

# Newsletter

Volume I

Winter 2011

## 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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## Forgotten Felines Rescue — Who We Are

Forgotten Felines Rescue began in November 2009. During 2010 we began to build our organization by seeking funding, recruiting volunteers and beginning to establish relationships with area spay/neuter and veterinary clinics. With the support of dedicated volunteers, we have expanded the programs critical to carrying out our mission. These include:

■ **Trapping** – Volunteers assist with the trapping and transporting of cats to spay/neuter clinics and low cost veterinarian clinics with which we have established relationships, as well as the return of feral cats to their colonies. Occasionally an injured cat may need further care from illness or injury, and a cat may be housed for a short period until it is ready to be safely released.

■ **Foster care** – Volunteers foster abandoned tame cats found at feral colonies until they can find homes. In addition, they also foster kittens born on the street to feral and abandoned mothers, providing the needed socialization in order for them to be adopted.

■ **Adoption** – Forgotten Felines Rescue cats/kittens can be found

on PetFinder. Foster moms provide descriptions and photos of their foster cats/kittens to a volunteer who updates and maintains our PetFinder page. Another volunteer coordinates our weekly adoption display events between adoption counselors and foster cats/kittens at a local Petco store. These events held on Saturday provide a venue where potential adopters can meet rescued cats/kittens, and they also provide an opportunity to further spread our message and recruit volunteers.

We participated in other events including the Tagawa Gardens Grey Kitty Birthday Party/Pet Adoption event; the South Pearl Street Pet Fair; the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Denver Adoptathon; and the Auraria Campus event as part of the Alley Cat Allies National Feral Cat Day in October.

■ **Fundraising** – In June we held our first annual Garden Party and Silent Auction event in the beautiful backyard of the home of a volunteer couple. The setting was exquisite, the food delicious, and the tables offered many interesting items for auction. Through her efforts, another volunteer made it pos-



*A colony cat awaits her dinner*

sible for us to receive 3 grants to help provide much needed funding for spay and neuter services.

Other volunteers provide their expertise as needed for special tasks, e.g. logo design, helping with various computer-related activities, and in many other areas.

As a grass-roots, all-volunteer organization, we have begun to address the cat overpopulation problem in the Denver area and to help the area's forgotten felines.

*Many, many more still  
need our help...*

## ...A Word from Dr. O.



“Still active in pet care and rescue after 30 years of practice”.

*Dr. Paul Oberbroeckling, our Board of Directors president, is a long-time Denver-area veterinarian, past president of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society, and currently at Park Hill Veterinary Medical Center.*

## THEY CARE FOR HOMELESS CATS: SHARON CHASE



**Sharon Chase next to her feral cat shelter. A covered feeding station she built is behind the shelter.**

When Sharon Chase moved into her Commerce City home 2 years ago, she had a surprise welcome committee: a big colony of feral cats. She asked her neighbor, "Who takes care of them?" The reply? They'd been around "forever" and no one took care of them.

So Sharon, always an animal lover and a dog owner, started feeding and watering them. She heard from a work colleague about Forgotten Felines

and the support they provide. How did they help? "They trapped, inoculated, and spayed/neutered the cats. Now there are no more kittens!" (FFR found homes for the kittens.)

To shield them from harsh weather, the FFR volunteer arranged for a small shed to be built, and Sharon constructed a feeding center, even with her long working hours at a local warehouse.

Her feline colony of 9 hangs around the property and Sharon enjoys watching them playing with paper bags. Although feral, the cats don't run from her as she feeds them.

Sharon is happy with her "second job." "Anybody in this situation should do the same thing," she concludes, "and step up to the plate."



**Noel Bradshaw, in the living room of his home, talks about caring for his colony.**

## ... AND NOEL BRADSHAW

Noel Bradshaw's love of cats is a personal inheritance from his mother.

"She always loved cats and fed the wild ones until she passed," Noel states. "So I just took over." At that time, there were 4 feral cats that hung around the house. Now there are 13, not counting the former feral kitty whom Noel has adopted and whom he calls "Baby."

