

# projectpurr

VOLUME 16

SPRING 2008

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 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to humanely decreasing the feral cat population by providing funds towards our lowcost feral cat/kitten spay/neuter program in Santa Cruz County, California. Project Purr advocates Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) as the preferred method for feral cat population control.*

## Nice People Like You

At Project Purr's last yard sale three remarkable things happened that I wanted to share with all of you. Aside from the wonderful donations and hard working volunteers we also had some amazing shoppers. On Saturday, which is day one of the sale, at about midday, a very distressed young woman came up to the cashier. She said that she had lost two \$100 dollar bills that had been in her pocket and realized it was unlikely, that if someone found them, they would turn them in. She knew it was an outside chance of getting her money back but she felt she

giving us jewelry and higher end items with the knowledge we will get a fair price. We are grateful to the loyal crew that sets up and runs our collectors corner with everything beautifully displayed. In the flurry and excitement of opening day a small pretty antique vase priced at \$60 dollars disappeared. The sellers didn't re-

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## Thank You to Our Community!

Project Purr is humbled and thankful for the recognition and support from our community.

The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County approved a grant of \$350. to support cat rescue and spay/neuter-release programs. Board members and staff were "aware of the important services Project Purr provides to the community" and were "pleased to make these funds available to support this work." This grant was "made possible through a contribution from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation." Thank you for helping us help the animals.

Mountain Elementary School on Old San Jose Road in Soquel had a very successful Holiday Bazaar. Mountain School is "committed to acting and thinking locally and to honoring those who serve those in need", according to hardworking organizer Heather Martin from the Parents Club. Project Purr was chosen to receive a donation of \$304. for continued efforts in our community. Thank you to all the talented and dedicated young philanthropists!

For several years, the George and Ellen Memorial Fund has gifted Project Purr to enable more spay/neuter. In 2007, a generous donation of \$6000. helped many, many needy cats and kittens of Santa Cruz County have happier and healthier lives. Thank you George and Ellen.

An anonymous gift of \$1000. was given to Project Purr to "challenge" the community to match funds from the \$10,000. spay/neuter for Free Roaming/Stray Cats PetSmart Grant. Gifts can be mailed to Project Purr, PO Box 891, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 or donate on-line at our website [www.projectpurr.org](http://www.projectpurr.org) through Network for Good. Please note Spay/Neuter Challenge on your donation. Thank you everyone!



had to try as it was part of her rent money. I admit, as we took her name and phone number I didn't have much hope myself. The next day a woman came up to the counter where you pay for items and said that she had found two \$100 dollar bills the day before and it had preyed on her mind that maybe that money was truly needed by the person who had lost it and she wondered if anyone had reported the money missing. This kind lady called the young woman and gave the two \$100 dollar bills back to her!

We have an antique and collectible corner roped off and separate from the rest of our sale where we sell some of the nicer and higher priced items. It has worked out well for us, giving us a chance to make more money and makes donators more comfortable



## Donation Boxes Donated Anonymously to Project Purr!

Surprise! Surprise! A wonderfully thoughtful and kind anonymous person donated clear lucite lock donation boxes to us after all these years. For 19 years, we've never had any...and now we are looking for kind "hosts" to put them to work.

Many local businesses are graciously responding by placing them on their counters in prominent spots to encourage their clients to donate, thereby helping us to fund the only Santa Cruz county-wide lowcost feral cat and kitten spay/neuter program.

Thank you to our friends at Zachary's Restaurant, Aptos Feed, Pacific Veterinary Specialists, Mollies Country Café, newly opened Mint in Scotts Valley, Scotts Valley Feed, Capitola Book Café, Hansen's Feed on Freedom, and Pet Pals.

Spare change adds up! If you would like to "host" one of Project Purr's new donation boxes, please give us a call at 423-MEOW and leave us a message...it's a wonderful way to give back to our community and take "Compassionate Action!"



