



Feline Focus

Spring 2008

“The smallest feline is a masterpiece.”

Leonardo da Vinci



A total of 820 cats have been spayed or neutered thru SNAP since 2005, preventing thousands of births



Working towards a home for every cat!

FieldHaven’s SNAP Program

By Laurie Ann Hunter

Very little in life is more pleasurable than taking home a tiny, softly purring ball of fluff to introduce it to a new home.

A place in our heart is filled as our new pet roams around, wide eyed with wonder at its new home. It feels like Christmas every day!

Unfortunately, as in all new relationships, the honeymoon eventually ends and the serious business of living together begins. The secret to success is patience and planning. One of the most important decisions towards keeping a pet healthy is their owner’s commitment to spay or neuter them. Year after year, millions of cats enter U.S. shelters because they are unwanted, inconvenient, or do not behave. Rescue and humane organizations work hard to find homes for these animals and many people adopt them, but there are not enough homes for the number of animals being born.

FieldHaven’s SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) makes it easy to be a responsible pet owner. We provide low or no cost spay and neuter services to Lincoln residents and the surrounding communities. We provide a valuable service by offering a proactive means of reducing the number of unwanted pets in our communities.

Maureen Henderson of Newcastle

writes, “With the help of FieldHaven Feline Rescue, I was able to trap the cats and have them neutered utilizing SNAP (spay neuter assistance program). If it was not for this wonderful program and the people who run it, I would have been unable to take care of this situation. These cats would have continued to run in the wild, producing many offspring, adding to the current pet (specifically cats) over population in our area.”

The American Veterinary Medical Association has stated, “Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern in many places. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance. The capture, impoundment and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers and private humanitarian agencies over a billion dollars each year. As a potential source of rabies and other less serious



FieldHaven SNAP volunteer Curtis Covington and Regency Park Rodent Raider adopter Gloria Pearson

Inside this issue:

SNAP - Spay Neuter Assistance Program	1-2
Lives Saved SNAP Statistics	3
“Impossible” Rescue	4
Featured Adoptable FieldHaven Alumni	5
Wild Cat Tale	6
Buster’s Barn - Great new home for ferals	7

FieldHaven SNAP Program cont.

diseases, they can be a public health hazard.” Volunteers for FieldHaven’ SNAP provide the public with assistance in every aspect of the spay and neuter process. The transport team, including Sandy Stewart, Joe Moore and Ted and Thelma Ferguson, take loving care of each and every animal brought to them. Regardless of whether the cat is a beloved family pet or a neighborhood stray, the staff is

weeks. The younger the animal at the time of surgery, the faster they heal.

Diane Hilbert, a Lincoln resident said, “Soon after hearing about FieldHaven Feline Rescue at a community meeting in Lincoln, I learned we had a feral cat problem in our neighborhood. After receiving my call for help, you supplied me with the necessary trap, cages, carriers and food to start working at solving the problem. With the help of four of my neighbors, we trapped 18 adult cats and 27 kittens. Thanks to your program of adoptions and SNAP, we were able to take care of all of them and they are now in wonderful homes.”



Ted and Thelma Ferguson donate their time and SUV for transporting kitties for spay and neuter

available to advise, transport and assist in the process. They will even loan traps, litter boxes, cages and carriers to help the public care for their animals.

All too often a pet's unplanned pregnancy results in their offspring being brought to shelters, where the likelihood of euthanasia is high. Often they are abandoned to the streets, where a dangerous life and early death are practically guaranteed. Most abandoned animals starve or freeze to death, contract disease through their contact with garbage or other ill animals, are killed by cars, or fall victim to other torturous deaths. The best way to prevent these senseless cruelties is to prevent the cycle of reproduction, by neutering and spaying. Spaying and neutering is much less expensive, emotionally and financially, than euthanasia. Cats can become pregnant at four months and while nursing but they can be safely spayed and neutered as early as six

The author, Emily Bronte once wrote, “A cat is an animal with more human feeling than almost any other.” Cat lovers everywhere would agree. With this enjoyment comes the commitment to provide our new family member with the comforts and necessities needed for a healthy and content life. Spaying or neutering is one of those necessities.

