

The Feline Network

A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation

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

(805) 549-9228 www.felinenetwork.org

Spring 2015

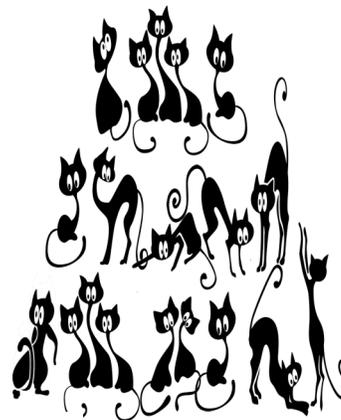
The Feline Network was responsible for the spay/neuter of over 1100 cats last year. This is an impressive number and will undoubtedly decrease the number of stray cats living marginalized lives “on the edge” in our communities. Nevertheless, some people do not spay and neuter their cats, and with kitten season again on the horizon we have been receiving calls for help with pregnant stray cats. Spring has been in the air for some time with the unseasonably warm weather, and we have already taken in litters of kittens. A single unspayed female and her offspring and their offspring, ad infinitum, over the course of years can produce a phenomenal number of cats.

Many more kittens will soon be coming into the Feline Network, and we need to place our adult cats and make room in our foster homes. The adult cats described below have been waiting a long time for their permanent homes. Each has something unique and special to offer. Each has a story that touches your heart. Please, can you help us find them homes?

Why spay or neuter?



An unspayed female cat, her mate, and their offspring producing an average of 2.8 surviving kittens per litter at a rate of two litters a year adds up quickly.



- 1 year: 12 cats
- 2 years: 67 cats
- 3 years: 376 cats
- 4 years: 2107 cats
- 5 years: 11801 cats
- 6 years: 66,088 cats
- 7 years: 370,092 cats
- 8 years: 2,072,514 cats
- 9 years: 11,606,077 cats

Spaying or neutering one cat saves many lives.

ADULT CATS FOR ADOPTION



Abigail and Pumpkin await the joy of a new home.

you and then give you a look that says, “I’m waiting.” She is a delight to watch as she leaps and jumps when she plays. Pumpkin is more of your buddy cat. He seems to be always nearby, and if not, just call and he’ll come running! Is there someone who will give Abigail and Pumpkin a home? You will not be disappointed. Call Christine at 805-544-6138.

ABIGAIL AND PUMPKIN

Still Waiting for a Special Home

These year-old orange tabbies are brother and sister and deeply bonded. Unfortunately, Abigail is FIV positive, a virus that is similar to HIV in humans. It is mainly spread through deep bite wounds, not through casual contact such as sharing bowls or snuggling. They are darling cats that have been fostered since they were kittens and have been overlooked for adoption. FIV can only be transmitted to cats, not humans or other animals. While FIV cats are prone to infections and tend to have shorter life spans, they often live many years in good health.

Abigail and Pumpkin enjoy being with people and are incredibly caring and sweet with each other. They are easygoing, loving and well-behaved. Abigail adores being brushed and will stretch herself out as long as she can in front of



Pumpkin and Ricky ponder the mysteries of the universe together.

(Continued on page 3)

TO HONOR AND TO REMEMBER

In Loving Memory of

Carl Alessandro's sister, by Carolee Hunt & The Cat's Nest. "Her generous heart always had room for a kitty in need, just like Carl and SuAnne."

Big Gray, by Bruce Brown. "For three or four years, Big Gray, a handsome, feral tom, would cautiously forage through our neighborhood. When he shied from eye contact, I simply greeted him with respectful disregard. And he dashed like a thief the few times I found him scavenging inside. So it was a strange surprise the night he walked naturally into our living room, moaning. I sensed what was up and knew I could only leave him alone to find his comfort. He died some hours later on the carpet at the foot of our bed, quietly respected."

Bitsy, by Victoria Wood. "She could love you and bite you with equal intensity."

Dac, by Debra and Roland Hinkle.

Leonard, by Jonny Bollinger. "We lost our precious Leonard a few days ago. Leonard and his sister Ginger were adopted from the Feline Network a few years ago. He was loved so dearly. Thank you for the gift of knowing and loving him."

Pumpkin, by Rick Tibben. "Pumpkin was 21 ½ years old. This is the longest I have ever had a cat, and I really miss him."

Max, Amber, Jasmin, Tasha & Tootsie, by Collette Marie.

Missy, by Graham & Janice Oldfield.



Leonard

In Honor of

Annie Dreizler, by Patricia Dreizler.

Rhonda Myers, by Floyd & Denise Masters. "My wife and I want to thank you for all of your hard work. If the world had more people such as yourself, all of our little friends would be loved, fed and have a home. May the Lord bless and keep you well. Keep up the great work. 'Together we can save them all.'"

Ann Travers, by Barbara Norton, "for Ann's Birthday."

In Appreciation of

Feline Network & Lynette Crane, by Stephen & Sally Lloyd. "Thank you for all you do, especially Lynette, who took the time to follow up on a lost cat that was taken to Animal Services. The cat is back with its family! You all are appreciated!"

Lynette Crane, by Esther Hashimoto.

All our friends and family @ Feline Network, by Michael & Joyce Kilton (and Spooky 1, 2, 3 & 7, two raccoons, one skunk and possums). "Thank you for making me and all of us Kilton Kittys feel so loved! We are so grateful for all of your help. And thank you for teaching Mom and Dad Kilton how to take care of us. They really love us, just needed training."

Feline Network, Alice Welchert & Christine Collie, by Laurie Moore. "Thank you for your patience & assistance with trapping & 'fixing' my local feral."