# Project Purr Budget Summary 2007

## Expenses 2007

Veterinary Expenses .....	\$36,798.41
FeLV/FIV Test Kits .....	5,617.23
Food/Litter/Supplies .....	11,471.05
Humane Traps .....	499.94
Office Expenses: Advertising/Phone	
Printing/Mailings .....	6,563.08
Feral Colony Maintenance .....	3,000.00
Project Coordination/Tech Support	
Computer Maintenance .....	2,000.00
Insurance .....	900.00
Fundraiser Expenses .....	2,271.75
Vehicle Expenses/Maintenance .....	800.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$69,921.46</b>

## Income 2007

Yard Sales/Silent Auction .....	\$44,000.00
Adoptions .....	2,960.00
Donations/Individuals .....	12,906.06
Community Foundation Grant .....	300.00
Challenge Grant .....	1,000.00
George & Ellen Memorial Trust .....	6,000.00
PetSmart Grant .....	10,000.00
Online Donations .....	465.00
Bank Interest .....	1,679.96
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$79,311.02</b>
Cats/Kittens (Feral and Domestic) Assisted in 2007 .....	420
<b>GRAND TOTAL CATS/KITTENS ASSISTED in 1997- 2007 .....</b>	<b>5,051</b>



***It's better to feed one cat than many mice.***

*- Norwegian proverb*

## Nice People Like You

*(continued from page 1)*

alize someone had taken it until they got a chance to speak to each other to find out who had sold it. While the distraught volunteers discussed this the kind shoppers that overheard this story felt awful and put their money together to pay for the vase to insure Project Purr didn't incur the loss. This really touched us. We have wonderful supporters!

Later in the day I was working the furniture part of the sale and an older woman purchased a small dining table and chairs. One of our volunteers offered to deliver it and the deal was done. Later in the day the older woman came back very upset because while at the sale she had lost her wallet that had \$100 left in it. She explained that she was on a fixed income and it was the last money she had until the end of the next week. I helped her search for her wallet in the field and in her friends car who had driven her there. It was not to be found. I asked her to please take \$100 from the Project Purr bank I was carrying. She was in tears and said she would only take the money if I would give her my name, number and address so she could pay us back when she got her money in the mail. I naturally agreed. Well, that night when I got home, tired from working the sale all day, the dear woman had called and left a message on my answering machine saying someone at the sale found her wallet and got her address from her ID and had dropped it off at her front door, money and all!

I mean it. Some of the nicest people shop at our sale!

Animal lovers seem to be more compassionate and live by a higher standard and I swear cat lovers even more so.

Thank you donators and shoppers for supporting us! We look forward to seeing you at our next sale!

Let's all work together to fund spay neuter so we can save lives.

~Lucinda

## My Sweet, Sweet Rosie

Rosie's three kittens all quickly got adopted from the shelter, but the owner surrendered 7-year old medium hair tortoiseshell momcat was still at the shelter, and hiding under her blanket. I got a call saying she was "no longer an adoption candidate." When I arrived to pick her up, I heard her sneezing. I hatched her in the yard while battling the upper respiratory infection. Thin, fragile, patchy fur, runny nose, having lost her home.

Did she have the will to live? One round of antibiotics, another round of antibiotics... almost a month passed. Luckily, I was able to handle her. She required syringe feedings and lots of sub-Q fluids. I was able to plunk her on my lap and she sat passively. Finally, dejected and confused, the frightened and depressed tortoiseshell cat decided to pull out of it and rejoin the world.

She looked awful. Pencil necked, geeky, coarse blotchy matted fur, and scraggly tail, she looked kind of lumpy. She seemed to have permanent "bed head". But she could finally breathe well enough and began grooming and blinks and purr, all good signs! More good food, warmth and lots of rest for the next month and her strength was returning. At long last she was healthy enough to take to the vet to be tested and spayed. Then more convalescent time for healing. Then stitches out. I began to think she was finally on her way to once again becoming an adoption candidate.

But one night while brushing her, I felt three marble-sized lumps on her shaved hair-just-growing-back-in tummy. A visit to the vet confirmed my first heart racing fear. Cancer. A second opinion agreed. She'd had one too many litters in her life of litters. (I'd always read that spaying early kept mammary tumors away but never thought it would actually happen to one of my cats.)