A community is often judged by the treatment of its smallest and most vulnerable members. FieldHaven’s SNAP staff guarantees that Lincoln’s tiniest citizens will be treated with kindness, respect and love.



Volunteers prepare paperwork for the SNAP transport team

Cats Spayed/Neutered via FieldHaven's SNAP Program				
	2005	2006	2007	Total
Males	67	111	172	350
Females	92	103	275	470
Total	159	214	447	820

Saving Lives and Saving Taxpayer \$

Key Snap Statistics

For 2007 alone

- ◆ 275 Female cats spayed
- ◆ An estimated 1,540 kitten births were prevented just in the first year!

Since SNAP Inception (2005-2007)

- ◆ Estimate that 163 animals were diverted from Placer County Animal Shelter
- ◆ Taxpayer savings estimated at over \$60,800
- ◆ Estimated 44% of animals from Lincoln were diverted from Placer County Animal Services



FieldHaven serves as triage center where the public can drop their cats off for transport to the spay and neuter clinic

NEW - Become a Member of FieldHaven Feline Rescue

We now have available a monthly giving program to make it easy for you to support the FieldHaven kitties.

You'll save on check charges and stamps and won't have to worry about remembering your donation each month. If at any time, you wish to stop or change just let us know.

Membership Levels:

- Bombay = \$25-\$49
- Tuxedo = \$50-99
- Tabby = \$100-\$249
- Ragdoll = \$500-\$999
- Maine Coon = \$1,000+

Your support is crucial in helping us save the lives of cats and kittens and provide services to our community

You'll find a monthly giving form enclosed with this newsletter.

Local Groups Join Together to Pull Off an “Impossible” Rescue

By Joy Smith

The request for help went out and it seemed daunting. Regency Park, a Sacramento mobile home park slated for demolition in just a few short weeks, was populated by an estimated 50-70 feral cats. My first response was that our resources were already stretched too thin in our own county and community to offer any help.

But FieldHaven volunteers Jen Rosenbrook, Sharon Kurth and Marie Salers didn't share that feeling and showed up at Regency Park for the first of many nights of trapping, joining a number of other rescues, shelters and animal welfare organizations from the greater Sacramento area. That first night several dozen cats were trapped and hustled off to Animal Spay and Neuter in Auburn. Many were brought here to FieldHaven for recovery, and Jen turned her garage into a temporary holding area for several more. But most of the cats were recovered with organizations in the Sacramento area.

As the trapping continued it became apparent that there were a whole lot more than “50-70” cats. Project Coordinator Julie Lindsey of Sisters Animal Sanctuary fired off emails in search of more support. The response was great as each organization stretched the boundaries of their capabilities and helped in whatever way they could. At FieldHaven we began an email networking campaign in an effort to place feral cats in safe barn homes. The networking paid off, and we were able to place over 50 feral cats!

The FieldHaven Regency Park team consisted of several volunteers who matched the feral cats with prospective homes. The cats were delivered to their new homes by the team with FieldHaven providing



Julie Anderson, FH volunteer and Board Member delivering Rodent Raiders

cages and other supplies as well as educating the caregivers on how to care for ferals.

We've heard great things from caregivers about their new Rodent Raiders! John and Brittney established a colony on their large ranch outside Reno and report that they have all settled in well and are “working” hard. Mary says that her new kitty, Taffy, is “having a blast”. Thanks to everyone who went the “green” way and went with feline rodent control instead of nasty chemicals.

As the project wound down several weeks later the total came in – 157 cats were rescued with vet bills totaling nearly \$40,000!

Not all the cats were feral. Regina and Rumble Lee are “friendly” kitties from Regency Park who are awaiting adoption at FieldHaven. Please be sure to visit them at www.fieldhaven.com.

This incredible show of support is proof-positive that by joining paws we can achieve the seemingly impossible.

For more about the Regency Park Project visit www.fieldhaven.com.

As the project wound down several weeks later the total came in – 157 cats were rescued with vet bills totaling nearly \$40,000!

We salute everyone that believed they could all be saved. You were all right!

