

Friends of Felines



“An association of people who care”

It Only Takes **One Advocate**—Is That You?

I was very pleased to see articles about two different feral cat situations in Best Friends (Jan/Feb 09) and Cat Fancy (Feb 09).

The Best Friends article was covering Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida. This isn't some rundown, seedy industrial town, but rather a private community of million-dollar homes. What started out with 5 cats in the 1960s turned into over 2000 cats less than 20 years later. The movement started with **one advocate**, Alan Litman, who got together with other homeowners to open a spay/neuter clinic in Ocean Reef. They fixed 500 cats the first year but it took 3

years before they were able to get control of the situation. Now the feral cat population stands at 350. Once considered pests, these feral cats now are welcomed and doted on by the entire community. What a wonderful way to solve a problem and draw a community together.

The Cat Fancy article was very different, taking us to a prison in South Africa. Pollsmoor Prison houses murderers and rapists, and a feral cat colony that is lovingly cared for by those prisoners. The story starts at Robben Island, an island prison just off the coast of Cape Town. Again, in the 1960s, a small number of

cats was imported to take care of the rats. Those cats multiplied to hundreds of cats by the 1980s. By the time **one advocate**, Rita Brock got involved, only 15 cats were able to be relocated. But there was a surprise at Pollsmoor—there were cats everywhere! Prisoners had adopted some of them and were sharing their food with the cats. She started a TNR program and safely introduced the 15 other cats. She supplied food and supplies and the wardens now feed the cats on their rounds. Cat-loving inmates have taught even gangsters that these creatures deserve their love and respect. How refreshing.

Join Us For Our Meetings in Wichita

In order to encourage more friends from Wichita to attend our meetings, the Friends of Felines Board of Directors has decided to have meetings in Sedgwick during the Odd-numbered months, and in Wichita

during the Even-numbered months. That means that our next meeting, in April, will be in Wichita. Please join us at Pioneer Balloon World Headquarters, 5000 E. 29th St. North, (across from Hughes Metroplex)

on Sunday, April 19th. We will have a Social Time at 5:30 PM with the meeting starting promptly at 6 PM. We look forward to seeing



you there!!!

Newsletter

Volume 4 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-Cat Month. Can't you give a shelter cat a home?

Ever Thought About a Cat Groomer?

It's springtime, and if you are like me, you have cat hair ankle-deep in the house. Or cat hair dustbunnies the size of a real bunny. Maybe you have an older cat who doesn't groom itself very well anymore. What about a long haired cat that is prone to matting? Tell me how much you love this sound. You know the one—the sound of your kitty hacking up a huge hairball. Hairballs can cause intestinal blockages in some cats. Did you realize that short haired cats actually shed more than long haired cats? Do you have friends or family who are allergic to your cats?

Do you feel you don't have any spare time to devote to brushing, much less bathing your cat?

All the above situations are great examples of why cats and their families can benefit from the services of professional cat groomers. If you have ever tried to bathe a cat, you know there must be an

**Contact Julie Gehm at
Klasykatsite.com**

easier way. According to a local cat groomer, Julie Gehm, to reduce or eliminate shedding, your cat should be bathed twice a year. I don't know about you, but I'm not up to wrestling with my cats to do that, much less trying to trim their nails. Cat groomers learn ways to bathe, brush, and trim nails with little to no restraint for the comfort of your cat. Julie also does Lion Trims, which is different than just shaving your cat. Give her a call.

So, maybe it's time to treat your cat to a professional grooming. It can save you time and is good for your cat as well.

It's Tornado Season in Kansas

If you live in the Midwest, you know that along with the beautiful flowers, springtime also brings severe weather and tornadoes. Friends of Felines still needs volunteers for our Mobile Rescue Unit. In times of disaster, such as a tornado, our goal will be to reunite pet cats with their families. We will humanely trap cats and take them to a designated area for any care they might need. Then they will be kept safe until

their families are able to claim them.

We need volunteers to take 2 free online courses from FEMA, then attend a feline first aid course that we will be sponsoring. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please email

www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm

Wayne at Wayne@felinefriendsks.com for more information. You can also go to our website for more information, or go to the highlighted FEMA website to take the **ICS 100** and **ICS 200** courses online. Send a copy of the certificates to Wayne and we will let you know when the feline first aid course will be offered. If you lost your cats in a tornado, wouldn't you want someone to help find them? Email us today!!!

Wichita Cat Fancy Cat Show

Beautiful weather in early February brought out a great crowd for the annual Cat Show at the Cotillion. We got to see many old friends, as well as make some new ones. Friends of Felines took in a record amount of donations at the cat show, thanks to all of you who stopped by our booth.

We also were fortunate of course to see many beautiful cats—from Ray's favorite,

a playful Maine Coon kitten, many gorgeous Persians and Wegies, to the



exotic Rex breeds and wonderful cats in the household pet category. I'll never forget the feral kitten who was rescued and proudly "walked" its owner around the building with her (the kittens) leash and harness.