The irony of fate! Just when her life was looking so good, the finiteness of it has come all too clear. As the reality of her unluckiness begins to sink in,



the care begins again... only this time it's hospice care. As the months unfold, I realize how much I've grown to love her. She was supposed to be an easy rescue and short foster. And usually there's a tearful bittersweet moment as the foster kitty leaves to start a new happy life with someone else. Sadly this will never happen for my sweet Rosie. The bittersweet part now is that she will stay and live out the rest of her life with me.

She runs to meet me when I open the door, climbs up onto my lap and head butts me hello. She's gained weight, loves to be brushed and her coat is full and soft. She blinks, closes her eyes contentedly and purrs appreciatively.

Of course I'm hoping for a miracle... maybe somehow if I hope hard enough the cancer will mysteriously disappear. I'm already missing her. Daily I see that she's not afraid ... I am. I close my eyes to fix her impression forever in my memory by savoring it with all my other senses... and when I open them...she's still here...as I want to remember her... beautiful and purring, my sweet Rosie.



# Feral Cat Myths

If you care about and are attuned to cats, and feral cats in particular, you may be confronted with situations where you need to advocate on their behalf. While categorized as “companion animals” yet fearful of humans and human touch, frequently “ownerless” and so deemed “homeless,” feral cats right to live often comes into question. They become targets and scapegoats, a kind of lightning rod for misinformation, fear, and blame. Feral cats need advocates willing to take a stand for them, who can offer up truths and help to problem solve and defuse situations where conflicting needs require creative solutions.

**Fact: Feral cats are *not* the cause of wildlife depletion.**

Studies show that the overwhelming cause of wildlife depletion is destruction of natural habitat, collisions with man-made structures such as buildings, towers and wind turbines, chemical pollution, pesticides, climate change and drought — not feral cats. Bird populations are declining throughout the nation and the State of the Birds report in a 2004 Audubon Magazine found that the most serious threat to birds is loss of habitat due to poor land use, the clear-cutting of forests, the draining of wetlands and urban sprawl.

*Defenders of Wildlife found that the single most important factor that affects population size for most bird species is habitat.*

*Smithsonian Conservation Research also states that “destruction of the tropical habitat where birds spend winters” is the reason for vanishing songbirds.*

Fan, Kuang and Feng’s 2005 study “*Cats Protecting Birds*” predicts that **reducing cat populations would actually cause more harm to birds due to a resulting increase in rat populations.** Rats are omnivorous; they climb trees to eat birds and eggs and they compete with native wildlife for food, such as seeds, plants and insects. Rats have a well-documented and profound negative impact on bird populations, and are affecting whole ecosystems from the bottom up.

Biologist Robert Berg of the San Francisco SPCA found that cats in



Golden Gate Park had more success in hunting rats than birds, making the quail population in the park *stronger* since there were fewer rats to raid bird nests.

Myth: Feral cats are a major source of rabies.

**Fact: Rabies is rarely found within feral cat colonies.**

Cats are not natural vectors of the virus and most rabies cases in the US are from bats, coyotes, and dogs! **There are no known cases of a human contracting rabies from a cat in California.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cats account for 2 to 4 percent of reported rabies cases in the United States. 36 people died from rabies in the U.S. between 1990 and 2001. Of those cases, nine sources could be confirmed and none of them was from cats.

**Many Health Departments across the nation endorse Trap/Neuter/Return because of its required rabies vaccination which enhances public safety.**

**Both Stanford University Department of Environmental Health and Safety and Santa Clara County Health Department found that feral cats pose virtually no health or safety risk to individuals.**

Myth: Feral cats lead short, miserable lives so it’s best to trap and euthanize them.

**Fact: Feral cats have about the same lifespan as pet cats and the incidence of disease in feral cat colonies is no higher than among owned cats.** Cats are subject to illness and death, just as we are, even when cared

for in loving homes. The solution is not to kill animals which *might* suffer and die, but to treat them as sentient beings with kindness and respect.

According to the San Francisco SPCA ***feral cats may actually be healthier as a population than domestic pet cats.***

(Project Purr always tests for FeLV/ FIV and has consistently found that only 1-2% of our county feral cat population tests positive for disease. Project Purr vaccinates every cat that goes through our TNR program for rabies. Project Purr will continue testing and vaccinating all feral cats to protect not only other feral cats, but also domestic cats and the public.)

