

Newsletter

MISSION

Forgotten Felines Rescue provides spay/neuter services, food, shelter and adoption for homeless cats and kittens, along with providing public education on the critical cat overpopulation problem and the importance of spaying/neutering. The founders and its Denver-area volunteers are committed to improving the lives of feral and stray cats.

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Volume VI

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Forgotten Felines Rescue —A Year in Review

Our seventh year was another busy one as we continued our mission of improving the lives of homeless cats in the Denver area through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) of feral/community cats. Secondary programs are the fostering of rescued kittens, including socializing them, and finding homes for them in qualified, permanent homes, as well as rehabilitating abandoned tame cats so they can find permanent homes. Our relationships with community members, affordable spay/neuter clinics as well as area shelters are key in allowing us to address the cat overpopulation problem and improving the lives of cats already born. We have no paid staff, relying solely on volunteers who commit their time and efforts.

• **Cats helped** – From Jan-Oct 2016 the number of cats helped was 670. This was greater than previous years, and about a 28% increase over the same period in 2015. The total number of cats helped from Jan 2011 through Oct 2016 was about

3300 cats. The number of kittens/cats adopted over this period was about 700. Area shelters, through our membership in the MDAWA (Metro Denver Animal Welfare Alliance), provided additional channels of finding homes for rescued cats/kittens.

• **Fundraising** – In June, volunteers Stan and Val Cowan hosted a garage sale at their home with many donated items from Tagawa Gardens. We appreciate the generosity of Tagawa and the hard work of the Cowans and other volunteers. We raised more than \$1,000.00.

On October 1st we hosted "Wine & Dine for Felines", a silent auction event, at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Golden. We were very fortunate to have Modern Woodmen



Fraternal Financial (Denver Chapter) choose Forgotten Felines Rescue to be the recipient of a matching grant up to \$2,500. The event netted about \$6,500 and with the matching grant of \$2,500, the event total was about \$9,000. A huge thanks goes to Nancy Greer for sponsoring this event at the Mount Vernon Country Club.

On October 16th our 4th Annual Chili Cook Off was held in conjunction with The Old South



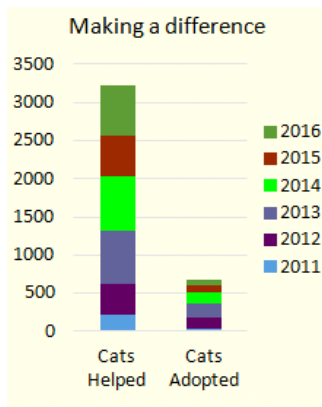
Chili Cook Off attendees

Pearl Street Merchants' Association's Farmer's Market. We had 24 entries in red, green, and specialty chili with more than 300 people tasting. Proceeds of about \$1,600 from the Cook Off benefitted both Forgotten Felines Rescue and The Feline Fix. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success!

Community vs Feral cats

"A **feral cat** is a **cat** that has been born to other ferals or from **stray cats**; these ferals are unaccustomed to human interaction. (Wikipedia)

Community cats is a broader term which encompasses any un-owned cat. Feral cats are included under this umbrella. Use of the term "community" means not only they live in the community, but also implies that the responsibility of their care resides with community members.



This concept is articulated in Metro Denver C.A.T. -- "a collaboration of animal welfare

groups working together to make metro Denver a place where cats are valued and cared for by an engaged community. We are working for cats that are owned, homeless in shelters or on the streets, and the community or feral cats". www.denvercats.org

Caring for colony cats

Rookie caretaker to experienced volunteer

"In July a mama cat came in to my backyard with 4 little kitties trailing behind her looking for fresh water. Within days I realized that they were homeless so I had to help take care of them. I became an instant caregiver. Another adult female quickly joined in the nightly feeding and before I knew it, I had a cat colony!

With Colorado's winter weather, I knew I had to give them a dependable, safe and



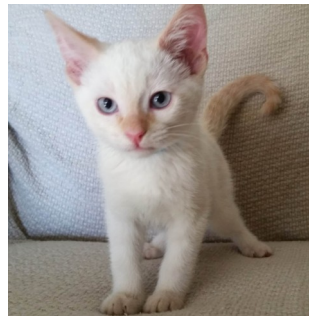
Cats enjoy their feeding station

warm sanctuary. I have always had and loved cats, but the idea of taking care of a feral community was overwhelming. I came across information on the web about building winter shelters. My next step was to build them a motion activated lighted feeding shelter. Now they could eat and sleep comfortably without the harsh wind and snow getting to them and their food.

Low and behold, the second female adult gave birth to a litter of 7 kittens. I knew I had to do something because if I

didn't, there would be little kittens growing up to have even more kittens. After searching for more information, I learned about TNR. But the whole idea of trying to "fix the problem" myself was quite daunting.