NO KITTEN LEFT BEHIND

In our last newsletter, we had a story about a mama cat and five kittens abandoned in a parking lot at Marshall's. The mama and four of the kittens were rescued, but one of the kittens was missing. For those of you who may have lost sleep worrying about the lost kitten, there's more to the story! A couple called to say they hand-caught a kitten that night at Marshall's and were giving it a loving home. They said they get our newsletter (amazing coincidence), and they just put two and two together. We thank them SO MUCH for the rescue...and for the call!

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Did you know my six toes are said to bring good luck?

POLLY

Last summer there was a woman in Grover Beach who had so many kittens she didn't know what to do. One of her cats had a litter of eight kittens and was unable to produce enough milk to sustain them all. One of the kittens died a few days after birth. The woman tried to bottle-feed and care for the kittens but soon became overwhelmed and realized she couldn't do it. So she took the mama and her kittens to Animal Services, hoping the cat family would soon be relocated to Woods Humane. When she arrived at Animal Services, she was told they would not accept one of the kittens because it was too little and needed to be bottle-fed, so she took the kitten back home and contacted the Feline Network. Volunteer Benita Smith drove to Grover Beach that same day and picked up the six-toed black kitten (subsequently named Gracie). "She was in good health but so very tiny," Benita said. We hoped to reunite little Gracie with her mama and siblings, and we contacted Animal Services. They were happy to release them to us, and they were delivered the next day. Benita had prepared a special room in her home for them, and when they had all settled down, Polly stretched out on her side to welcome her kittens, purring. Little Gracie snuggled in with her brothers and sister to nurse. "Polly and I locked eyes and she did that slow blink cats do when they are happy and content. I took it as her way of saying 'thank you.'"

All of the kittens were adopted some time ago, but Polly has not been as lucky. She is a beautiful two-year-old tortie with six toes. She is quiet and independent. She is not a lap cat, but she is very friendly and likes to be petted. She loves to go outside but always comes in at night. She tolerates other dogs and cats but is afraid of children. Polly is looking for a safe indoor/outdoor home with someone easygoing who would like her to hang out with them. Call Benita at 805-546-9311.

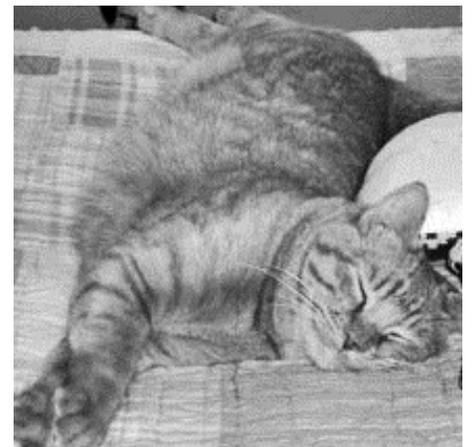
ADULT CAT ADOPTIONS: HAPPY ENDINGS

SAMMY



Sammy is a big, beautiful orange tabby that waited over two years to finally find his home. You may remember seeing him in our newsletter a few times. People would choose friendly kittens over this big sweet boy who would hide in the back of the cage at Adopt-a-Cats. Sammy was a feral kitten about nine weeks old when he was trapped. He was always a little skittish and shy but he loved to be petted. People sometimes came to meet him but always decided he was just too shy, until one day a year or so ago when Cindy Hansen came and met Sammy and decided to take him home. We always worry about our foster cats, especially those that have been with us for a long time, and so we were especially grateful and thrilled when we heard from Cindy recently. She wrote:

"Sammy is in his element. He loves the outdoors and is interested in anything and everything, including the squirrels, birds and lizards. He comes and goes all day until 9:00 p.m., when we call him in and close the door. He is the first to greet me when I come home. He races down the stone steps and rolls over on his back for tummy rubs when I reach him. He has no fear of the dogs and likes to trot among the three of them when we go for a walk, stopping occasionally to roll over on his back for *another* tummy rub. That's his favorite thing. He also gets along well with the other two cats. We have so many shared routines I wouldn't know how to do without him. He is such a wonderful addition to the family, and I'm grateful he's with us. Thank you for letting me take him home!!"



Sammy dreams of the splendors of nature as he catnaps in his new abode.

GEMMERS

Gem was rescued by the Feline Network twice: Once as a kitten and again three and a half years later when she was left behind in a house for three weeks after her owner had to move suddenly. We kept her in an enclosure for a while, and then she was placed in a foster home. Gem hated to be alone. She would meow loudly at the sound of footsteps, crying for companionship.



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Gemmers says her happy home was well worth the wait.

wonderful way to wake up.” Gem fit in as if she had simply found her way back home. “She came here and acted like she was part of the family. You should see her chasing the dogs...and they chasing her! They’re a crackup and love running around the house with her. Such a happy household. I just LOVE her. Truly a Gem.”

Thank you, Carolyn, for giving this anything but ordinary black cat such an “extra”ordinary home. We couldn’t be any happier. Stories like these give us heart to continue with our rescue work.

(“Gemmers,” Continued from page 3)

And sometimes when she would get very excited, she would take a little nip...not serious, but a little nip nonetheless! She got to where she would not tolerate a cage at our Adopt-a-Cat and would growl and hiss ferociously. We were worried that she would never find a truly kind and loving home that would understand her idiosyncrasies. And from our experience, black cats are more difficult to adopt!

But miracles do happen. When Carolyn Elliott saw Gem on our website, her heart went out to her. “Her pictures were so sweet. She had been through a lot. She was a little girl in need of some help,” she said. When Carolyn took Gem (now Gemmers) home, we were hopeful, but anxious. This concern was quickly alleviated by a text we received the second day after Gem’s adoption: “I woke up to find her sleeping on my bed... dogs and all. What a



Lucy and Ginger are Gemmers’ new friends and confidants.