

# projectpurr

VOLUME 12

SPRING-SUMMER 2005

nonprofit volunteer feral cat advocate organization

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

*Project Purr is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit feral cat advocate organization. Our goal is to decrease the feral cat population and control the spread of disease through a humane no-kill Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program in Santa Cruz county California.*

## “Not My Cat, Not My Problem ...”

Two years ago two black and white cats began making regular night-time raids through the cat flap to pillage my own cats' food. Nothing unusual in a street where there are plenty of pet cats, except that a survey of the neighborhood revealed that no one actually owned them (most people thought they were mine!). “Tom” and “Fred” were unneutered adult males and close buddies rather than rivals, so they must have been raised together. They were so people-shy that they were virtually feral, vanishing as soon as they realized I had spotted them. They liberally sprayed my kitchen, to the great delight of my spayed girls and the not-so-great delight of myself.

What should I do? Should I chase them away? Should I supply food for them and suffer a kitchen reeking of tomcat? They weren't my cats, so I had no duty to see to their welfare. The family two doors away temporarily solved the problem by setting their dogs on the two cats. Tom never returned and Fred ceased spraying and slept in the kitchen at night which still left me with a tomcaty odor about

*(continued on page 4)*



Wally - before



Wally - after

## Lucky Wally

Meet Wally – a big gray tattered tabby, rescued by a PURRR volunteer from a parking lot and brought directly to Project Purr where foster space was available.

He was very sick and near death. He was rushed to the vet where he was diagnosed with massive infections in his teeth and gums, dehydrated and malnourished with even broken toe!

Too many of these stray cats never get so lucky.

Wally's story, though, has a happy end-

ing. After many dental surgeries, generously sponsored by PURRR (Providing Unadoptables with Rescue, Rehabilitation and Residence...an amazing nonprofit that Project Purr works with cooperatively on rescue projects) he can NOW enjoy the luxury of routine meals, warm and indoors, without pain. No more worries for Wally, not ever.

Wally now lives in his forever loving home with a Project Purr volunteer.

### Project Purr is an all volunteer nonprofit FERAL cat/kitten rescue organization

Project Purr has a FERAL cat low cost spay/neuter Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program for residents of Santa Cruz County, California available at Adobe Animal Hospital.

Project Purr is a resource for FERAL cat colony caretakers and those who want to learn more about TNR or implement TNR programs.

Project Purr is **not** an animal shelter or cat adoption agency, although Project Purr does sometimes have cats/kittens available for adoption.

- Due to the lack of enough funding Project Purr has **no** shelter facility. We foster as many cats/kittens in our own homes as space and time allows... usually these are cats we have trapped and rescued ourselves.

- Due to lack of funds Project Purr is **not** a spay/neuter program for domestic/pet cats.

- Due to lack of funds Project Purr is **not** a feral cat removal or re-homing service, although we do assist with information/equipment for people willing to do the right thing and who can facilitate it themselves.

**Mark Your Calendar!!!**

**Memorial Day Weekend 2005**

**PROJECT PURR  
HUGE  
Rummage  
SALE**

**Saturday May 28 / Sunday May 29**

**Help Us Fund Spay/Neuter!  
Quality Donations Wanted**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

## About Project Purr

I have been fortunate to have adopted a kitten from Lucinda Swan at Project Purr. My kitten is healthy, happy and is a very loving pet. Lucinda and all the volunteers are so conscientious about finding homes and matching pets with prospective adoptive families. I can't say enough about what a great job this group is doing.

I am very impressed with the way the group has devoted their time and energy to helping the feral cat population of Santa Cruz County. They are performing a service that is needed. Not only do they find adoptive homes for the cats and kittens that can be adopted, but they go into feral colonies, capture the animals, have them spayed and neutered, and return the animals to the area they know and live in. They then have a volunteer feed and monitor the group of animals. This is a job that receives no thank you. These people are doing this out of love and a feeling of responsibility for the cats.

If left unchecked, feral cats will overpopulate and can spread disease.....a colony that is spayed and neutered will eventually die out. A bona fide group such as Project Purr is a must for any area with a wild cat population. They also help to educate the public.

I applaud these great people and all who assist them physically as well as monetarily for the necessary service they provide.

