



# The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

P.O. Box 526, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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[www.felinenetwork.org](http://www.felinenetwork.org)

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## Trapper Helps Pismo Family Fix Ferals

The Feline Network received a call recently from a family in Pismo Beach that was caring for a number of feral cats in addition to their domestic ones. At least one of the females was pregnant and almost all needed to be spayed and neutered. Lucy Taylor, a very hard-working volunteer trapper in the South County, met with the family and began working with them to get the cats fixed. As of this writing, all of the domestic cats and three of the ferals have been



Andrew Brownsilva with Puss'N Boots

spayed and neutered, and work is continuing to trap the remaining ferals. "I can't believe how fast Feline Network



Ryan Brownsilva with T.Rex

trapped those cats," says Brittany Brownsilva. "It was amazing." Efforts have been hindered somewhat by Bentley, a very adorable tuxedo kitty who, after being neutered, has managed to get himself trapped three times. Apparently Bentley likes the wet cat food enough that he doesn't mind spending a few hours in the trap!

## Fix-A-Feline Program Lends a Helping Hand

Feline Network's Fix-a-Feline program continues to provide financial assistance to residents who could not otherwise afford to alter their own cats or unplanned kittens or cats they have rescued or that have shown up on their property. Fix-a-Feline provides certificates which cover a portion of the cost of spay/neuter, and we have distributed more than 200 certificates since January of this year.

It is often financially impossible for people to get their cats spayed and neutered. The average cost to spay a cat in SLO County is \$125, and can often run much higher than that! People with multiple cats may not be able to afford to have them altered, even with help from our certificate program. In these cases, Feline Network will do what it takes to have the cats spayed and neutered.

We received a call recently from a couple, Gina and Rick, who live in rural Morro Bay. They learned about our certificate program and called, desperate for help. They had two pregnant females, two other young females and three young males, and there was an older feral tomcat that was

hanging around their property. Because of the prohibitive costs to alter so many cats, the Feline Network made the arrangements to have the cats fixed. Gina and Rick worked diligently to help in this process. One of the females had seven kittens two days after we received the call, and they will care for the kittens until they are spayed and neutered and then find homes for them. We will arrange to have the mama cat spayed once the kittens are weaned.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Three of six kittens recently found with their abandoned mother in rural Arroyo Grande, our first litter this year.*

## Still Looking for Homes

We are still looking for homes for some kittens we took in last year. These “kittens” are now beautiful young adult cats! We have affectionate, loving cats that will make wonderful pets as well as shy cats that we would be happy to place free as mousers in safe, caring environments. All of the cats are fixed, vaccinated and tested. We have limited space in our foster home network, and we need to make room for this season’s kittens.

We received a letter recently from Mark and Nicole Temons, who adopted three cats as mousers. They wrote:

“Thank you for bringing our cats to a good home. Heather, Pepper and Poppyseed are really in their element out here on the ranch; they dominate the rodents. We

have not seen a mouse in a year! They still sleep inside when it is cold and are progressively desirous of petting. We all appreciate your dedication to fixing these cats (to avoid more colonies) and finding them homes.”

Some of the cats we have available for adoption as pets and mousers are pictured here and we have other cats in addition to these. Please consider adopting one of our adult cats. Their personalities are more developed, and they will be calmer and less rambunctious than a kitten as they settle into their new home. We know they would make a wonderful addition to your family! Call Christine (805) 544-6138.



*Sammy*



*Benji*



*Checkers*



*Shiloh*

## K-Kids Hand a Big Check to The Feline Network!



*K-Kids with Volunteers Annie Dreizler (left) and Lynette Crane in the back*

K-Kids, a group of students at Oceano Elementary led by teacher Trish Wilson, recently sold lollipops and raised \$200 for the Feline Network. They also donated cat food and bowls. The K-Kids program is designed to teach children how important it is to give back to the community and to volunteer their time for worthy causes. Many of the children have been students of Annie Dreizler, a teacher at the school who volunteers for Feline Network. They know how hard she has worked over the years to trap and spay or neuter hundreds of cats, and they have also observed her feeding feral cat colonies before and after school. Some of the students have feeding stations by their houses and have actually helped Annie trap cats! K-Kids decided the Feline Network would be a great cause to support.

