

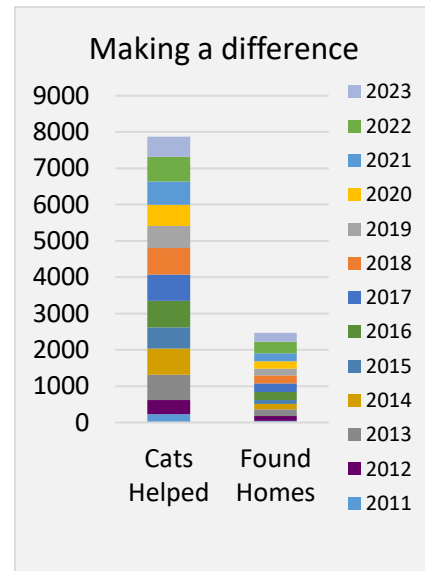
Mission: Forgotten Felines Rescue provides spay/neuter services, food, shelter and adoption for homeless cats and kittens, along with providing public education on the critical cat overpopulation problem and the importance of spaying/neutering.

December 2024

Dear Friends of Forgotten Felines Rescue:

Forgotten Felines Rescue (FFR) was founded over 15 years ago by a few dedicated volunteers who were committed to improving the lives of homeless cats on the street. First and foremost, the goal was to control the cat overpopulation problem and prevent more kittens from being born on the street, many of which did not survive. As part of that goal, we also wanted to ensure that any cats who were returned to their colonies after spay/neuter surgery were healthy by addressing any other health issues that were noted at time of surgery. Also key was that rescued kittens who were young enough to be socialized would be given the opportunity to find homes and tame cats who were abandoned were given a second chance.

The number of cats we have helped from 2011 through 2023 is in excess of 7800 with about 500 more between January and October of this year. Over 2500 of these have found homes through our foster/adoption program or through the adoption programs of area rescues/shelters with whom we have relationships with through the Metro Denver Animal Welfare Alliance (MDAWA).



Fortunately, weather conditions early in 2024 were milder than the frigid conditions of 2023 so we were able to carry out trapping earlier in the year. The number of cats helped from January through March of this year was about 75% more than in the previous year. In the spring before kittens arrived, we trapped 77 cats in the Commerce City area alone, most of them from just 2 colonies. As always, we continue to trap many in our home base of Aurora, and through October we had trapped about 115 cats in the 80010 and 80011 zip codes alone.

● **Lucky to be alive** ● A small kitten was rescued from a large apartment complex. He was in a horrible condition and was immediately taken to one of our clinic partners for medical attention. He was severely emaciated, weak and near death from a horrible flea infestation. The first step was to bathe him to remove all the parasites, and the clinic staff wasn't sure that he would even survive that process. He did, but it was a scary few days for the staff at Tender Touch Animal Hospital – he barely could lift his head. Finally after about 3 days the staff began to see some life come back into his eyes.



As the clinic is one of FFR's foster homes, it was a natural for him to remain in their care so they could nurse him back to health. When he was older and healthy enough, he was neutered and ready for a home. He was then adopted into an amazing family that showers him with love and he is happy to return the favor. He is best friends with a dog, nurtured by a cat, and his humans can't get enough of how sweet he is! A very lucky cat!

● **A walk in the park** ● Sometimes a walk in the park can become something much more. One of our volunteers and a friend were out for a leisurely walk one sunny fall day when the peacefulness of the day was pierced by the shrill cries of a kitten in distress. They investigated and discovered a lone kitten hiding in a nearby vehicle storage facility. With some patience and luck, they were able to capture the young kitten, and when they talked to workers at nearby businesses, they discovered that there was an extended family of cats living in the area. The family consisted of 3 teenagers (1 of which had recently disappeared), the mom and 4 young kittens including the one already rescued. We then set out a plan to help them.

In addition to regular humane traps, we included a couple unique tools of the trade in our plan. One was a “drop trap” which would enable us to trap several cats/kittens simultaneously. The other key tool was a trail camera which we set up so we would know what cats were coming to eat and when they were coming. Fortunately, the caretaker was able to pick up one of the kittens and put it in a carrier for us and we next captured the remaining 2 kittens and a teenager with the drop trap. The second teenager was trapped using a regular trap. Unfortunately, the mom had disappeared during the process and sadly our camera picked up one image of her where it appeared she had sustained serious injuries, likely from a predator. We left the camera at the site even though we believed our trapping project was complete but found we weren't done. The camera picked up 2 additional cats who were coming to eat. Further efforts allowed us to trap these cats in addition to another young cat whom we believed was the 3<sup>rd</sup> teenager that had disappeared earlier. Message: Cats needing help are everywhere, and often where you don't expect them to be!

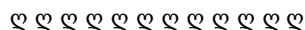


● **The cockeyed cat!** ● Part of our mission is to rehabilitate cats found living on the street who have been abandoned and trying to survive on their own. Stanley is one example. He was eating at a feral colony and when the caretaker first saw him, his head was permanently tilted at a 90-degree angle to his body. When he was finally trapped and taken to the clinic to be neutered, the vet diagnosed a very severe case of ear mites which was treated. While we believed he was tame, initially he was quite shy. However, as he felt better and knew he was safe, he started to come out of his shell and learned to trust his foster family.



But the head tilt persisted and follow-up with an ear specialist was the next step. The specialist observed that there was infection and polyps deep in the ear canal from the long-term effects of the ear mites, and after administering less than effective external treatments, she recommended a deep ear cleaning procedure under anesthesia to fully assess the condition of the inner ear damage.

Today Stanley is a happy cat who has learned to play and is best friends with Bubba, a rescue cat featured in last year's newsletter. His foster dad, one of our dedicated volunteers, not only adopted him, but made a donation to FFR to cover the expenses of the ear specialist. There are many cats like Stanley who deserve a second chance and the rewards of making a difference in the life of a cat like Stanley are immense. Please consider becoming a volunteer to help improve the lives of rescued cats!



**Connect!** Follow [@ForgottenFelinesRescueDenver](#) on Facebook and [@ForgottenFelinesRescue](#) on Instagram for cute photos/videos, helpful tips, fun cat stories and more! Sign up for our e-newsletter, check out adoptable cats/kittens, and read heartwarming success stories on [ForgottenFelinesDenver.org](#).

**Support!** Create a one-time or recurring donation at [PayPal](#) or [ColoradoGives.org](#). Donate a [Chewy](#) gift card. Connect your King Soopers or Kroger loyalty card to FFR and donate as you shop. Check with your employer to see if they have a donation match or payroll deduction program. Use [Cars for Charity](#) to donate your vehicle. Click “Donate” on our website for more info.

**Volunteer!** Share your time and know-how to help carry out our mission by fostering, colony feeding, trapping projects, joining the board, and more. Click "Get Involved" on our website for more info or call our helpline.



3124 S. Parker Road Suite A2-607 • Aurora, CO • 80014 • 303-532-5521 (Helpline)  
[www.ForgottenFelinesDenver.org](#)

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