Yours truly,  
Sara Mikles, Santa Cruz

•••••

Dear Lynne.

I have waited too long to express you my gratitude for fining my dear kitty "Rufus" for me.....and I'll bet if Rufus could talk, he would be even more grateful....sometimes I think of how horrible it would have been if nobody had noticed his little cries inside that wall and the workman had not broken through to rescue him! Then, imagine his good luck that someone knew to call "Project Purr".

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*"I love cats because I love my home and after a while they become its visible soul."*

- Jean Cocteau

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As you know, this has been a very hard time for me, and it's been such a godsend to have this dear little creature smiling at me and loving me. He is downright enormous and so very orange and beautiful, he just fills my day with sunshine. When he and my other kitty "Rosie" wrestle and chase it is the funniest thing ever, what a pair of clowns!

An everlasting Thank You to you and Margaret,  
Sincerely,  
Linny Hittleman, Santa Cruz



Rufus

# PROJECT PURR

## Feral Cat Advocate Organization

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2005

# RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, May 28 7a.m.- 4p.m.**  
**Sunday, May 29 8a.m.- 3p.m.**

- 🐾 Friday, May 27 Will be set-up day at the field
- 🐾 Corner of Thurber Lane and Soquel Drive
- 🐾 Many volunteers needed for set-up and closing
- 🐾 NO SALES ON FRIDAY !!

**Donate your quality household items  
at the field on Friday to help fund spay/neuter**

**FOR INFO CALL 423-MEOW**

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



Project Purr is an all volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit feral cat advocate organization. Our goal is to decrease the cat overpopulation and control the spread of disease through a humane no-kill Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program in Santa Cruz County, California.

To Whom It May Concern:

## About Project Purr



*Snowy has "feel good" stretch as he accompanies Julie on her barn chores at dawn on a winter morning.*

Project Purr was responsible for Snowy and Sally (AKA Miss Pretty Face) entering our lives. Acquired as barn cats, they understood what was expected of them and performed accordingly. While Sally was friendly and enjoyed being stroked, Snowy was distant and if you reached to pat him he would duck out from under your hand. When there was much activity in the barn he would retreat to the rafters or the top of the bales of hay and observe the goings on, but not participate as Sally did. She was underfoot a lot of the time. But the two cats were good friends and spent considerable time snuggling each other.

Margaret and Lynne had told us that Snowy was a "very particular" kind of cat who did not make friends easily. A strange adjective to apply to a cat, I thought. Snowy was not unattractive, but his cropped ears (cut when they were considered pre-cancerous) and his solid white coat, along with his wary attitude toward life, assured that Sally became the favorite. Snowy was very simply too standoffish to be considered a good friend.

That changed, almost overnight. Sally disappeared. Where or why we will never know. When she had been gone three days, Snowy rubbed up against my leg, the first contact he had ever initiated. A day later he climbed into my lap, nervously with a lot of kneading-bread and tail-switching, but he let me stroke him and scratch behind his ears for the first time. The following day he followed me about the yard as I did my chores, never letting me get more than about five feet away.

The sudden and radical change in behavior was easily explained. Snowy was grieving. His personal pain and his loneliness overcame his inhibitions and he needed comforting. I have been around cats, dogs and horses all of my life, in times of birth, death and injury, but I have never seen any animal as enveloped in sadness as Snowy. Sally was gone and his heart was broken.

But time cures all ills. Sally's replacement was Annie, a gray two year old who Snowy (being a "very particular" cat) hissed and snarled and swiped at every time she came nearby. But gradually, the open warfare became less intense and Snowy was falling in love once again. Annie and he are buddies now, eating from the same dish and curling up together at nap time. However, Snowy has not forsaken those he sought in his time of great need. He follows me about as I clean corrals, fill water troughs and feed the other animals. He will sit on the horses' feed bins within inches of their noses as they eat. The rafters are no longer his refuge. He doesn't need them. Through grief, Snowy tore down the barriers between species.

-Julie Suhr,  
Equestrian Endurance Rider  
Author, "*Ten Feet Tall, Still*"  
Scotts Valley.



*Snowy and his equine friend*

A litter of kittens is also called a "kindle."

A group of grown cats is called a "clowder" or a "clutter".



