



# 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)

Summer 2023

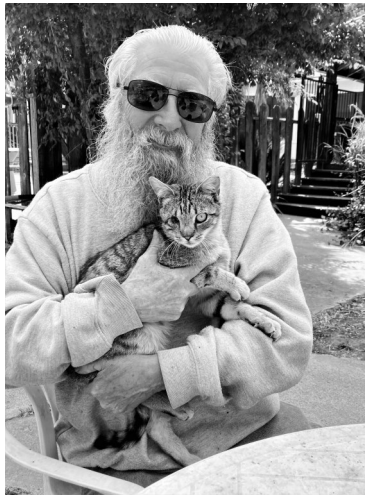
## Trappers take on a Momentous Challenge

The staff at Woods Humane Society told me about a man named Ron who needed help spaying and neutering an estimated 40 to 50 feral cats that he was feeding. I reached out to Ron in early March and drove from my home in SLO to his property, which backed up to a creek off of Highway 41. The cats lived along the creek.

Trapping so many cats was a very time-consuming and labor-intensive process: I had to prearrange spay/neuter appointments at various vet offices throughout the county. Ron and I set all the traps every morning and Ron checked them throughout the day, resetting any traps that had been sprung. I drove back to Ron's every evening to pick up trapped cats and then drove home to put them in my garage overnight. The next morning, I would load the trapped cats in my car and drive back to Ron's to pick up any cats that had been trapped overnight. I then transported all the cats to the vet offices and returned in the afternoon to pick up the now-altered cats. I would drive home and put them in my garage overnight and drive back to Ron's the following morning to release them.

We trapped, spayed and neutered (TNR'd) 44 cats in three weeks. The fourth week we trapped another 27 cats, making a grand total of 71!

We assumed we were in the home stretch. We were both exhausted and ready for this madness to end.



**Ron and Sporty contemplate the challenges ahead.**

them. Ron found one litter at the beginning of May. He also found three dead kittens. They appeared to have died from an upper respiratory infection which, if untreated, can be lethal in kittens. He then found a single calico kitten about four weeks old. It appeared a whole group of cats was looking after this kitten, as various cats were seen carrying her around by her scruff. It was truly amazing. The last kittens we found were two super cute boys. All the kittens were brought into foster care.

I asked Ron how this all started. He said a mom cat and her four kittens showed up four years ago. That's all it took to create this massive cat colony.

107 cats total: 51 females spayed, 56 males neutered. We likely prevented over 200 kittens from being born this year. Had they been born some would probably not have survived due to illness or lack of food. We prevented a lot of suffering and many future litters of homeless kittens.



**"I had a lot of moms."**



**Traps Await.**



**Ron baits a drop trap.**

By Elaine Genasci

# TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

## In Loving Memory of

**Andy Eide**, by Beth Wyatt. "He loved his cat dearly."

**Wilma Finley**, "my nursing school classmate," by Diane Hendrickson.

**Don Hartley**, by Debbie Kraft.

**Lynn Lane**, "my dear sister," by Gail Eastburn.

**Sara & Sam Hayes**, "good friends who loved cats," by Vicky & Craig Johnsen.

**John Stoner**, by Janice & Bob Contons.

**"Birdy B" Cementina**, by Carolee & Emilee Hunt.

**Bubba**, "my Blue Russian," by Michele Arete Kostrenich.

"I rescued him in 2014. He passed in 2022. He was a loving and sensitive kitty."

**Buddy**, "my neighbor's cat," by Nicole McLeod.

**Ginger**, by Bob & Chris Gosney.

**Jean Tom**, by Collette Marie.

**Lily Lluvia**, "my sweetest companion," by Michelle Mnich.

**Mewski & Sophie**, "two sweet kitties," and **Annie**, "a darling dog," by Beth Wyatt.

**The Outlaws**, "four sweet ferals who adopted us," by John & Jennifer Manke.

**Pepper**, by Carol Gravelle. "Just lost my 18 ½ year old kitty. Feel like it is a good time to make a donation to a good cause."

