

projectpurr

VOLUME 12

SPRING, 2004

nonprofit volunteer feral cat rescue organization

Project Purr Board Members: Margaret Rinner, Director; Lynne Achterberg; E.V. Sharp, DVM; Suzanne Haberman; Sheri Benkosky; Lucinda Swan

Project Purr is a 501(c)3 nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to abandoned/feral cats and kittens. Our goal is to alleviate their suffering by decreasing the cat overpopulation and controlling the spread of disease through a humane no-kill Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) Program in Santa Cruz County.

How Project Purr Can Help!

Project Purr has a dedicated help line at 423-MEOW. Experienced volunteers will respond and assess each new situation. Expert guidance and information is available.

Project Purr offers equipment, including humane traps and holding hutches for special circumstances, and how to's on trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter.

Adobe Animal Hospital, 475-6365, has an affordable low cost spay/neuter package available to the public for feral and stray/abandoned cats.

Feral cats are unowned and unsocialized. Both stray/abandoned and feral cats must be presented to Adobe in a humane trap. Cats in carriers or boxes will be refused service.

To borrow a trap for spay/neuter at no charge, call the Project Purr help line at 423-MEOW. Leave your name and phone number with a brief message describing your situation.

If you find a feral mom with kittens still nursing, Project Purr has a few fosters available to wean and socialize the kit-

tens. Ideally, feral kittens should be taken from their mother at 4-5 weeks of age. If our foster system is full, YOU can foster and socialize the kittens....we have containment hutches to loan. Older kittens may not socialize and instead will need to be trapped for spay/neuter at 3 months of age and returned! The feral momcat needs trapping for spaying as well...and somewhere out there is a male tom cat needing neutering!

Project Purr has an informational website....www.projectpurr.org showing adoptable cats/kittens. If you have socialized cats/kittens needing new homes, send pictures, description and contact info to:

webmaster@projectpurr.org

or : PO Box 891, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

If you can offer a barn or backyard home to a few feral cats, contact Project Purr. Feral cats can minimize rodent problems and protect your roses and garden from gophers. Cats can lower your blood pressure, are fun to watch, and relieve stress. Even people with allergies can enjoy caring for feral cats!

Coffee for Critters

With the exception of water, coffee is the highest consumed beverage in the world. Our new sustainable and ongoing fundraising solution is "Coffee for Critters" through "Pounds for Paws". Gourmet coffee sold on-line supports Project Purr. The Pounds for Paws coffee club selects only the best hand picked, high altitude, 100 percent Arabica coffees. Their coffees are roasted to order to ensure the freshest and most flavorful product possible. These are the same premium

coffees served in your favorite cafes and restaurants!

Just go to:

www.javaco.com/paws/propurr.html

There are six choices: 100% Colombian, 100% Colombian Decaf, Breakfast Blend, Kavaco Supreme, French Vanilla, and Irish Cream. Fresh roasted coffees travel best by ground, so please allow 7-14 days for delivery. At \$10/pound with 30% donated to Project Purr, it's worth the wait!



"Caline"

The first time I saw Caline she fit in the palm of my hand! I am a vet tech and she was a little ball of striped fluff in our isolation ward who was brought in by a wonderful Project Purr foster mom. When I opened the door, she ran out, purring loudly and began rubbing up against me with a snotty nose and eyes. Her enthusiasm to see me amazed me. Right away I could see she was special. Over the next few months I saw Caline a lot because the poor little thing got almost everything a cat can get...calici virus, upper respiratory infection and even ringworm!

I found myself thinking about her all the time. After talking it over with my husband, it was decided that I couldn't live without her. Poor Lynne, the foster mom, cried when I adopted her. Caline now lives with two other cats and a dog. She is exactly what her name means..."Snuggle and Sweet!" She is nothing but a pleasure. She now is a healthy and happy part of our family that we deeply love. She is our little Baby Cat! And thank you P-Purr for your time and dedication to our feline friends.

Kisses and Hugs,
Jenna, RVT
Creekside Vet Hospital

Project Purr and Adobe Animal Hospital Bring Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program for Abandoned/Feral Cats and Kittens to Santa Cruz

Beginning March 1st, an affordable low-cost spay/neuter veterinary package for abandoned/feral cats and kittens will be available to the public through Adobe Animal Hospital in Santa Cruz as a direct result of a 16-year liaison with Project Purr,

local all-volunteer non-profit feral cat advocate organization. This is the first time such a program has ever been available to the public in Santa Cruz County.