*Trapper relaxing....*

Our Trapper. He came by his name honestly enough; it was a dark (and undoubtedly, stormy) night, far on the upper reaches of Seacliff State Beach. The winter of February 2003, he was lured into one of the humane traps set by Project Purr in hopes of managing the feral cat colony therein. If not captured, he, and his brethren, may have been doomed; the State Park system has a policy of no feeding for any introduced species, and had been making noises about eliminating the colony.

Kentucky Fried Chicken Nuggets were his downfall, I'm told, and I must say that he hasn't touched them since. Not that he is remorseful about his new circumstances. No, quite the opposite; he has discovered the joys of kibble. Wonderful, crunchy, filling, kibble. Refusing most offerings of canned and people food, even turning up his nose at the aforementioned KFC, he relishes the tummy-swelling effect of a good bowl of hard, dry, kibble. He is now the size of a volleyball, with legs. With no tail (he's a Manx) the spherical comparisons are endless. It's amazing what generations of feral lineage can do with 2/3 of a cup of kibble a day.

The first three weeks, he never closed his eyes, never slept; we didn't even touch him. Slowly, he started coming around, started napping, and by 6 weeks, he was chasing fur toys and sleeping on the bottom of the bed. Though even now, at 2 years, he is still shy, quiet, and refuses to meet strangers, but he is a love to us. He bides his times watching the goldfinches that frequent the feeder and his adored, Ivan-the-Terrible, the pint-sized feral housemate. Bulldozing him around the carpet in the morning, bathing him gently afterwards. He's our boy, that Trapper.

-Julie Lolmaugh, Aptos

# Are Your Donations Killing Feral Cats?

Don't buy into the cruel myths about feral cats and kittens. Discover the compassionate solution that really works! Many well meaning feral cat advocates and TNR supporters are unknowingly writing checks to organizations that are opposed to TNR. These groups are working feverishly to educate the public about the dangers of TNR and the benefits of trap and kill programs. The following is intended to inform and educate all feral cat advocates about those organizations trying to sabotage all that Project Purr works for every day.

## PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)

From [www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org): "Having witnessed first hand the gruesome things that can happen to feral cats, we cannot, in good conscience, advocate trapping, altering, and releasing as a humane way to deal with overpopulation." "PETA cannot in good conscience oppose euthanasia as a humane alternative to dealing with cat overpopulation.

From [www.askcarla.com](http://www.askcarla.com): "The act of releasing a cat is, in the eyes of the law, abandonment and is illegal in many areas." From PETA's publication *Why all Cats Should be Indoor Cats*: "Euthanasia is a tragic necessity."

PETA's factsheet *Trapping is the Kindest Solution* actually encourages people to trap and kill feral cats. It reads: "Please do not allow the prospect of euthanasia to deter you from trapping cats. If you leave them where they are, they will almost certainly die a painful death. A painless injection is far kinder than any fate that feral cats will meet if left to survive on their own."

## AUDUBON SOCIETY

The New Jersey Audubon Society has taken a stance that is strongly opposed to TNR and feral cats. From [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org): "These cats suffer short, miserable lives, and can cause flea infestations and transmit serious diseases to humans."

## AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY (ABC)

With their "Cats Indoors!" campaign, ABC has blamed feral cats for the decline in bird and other wildlife populations and is attempting to eliminate TNR efforts.

In the Nov/Dec 2003 issue of *Best*

*Friends Magazine*, *Cats Indoors!* Director Linda Winter states that feral cats should be adopted, killed or placed in feral cat sanctuaries

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (HSUS)

The HSUS tends to dance around the issue of TNR. To avoid conflict they do not take a firm stance about feral cats, however, their negative impression of free roaming cats is clear. From HSUS's Statement on Free Roaming Cats: "Free-roaming cats...are often hit by cars or fall victim to disease, starvation, poisons, attacks by other animals, or mistreatment by humans. Free-roaming cats also prey on small mammals, songbirds, and other wildlife; spread zoonotic diseases such as rabies; defecate on other people's property; and cause car accidents, among other problems."

## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

From [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org): The Wildlife Society opposes "the passage of any local or state ordinances that legalize the maintenance of 'managed' (trap/neuter/release) free-ranging cat colonies."