**Fact: When an area is cleared of a colony of cats, neighboring cats move in and rapidly re-colonize the territory, a phenomenon known as the “vacuum effect.”** The proven most effective means of solving the feral cat overpopulation problem is Trap/Neuter/Return. It is humane, *and* causes the population to decline significantly over time.

**Fact: Eating undercooked meat is the primary risk factor in contracting toxoplasmosis for humans,** and simple hygiene such as washing hands after handling raw meat, or cleaning cat boxes, is an important health precaution. Clumping cat litter from *domestic* cats should *never* be flushed down the toilet. Instead dispose of it in a tied plastic bag into the trash. The toxoplasmosis parasite is not always killed by sewer treatment plants, so flushing cat litter *may* harm sea otters if toxoplasmosis were to be released into the ocean. Help save the sea otters.

Most of us love birds, sea otters, and all creatures as much as we love cats.

But by not fitting neatly into current paradigms of either wildlife or “companion animals”, feral cats have few protections, and are vulnerable to being rounded up and killed by humans. Feral cats need advocates and they depend on people like us to take a stand for their right to live. We hope you, too, choose compassionate co-existence with feral cats...and respect life.

~ Feral Cat Advocate/Animal Lover

# **PROJECT PURR ADOBE ANIMAL HOSPITAL SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM FERAL & STRAY CATS**

**You pay only \$25. for each cat.  
Project Purr will pay your unpaid balance!**

*The program includes:*

- FeLV/FIV tests (cats testing positive will be humanely euthanized)
- Spay/Neuter
- FVRCP and Rabies Vaccines
- Mandatory Ear Tip! (eartipping is the humane surgical removal of 1/4 inch of the top right ear and is a permanent lifesaving visual identification mark)

Cats **MUST** come individually in humane traps (not carriers.)

Traps loaned at no charge from Santa Cruz County Animal Services in Scotts Valley and Watsonville 454-7303 (deposit required)

**Plan ahead!**

**Call Adobe Animal Hospital for appointments 475-6365**

**What is Trap-Neuter-Return? Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)** is an effective, comprehensive, and humane plan in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors are trapped, vaccinated, and spayed/neutered by veterinarians. Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Healthy altered cats too wild to be adopted are returned to their original location. The breeding stops, nuisance behaviors are eliminated and quality of life for these feral cats improves.

As a caregiver, YOU assume the responsibility for keeping the feral cats and agree to provide quality food and fresh water daily, a simple warm dry shelter, and *lifelong* care.

## **The John S. Strauss Spay/Neuter Program**

FREE certificate for spaying or neutering your pet (including dogs, domestic cats and rabbits) available to low income Santa Cruz County residents.

This program is sponsored by The Friends of Santa Cruz County Animals

## **Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter (FOWAS)**

Both Watsonville and Freedom residents and businesses have unlimited FREE spay/neuter for feral cats/kittens. Feral cats are unsocialized cats that are born outside or have strayed from home and, over time, lose their domestication and revert to a wild state. Residents must agree to provide shelter, daily food and water and lifelong care for the altered feral cats.

(FOSCCA) and administered by Santa Cruz County Animal Services at two locations. Scotts Valley - 27 Janis Way and Watsonville - 580 Airport Blvd.

Proof of Santa Cruz county residency and proof of income required. For more information, please call 454-7303 and staff will gladly assist you.

Proof of residency is required.

Vouchers, humane traps for loan, and details are available at the Watsonville Shelter, 580 Airport Blvd. in Watsonville. FOWAS also offers FREE spay/neuter for up to 3 dogs, domestic cats, or rabbits to Watsonville/Freedom residents of low-income.

Contact the shelter for more information at 454-7303 ext 7.

**COMPASSIONATE ACTION:  
TNR is the humane, responsible thing to do!**

## **All Cats Have Value**

Feral cat programs have impacted our world in an intangible but perhaps even more important way.