Adobe's program offers quality care to the cats through a visual health check, testing, spay/neuter, and vaccines (FVRCP-distemper, FeLV-feline leukemia, and rabies). Feral cats must be presented in humane traps, available for use from Project Purr. Check their informational website at:

<http://www.projectpurr.org>
or call 831/423-MEOW for details.

This community oriented program would not be possible without all of Adobe's amazing doctors, the entire

It is an amazing accomplishment that a grassroots organization and the helpless, unowned feral cats should jointly achieve this benchmark towards the ethical treatment of all animals.

staff and hospital generously donating their time and services. Together Project Purr and Adobe have altered over 3500 cats/kittens and given assistance to thousands of others. Ultimately, this means lower stray intake rates for the shelters, tremendous cost savings for taxpayer funded animal control, less competition for homes for adoptable cats, and less euthanasia for all cats!

Each abandoned/feral cat or kitten altered brings us closer to ending the suffering and reaching the goal of no

more unwanted homeless animals.

Project Purr is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization with no paid staff members.

Project Purr is entirely self-funded and 100% goes to the animals.

To sponsor unowned/feral cats and save a life, please send tax-deductible donations to Project Purr, PO Box 891, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Thank You to All Our Contributors

A million thanks to the hundreds of people who have made this a very rewarding year. As you can see from our statistics, many cats were helped this year. Help came to us in many ways....cash donations, garage sale items, volunteer time from people who love kitties, monitored our website, and created our newsletters....businesses who donated products and money, veterinarians and assistants at Adobe, Creekside, Pacific, Santa Cruz Vet Hospital and Chanticleer who gave our cats the best of care and to those of you who have helped in so many unique ways.

It was wonderful seeing the community begin to pull together working toward a common goal and holding hands with the Watsonville Animal Shelter, Santa Cruz County Animal Services, the Santa Cruz SPCA, CAPE, Rabbit Haven and UCSC Animal Control. Together we can do so much more!

If you or someone you know is feeding stray or feral cats, PLEASE take the next step..... contact Project Purr...

Project Purr extends a very special thank you to our anonymous donor who believes in what we do and compassionately supports us and the feral cats of Santa Cruz County!

Adobe Animal Hospital/Project Purr Spay/Neuter Program for Feral Cats

Feral cats are non-domesticated un-owned cats. All cats must in humane traps. Cats in cat carriers or boxes will be refused service. Do NOT use cat carriers or boxes! To borrow a trap, call 423-MEOW and make arrangements for pick up. Traps for spay/neuter are loaned at NO CHARGE.

Surgery appointments should be made in advance whenever possible. Cats need to be dropped off before 9AM. Late drop-offs or unscheduled cats may not be treated the same day. Adobe will try to accommodate!

Adobe Animal Hospital is located at 1600 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065, phone (831) 475-6365. Hours: Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. *No Surgeries on Saturdays.*

These items are included in the package: Anesthesia, FeLV/FIV Test (Cats testing positive for either will be humanely euthanized - \$72.00), Technician Visual Exam, Spay-females/Neuter-males (OVH/CAST) \$90.00/\$72.00,

Vaccines (FeLV-feline leukemia, FVRCP-distemper, and Rabies all included), Eartip (Optional/Strongly recommended)

Possible additional charges: Estrus (in heat) \$10.00, Pregnant \$20.00, Lactating \$10.00, Wounds/Abscesses \$20.00 and up.

The Feral Cat Program at Adobe is heavily discounted. To offer this service, we ask that domestic cat owners please not abuse this program.

If you are looking for low-cost spay/neuter for your domestic owned cat, STOP LOOKING! Santa Cruz County has NONE! (However, if you qualify as low-income, your feral or domestic cats can be spayed/neutered through the Santa Cruz SPCA. Their number is 465-5000. Call them for assistance.)

Help spread the word about Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) and encourage anyone feeding feral cats to consider this humane solution!

**Spay/Neuter Saves Lives!
Fix a Feral! Spay a Stray!**

Are feral cats truly the cause of diminishing bird populations???