**If what you just learned has made you upset, please react by contacting these organizations and telling them so. It is important to spread the word about these "animal welfare" and wildlife organizations that are promoting the killing of feral cats or, at the very least, are not speaking out in favor of TNR.**

**We are able to respond to the points raised by these anti-feral cat organizations with common sense and scientific proof.**

These groups fall back on the premise that feral cats suffer and lead short, miserable lives. Killing cats is not the answer to eliminate suffering. Enacting TNR programs is. Caring for the cats and ensuring that they do not reproduce relieves suffering and allows the cats to live out their rightful lives as intended.

While it is true that feral cats do kill some wildlife, numerous studies by Daniel Castillo, Dr. Julie Levy, and wildlife biologist Roger Tabor (among others) prove that feral cats are not to blame for depleting species of wildlife. Tabor states that humans are to blame for the decreasing bird populations, "We just don't like to acknowledge that it is our fault. It's not a

case of the cat being the worst offender. It isn't even remotely the worst offender. It's us." Everyone needs to realize that we all have the same goal: less feral cats. We just choose to go about accomplishing this using a humane, proven effective, lasting method.

Any suggestion to place the cats in sanctuaries is foolish. There simply aren't enough sanctuaries, barn homes and the like to house the tens of millions of feral cats estimated to be living in the United States.

Stanford University's Department of Environmental Health and Safety conducted a study that found that feral cats pose virtually no risks to the public safety. The way to eradicate any risk of rabies from a feral cat is through a TNR program. Feral cats who are TNR'ed are vaccinated against the disease, thus eliminating any concern about feral cats carrying rabies.

Feral cats and indoor domestic cats have approximately the same rate of infection from FeLV and FIV, with the percentage of cats infected with FIV being 2-5% and FeLV 3-7%. Alley Cat Allies, the premier organization for feral cat and TNR advocacy, states that, "despite concern over viruses, there is no feline disease that ends more lives than euthanasia due to overpopulation."

Feral cat caregivers are responsible, compassionate, intelligent people who know first hand that TNR does not fall under abandonment statutes. To abandon an animal by definition means to relinquish care. A managed colony of feral cats is the exact opposite. Cats receive water, food, shelter, medical care and love. This is hardly abandonment. The bottom line is that TNR is the only proven, humane method of effectively managing the feral cat population. The organizations in opposition to our work do not have a realistic answer as to how to control the feral cat population. Their suggestions are poorly researched and have proven over time to be ineffective, costly and cruel.

Hopefully this new information will encourage you to speak up for the cats. Our rational, scientifically backed voices need to be louder than those spreading the anti-TNR message.

-February 2005 "*The Caregiver Connection*", from *The New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance(NJARA)Feral Cat Program*

# “Not My Cat, Not My Problem ...”

(continued from page 1)

the place.

All my cats are spayed so the presence of a full intact tom was not going to cause me any family planning problems. The wildlife here is not endangered, so there was no need to eliminate a single feral cat. Not all neighbors were responsible enough to have their cats spayed (though I had been working on them) and Fred was a big, unneutered tom ready and willing to do his duty for catdom. There was no surplus of cats in the area, but Fred could change all that.

Calling him somebody else's problem was not going to make the problem go away. He had established a stable territory and found food so I made it my responsibility to make him socially acceptable. I borrowed a humane trap and caught several of my neighbors' cats, my own cats (until they wised up to the trap's purpose) and some wildlife before I finally caught Fred. I got a good look at my pungent captive. His face was scratched and his fur was full of grime. He was whisked off for neutering next morning and was returned to me that evening, still swearing but two lumps short of a tomcat. The vet had ascertained that Fred did not pose a health risk to other cats so I released Fred in the familiar territory of my garden and he limped off into the dusk without a backward glance.

It was weeks before I saw him again and I barely recognized the old rascal. The scratches on his face had healed. The once-grey areas of his coat were white and he was in better condition. I set up a mirror near the kitchen so that I could see him come in to eat without him seeing me. The cat hairs in his usual sleeping place proved that he still 'lived here', but he no longer left a distinctive odour.

Fred was not 'my cat', but he lived on my land so it became my responsibility to either eliminate him or neuter him. Had I had him destroyed, another stray would soon have taken over the vacant territory. It isn't good enough to simply feed strays, they must also be prevented from adding their offspring to the stray and feral population.