**Ted & Carol**, by Alyce Thorp & Bob Mayberry. "Keep up the great work!"

**Tiger**, "beloved kitty of the Haley family," by Shelley & Watson. "Tiger will be missed by all who knew him. He was brought into the Haley home as a tiny kitten and lived 17+ years. He was loved by all, including 'his' grandkids."



Grandpa Tiger

## In Honor of

**Elaine Genasci**, by Jody D. Ghione.

**Kristin & Patrick Perl**, by Janice & Bob Contons.

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

**Vinny & Baba**, by Everett Barnes.

## In Appreciation of

**Elaine Genasci**, by Robin Masia. "Thank you for helping to trap cats."

**Elaine Genasci & Feline Network**, by Lynn Hixson. "Thank you, Elaine, and everyone."

**Bruce Lazar**, by Darcy Lazar. "Bruce (my husband) has been an incredible 'I'm not really a foster' foster. He's been right by my side through kitty sickness and health, learning the ropes and keeping me sane along the way. I couldn't ask for a more wonderful partner in fostering and in life."

**Kristin Perl**, by Gail Becker. "We are so thankful to Kristin for her caring and devotion to finding a home for our sweet Peaches. It is such a relief to know she is in a perfect home. We also want to thank Sharon Dobson for putting us on the right path to the right people and following through with keeping us informed."

**Pamela Werth**, by Darcy Lazar. "Pamela has been a literal lifesaver, helping out with advice, medication, kitten sitting, and so much more. She's a never-ending source of support, information and kindness, and is so very appreciated."

**Elaine Genasci & Kristin Perl**, by Sharon Dobson. "Thanks and gratitude for all the work they do for the cats."

**Christine Collie & Feline Network**, by Denise Milardo.

"Thank you so much for lending us the traps to 'round up' this family (a mama and five kittens), and thank you and your organization for the work you've done all these years to help felines."

**Deannie Greenelsh & Feline Network**, by Sharon Kamm

& Daisy, Dearest, Boo, Grey Kitty & Indy too!!! Thank you all for such great work.

We (and all the little kitties)

are blessed for your time and patience with little ones. Special kudos to Deannie Greenelsh for her innovative ways of helping both the students and little kittens. A most heartwarming and refreshing story."

**The Feline Network**

by Alice A. Addison. "Thank you for your great newsletter. Seeing the photos makes me smile and reading the tales brings joy. I still laugh each day with the antics of 'Coco Chanel,' whom I adopted from FN a few years ago. She's a 'retriever cat' who tosses toys and brings them back! Keep up the good work."

by William & Susan Barone. "For all you do every day: God bless you."

by Penny Bermann. "Thank you from our family of feral cats."

by Eileen E. Gillard. "Thank you for my lovable cat Huey, aka Molly, then Raleigh. He makes me laugh every day, adopted 1/2021."

by Jackie Johnson. "Thank you a million times for all the wonderful things you do for our feline entities. Meows from Buggy, Benny, Elvis, Lola, Ramon and (the new) Sheriff."

by Josephine Laing & Frank Zika. "Thanks for all of the good that you do, and Hooray! for so many cats spayed. Bless your hearts, one & all!"

by Mary Martin. "Thank you for all you do. My FN kitty, Fergus, is almost 5 and my two whose humans had died are 10 and 6. And my FN feral, Jasmine, is 5 now and likes to come in the house and purr...never thought that would happen!"

by Jodie, Ryan & McLean Roofing. "Thank you for doing what we want to do but aren't able to do. We love that you take care of all the kitties in our area."

by Gabriella & Cole Mehner & our Flurry. "Thank you for all you do and helping us in our time of need."

by J. Elana Peters, "Great story about the school and kittens. Your work is heartwarming. Blessings."

by Julian Roberts. "Thank you for helping my beloved cats."

**Misty Gin is the owner of a new pet store in Los Osos, The Pet House. She held a raffle at the store's grand opening and divided the proceeds between Feline Network and Shiloh's Dog Rescue.**

**Thank you, Misty!**

# Pets Lend a Helping Paw

Our fostering journey started out as a summer project for my 11-year-old daughter in 2019 and turned into a



Lilly naps with foster kittens.

household adventure we all love, including our pets. Fostering got my kids through the pandemic. They would sit at their desks on Zoom and enjoy the companionship of kittens all around them. However, we have learned over the past five years that saving kittens gave our own pets the opportunity to demonstrate their natural instinct to nurture and care for other animals in need.