The leading animal putting all wildlife at risk is...the human population. **It's US!** We don't like to acknowledge that it's our fault. We are shrinking habitats for economic interests....largely through farming....for cheap food. We're taking vast areas and intensively applying insecticides, herbicides and soluble fertilizers. Key causes are habitat loss, fragmentation, pollution and pesticides. Be wary of purchasing systemics (such as Miracle-Gro)...they can kill earthworms, the microbial life in the soil essential to helping plants absorb nutrients, and the "good" bugs (such as bees and ladybugs) as well as all the "other" bugs.... many of which feed the birds. That's a big price to pay just to have a few "perfect" blooms!

Set up your birdfeeder so cats can't access it. The deck railings are handy for you, but cats love them too. Birdbaths need lots of open lawn area around them, not bushes for cats to hide in. Don't blame the cats if YOU have irresponsibly "set the birds up"!



In New Zealand, people argued that wildlife was at serious risk and that feral cats were the problem. So they got rid of them. What happened? The more significant predator turned out to be rats, whose population exploded because the one check on the rat population was removed....the feral cats! Cats are rodent specialists.... ferals won't waste precious energy chasing birds.

Most of us love songbirds as much as we love cats, so we are not trying to choose one species over another. The goal is to reduce the feral cat population in a humane way...that respects the animals....Trap/Neuter/Return works.

Spread the Word! We believe in what we are doing and we want YOU to too!

Memorial Day Weekend Fundraising Yard Sale 2004

Fix a Feral! Spay a Stray!

Here's an update on two spay/neuter colonies Project Purr is currently working on...a storage facility and a private camp, each with over 50 cats!

The storage facility is now managed (all cats have been spayed/neutered and eartipped). The feeder will keep a sharp eye out for any new comers.

The private camp has one very wary female and a young male cat still untrapped. Project Purr is being very creative in attempts to trap them ... including using various traps, disguising them and using different baits so you can see, this area is not managed yet!

We need trappers! Call Project Purr...We will train you! Spay/Neuter Saves Lives!!!

On Friday, May 28, many hardworking volunteers are needed for many hours to transport donations to the Thurber Lane/Soquel Drive field to set up the sale. We begin set up at 8AMdonations can be brought directly to the site on Friday...we continue setting up until dark. **NO SALES ON FRIDAY!** The sale begins Saturday, May 29 at 7AM! Many treasures everywhere! Sale continues through Sunday... and tired volunteers need new energetic help getting everything off the field late Sunday afternoon to close the sale.

Project Purr has a small but dedicated network of volunteers for fostering, trapping, adoptathons, and fundraising activities. Every year, since 1987, ProjPurr's total number of cats/kittens spayed/neutered has increased.

Project Purr is quickly approaching a crisis....a critical condition exists. Everyone and everything is stretched to the limit! To continue, ProjPurr needs more volunteers and money.

Our biggest fundraiser is our yardsales. We have many wonderful donations, however we need many wonderful people to make the yard sale happen. It has grown tremendously and for that we are thankful. Please help us turn "stuff" into money....so that we can continue helping feral cats!

Raffle! Raffle! Raffle!

Once again, PURRR will be holding their annual raffle at the sale. Carol Davidson, the Northern California board member and amazing foster mom will be doing her best to sell more tickets to buyers.

First Prize is \$300. Second Prize is \$200. Third Prize is \$100

And Fourth Prize is a Custom Quillow!

This is one of PURRR's largest fundraisers, so buy lots of tickets!

Keep the kitties PURRR-ing!



nonprofit volunteer feral cat rescue organization
 P.O. Box 891
 Santa Cruz, CA 95061
 (831) 423-6369 (MEOW)
 webmaster@projectpurr.org
 www.projectpurr.org

Another Kind of Giving

Charities depend on generous donations from private citizens and businesses to continue their good works. Not all the contributions that keep these organizations running, however, are cold, hard cash. "In-kind giving" refers to contributions of goods and services that are of value to a nonprofit organization. Businesses do it, corporations do it, and so do individual donors.

Project Purr's Want List includes: Mac compatible software for database; on-going need for dry cat food; printing costs for newsletter; stamps; and, as always, volunteers for yard sale set-up and trappers!