There are many responsible cat lovers and breeders who make it their responsibility to help strays which turn up in their neighborhood, but there are also far too many cat lovers who turn away saying 'it's

somebody else's problem' or allow their own unneutered cats to roam and breed. These strays aren't somebody else's problem, they're everybody's problem. It's up to every cat lover to do something to reduce the stray cat problem - by ensuring that their own cats don't stray or breed (no, not even one litter), by aiding cat welfare organizations and by educating their friends.

## Gambling

I don't like going to Vegas but I do a lot of gambling and so do my Project Purr friends. Every time we take on a litter of abandoned bottle baby kittens (the number for me is 173) I'm gambling that I can successfully bottle feed, keep them clean and healthy and then wean the little sweethearts. Sometimes the kittens are older and spitfire wild. I gamble that I can socialize them into the type of sweet kittens most people want. Next I start looking for and screening for homes, and if it all goes well tearfully hand them to their new owners. We pledge to each cat or kitten we take on that we will find it a good home, however long it takes.

When trapping feral cats for Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) we gamble that we will catch them all so that the breeding will stop, at least in that one area. We go out night after night to feed and trap, gambling that this will be our lucky night. We know that, not only have we helped these cats by not letting them breed, we've helped untold numbers of kittens by not letting new ones be born.

Like gambling, you never can be sure of the outcome and the rewards can be very great. I like our kind of gambling best!!

-- Lucinda Swan

## Toxoplasmosis?

Pregnant? No fear here! Simply cleaning litter boxes **daily**, carefully discarding the stool, and disinfecting the box with boiling water prevents exposure. Even if a cat is excreting oocysts (and most are not), they will not have sporulated and therefore will not be infectious by the time the litter is changed. Toxoplasmosis cysts are NOT contagious to humans until 1-5 days after being passed.

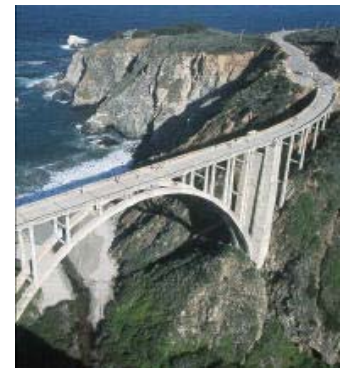


On your mark...  
get set...Go!

That's what Joanne Curby will hear at dawn on April 24 as she begins the 26.2 mile course of the Big Sur International Marathon. She has run and finished the race for the past two years, and is training now to run this year for Project Purr!

Joanne is a Santa Cruzan, longtime supporter of Project Purr and recently a happy new mom to two rescued Project Purr bottle-baby manx siblings...named Petal and Spigo!

Together Joanne and Project Purr are seeking sponsorship pledges as she competes in her run along the "edge of the western world" in one of the world's top 5 marathons, and the best in North America! High school bands, belly dancers, grand piano playing on Bixby Bridge, the Taiko drum-



mers at Hurricane Point, and thousands of cheering onlookers are just some of those who will encourage her all along the way. Enjoy a virtual tour of the race at [www.bsim.org](http://www.bsim.org).

Last year Joanne ran in support of Alzheimer's and raised hundreds of dollars for one of her favorite charities.

This year, to spur Joanne on and help Project Purr fund the spay/neuter of feral cats and kittens, please send your pledges to: Project Purr, PO Box 891, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, or for direct,secure on-line giving with no commission taken (100% goes to Project Purr:) please go to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)

Run Joanne! RUN!

# Barn Cats

Every good barn needs a good cat to watch over it. Project Purr, who does Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) — in which feral (undomesticated) cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their natural habitats — often runs across felines who would make first-rate barn cats. They are cats who would be unhappy enclosed in a home but would be very content to live in a nice barn and come and go as they please. In addition to being excellent, natural mousers, they can make great outdoor companions who gradually get to know their people and often grow affectionate and talkative over time.

Barn cats ask little of their people — just an ample supply of fresh food and water each day, a safe and cozy area in the barn padded with straw for cold winter nights, and a commitment to providing veterinary attention when needed. You may ask, why adopt barn cats when they could just return to their habitats? Because adoption provides a great alternative for semi-feral cats who face dangers out in the world and sometimes don't know where their next meal is coming from. It's a good thing for both person and cat.