TNR demonstrates that all cats have value, even those that can't be touched. We as human beings now recognize our ethical responsibility toward these "community cats" and that they should be cared for and treated humanely. Shelters and animal control rarely have the resources to manage TNR themselves but volunteer manpower already abounds. It means transitioning "feeders" into "caregivers." TNR enables the community to do something. For decades, traditional methods to "get rid of" feral cats have failed to have any lasting effect on reducing their numbers. Commonly held misperceptions often lead to simplistic, inhumane, and always ineffective attempts to remove feral cats.

"Knowledge and truth are powerful weapons for change"

~ Donna Wilcox of Alley Cat Allies.

With comprehensive education and programs that work we can humanely manage feral cat populations.

Join us in our Commitment to the Community Cats of Santa Cruz County!

## **Other Discounted Spay/Neuter Programs**

Low-income Monterey County residents call Animal Friends Rescue Project (AFRP) 831/333-0722 for domestic cat spay/neuter voucher information. AFRP offers FERAL cat spay/neuter vouchers for ALL residents and advocate only for Trap/Neuter/Return...they will NOT refer you to assistance for trap and euthanize.

Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) has a dramatic impact on ethically solving neighborhood feral cat problems. It is effective, responsible and humane. The breeding stops. Populations are gradually reduced. Nuisance behaviors associated with mating and breeding are virtually eliminated. The cats are vaccinated against disease. The quality of life for these feral cats improves. Thousands of people are helping feral cats, and you can, too.

# The Last Cat Out!

The Santa Cruz SPCA relocated from its Seventh Avenue location to 2685 Chanticleer Avenue in Live Oak (across from Grey Bears), after a faulty printer erupted in fire on March 20 and the SPCA office and shelter sustained thousands of dollars in water and smoke damage.

All of the dogs and cats were safely evacuated... or so everyone thought—when longtime volunteer and foster, Isabelle Magnin, spotted a terribly frightened lynxpoint Siamese that had been overlooked in all the commotion and was crouched and hiding in a tiny dark space. Isabelle and another volunteer tried desperately to coax and catch Snowflake by netting her, but she was so terrified, she was getting progressively more frightened and aggressive. Lynne Achterberg of Project Purr showed up, quickly assessed the situation, and put an open carrier on the floor. Isabelle shooshed Snowflake out of her teeny hidey hole and she spotted the carrier, ran in and hunkered down. Lynne quickly closed the door and had her safely secured. Snowflake then went home with Lynne... the last cat out of the SPCA!

Lynne carefully transferred Snowflake into a blanket covered hutch with lots of soft comfy bedding, yummy treats, and a cozy cat bed in a quiet room. Snowflake's fur smelled of acrid electrical smoke and burnt plastic. Lynne added Rescue Remedy to Snowflake's water, talked soothingly to her, blinked many reassurances, and then decided to leave her alone. It was obvious from Snowflake's eyes and body language that touch was not wanted at that point.

The next day, Lynne observed that Snowflake was still not welcoming her. Lynne went back to the SPCA to find out more about Snowflake's history. Snowflake had been found as a stray in Capitola, and after an unsuccessful owner search, a health check and spay, she was seeking a new home. Snowflake was not fully social, tolerated other cats, but did not seem to seek or enjoy the companionship of people. She was repeatedly

passed over for adoption, beautiful as she was, when people came to the SPCA searching for a new companion kitty.

Days went by and Snowflake was still cowering and not pettable. Lynne asked Lisa Carter, Director of the SPCA, if she could begin seeking an outdoor home for Snowflake. Lisa said yes. Lynne had an idea cooking.

Several months previously Lynne had rescued a handsome and shiny black cat, named Hank, from the Animal Services shelter in Scotts Valley. Hank easily became overstimulated when petted, and reacted inappropriately by biting. Hank was adopted to a wonderful home with an understanding caretaker, where he had an important job to do in a horse barn...he was chief hay protector from the mice and rats. Hank had acclimated well and was getting hap-

pier and better at his job everyday. Lynne wondered if Hank might like a companion.