Watching the judging at the cat show is always entertaining as well as educational. And to think that some folks think a cat is just a cat.

Flea Control

Controlling fleas is much more than just applying medication monthly to your cat's nape. There are four steps to flea control—Removing fleas from the indoor environment, from the outdoor environment, and from your pet; and the fourth step is to prevent immature fleas from becoming adults. Fleas carry tapeworms, so any animal who has fleas may have tapeworms. Tapeworms take nutrition from your cat and the eggs are shed in the stool to be picked up by fleas again. They are then spread to more cats and even to humans.

Did you know that vacuuming can

eliminate up to 50% of the flea eggs in your carpet? Be sure to launder your cats bedding regularly, and follow up with indoor insecticides.

There are foggers for indoors, and many insecticides to be used outdoors. You must be careful to not use insecticides containing permethrins on cats.

For our feral cats, you will need to clean and apply insecticides to their shelters and wash or replace bedding on a regular basis. Be sure to keep their feeding station clean as well. Since fleas like moist, warm and shady

areas, be sure to rake up debris in the yard prior to applying insecticides. Depending on the product you use, you may need to repeat every 7-21 days.

If their environment is kept free of fleas, then feral cats will be much less likely to have flea infestations and the problems that go with them. For more information on flea control, visit pet-education.com and look up "flea control".

Here's an interesting fact—In just 30 days, 25 adult female fleas can multiply to as many as a quarter million fleas!!!

Good Reading

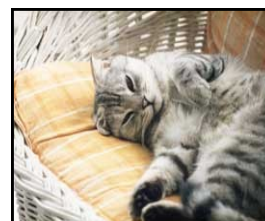
Thanks to Mary for loaning me her double-book, "The Cat Who Went to Paris" along with "A Cat Abroad". These are the first 2 in a series of 3 books by author Peter Gethers telling the life of his Scottish Fold, Norton. The author makes an about-face from a person who "doesn't like cats" to a person totally smitten and owned by a tiny furball named Norton. Peter takes Norton not only on the Concorde, but

to dine at some very exclusive restaurants across Europe. Norton has won the hearts of people in many countries. Hotel staff would excitedly welcome Norton with open arms—and lots of

[Visit Norton's Website-
Randomhouse.com/features/
nortonthecat](http://Randomhouse.com/features/nortonthecat)

kitty treats, toys, and plenty of love.

Mary tells me that I wouldn't like the 3rd and final book, which tells the final chapters of Norton's life. I'll let you



decide if you want to read it, entitled "The Cat Who'll Live Forever".

Friends of Felines to be on KWCH News

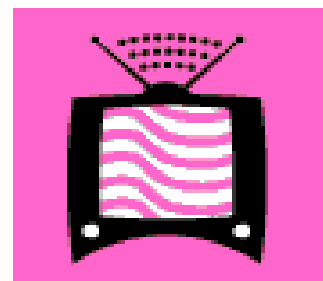
Recently I had a photojournalist, George, accompany me on a TNR mission. George wants to document the entire TNR process, from trapping the cats, the vet experience, and returning the cats to their colony. He also has interviewed the caregiver of this colony to find out how she came to adopt these feral cats. He plans to have a very long (for a news story) 2 1/2 minute story that will air hopefully in May on

our CBS affiliate in Wichita, KWCH channel 12.

George has asked many questions about Friends of Felines as well as wanting to learn about the plight of feral cats in general. The first time we trapped, he wasn't able to film all the action. The second time, there was much less activity. Typical trapping, where "Patience is a Virtue!!"

If you want to be sure not to miss the broadcast, email Sue and I will send out an email when I know the date.

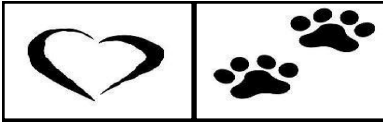
Thanks, George for wanting to get the feral cat story told.



Friends of Felines

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Sedgwick, KS 67135

Newsletter contact
Sue@felinefriendsks.com



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

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Vice President-Wayne Roberts

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Secretary-Sue Schamp

email: Sue@felinefriendsks.com

Treasurer-Norma Roberts

email: Norma@felinefriendsks.com

Vet Consultant-Sarah Pratt DVM

Ways You Can Help

We can always use donations of food and supplies. We are also still looking for volunteers for our Mobile Rescue Unit. What could be more rewarding than really helping someone in a disaster?

If you are available in the evenings you might be interested in learning to humanely trap cats. This is a great way to learn more about feral cats and you get to meet some wonderful caregivers and share ideas. If you are interested, contact Sue at sue@felinefriendsks.com.

If you have a pickup topper or know of any that are not being used, we can use them for cat shelters. Remember, they are a tax-deductible

donation for you. Let us know and we would be happy to pick it up.

Do you have a talent you would like to share? Or ideas that would help us be more visible to the community? Share those with us by contacting any board member. See above for the email addresses.

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!!!