## To Honor and Remember

### *In Loving Memory of*

*Susan Clark*, “my friend since third grade,” by Blaire Kilbey

*Frieda Krueger*, by Ellen Dollar

*Barbara Mori*, “my colleague and friend, and also in honor of her beloved cat Saki, who died last June at the age of 16,” by Judy Saltzman

*Barbara Mori*, by Elaine Genasci

*Barbara Mori*, by Friends of Lois Capps

*Barbara Mori*, by Gail Perez

*Daphne Anne & Endora Sue*, “Our sweet gray girls we miss so much,” by Barbara Sutton

*Sassy*, “my niece’s cat in Sacramento,” by Beth D. Anderson. “Memory hold you gently as your soft fur within my fondest touch.”

### *In Honor of*

*Annie Dreizler*, by Patricia Dreizler

*Annie Dreizler*, by Jill Zamek

*Lucy Taylor*, by Nyla Moore Amerman

*Kathy Schwanitz*, by Isabel and Larry Smith

“*Our wonderful Cat’s Nest families and their oh-so-lucky babies!*” by Carolee & Emilie, The Cat’s Nest

*Pumpkin*, “She is thriving well!” by Reggie C. Grothe

### *A Christmas gift for*

*Charley Ault & Chris King*, by Margaret Collier & Raul Castillo

### *A Birthday gift for*

*Elaine Genasci*, by Leslie Jones and John Hofschroer

## Spay/Neuter Works. Join our Team and Become a Trapper!

Spring is here, and there are pregnant cats throughout the county having litters. We work year-round to spay and neuter as many cats as possible, both through our trap/neuter/return (TNR) program for stray and feral cats and through our Fix-a-Feline certificate program. Both programs are effective. Statistics indicate that considerably fewer cats are turned in to the Department of Animal Services from areas where we concentrate our spay/neuter efforts than from other areas of the County. We are constantly inundated with calls for help to trap and fix cats, many involving situations with multiple cats and kittens. If you would like to join our group of volunteers and become a trapper, we are very much in need of help in San Luis Obispo, Los Osos and the South County, especially Nipomo.

***Please call Lynette in South County (556-0717) or Christine in SLO (544-6138).***

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### **Fix-A-Feline Program** *(Continued from page 1)*

Tina was referred to us by a friend who knew she had unaltered cats and could not afford to get them fixed. Tina said a cat showed up six years ago, had a litter of kittens, and that she is now caring for 14 cats. With mating season approaching, the Feline Network again stepped in and arranged to have the cats altered. Tina took the cats to be fixed two or three at a time until they were all done and plans to donate to the Feline Network over time to help cover the costs

We recently helped Stephanie in rural Nipomo through our certificate program. She arranged with Santa Maria Valley Humane Society (SMVHS) to have eight females and

three males fixed all in one day.

Wendy and Matt, who live in the rural Suey Creek area southeast of Nipomo, had nine feral cats on their property they wanted to alter to avoid spring pregnancies. We provided them with certificates and loaned them two traps. They diligently trapped the cats themselves over a three-week period and had all nine fixed at SMVHS. They are relieved more kittens will not be born this year.

If you know people in San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Los Osos or the South County that need certificates to spay/neuter a cat or multiple cats, please ask them to call 549-9228, Ext. 707.



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### ***Donations Make Our Work Possible***

Your donations to the Feline Network are the foundation of our work. We continue rescuing abandoned cats and kittens and caring for them until we can find them permanent homes. We are also working to increase spaying and neutering in our area through our trap/neuter/return (TNR) program for feral cats and by issuing discount certificates to help local residents afford the cost of altering their pets or strays they may be caring for. Since we do not have a shelter and our work is done by volunteers, all of the money you donate is spent directly for the cats. If you would like your donation to go specifically to one of our programs, please let us know. We give ongoing and heartfelt thanks to all of our donors!

### **Thank You, Benita!**

We would like to extend a warm thank-you to long-time volunteer Benita Smith who has filled in as our adopt-a-cat coordinator for the past several months. Benita accepted this role for what was to be a short period of time but has generously continued as that time has lengthened into months. We appreciate all the work she does in organizing her crew of volunteers, arranging with foster homes to bring their kittens and cats, arriving early to set up tables, cages, awnings and signs, and then taking everything down at the end of the day. Thank you for “stepping up to the plate,” Benita and filling this crucial role. We couldn’t do it without you.

### **Red and Sunshine Find Happy Home**

We thank those of you who have been following and supporting Red and Sunshine in their search for a home. Long-term volunteer Kathy Schwanitz and her family have been fostering them now for over a year, and they have adapted so well to the family and bonded so sweetly with the other cats that the family has decided to keep them permanently. It is touching and very special when readers bond “long-distance” with cats in need of homes.



*Red on the Bed and Sunshine in the Sun.*