Bewildered Snowflake was set up in a large hutch on sawhorses to begin the next big chapter in her life. After several weeks in the hutch imprinting on the sights, smells and sounds of her new surroundings, with her new caring feeder giving her a "come and get it" call several times a day, she was released into the horses tack room for further bonding. Hank and Snowflake now have a purpose and a home and each other! Second chances for cats who do not enjoy human touch are a wonderful expression of compassion in action, enlightened coexistence and mutual benefit. We're hoping that Hank and Snowflake, their wonderful new caretaker, and the horses all live together happily ever after!

## Can You Picture 5,000 Cats and Kittens???

That's how many cats and kittens Project Purr and Adobe Animal Hospital have assisted since 1997 when our record keeping began. Actually it's quite a bit more than that...but no one knows exactly how many cats and kittens there have been since 1988 when, 20 years ago, Project Purr first started. So, yes, we're celebrating because...

### *It's Project Purr's 20-Year Anniversary!*

In the beginning a handful of amazing animal loving individuals, such as Lisa and Logan Lewis, Chuck Kessinger, DVM and Craig Evans, DVM, had the vision and dedication to create a discount volume spay/neuter rescue program at Adobe Animal Hospital because Santa Cruz County had NOTHING! It happened before there was Alley Cat Allies (founded in 1990) to give guidance and before Trap/Neuter/Return was introduced to America (TNR had appeared in Great Britain 30 years prior and feeding/fixing colonies of cats made sense to people in Johannesburg, South Africa in the mid-1970's.) Santa Cruz's domestic and feral/stray free roaming cats and kittens

began to receive much needed quality care and the grassroots of Project Purr began to grow.

Nonprofit status was realized in 1997 and the community-oriented all volunteer organization continues to provide quality care and service to this day. Project Purr would not be possible without the wonderful vets, caring veterinary hospital staff, hardworking volunteers, generous donators and all the diverse businesses and community supporters.

***Thank You for 20 years of Sharing and Caring and Saving Lives!***



# They Deserve To Live

Our friend Kristina, the Animal Services Authority shelter's volunteer coordinator, called us and said a feral mom-cat with five one day old kittens had been brought in that morning. She was hoping Project Purr would be able to foster her and her kittens or they would need to follow shelter policy and euthanize them. This year the shelter has been working closer with Project Purr and our other community animal welfare and rescue groups. Project Purr, as always, is doing everything it can to save more animals lives.

I fortunately had space and time to foster this little family. The day I picked them up had been a hard scary day for them. The kittens were found and the mom had been trapped and they had all had a car ride to the shelter. They were kept in a small cage at the shelter for a couple of hours until I picked them up. They had another car ride home from the shelter to my house and my husband and I urged the terrified mother cat out of the trap and into a big 6 foot hutch with fluffy blankets and a heating pad for extra warmth with lots of healthy food, clean water and a cat box. I'd like to say the cat was immediately grateful but, understandably, that's not the case. She was frightened, wary and determined to protect her newborn kittens.

She hid in the farthest corner (from my reach) of the hutch with her babies and snuck out to eat and use her cat box when I was not in the room. I ignored her hisses and glares and talked reassuringly and quietly to her. While I freshened up her hutch with food and fresh water I told her everything would be alright and that she was doing a wonderful job of caring for her little ones. Sometimes I would just sit by the hutch and talk to them.

She and I worked out what my privileges would be and they changed on a daily (sometimes hourly) basis. It started with her letting me touch her babies with my finger, then letting me nudge them out so I could check on them .... at least she would let me do it as long as they were in a position where I didn't need to reach across her. Finally, she would let me lightly pet her head but nothing else. If I rubbed a little way down her back she would swing around as if to bite. I jerked away a few times because it's unnerving. I decided to, and was determined to, not jerk away the next time I went to pet her. I wanted to show her that trust works both ways and that I also trusted her. I petted her head and got a little ways down her back and she swung around and bit firmly but without force and held my hand while looking straight at me. She held it for a few seconds and let go. It was a turning point in our relationship.

I can now pet her all over. She spreads out in her hutch and lets herself relax. She has a big rumbly purr that's very gratifying to me.