I didn't have a clue where to begin so in September I reached out to Forgotten Felines Rescue and immediately a volunteer contacted me. The very next day life changing events were set in motion. I was educated about humanely trapping the colony and was provided with traps for the cats to get used to eating in. On the night we scheduled to do the trapping, we successfully trapped 14 cats!



Niko waiting for his forever home

Forgotten Felines Rescue was with me every step of the way taking charge of the situation. I never once felt overwhelmed again! Without them I could never have accomplished this. Since the trapping, I have been fostering the kittens, getting them socialized and adopted to their forever homes.

From July to November I have journeyed from a rookie caregiver to an experienced volunteer. This has been one of the most rewarding journeys I have ever embarked upon and I thank God for Forgotten Felines every day for making my unforgettable journey so much easier! Thank you Forgotten Felines Rescue!!"

— Claudia C. Aurora, CO

A second chance

Early in the year we received a call asking for help with a cat colony where the caretaker had died. The first two steps of the TNR process were easy, trap the cats and neuter them. The third step was a challenge. The property where they had been living was to be sold. The surrounding area was questionable and we were unable to identify a new caretaker willing to continue to care for them.

The cats were no longer welcome and could not be returned to a location where food and shelter were lacking and their safety dubious. A new home was needed. Flyers for barn homes were distributed in rural areas surrounding Denver but yielded no viable results. Time was running out for these cats.

Then Carmel R., a fellow trapper in the Colorado Springs area, identified some-



Don with Sammy and Darth Vader

one who wanted barn cats for their horse property and who was willing to ensure a successful transition. She took the cats and set them up in enclosures where they stayed for a few weeks to get accustomed to their new home. The cats were released from their enclosures and spent additional time confined to a room in one of the barns. Barbara and Don M., the new caretakers, welcomed 9 deserving cats to their property, naming each of them, and even making friends with some. They report the cats are doing their job of controlling the "critter" problem on the property. A happy ending for some cats who lost their home.



Lots of cozy corners for cats!

When community cats aren't welcome

Relocating community cats—also referred to as feral cats—should be avoided, and only considered as a last resort. Unless the cats' lives are seriously threatened, the optimal place for them is their current location. Since cats are territorial and form strong bonds with their outdoor homes, relocation is extremely stressful—and risky – for the cats AND for you.

When someone in the community calls us for help in ridding their property of community cats, our first strategy is to educate them about feral cats. Once they understand the plight of these animals and how to control the cat overpopulation problem, they usually are willing to be educated about how to care for them and allow us to spay/neuter them.

But occasionally the person may refuse to be educated about how to care for the cats and just wants them off their property. In this situation, we must consider the option of relocating cats to a barn home.

The first important step is identifying a potential barn home. Please let us know if you know someone with a rural property who is willing to provide a home for unwanted homeless cats

HAPPY CAT TALES!



Smokey

"Thanks for checking in. Smokey, a.k.a. "Leo Calvin," has been an amazingly wonderful

addition to our family. You were so spot on: this cat is the most patient, laid-back cat I've ever seen! He is Leo the Lover, for sure. We bought the pet bed but every morning I find Leo snuggled under someone's arm, purring comfortably. We have gotten very attached to him! Thanks so much for checking in!

— Laura L. Littleton, CO



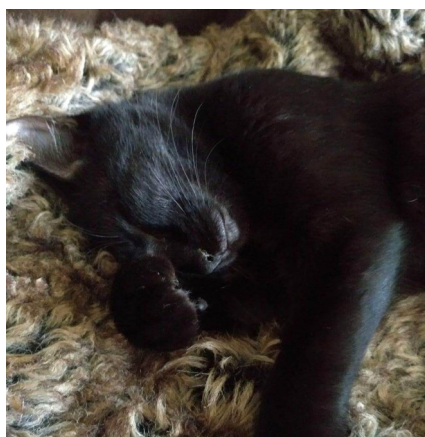
Marlin (a.k.a. Cooper)

"Merry Christmas and happy holidays from Kallie, Dan and Marlin (Cooper) adopted 2011. Still happy to be a lap kitty and a puppy at heart."

— Kallie S. Aurora, CO



Cooper the kitten in 2011



Ellie

Kathy Hill, adoption counselor: "We were at an adoption event at Krieger's Natural Pet Food Store at University & Hampden in Englewood. I was holding Ellie when she

became frightened and suddenly leaped out of my arms and to the back of the store. One of Krieger's employees, Lauren, came back and helped me retrieve Ellie from under a cooler! Lauren was impressed at how calm Ellie was after being pulled out from under the cooler by a total stranger. After checking with her boyfriend, Lauren decided to adopt Ellie, a beautiful black kitten. Here is what her new Mom wrote about Ellie":

"Ellie is doing well, I've attached some pictures of her and our other cat (Pip). She doesn't mind the dog, but also completely ignores him. She still has two of those spring toys that you gave me. She usually runs through the house at top speed while carrying one in the morning while waiting for breakfast. We can't decide between renaming her "Pillsbury" (because she is always kneading

something!) or "Bagheera," but for now the two cats are affectionately referred to as "Thing 1" and "Thing 2" since they are constantly by each other."