Featured Adoptable: Beau

What were they thinking? Those people that just casually dropped me at the landfill in Lincoln. Did they really think I could just live off the garbage and the handouts of the kindly employees there? Did they even think that the fact I'm about 85% blind just might make it hard for me to survive there? It's really little wonder that I decided humans weren't trustworthy and tried to stay as far away as I could. But one night I sniffed out some great smelling food that was in a tunnel-like box. I couldn't resist. But then I was trapped! Then there was a lady picking up the box. Evil people! I just knew this was the end of the line for me! They drove me to some place and took me out of the box.....I was just waiting for whatever horrible thing was going to happen next. The worst didn't happen that day...or the next. Could it be that all people are not so evil?

I now know that it is so. There are wonderful kind people at this place they call FieldHaven and even at the different doctors they took me to. I have learned that not all people are evil. In fact, I really think there are more loving people than the evil ones.

I'm still scared when I can't quite see where I'm going, but each day I venture a little further from the room I live in at FieldHaven and play with the other cats. And, those people? Well, let me tell you - they are pretty big pushovers - just give a little purr or a head butt and they'll give you a tasty treat!

It's pretty awesome at FieldHaven but I'd really like to have some people of my own that I can spend each day with. A wild and crazy household probably wouldn't be my first choice. Do you have a quiet household where I could purr for treats every day?



*Looking for his Forever Home
Beautiful Beau is a special guy rescued
from the County Landfill*

FieldHaven Alumni

Cappy and Cuddy

They're both doing great. They've more than doubled in size (from about 3 ½ lbs



each to almost 8 lbs each). They follow me everywhere. They sleep in my computer case when I'm working in my office (see picture), on my chest when I'm watching TV, and on the pillows at night. And when they're not sleeping, they're chasing each other throughout the house or playing soccer with a wadded up piece of paper. Cappy's still the talker, but every now and then Cuddy will make a barely detectable meow.

Anyhow, thanks for everything. You did a great job starting them out (litter box and scratching post trained). Getting the two of them together was a great idea. They make perfect companions....not just for me, but for each other.

Scott B.



Poncho and Panda

Hi folks –We just wanted to let you know how much fun we are having living with our new family. We understand that they came to Fieldhaven looking for one cat – saw us and decided on two. We almost have them trained to do our bidding. We really have a great time. The food is wonderful – the places to sleep are so many we can't decide where to go. We have the run of the entire house and have lots of fun chasing each other. You were really nice to us at Fieldhaven but we really like it here.

Come visit us sometime folks.

Poncho & Panda

A Wild Cat Tale

By Laurie Ann Hunter

When I moved into my house in Lincoln, I mistakenly thought that the backyard was mine. After the first week, I realized that it actually belonged to a number of feral cats that visited on a regular basis. After a month or so, it became clear to me that the only permanent resident was a tiny gray cat that I dubbed Simon. He was friendly, though wary, and didn't run for the hills at the sight of me as the others did. He was mangy and dirty, and I fell in love instantly. We started a regular routine. When he came to my door, I fed him. When he didn't, I worried. Before long, his coat became sleek and his eyes bright.

Before long, he began to be friendly enough to let me touch his nose and to develop a rapport with my indoor cat, Cindy, a Persian who has a deep and abiding love for everyone, regardless of their species. Daily, she and Simon greeted each other at the doorstep like long, lost friends while I prepared their dinner. Simon remained small and I began to wonder if "he" was actually a female. I tried a number of times to catch Simon in a trap for a trip to the vet, but was unsuccessful.

One day, last November, Simon didn't come home. I worried that something had happened to him. When the days turned into weeks, I knew that tragedy had struck. The weather had turned cold and wet. I had images of him shivering in the cold. Finally, on Christmas Day 2007, Simon came home. Only Simon didn't come home alone. "He" came home carrying two little kittens, which "she" deposited underneath my back porch. From that day forward, my little gray cat became "Simone". I named the kittens Flash and Dash because that's what they did whenever they caught sight of me. I built a little shelter for them underneath my back porch and left them alone while Simone raised her little family.

