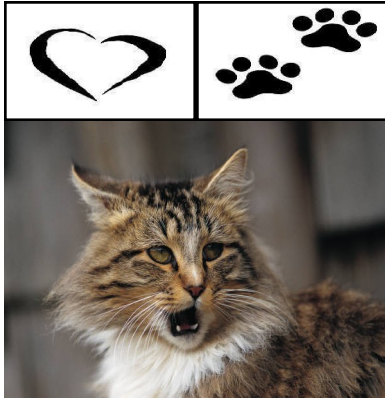
The video has become quite a hit, and he hopes it will launch him into a film-making career. Check it out on YouTube-it's pretty funny. And if you happen to know any engineers, send it to them. They are liable to get quite a kick out of it also.



Friends of Felines

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We're on the web!
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	email: Ray@felinefriendsks.com
Vice President -Terry Gaul	
Vice President -Wayne Roberts	email: Wayne@felinefriendsks.com
Secretary -Sue Schamp	email: Sue@felinefriendsks.com
Treasurer -Norma Roberts	email: Norma@felinefriendsks.com
Vet Consultant -Sarah Pratt DVM	

Ways You Can 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.

Right now we are looking for donations of **pickup toppers**. Do you have one sitting in your backyard that you don't use anymore? Maybe you know a neighbor who has one. We use them for cat shelters, and could really use a few that are in pretty good shape. Please contact us if you have one. Let us know if we need to pick it up. Your donations, as always, are tax deductible.

We are also looking for a **vehicle to pull our 4,000 lb. Mobile Rescue Unit trailer**. If you have one, or know someone who wants a tax write-off, please contact Wayne at Wayne@felinefriendsks.com

To contact Friends of Felines, Email at 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

You'll be glad you did!!!

Thank You!!!