We often have great cats that will make great barn cats. All barn cat candidates are spayed or neutered and up to date with vaccinations. Advice and training on acclimating a barn cat to your barn or farm environment is available.

Just call 423-MEOW, leave a message and a volunteer will respond as soon as possible! Save a Life! Adopt from a rescue group!

## What Do They Have In Common?

What do The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA), the American Humane Association (AHA), the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), many state and local veterinary associations, and an increasing number of local animal shelters have in common?

Each of the groups endorses the concept of early-age spaying and neutering to stem the overpopulation of cats and dogs!

Too many people are under the impression spaying/neutering can only be done after a cat reaches the age of 5-7 months. Early age altering of cats has been practiced for over 25 years in North America. By tradition (due to poor anesthesia techniques) waiting until a cat was older increased the survival rate during surgery. However, with modern technology and better anesthesia techniques, there is no need to prolong spaying and neutering as a medical reason.



*Goldie supervises the folding of Project Purr's newsletter*

## “Feline Frenzy” Spay/Neuters 512 Cats in DC!

Over Presidents Day weekend, Alley Cat Allies (ACA) and the DC Department of Health conducted a spay/neuter clinic called Feline Frenzy! that in only two days sterilized and vaccinated 512 of the District of Columbia's tame, stray, and feral cats.

Feline Frenzy! was the first event of its kind ever held in Washington, DC, and may have sterilized the largest number of cats anywhere in one weekend. A team of veterinary professionals from Humane Alliance of Asheville, NC, and the renowned Dr. Marvin Mackie volunteered their time and services to provide low- or no-cost spay/neuter to the District's cats.

Spearheaded by Alley Cat Allies, this unprecedented clinic was held in response to the public's overwhelming request for nonlethal control of Washington, DC's feral cats. Feline Frenzy! provided humane, nonlethal control of DC's outdoor cat population.

The 512 cats treated at Feline Frenzy! came from eight targeted DC neighborhoods. Volunteers surveyed those areas for weeks, gaining residents' trust and distributing information. In the days before the clinic, experienced trappers went into the neighborhoods to humanely trap stray and feral cats. And because unsterilized house cats are so often the source of feral cats, Feline Frenzy! offered one-third of its surgery slots to residents for their house cats,

an offer that was welcomed and fully used. There was no charge for treating stray and feral cats and only a \$5 fee for house cats, but no one's cats were turned away because of inability to pay. The average cost in this area is \$150 for a neuter and \$250 for a spay.

Alley Cat Allies is working to demonstrate that organized high-volume spay/neuter efforts can reduce the number of unwanted cats and thereby reduce the number of cats killed.

DC residents have been enthusiastic and grateful to have a source of information and help for their neighborhood cats. The message is clear. People do not want outdoor cats killed; they do want help in breaking the cycle of reproduction, thereby halting endless litters of kittens and improving the cats' lives. ACA works to ensure that TNR and other nonlethal forms of control are accepted all across the country.

## Remember...

Female cats can go into heat at 4 months of age. If you wait to spay your female cat at 6 months of age, she may be already nursing a litter!

Male cats begin territorial spraying at 5 months of age....Don't wait!

Stop the Litters! Spay those Critters!

*“A purr massages the heart.”*

- Stuart McMillan

# Project Purr Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program

An affordable low-cost spay/neuter veterinary package for **feral** cats and kittens is **now** available to the public at Adobe Animal Hospital in Santa Cruz county as a direct result of a 16-year liaison with Project Purr, a non-profit, no-kill all-volunteer feral cat advocate organization.

This is the first time such a program has been available to the public in Santa Cruz County. 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!

Adobe's program offers quality care to the cats through FeLV testing, spay/neuter, vaccines (FVRCP/distemper and rabies) and **mandatory** eartipping. Feral cats must at least 4 months of age and be presented for surgery in individual humane traps! Only healthy (no abscesses, upper respiratory or wounds) kitties can participate in our low-cost spay/neuter program.

**Your** responsibility is \$25. for each cat payable to Adobe Animal Hospital. **Project Purr pays the remaining balance for each cat!!!**

Call **831/423-MEOW** for details. Detailed information packets, **both** in Spanish and English, are also available where traps are loaned.