Feeding and watering the brood is part of his morning routine. They're outside in the back yard waiting for him. He has sleeping shelters on the back porch and a nearby shed, which provides adequate shelter.

And Forgotten Felines provides food, and if necessary, trapping and neutering.

Occasional "party crashers" come to his property (fox,

coyote, raccoons) but he's had to call the police only once: when he found 2 deer grazing in his front yard. He has no problems with his neighbors, who respect his work with cats.

Noel, a retired produce packager, finds that tending the colony is easy, and anyway, he concludes, "I'm retired. It's something to do that makes a difference."

*Michele Swenson is a writer who has volunteered with Forgotten Felines Denver Rescue for 1-1/2 years. It is gratifying to trap cats to take to the clinic, to feed and to help find them outside shelter when possible, but most rewarding to her is witnessing the progress of kittens who are trapped early enough to socialize for adoption.*

## TRAPPING AND RESCUING

Spaying/neutering is key to controlling cat over-population. There are many aspects of maintaining cat colonies, trapping and transporting cats, collecting and distributing food, and daily feeding. Perhaps the most gratifying is rescuing kittens, socializing and adopting them, removing them from a challenging life in the colonies. Standing out in a year of trapping are the success stories of rescued abandoned tame cats and kittens. Three kittens here, four there - a litter born in a

boat at a sporting goods store. Each rescued kitten is a minor miracle, some quickly responding to human touch and voice, and learning to play with toy balls and things on strings. Often within 2 days a feral kitten's hiss or growl is transformed into a purr and meow. Here are two of our favorites: George, a beautiful green-eyed gray ball of energy, was young enough to literally be picked up in an alley by a volunteer. Initially shy and reserved, tuxe-

do kitty Molly became a sweet purring furball, a playful kitten in touch with her inner soccer player. Her sister, trapped a month later, was not so easily socialized and was returned to the colony.

*Rocky, Livia, Grayson, Boris, Sampson, George, Blu, Boo, Gracie, Chloe, Cooper, Cutie, Maki, Diva, Teebow, Sake, Noodles, Minx and more.....all foster Success stories!*

## SOME RESCUE STORIES

### Benni

A Forgotten Felines volunteer received a call last winter about an injured kitten that had been spotted. In talking with neighbors, the volunteer learned that the kitten had gotten its leg caught in a chain link fence as she was scaling it, and her leg was severely broken. Observers remembered her cry of pain when it happened. After many attempts, she was finally

trapped. Her broken and infected leg was removed, and she recuperated in a foster home. Then Benni, as she was named, began making the transition from a frightened young cat into one that purred when picked up. She learned to navigate around quite well on her remaining 3 legs, and didn't hesitate when jumping up on her elevated cat condo/

#### Forgotten Felines statistics

Cats helped in 2010	75
Cats helped Jan-Oct 2011	198
Cats/kittens adopted	54
Cats in the Denver area still needing help	
—too many!!	

scratching post.

Then the quest began for a special human to adopt a special cat, and that someone was luckily found. Benni now is in a wonderful home and loves her new human friends.



*Benni, the 3-legged cat*

### Dennis

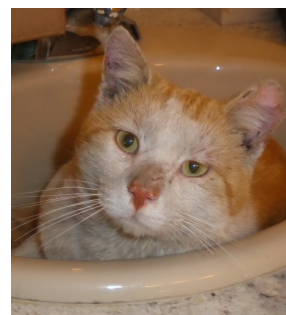
Dennis looked quite old when he was rescued in an alley in North Denver, sporting a tattered ear with more dirt than white on him. He looked so bad that it was quite probable that he had feline leukemia or feline AIDS, and wanting to give him a chance at a good life, the FFR volunteer decided to postpone his neutering. He immediately adjusted to his foster home, and was quite happy in the bed that he had made for

himself in the sink in a guest bathroom. He was very appreciative of having someone to care for him and having food provided without searching in dumpsters.

