



Feline Rescue



Feline Focus



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Pssst . . . did you hear the latest one?

By Georgia Bockoven



Irresistible black kittens

Inside this issue:

Black Cat Legends	1-2
Barn and Book Sale Info	3
Operation Amoruso - A TNR Success story	4-5
FieldHaven Alumni	5
City of Lincoln CLEAR project	6
Almost Perfect Bookstore Owner Honored	7
Upcoming Events	Back Page

Rumors! Superstitions! Ever been the victim of one? Know anyone who has? Think hard. Ah ha, I thought so. But I detect a couple of you out there who think you're immune. Think again.

I Have you ever hesitated when a black cat crossed your path, or looked straight ahead as you walked past an adoption cage with a black cat extending her paw to you, or allowed even a fleeting thought to enter your mind that "where's there's smoke, there's fire"? When it comes to black cats, then you've been sucked into one of the oldest, meanest, most ruinous (for these loving, beautiful creatures) rumor mills ever created.

Explore with me the source of some of these accepted prejudices, the whys, the wherefores, and the devastating consequences.

Life was pretty good for our feline friends in ancient Egypt where cats were considered gods. Cats? Gods? How in the world did this happen? It's believed that some clever folks realized how important cats were in controlling the rodent population which, left unchecked, could decimate the crops and lead to starvation. To make sure the cats were protected they were made gods. Things went even further when it became a crime punishable by death to kill a cat. When the household cat died there were official mourning rites performed. Stray cats were fed and treated with respect. Life was good.

Jump forward a thousand plus years through periods of ignorance and fear and a compulsive need to "blame" something or someone for whatever ill befell humanity. If lightning struck the castle it couldn't be dumb luck, it had to be an evil force, like the castle cat having a littler of black kittens, which, of course, had to be drowned immediately to make sure the castle wasn't struck again. But, of course, lightning would strike twice. Build a house on the highest ground and stick up lots of turrets to act as lightning rods and guess what?

Then along came Pope Gregory IX who, in 1233, denounced black cats as satanic. Millions were burned alive to "search out the devil." Caught up in the hysteria people *swores* they saw the cats dying in the flames turn into mice and dogs and bats.

BIG MISTAKE! No cats equals lots of rats. (Plainly the Egyptians forgot to pass this along.) Lots of rats equals lots of fleas . . . fleas that carry disease . . . disease that kills people . . . lots and lots of people. Like, oh, half of the people living in all of Europe and up to two thirds in some of the more populated areas.

During this time, here and there, a few bright spots appeared within enlightened groups of people. The Celts announced that cats were once human and magical--a little nutty, but going in the right direction. Kill one and misfortune reigned. (Yep, like plagues!)



Cheers to You from Cheerio!

In England and Australia black cats are considered lucky. Unfortunately, this positive superstition comes with a flip side that's bad--white cats are considered unlucky. Oh, please.

To meet a black cat is considered fortunate, but the luck is only released if the cat is warmly greeted and stroked three times. It's believed, but couldn't be verified, that some particularly clever black cat, one who liked being petted, started this rumor. (cont.)

Black Cats cont.

Another belief of suspicious origins is that whenever the household cat is black there will be no lack of lovers for the women. Are all you single women listening?

Good omens: a black cat on a ship, the wife of a sailor keeping a black cat ensures the sailor will return safely, stroking a black cat's tail over a sty will get rid of the sty, a black cat crossing your path brings luck, letting a black cat in your house is good luck, a strange black cat sitting on your porch brings good luck, finding a white hair on a black cat brings good luck--if you don't pluck it out!

Bad omens: a black cat crossing your path brings bad luck, a black cat entering Shea Stadium in 1969 caused the collapse of the Cubs and loss of the division championship to the Mets. Uh . . . what about all the other games and championships the Cubs lost when there wasn't a black cat involved? But I digress.

Dumb, huh? A black cat is just a calico or brown tabby or orange tabby who happens to have *black fur*!