Project Purr's community oriented program would not be possible without all of Adobe's doctors, entire staff and hospital generously donating their time and services. Together Project Purr and Adobe have altered over 3700 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.

## Our Founding Mother

Every good thing has a beginning and a center of energy that starts it and for Project Purr that would be Margaret.

Margaret Rinner is Project Purr's director, fearless leader, and devoted cat-person Number 1 !!!!

She's dedicated, caring, sensitive, competent yet careful, and consistently first to volunteer when something needs doing .... she works tirelessly, whether it's a cat going to or from the vet, shopping for supplies, doing the never ending laundry from trapping and hutch work, or intuitively figuring out cat situations.

After retiring from teaching, Margaret started cat rescue in 1988, has many pampered cats and has faithfully seen Project Purr through its 17-year on-going evolution.

We couldn't imagine Project Purr without her! Project Purr and all the kitties say Thank You Margaret!!

### Project Purr Budget Summary 2004

#### EXPENSES

Veterinary Expenditures .....	\$34,612.00
Feline Leukemia Test Kit .....	1,888.00
Food, Litter, Supplies, and Maintenance .....	14,926.60
Traps Donated to Watsonville Shelter, Santa Cruz County Animal Services/Scotts Valley, and Santa Cruz SPCA .....	630.00
Office Expenses: Advertising, Phone, Printing, Mailing, Computer Supplies and Fundraising .....	4,021.20
Feral Cat Colony Assistance .....	3,055.00
Insurance .....	900.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$60,032.80</b>

#### INCOME

Yard Sales .....	\$32,000.00
Adoptions .....	4,345.00
Donations .....	10,675.40
PURRR Donation .....	9,565.00
Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter (FOWAS) Donation .....	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$57,585.40</b>

#### CATS/KITTENS ASSISTED IN 2004

Feral .....	208
Domestic .....	60
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL CATS/KITTENS ASSISTED 1997-2004 .....</b>	<b>3,806</b>

### Thanks to the people without whom Project Purr couldn't exist.

- Thanks for your monetary donations
- Thanks to our Webmaster Roger
- Thanks to Laura for putting together our newsletter
- Thank you to all that adopted cats and kittens from us
- Thanks to the yard-sale donators
- Thanks to the yard-sale workers
- Thanks to John for our new sign
- Thanks to Cali Feed for "Adoptathons"
- Thanks to Adobe Animal Hospital, especially Dr Craig Evans
- Thanks to Creekside Vet Hospital, especially EV Sharp, DVM
- Thanks to the yard sale storage donators
- Thanks to the yard sale site donator
- Thanks to all the veterinary people who care for the kitties
- Thanks nice people reading this that want to get involved. Please do!!



nonprofit volunteer feral cat advocate organization

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## Raccoon Roundworm

Dr. Judy Sakanari, associate professor and parasitologist at Sonoma State University has authored a paper entitled 'Raccoon scat encephalitis' which will be published in the American Journal of Neuroradiology.

She reports a case of a parasitic infection in a young boy that had severe consequences. Normally, the parasite called, Baylisascaris procyonis, or raccoon roundworm, is found in raccoons. When people accidentally ingest the eggs of the parasite which are found in the raccoon's feces, the parasite can cause neurological damage including loss of vision and motor functions.

One study found that 8 of 12 raccoons in the Northern California area are infected with this worm. Since raccoons frequently visit backyards,

it is advisable to clean any raccoon feces found in yards and to keep children from coming into contact with the contaminated feces.

Make a simple wooden framed screen cover for childrens' outdoor sandboxes that can be lifted off when the sandbox is in use and easily covered when play is over.

Wash all fruits and vegetable thoroughly before eating! As always, simple common sense hygiene, such as thorough hand washing, is advisable.

More than 90 species of birds and mammals, including people, have been killed by this parasite in North America.

## Lucky Little Fella!

Here's one of Project Purr's current little ones, who was trapped out of a drain up on Science Hill at UCSC. The savvy momcat had moved the other kittens, making trapping much more difficult. But persistence will pay off!

We trapped him over the Easter weekend when the campus was quiet. He still had blue eyes so he is maybe six weeks old. It was almost like a sunrise service going up to campus...the views of the bay and Santa Cruz were spectacular!!!!



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