Finally the day came when I calculated that the kittens were old enough to spay and neuter. I went to FieldHaven that weekend and was supplied with everything that I needed. When "D day" arrived, everything went as planned. I'd spent a few nights feeding the babies in the trap with the door wired open so that they would be comfortable with it. Simone always let her babies eat first, so I felt that she would be easy to catch separately, despite her innate fear of traps. I baited the traps and went inside the house to watch. I held my breath as one kitten crept in to eat. When the

second kitten went in, "bang" went the trap and I had them both! I immediately ran out and threw a blanket over them and wrapped up the whole cage. I brought them indoors and tucked them in for the night. I went back out and baited the second trap for Simone. No more than five minutes had passed before I heard the second trap trigger. I repeated the same routine, throwing the blanket over the cage and bringing her in out of the cold, wet night. I placed her trap next to the babies and immediately, they all calmed down. The next morning it

was pouring rain, so

I kept both traps wrapped warmly for the trip to Fieldhaven. Jen and the staff at Fieldhaven were there, waiting for me. There were "ohs" and "ahs" as I unveiled the babies. Then, with a flourish, I removed the towel to show them Simone... only she wasn't in the trap! A big, black and white feral cat had been trapped instead. Simone had done her Houdini routine again!



Simon became Simone when "he" brought home 2 kittens on Christmas Day

After the laughter died down, we all agreed that the new cat should be altered and shots given.

When I got home that night, Simone was roaming around the back yard, looking for her kittens. I kept them and the new cat, "Doris", indoors in their FieldHaven pen before releasing them in the recommended amount of time. It took two more weeks to catch Simone, but I was eventually able to get her to the vet. No more kittens for Simone!

Simone lives a happy life in my back yard. She rarely strays away and lets me pet her now. She even comes in my house to hang out from time to time to visit her friend Cindy. When I come home from work, I can count on her being there to greet me. The staff at FieldHaven is great! Thanks to them, Simone is healthy, happy and has a loving family.

Buster's Barn A Feral Cat Inn

They might not fully appreciate it but, thanks to a new feral cat holding facility at FieldHaven, feral cats have a pretty cool place to hang out while waiting for spaying/neutering or recovering.

Buster's Barn was built by Buster Borst as his Eagle Scout Service Project. He spoke with the feral cat experts at FieldHaven and designed the building around their wishes for the

perfect place to hold ferals for short amounts of time. Buster's Barn contains 4 cozy suites that have multiple access doors making it easy to do trap or carrier transfers and allowing volunteers to safely feed, water and change litter. It is located in a quiet corner of FieldHaven under an oak tree to minimize stress on the ferals so they aren't in the midst of the day-to-day activities at the shelter.

We use Buster's Barn as short-term holding for ferals that have been trapped and are awaiting spay/neuter surgery or are recovering from surgery before being returned to their colony. Buster did a fabulous job and we are so grateful that he chose FieldHaven for his Eagle Scout Service Project!

Please stop by to see Buster's Barn. To complete the furnishings for the suites we are requesting donations of feral cat "dens". For more information on them please go to our wish list at www.fieldhaven.com/donations.htm#wish or call Joy at 434-6122.



Regency Park Adoptables



Regina (left) is a very beautiful but cautious girl. She would love to find a quiet forever home that she could grace with her beauty.

Check out Regina's video on our website to see how she plays!

Rumble Lee is named for his loud purr. He was rescued starving with a pellet in his hip and is now hoping for a quiet

home. As you can see, he is a very handsome guy who loves brushing and petting.



Late Breaking News!
 Placer County is requiring FieldHaven to replace the Cat Trailer. We will be launching a Capital Campaign to build a new shelter in the coming weeks!
 Stay tuned for more information. Also check our website at www.fieldhaven.com for updates

2754 Ironwood Lane
 Lincoln, CA 95648

Feline Rescue



NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 LINCOLN, CA 95648
 PERMIT NO. 48



Feline Rescue

Your Support is Needed—Your donations and support are greatly appreciated and will enable us to continue our existing rescue efforts and develop new programs to assist the animals and animal lovers in our community.

Donation Levels

-  Bombay = \$25-\$49
-  Tuxedo = \$50-99
-  Tabby = \$100-\$249
-  Siamese = \$250-\$499
-  Ragdoll = \$500-\$999
-  Maine Coon = \$1,000+

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donation Amount

We are a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

2754 Ironwood Lane ♦ Lincoln, CA 95648
www.fieldhaven.com ♦ 916-434-6022