That I did not expect.

We have an 11-year-old German Shepherd, Cody, who is one of the most intuitive and sensitive creatures you will meet. He brought us our pet hamster years ago, carrying it gently in his mouth, and we knew then that he would never hurt a kitten. However, I didn't realize he would literally take on fostering as a job. For example, when we bring home a new litter of kittens he will guard their pet playpen and "herd" our curious adult cats away. He will carefully nudge and play with the smallest of kittens, and even the most timid ones warm up to him. I believe he exudes a sense of safety in whatever animal language they speak. He is always on alert, watching out for situations that may need "tending" to. If kittens get too rambunctious, or our cats are chasing a kitten, Cody steps in for the rescue!

Cody is a senior dog, and knowing his natural tenden-

cies to lead and train, we made the decision this year to adopt a new puppy. We really wanted Cody to be around to help train the puppy with our foster kittens. I had no doubt he would do it better than we would. It has worked beautiful-

ly. This is the first summer fostering with our newest dog, Charli, and she absolutely loves the kittens. She may not be as protective yet, and maybe she never will be, but she cleans them and provides endless kisses and bountiful



The kittens pay close attention to new mom Charli.

playtime. Of course, Cody is never far away and ready to intervene!



Farley embraces a foster kitten.

Even our adult cats have adapted to having various kittens come and go. Contrary to popular belief, and maybe counterintuitive to normal cat behavior,

the cats in this house know we all need to get along. Some are ambivalent to the kittens, but my two-year-old male orange tabby, Farley, a "foster fail" (a foster cat that we kept), is my most maternal cat. He can be found grooming the kittens and cuddling with them. He was once an abandoned and very sick kitten. We nurtured him back to health and we say he knows it's his turn to give back!

We have a busy household tending to the needs of all our animals, and it's A LOT! But it's also a lot of love, and that is the general sense you get from watching our pets care for the foster kittens. We look forward to many years ahead.

By Nicole Johnson



Cody, the cat whisperer, proudly displays his feline parenting skills.

**Donations may be made on our Facebook page and through our website at <http://www.felinenetwork.org>.**



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## Hitchhikers



**Pacific Eye employee Wyatt cradles one of the kittens.**

In late April, five newborn kittens endured a harrowing journey from Nipomo to SLO under the hood of a car! The driver saw two tiny kittens drop out of the engine compartment after she parked her car near Pacific Eye. She could hear others still inside. Fortunately, some Pacific Eye employees were nearby and they picked up the two kittens. They then searched the engine bay and fished out three more kittens. One baby, a tiny Siamese, was much harder to reach and was dubbed "Baby Wyatt" in honor of the employee who went out of his way to jack up the car, dig around, and rescue him from the hot engine. Care was immediately provided for the orphans: first aid, warmth, kitten formula, and lots of love. Despite their busy workdays, so many good people came forward to help! Jamie cleaned up Baby Wyatt's bloody head, Jessica bought supplies, and Heidi cared for the kittens until they were placed in foster care with Anna Stewart, a Feline Network volunteer with vet tech experience.

Anna put the kittens in incubators while she nursed them to health, which required around-the-clock care. As Anna likes to say, "It's not the work, it's the worry!" and it's true. You can feed, clean, medicate, and love on kittens all you like, but there is never a guarantee you can save them all. Yet four of these kittens miraculously survived their ordeal! Each little survivor lost an ear from the heat of the car engine, but that only makes them that much more endearing.

After Anna's TLC, the kittens spent some time at 'finishing school' with me as their adoring foster mom, where their sparkly personalities blossomed and they continued to grow and grow. Jessica saved the day again by putting the word out when the babies were ready for their furever homes, and now wonderful homes have been found for all four. These kitties now have many happy years ahead with loving families to look after them!



by Darcy Lazar

**"All four of us lost our ears"**