—Lauren S. Greenwood Village, CO



Ellie and Pip



Rio

Rio was one of several feral cats trapped at a mobile home park. During his neuter, the veterinarian noted that he needed dental work. When carrying out our mission of TNR, we only have one chance to improve the lives of feral cats so a dental procedure was scheduled for this seemingly

feral cat before he was returned to his colony. When he was taken to the clinic for the dental procedure, he quickly shed his feral "shell" and a sweet gentle cat emerged. At that point it was obvious that he was a "keeper" and should not be returned to his colony. He had other health issues that needed to be addressed, including a deep wound at the base of his tail that was slow to heal and an eye that needed attention. Because of his medical issues he made many visits to the vet, including The Feline Fix where the staff fell in love with him and vowed to find him a home. Eventually Holly W., a Vet Tech at the clinic, and her husband Jon, decided they

wanted to adopt him. He has settled into his new home and even made friends with the family dog.



Rio and new best friend

Rio highlights the plight of so many abandoned cats. Forced to survive in an environment where they are fearful, if trapped, their initial behavior mimics that of a feral cat. But

Rio is one of the lucky ones -- he found a loving home far from the streets where he had been forced to live.

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When in a frightening or stressful environment—such as a trap or a shelter—a friendly stray cat may act like a feral cat, avoiding people and possibly even showing aggression to avoid being touched. "A lot of cats seem feral in traps but are just afraid," explains Alley Cat Allies Feral Friend Genevieve Van de Merghel. Who can blame them? The cat is in a new and unfamiliar place.



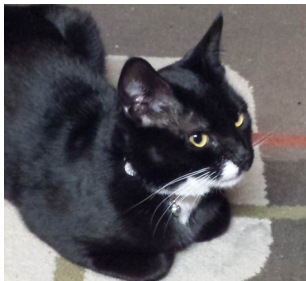


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[forgottenfelinesdenver.org](http://forgottenfelinesdenver.org)



**Freckles**

***A happy ending for an  
abandoned, abused cat!***

Freckles was found as a stray cat in July by two good Samaritans. They took her to their veterinarian as she had been kicked in the head by a neighbor who had also turned a garden hose on her. She was also treated for an upper respiratory and an inner ear infection. After being treated and time to recuperate, little Freckles was spayed and vaccinated. This animal loving couple asked if Forgotten Felines Rescue would help find this special girl a home. She was examined by one of our veterinarians because of an endearing head tilt - everything checked out fine, but nothing could be done about the head tilt. In October Freckles was adopted by a wonderful couple who absolutely love her and are thankful to have her in their lives!



## As Our Seventh Year Draws to a Close...

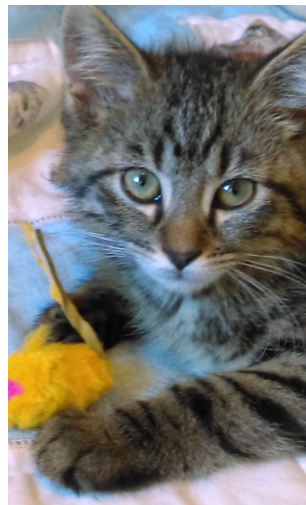
**Thanks to** all our volunteers for their contributions this year. Their individual labors of love have helped improve the lives of many, many cats.

**Thanks to** our loyal friends in the veterinary community who provide quality vet services:

Animal Health Care Specialists  
Brentwood Animal Clinic  
Broadview Animal Clinic  
Cat Clinic at Cat Care Society  
Every Creature Counts  
The Feline Fix/Divine Feline  
Hampden Family Pet Hospital  
Dumb Friends League Mobile Clinics  
Park Hill Vet. Medical Center  
Planned Pethood Plus  
Spay Today  
Tender Touch Animal Hospital  
VCA Anderson Animal Hospital  
VCA Park Hill Animal Hospital  
Wholehearted Mobile Veterinary Services

**Thanks to** our generous donors and caring supporters who continue to provide the resources needed to carry out our mission.

**Petey the Rescued Kitten  
says...**



**THANK YOU,  
Friends  
of  
Forgotten Felines !!**

**Thanks to** compassionate colony caretakers in the neighborhoods who care for the cats, work with us to identify problem situations and then help solve them.

**Thanks to**

Dumb Friends League  
Duncan's Place  
Foothills Animal Shelter  
Humane Society of Boulder Valley  
Kriser's Natural Pet  
Lauretta Boyd Charitable Trust  
Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial  
Old South Pearl Street Merchants Association (Denver)  
On Shore Foundation  
Pet Palace Veterinary Clinic  
Petco at Belmar  
Petco at Littleton  
Petco Foundation  
Rescue Bank  
St. Paws Kibble Kitchen  
Tagawa Gardens  
The Whole Cat & Dogs, too!