Before we forget, there is yet another, easy way to help the kitties at Project Purr. An on-going Cell Phone Recycling Program will pay Project Purr from \$1-\$15 (based on condition) for your old cell phones (only wireless, cellular or PCS hand-carried phones are acceptable). Phones that are not usable are donated to crisis centers or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Collect old phones from your friends, family and neighbors for Project Purr....over \$300.00 has already been raised! It's an easy way to give back to your community!



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**SPAY/NEUTER!
 IT STOPS THE KILLING!**



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 of Santa Cruz County

Community Benefits of Feral Cats

Animals are good for us. Most who have contact with them would agree, whether the contact comes from a pet, a friend's pet, or a colony of feral cats in an alley or backyard. Having a managed feral cat colony in your neighborhood can benefit the entire community. The colony can demonstrate to all that compassion for cats teaches non-violence and tolerance for others!

Depending on the size of the colony, you may need to address some concerns from your neighbors. By addressing the specific concerns and showing that you want what is best for cats and the neighbors, you may be able to diffuse conflicts.

The most common complaints about cats include the soiling of lawns or gardens (however gophers can do a lot of damage too!), left-over scraps attracting wildlife, sickly animals, dirty unattractive feeding areas and simply having free-roaming cats around.

A feral cat caretaker can alleviate many of the concerns. First and foremost, it is critical that you open a friendly dialogue with neighbors. Appear reasonable and professional, rather than emotional and angry, even if your neighbors are not. This will give them confidence that you know what you are doing and that you care about their concerns.

Let them know that you did not create this situation. Explain that the feral cats are there because someone else failed to sterilize their pets, abandoned them, or they became lost.

Explain the benefits of trap/neuter/return (TNR), the ineffectiveness of eradication, and futility of withholding food. Describe your progress and let them know how many fewer cats there are (or will be) due to your efforts. Make them realize that you are doing them a favor by caring for the cats and preventing the birth of more! There are groups around the world setting up TNR programs for feral cats.

All cats should be spayed and neutered to prevent noisy and objectionable breeding behavior such as yowling, spraying, fighting and roaming.

Clean areas where urine has been sprayed. Use white vinegar or

Nature's Miracle enzyme. Avoid using ammonia products.

Vaccinate for rabies to alleviate health concerns. Immediately re-trap and vet any cats that become ill or injured. Maintain good vet records, showing that the cats are healthy. Be sure your cats are eartipped so neighbors can easily identify cared-for, sterilized, and vaccinated cats.

To prevent cats from soiling neighbors' yards and gardens, dump sand in an out of the way area and keep litter boxes at the colony site. Cats prefer to use the sand. Scoop daily to keep clean and to prevent odor. Scoop more often in hot weather. Pour a layer of baking soda beneath the sand - cats will not use dirty boxes.

Keep food area clean. Pick up trash regularly and remove empty bowls, old food and dirty bedding. Make the area as clean and attractive as possible.

Create a small, partially enclosed feeding site to make both food and water bowls, as well as the cats, less visible. Structures should be unobtrusive and blend in with surrounding foliage.

Feed in the morning when nocturnal critters such as raccoons and skunks are not active.

Some herbal products will deter fleas - assuming you cannot touch them to apply flea products. Mint, dried pyrethra flowers, and non-toxic flea powder under the bedding. Mix fresh garlic into the cats' occasional wet food.

Project Purr does sometimes offer cats/kittens for adoption that have been volunteer fostered. Ask about kitties with special needs and cats that are not those you would typically adopt...there are lots of cats that are a little older in a world where everyone wants kittens. And if you don't find a cat that's your first choice color, please consider adopting one in another color!

Gift Giving Made Easy!

Opportunities to help feral cats come up in many ways everyday! Most do **NOT** involve hands-on rescuing a cat. Think for a moment....what people do you see who may be in a position to make a difference....and...with a little encouragement will offer to help?

