

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.

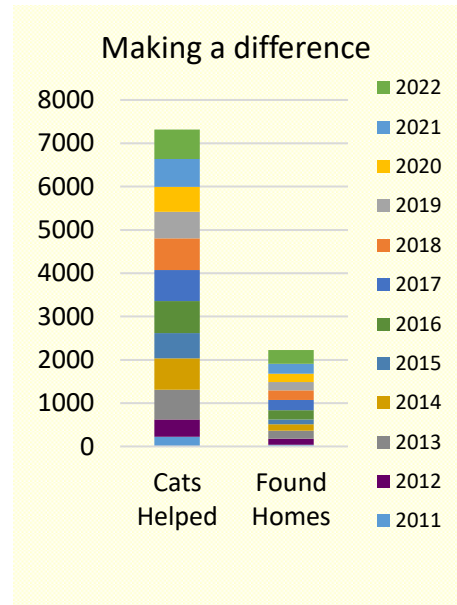
December 2023

Dear Friends of Forgotten Felines Rescue:

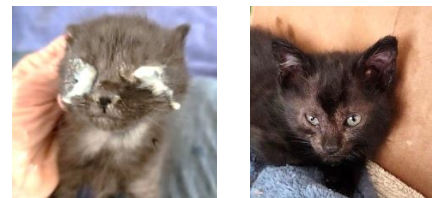
Since our inception in 2009 our mission has remained constant. Our goal is to make a real difference in improving the lives of homeless cats on the street. One key aspect of this is preventing more kittens from being born thus reducing overpopulation. We also want to ensure that cats returned to their colonies after spay/neuter are healthy, and kittens who can be socialized and abandoned cats who can be rehabilitated are given a chance for a home.

From 2011 through 2022 FFR has helped over 7300 cats with an additional 470 cats YTD through October 2023. Over 2200 of these have found homes either through our foster/adoption program of dedicated foster moms/dads, or through the adoption programs of rescues/shelters whom we have developed relationships with.

We continue to receive requests for assistance from caregivers and other concerned individuals through our phone helpline, as well as through word of mouth and referrals. 2023 started out as a challenging year. Because of the frigid weather of January and February, trapping efforts and requests for help were reduced. Kitten season seemed to start off at a modest rate, but that was followed by an explosion of kittens over the summer that continued into the fall and we still encounter more kittens than typical in our trapping efforts.



• **Aurora mega colony challenges** • There are many hotbeds of unowned, breeding cats across the Denver metro area, and central Aurora continues to be one of them. In the spring we began trapping at a couple locations in a block south of Colfax Ave, adjacent to an existing managed feral colony. About 20 cats/kittens were trapped/rescued. Some of the smaller kittens we rescued were “under the weather” with infected eyes, undoubtedly from being born in and subjected to the frigid winter weather.



A new lease on life

We then trapped at several locations north of Colfax Ave. At one of these colonies, we were told there were “only” about 20 cats along with a couple kittens who had recently been born. It took several weeks but within about a block and a half area, the total number of cats/kittens trapped/rescued was over 60, and about half of these were kittens. This included 17 newborn kittens (2 litters were born unexpectedly after their mothers were trapped). We continued trapping at a nearby apartment building where even more adults and kittens were uncovered. In the end, within about 7 square blocks north and south of Colfax, over 130 cats/kittens were trapped/rescued. Even considering that many of the kittens born on the street would not have survived, it is difficult to imagine the resultant explosion of the cat population which would have occurred without our TNR efforts.



A bundle of newborn kittens

● **Meanwhile out on the ranch...** ●



The return part of TNR

One of our volunteers received a request for help from a rancher who was seeing a large number of cats on her property, many of which she believed were cats or descendants of cats who had been abandoned in the rural area. Fortunately, the caretaker was experienced in trapping and was key in the trapping efforts which included 16 adults, 11 of which were females. The adults were spayed/neutered/vaccinated and returned to the ranch where they are being cared for. During the process, 21 kittens were rescued or trapped at the location. They received the medical care they needed before going on to find homes.

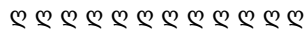
● **Bubba's journey** ● "Bubba" was 1 of 3 cats abandoned at a feral colony. An elderly caretaker had been feeding 2 fixed feral cats for many years, but called us to say she was selling her house and could not continue to feed them. We met with her before she moved, and she told us about 3 new cats at the colony whom she had witnessed being dropped off from a moving car. We were able to trap the 3 cats, 2 of which were immediately friendly and found homes after they received medical care. While we believed the 3rd cat, "Bubba", was also tame, he was unresponsive to any attention and therefore unadoptable. One of our volunteers who had been assisting the elderly caretaker stepped up to the challenge. He said he wanted to work with Bubba to try to make a difference in his life.

It took time and dedication on the part of the volunteer but with patience, Bubba began to trust his new human and to respond. During this time, it was discovered that a wound on his neck was not healing and he was continually scratching it making it worse. After receiving medical attention, he wore an e-collar to prevent further scratching and the volunteer regularly applied medication to the wound. More than once, the wound would seemingly clear up, the collar would be removed, and Bubba was back to scratching it. So, the collar went back on for an extended time until another round of antibiotics cleared up the infection and the wound finally and completely healed. Today Bubba is a very healthy, happy and well-adjusted cat. He loves his new human family and can often be seen playing up a storm. He also enjoys the company of his feline buddies, all of whom were rescued.



Bubba's favorite toy

Bubba is a very lucky cat and he highlights the reality that many abandoned cats do not immediately recover from their traumatic experiences on the street, but require time and patience in order to learn to trust again.



As 2023 comes to a close, FFR continues to help a vast number of cats and kittens with a skeleton crew. We continue to operate as a 100% volunteer organization, which over the last few years has been a blessing, and a challenge. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly rescuing a record number of kittens and cats.

In addition to those challenges, our veterinary expenses went up 24% this year and we anticipate them increasing at least 15% in 2024, and our revenue has decreased. We take pride in all the extra medical care we provide to cats in our care, both adoptable and feral. In order to continue rescue efforts without interruption, we need to plan for the future and are consulting with a knowledgeable expert to help us define & navigate the path. We want to ensure that we can continue to provide our services to all the cats who need them.

We need your help and here are some things you, your family or your friends can do:

- Foster a kitten, a litter of kittens, or an adult cat
- Help with Trap-Neuter-Return projects
- Organize a fundraiser on behalf of FFR (e.g. a garage sale or set-up a Facebook fundraiser)
- Become a member of the Board of Directors to help with management, fundraising, finance, marketing, or donor development

Since 2009, FFR has accomplished so much and it's hard and rewarding work. Please consider joining FFR in either continuing your current support or in a new capacity. We can't continue our important work without you!



3124 S. Parker Road Suite A2-607 • Aurora, CO • 80014 • 303-532-5521
www.ForgottenFelinesDenver.org

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