



# The Feline Network

*A Kindhearted Approach to Feline Overpopulation*

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

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Spring 2016

## How Three "Community Cats" Survived Hard Times

The Feline Network uses the term "community cat" to define stray cats that live in our neighborhoods. We are able to rescue many of these cats and find them homes. In other cases, people will kindly feed and care for strays in their own yards. We are often called upon to help with spay and neuter services as well as to provide medical care for sick or injured cats.

For example, a few months ago, volunteer Annie Dreizler rescued a cat in Oceano that was dangling a bloody front leg that appeared to have been crushed by a car. He was difficult to trap but Annie finally captured him and took him to a veterinarian where the leg was amputated. Even though we were given a generous discount by the vet, this was an expensive surgical procedure.

Thanks to the generosity of two donors, we were able to afford the surgery. The cat, Sir Laurence, named after one of the donors, has recovered and gets around quite well on three legs. He is about two years old and sweet, but he is very energetic. We would like to place him in a secure indoor-only home (he is an escape artist) and as an only cat (he is aggressive towards other cats).



*Time was when Oliver called this nest under the utility meter his home.*

More recently, Annie again came to the rescue, this time of two feral cats (Oliver and Ragamuffin) that she was taking care of at a feeding station in Oceano. Oliver started looking very weak and sick, so she trapped him and took him to a veterinarian. He was treated for severe anemia, an upper respiratory infection, and later had some dental work, all of which the Feline Network paid for.

Annie kept Oliver at her home and medicated him for a couple of weeks. When he was still too sickly to go back to the feeding site, she was fortunate to find him a new home with a



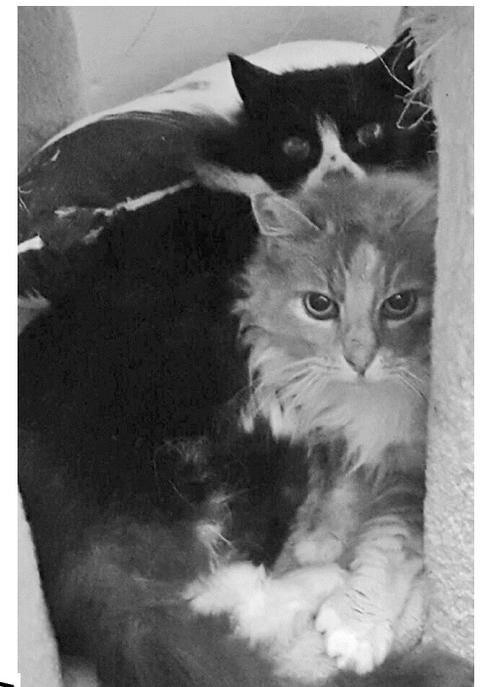
*Named after his generous benefactor, Sir Laurence stands firm waiting for a home to call his own.*

donating to our **Community Cat Program**. The Feline Network is an all-volunteer organization. We have no paid staff and no shelter. All of the funds we receive go directly to help the cats.

There are not enough homes for adult cats, and we again ask people to keep in mind the concept of "Community Cat." Please feed it if you can, call if you need help, and please dissuade your neighbor from taking the cat to Animal Services. Together we can make the lives of cats that cross our paths so much better.

caring person and a safe back yard. Annie felt sorry for Ragamuffin left alone at the feeding station. Ragamuffin too had symptoms of anemia and upper respiratory infection. Annie trapped her and took her to a veterinarian for treatment and, because of the generosity of the new caretaker, Annie was able to reunite Ragamuffin with Oliver. The cats recognized each other immediately, sniffing noses and rubbing up against each other. We are happy that they have settled into a new home together and are told they sleep curled up with one another.

All of these cats were super fortunate. Without treatment, they would have had to endure great suffering, possibly even death. We have been able to help these and other cats in similar situations due to the generosity of our donors. Please help by



*“Reunited and it feels so good...” croon Oliver and Ragamuffin in their safe new abode.*

## TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

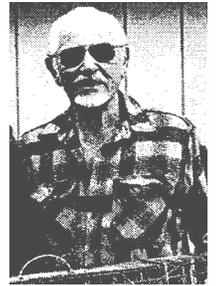
### In Loving Memory of

**Dr. Barbara Mori**, by Judy D. Saltzman-Saveker.

**George Vincent Schicker**, by Minnie Schicker.

(Note: George trapped for us in the South County for several years. He was dedicated to helping the cats and readily took on difficult trapping situations, often traveling long distances. He was a pleasure to work with. We miss George greatly.)

**Lucy**, by Rick & Elizabeth Nagano, “*The six-toed long-haired calico with the snipped ear wandered into our lives on Thanksgiving Day 1999. With broken hearts we said goodbye to her earlier this month. We’ll never forget her.*”



George Schicker

### In Honor of

**All of our loving Cat’s Nest Families**, by Carolee & Emilee Hunt, “*In honor of all of our faithful kitties and their families, we have made a donation in their name to the Feline Network. During this season of giving (December 2015), we think it’s important to share with those kitties less fortunate.*”

**Annie Dreizler**, by Patricia Allen Dreizler.

**Kathleen Schwanitz**, by Larry and Isabel Smith.

**All my cats I’ve owned, 22 in all**, by Larry and Donna Herbst, “*Thank you for what you do!*”

**Buddy, Megs Abbie & Jax**, by Sharon & Jack Neville, “*Keep up the great work!*”

**Lefty and Pumpkin Pie a la Mode**, by David & Reggie Grothe.

**Violet**, by Judie Bartlett, “*Thank you for matching us up; a match made in heaven. I adopted her in front of Petco in November 2014. She was a four-month-old tuxedo girl, black and white. She is now a beautiful adult cat. We are soooo bonded and perfect for one another.*”