The kittens are almost 3 weeks old now,



healthy and friendly little sweeties. The Mom cat who I named Julia likes to be petted and have her shoulders massaged as she purrs. She's put on weight and her coat is starting to shine. She spreads out in her bedding with her kittens all around her like the queen that she is. She'll lie down and let me sneak her littlest kitten (who I call Runtski) in for an extra feeding or two during the day. I'm happy to report that he's catching up to the size of his siblings.

I often wonder how she came to be at the shelter. She's a friendly domestic cat who must have gotten lost or was discarded or left behind when someone moved. I can tell someone treated her with love and kindness when she was younger. How long had she been without a home? From her rough coat and toughened feet I would guess for quite a while. Did someone love and lose this cat? If she had had a microchip she would have been scanned and her owners called to come pick her up .... but she didn't.

I'll be looking for homes for all of them pretty soon. Anybody need a cat or a kitten to add to their family?? Our lives are made richer by this important work.

Lucinda



Well Hi Folks,

I just wanted to share with everyone what a wonderful job Lynne and all the other people who help her are doing; I work in a maintenance yard and we have three old cats that we care for. Lynne has provided bags of dry cat food over the years and this really helps. I've gotten to know each cat and their different personalities. They have adopted us and found a home when they had none. They all seem to tolerate each other and are actually good at sharing. Each morning I feed them and make sure that I give each one a few pets on the head and a few words of encouragement to start their day.

It's nice having the cats around and they really brighten up my day.

~ Charlie McGuire  
2700 Brommer Street, Santa Cruz

# The No-Kill Equation

No-Kill is achievable...but only by promoting and utilizing all of these 10 programs...and first is a feral cat Trap/Neuter/Return program! (TNR has been around long enough now that statistics and research findings compiled across the nation... show that TNR is the most humane and effective solution to feral cat overpopulation.)

Next comes high volume and easily accessible low cost spay/neuter, utilizing rescue groups, building and sustaining a large foster animal care network, comprehensive adoption programs, encouraging pet retention by the public, available medical and behavior rehabilitation and education, good public relations/community involvement with the shelter including a proactive and capable public relations administrator, creating a community-wide volunteer "army of compassion" and the final, and most important element, and without which all other elements are thwarted - a hardworking, compassionate animal shelter director whose focus is lifesaving!

No-Kill requires collaboration among rescue groups, shelters, veterinarians, charitable foundations, government officials, the business community and the public. It is not one solution. It is many. It is a community working together!

~ From Nathan J. Winograd and the [No-Kill Advocacy Center.org](http://No-Kill Advocacy Center.org)

# Congratulations!

Evelyn Sharp, DVM, Project Purr's respected Board Member and talented pediatric spay/neuter vet is combining her knowledge and nurturing care with Jason Miller, DVM in opening a new full service companion animal practice called Soquel Creek Animal Hospital.

Dr. Sharp not only provides great basic wellness services but also alternative solutions such as physical therapy and acupuncture. Dr. Miller's interests include geriatric care and pain management.

Give them a call at 476-1515 or stop by 2505 S. Main Street (across from Carpo's) in Soquel.

Project Purr supports them in their exciting new endeavor and wishes them much Good Luck and Success!





nonprofit volunteer feral cat rescue organization

P.O. Box 891  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 423-6369 (MEOW)  
webmaster@projectpurr.org  
www.projectpurr.org  
Tax ID#31-1576984

Presorted Standard  
**US Postage Paid**  
Permit #109  
Santa Cruz, CA



*Yes! I want to help Project Purr's rescue efforts.*

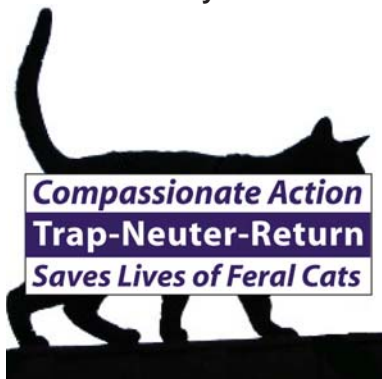
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Or donate securely on-line at [Networkforgood.org](http://Networkforgood.org)*

Thank you.



***TNR is Feral  
Cat TLC!***



***Together we are  
making a  
difference.***