YOU are a critical part of the team, and the cats count on all of us. Together we can improve the lives of feral cats by reducing their numbers through an ethical, caring, nonlethal method...**Trap/Neuter/Return!**

Consider donations to Project Purr on your birthday or other special occasions. We are giving the community a solution because we are dealing with the cause of the problem! Please renew your commitment to improving the lives of feral cats....**Donate! Save a Life!**

Best Friends Forever

After hearing about Best Friends, the nation's largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals for many years, Project Purr's former director



Lisa Lewis journeyed to beautiful Angel Canyon in Kanab, Utah. It was Christmas both for her and the six lucky critters who traveled with her; an all white bunny, "Angel", from the Bay area, a black and white feline leukemia positive kitty named "Sweetheart" from Aromas and four feral puppies from Oakland. Lisa stayed at the facility, made lots of new friends, and helped these critters to "live happily ever after!"

Focus on Ferals

Animal sanctuaries require land, buildings, utilities, staff and volunteers, food and maintenance supplies, veterinary care, insurance, licensing and on-going funding. Few sanctuaries can house even 100 cats due to the costs involved, and without exception fill to capacity within weeks of opening. Those that are later forced to close, due to lack of resources, face losing the cats. The most conservative estimate of feral cat numbers in the US is 20 million. It would require more than 200,000 sanctuaries to house them!

Project Purr cannot place your feral cat in a sanctuary!

In almost all cases, feral cats are better off being returned to their established outside homes after spay/neuter, to be watched over by caregivers. Cats bond with their territories and with other cats in their colony. Relocation is difficult (assuming that an appropriate site is available), time-consuming, costly, and comes with NO guarantee that the cats will stay in their new location.

Project Purr currently has no relocation sites or open colonies available!

Project Purr is not a shelter or domestic cat placement service.

YOU take responsibility for your cat and be creative finding your kitty a new home! Network with friends, family and co-workers. Take pictures, create posters...be persistent. ***Your cat's life is depending solely on YOU!***

Project Purr cannot financially assist people with their domestic companion cats' veterinary needs.

Project Purr donates all their time and resources to cats with much needier circumstances ... Feral Cats!

Project Purr Budget Summary 2003

EXPENSES

Veterinary Expenditures	\$46,739.81
Miscellaneous: food, litter, supplies, and maintenance	16,517.09
Office Expenses: advertising, phone, printing, mailing, computer supplies and fundraising	3,982.12
Feral Cat Assistance	1,620.00
Insurance	900.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$69,759.02

INCOME

Yard Sales	\$24,000.00
Adoptions	5,620.00
Donations	11,969.50
PURRR Donation	6,572.66
Anonymous Donation	20,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$68,162.16

CATS/KITTENS ASSISTED IN 2003

Feral	327
Domestic	161
TOTAL	488

GRAND TOTAL CATS AND KITTENS ASSISTED 1997-2003 3,538

Cats and Gardens

Here are some helpful suggestions for neighbors who wish to keep the cats out of their yards and gardens:

Push wooden chopsticks or 10-inch plant stakes into flowerbeds every eight inches to discourage digging and scratching.

Cats dislike citrus smells. Scatter orange and lemon peels, or spray with citrus-scented spray. You can also scatter citrus-scented pet bedding such as Citrafresh.

Cayenne pepper and coffee grounds also work well. Some people have suggested lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, eucalyptus oil, and mustard oil.

Plant the herb rue to repel cats, or sprinkle the dried herb over the garden.

If neighbors express concern about the effects of feral cats on local wildlife, use Alley Cat Allies' material on feral cats and predation. Also, some neighbors may fear that feral cats will pose a threat to their children. Feral cats are naturally wary of people and will not approach humans they don't know. Feral cats will not attack unless cornered — advise neighbors to teach their children not to touch an unknown animal. Children should ask

an adult for help if they think an animal may be trapped, sick, or injured, or if they find a baby animal.

Feral cats do not pose a disease risk to humans, but some neighbors may need to be reassured. Also advise them that they can avoid any risk by not touching the cats and by washing their hands after gardening - pretty simple!

If any of the above seems complicated or time-consuming at first glance, remember that YOU are fighting for the lives of feral cats and building good public relations for the future. In addition, YOU might be strengthening your community by getting more people involved! Solve things positively and amicably to leave a better impression overall about feral cats and their caretakers which will make it easier for all of us to continue to care for our ferals!

Fact

There have been no human deaths from rabies attributed to transmission from a cat recorded in the US since 1975. All human cases of rabies in the US in the past decade were contracted from other wildlife...including skunks, raccoons, foxes and bats.