### In Appreciation of

**Vanissa Brandt**, by The Walmart Foundation. “*Vanissa volunteered 75 hours for your organization and applied for our “Volunteerism Always Pays” program. We are proud to support these associates and make this gift in honor of the service they provide to their local communities.*”

#### **The Feline Network**

By Everett Barnes, “*I love cats. I care for several of them. It takes special people to do the work you do, and I for one APPRECIATE IT!*”

By Deborah Hewitt, “*Thank you for all you do. We have had 3 cats from you!*”

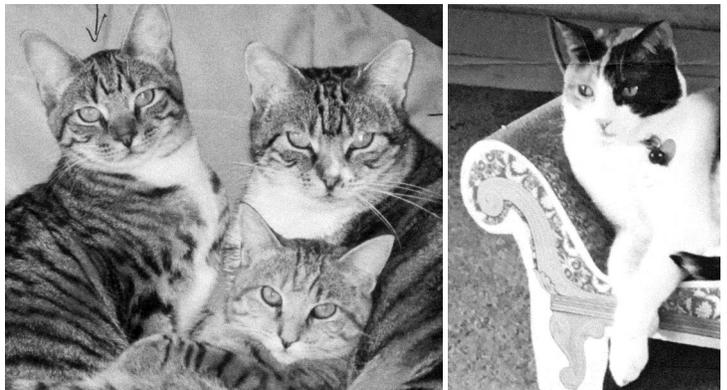
By Caroline Maupin, “*I want to thank Feline Network for the wonderful work that helps so many cats. The rural proliferation seems exponential. In November your organization did come out to my ranch. We purchased the property 2 years ago without realizing there was a feral female in residence. Feline Network neutered 6 cats after I noticed poor mama cat was exploding with a litter of 6 adorable kittens. Lori is my tenant who lives in the guest house. She did an excellent job trapping the kitties over a period of 2 days. All kitties are thriving and healthy, becoming more tractable as we carefully interact.*”

By Carol Pence, “*Thanks so much for finding a home for the cat that showed up at my mother’s house in November when I was visiting her. You have a wonderful organization!*”

By David Peter and Aglaja Suren-Peter, “*We love our two orange cats, Carlos and Santana, the most affectionate cats we could have wished for.*”

By Dave & Debi Stimpson, “*The four cats we adopted from you August 2014 have been a blessing in our lives. We just moved from Los Osos to Winchester, VA. They were troopers on the seven-day drive across the country. They are all doing great and we love them dearly. We wanted to give you another donation so you could help more.*”

By Woods Humane Society. “*Beth Faerigan, a long-time donor, requested that we share her gift with you this year. She was recently “adopted” by a cat that kept showing up in her back yard. That got her thinking about the wonderful work that you do.*”



The Stimpsons’ four felines

# From Rags to Riches

The Feline Network has known for years that cats were breeding at a junk yard on the Nipomo Mesa, but the owner refused to let us trap and neuter them. When he passed away recently, his son asked for help with the cats.

Carolee Hunt of the Cat's Nest generously took on the task of trapping the cats to get them spayed and neutered. (Thank you, Carolee!) Eight cats were taken from the site and adopted into homes, including three that Carolee took home herself.



## Swap Meet Rescue

Our first kittens of the season were lucky to have been found. In mid-March, a mama cat and her kittens had apparently bedded down in a farmer's trailer in Guadalupe. Little did they know they would be hitching a ride to the Nipomo Swap Meet. When the farmer opened his trailer, mama jumped out and took off running. Four kittens about eight days old were eventually found in the trailer. A kitten that was very tiny compared to the others was not found until the end of the day, wrapped in plastic,



soaking wet and sluggish. Fortunately, Mimi Spear, a worker at the flea market, had heard good things about the Feline Network and called us. We never found the mama cat, but all the kittens are now thriving with their foster family. They get lots of love from Sue Daley and her daughter Hannah, not to mention Hannah's teenage girlfriends, who can't seem to get enough of them. Lucky kittens indeed!

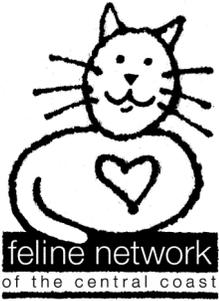
Hannah says, "Good night, little one."



"Ella is our granddaughter, and all she had asked Santa for was a kitty. We told her she must have been very good to get three!"



*A Christmas wish thrice come true. Ella and two of her new buddies contemplating their good fortune.*



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## Deli Cat

Last year in late October 2014, I went to lunch at Rancho Nipomo Deli. I was eating on the back patio, and this little black-and-white kitten approached me. Definitely a



*"I'm staying put," Leroy asserts after a few days home in Anthony's lap.*

feral, he was very scared, and underfed. He cried and begged to everyone. Other patrons took photos of him, but no one gave him anything to eat. A manager came out and kicked him away. I gave him some meat, but he ran when I tried to grab him. That evening I contacted your organization for assistance in trapping this little guy. Your South County trapper quickly caught that little boy and had him neutered. That evening I picked him up and took him home. My wife and I had no intention of keeping him, only to get him to safety

and warmth. But he was too damn sweet not to become our new son. Our two other cats quickly took a liking to him. I would like to thank your organization very much for your assistance. Enclosed are two photos of Leroy, one a few days after coming home, and the second about a year later, much fatter and lazier, demonstrating a typical day for him.



*Leroy one year later reflects on how he won hearts and a cushy permanent home.*

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By Anthony DiBernardo