

News Release

For Immediate Release 3/6/19

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Cat Found 102 Days After the Camp Fire

On November 8, 2018 a fire broke out in Butte County, California, one that would become the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history to date. Dexter, a two-year-old black cat, not only survived but lived in the fire zone for 102 days. This Friday, he'll reunite with his family, who now resides in Missouri.

Leslie Berard-Zaletel, a volunteer with [FieldHaven Feline Center](#) and [Camp Fire Pet Rescue and Reunification](#), has been providing food for the cats who remain in the fire zone and is actively rescuing them. On February 18, 2019 she found Dexter, a sweet, social kitty, just over a mile from the remains of his home. Lucky for Dexter he was microchipped and FieldHaven was able to contact his family right away.

“Dexter had everything stacked in his favor with that microchip,” said Joy Smith, President and Executive Director for FieldHaven Feline Center. “His family had registered the chip with their current information, so when we found him, we were able to call them almost immediately, giving them the good news that we found Dexter, healthy and happy.”

Smith says, “Dexter’s family was beside themselves when we called. They were astounded that he survived. Their house was on fire as they fled with 3 of their 4 cats. They couldn’t find Dexter but had to go. They confessed they have felt guilty since because they shut the door as they left and they knew in their heart that he wasn’t going to make it. Being able to call them, 102 days later, to say Dexter somehow escaped was an incredible moment.”

This Friday, March 8, Dexter will be flying with his volunteer rescuer, to Missouri, where his family has relocated. His 3 kitty siblings including his littermate, Clayton, will be there to meet him.

“We would have never found Dexter’s family without his microchip. Please don’t lose hope, don’t give up,” says Smith. “Reach out to us, to other nearby groups, because there are still hundreds of cats being found in the fire zone and all of them deserve to be reunited with their families.”

Media Advisory/Video Opportunity: Contact Joy Smith 916-300-8166

What: Send Dexter off from Sacramento, interview his rescuer and CEO of FieldHaven

When: Friday, March 8 *Film 7:30-8am *Flight 1993 Departing at 9:25am

Where: Sacramento International Airport

About FieldHaven Feline Center: Using a multi-faceted approach to helping cats and people in need, FieldHaven Feline Center saves and enhances the lives of 1,000s of cat each year. From bottle babies to ferals to end-of-life care we have programs to offer solutions to many of the challenges facing cats in our society. Our motto is for all cats in need, a solution. Our Federal Tax is 30-0240427.