A couple weeks later he was finally neutered, and was fortunately given a clean bill of health. Once he shed the dirt he had accumulated living on the street, he again looked his

age of only 2 years. And then Dennis found a home.

*Update from his adopted family: "We are all doing great. Dennis is no longer Dennis. We call him Puddy. Like Puddy Tat. I think he really loves us as he has taken over the house. He is a very loving & talking cat. Thank you again for rescuing Puddy and allowing us to adopt him".*



*Dennis, lounging in his bathroom sink bed*

### Teebow

A small kitten braved the cold with a snowstorm expected the following day. Too sick to eat, it wasn't interested in the tuna in the traps set by a FFR volunteer in order to rescue it. Then, luckily its mom showed up, was hungry and interested in the tuna, and went into the trap. The volunteer, seizing the moment, decided to use the mom as "bait" and set up a trap directly next to the trapped adult. The kitten went in the trap to get to its mom, and in doing so made its first big step to a better life.

Teebow quickly adjusted to being rescued and started purring almost immediately. After being force-fed baby food for a day, he finally started eating on his own. A week later he had a cute round belly and had put on a pound. Now he is doing what a kitten does best — playing, whether with another rescued kitten or a toy he found in the corner of his foster home. Next step: the search for a permanent home.

Several adults cats in the area were trapped, spayed/neutered,

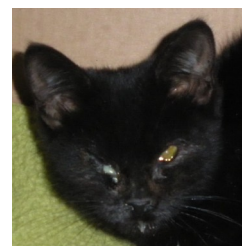
and along with Teebow's mom, were returned to their colony where they are being fed.

Teebow is one of the lucky ones.

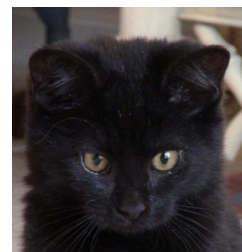
*Teebow is available for adoption. If you are interested in meeting him, please call 303-579-2850.*

*Teebow's on YouTube!*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osijimkw14](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osijimkw14)



*Teebow—before and after*





A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

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### Wish list

- Cat food—dry and canned  
*(a critical need!)*
- Metal cat cages
- Soft blankets
- Flat sheets & towels
- Rubber-backed rugs
- Cash!! — for
  - humane traps
  - spays & neuters
  - other medical care

### Volunteers for

- Fundraising
- Cat/kitten fostering
- Colony feeding
- Trapping/transporting cats
- Picking up food donations
- Adoption counseling
- Public relations
- Developing education programs

If you can help with these requests,  
please call 303-388-6075.

**Please remember us with your year-end tax deductible donation. You may also may a donation with PayPal via our website.**

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

Thanks to all our volunteers for their outstanding contributions and for helping us get through our “growth spurts”.



Thanks to our loyal friends in the veterinary community who provide us reasonably priced veterinarian services.

- Animal Health Care Specialists
- Broadview Animal Clinic
- Divine Feline
- Hampden Family Pet Hospital
- Montclair Animal Clinic
- Park Hill Veterinary Medical Ctr.
- Planned Pethood Plus
- RMACA
- VCA Park Hill Animal Hospital

*A special thank you to  
Dr. Susan Barden  
Dr. Sharon DePaww  
of VCA Park Hill*



**A Forgotten Felines Rescue kitty ponders her new life.**



Thanks to our donors and supporters who provide the necessary resources to carry out our mission.



Thanks to colony caretakers and the folks in our neighborhoods who help us identify problem situations and then help us to solve them.



- Also thanks to:
- Almost Home Adoptions
  - Best Pets
  - Cat Care Society
  - Ciji's Natural Pet Supplies
  - law & equity ltd
  - Lucille Drinkwater Allen Trust
  - MaxFund
  - On Shore Foundation
  - Petco at Colorado Blvd. & I-25
  - Petco Foundation
  - Stewartstudio Graphic Design