Some well-informed individuals who have been owned by black cats and who agree: Cardinal Richelieu, Winston Churchill (his black cat sat next to him at cabinet meetings!), Ernest Hemingway, Jethro Tull, Kim Novak, Raymond Chandler, Edgar Allan Poe, Fred Astaire, King Charles I, Henri Matisse, Mark Twain, John Lennon, Laura Bush, Bill Clinton, Mary Pickford, Frank Zappa, AND our own Joy Smith!!!

Some unenlightened individuals who didn't like cats of any color: Alexander the Great, Benito Mussolini, Genghis Kahn, and Adolf Hitler.

Notice a pattern here?

So how did all this nonsense about black cats get started? A lot of it is connected to witches and witch hunts. Again, when things go bad, people need someone or something to blame, and for centuries it was easy to focus on women. Especially women who lived alone--like widows and spinsters. Frequently these lonely women looked to cats for companionship, just as they do today. Both became easy targets



**Tuxedo cats are always
“dressed for the occasion”**



Basic black - always in style

for unspeakable cruelty. Cat and witch were often burned together for ludicrous "crimes."

Regrettfully, many of these unfounded and idiotic superstitions survive to this day in the subconscious of a large part of our population. They can be found in otherwise good-hearted people who refuse to even consider adopting a black cat, not even the one with the charming, playful personality, the ball of fluff who desperately needs a loving home to call her own, her only "flaw" the color of her fur.

No one should adopt *any* cat for the color of his or her fur. After all, like beauty, fur is only skin deep. Are you seeking a quiet companion who is content to snuggle close as you read your favorite author? Or do you want an active, curious guy who is going to be at your side when the doorbell rings and will howl in protest when you try to lock him out of the bathroom? Do you want a long-haired beauty who will park herself at the front window to watch for you to come home? Or are you more suited to one that will wake from a nap on the sofa to saunter down the hallway when he hears the key in the door?

Wonderful companions like these come in every cat color. All we ask is that you don't overlook FieldHaven's Black Beauties. Give them a minute or two to show you what amazing soul mates they, too, can become. And when you are won over, and choose to join the ranks of John Lennon and Ernest Hemingway and Kim Novak by bringing a black cat into your life, you will become one of the enlightened members of society who see a black cat for exactly what it is--a lifetime best friend.



**Dancer is currently
available for adoption.
Contact or visit
FieldHaven for more
information.**

Second Annual FieldHaven Barn & Book Sale

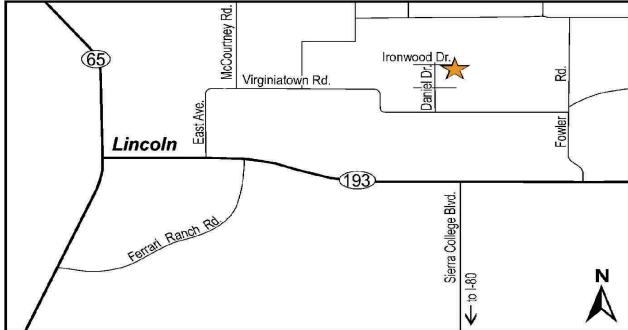
Saturday & Sunday, September 15th & 16th
7 am - 2 pm
2754 Ironwood Lane, Lincoln

Find some bargains for yourself while supporting FieldHaven's rescue & adoption efforts.

Have items to donate? We're accepting donations through September 9th

For more information on the sale or donations, call us or visit:

www.fieldhaven.com/events/07_barn_sale.htm



916.434.6022

info@fieldhaven.com

www.fieldhaven.com

FieldHaven Feline Rescue is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by your donations

Operation Amoruso – A TNR Success Story

By Joy Smith

Way out in West Lincoln...

there's a small nearly anonymous community thriving in the middle of the endless flat ranchland. If you take a wrong turn on your way to Thunder Valley Casino you may stumble across what used to be known as Toad Hill, now simply known as Amoruso Way. Amoruso Way stretches for one mile, breaking up the barren ranch landscape with an abundance of lush trees and about 100 homes on well-kept small acreage lots. The residents of Amoruso Way savor their little secret and boast a low crime rate, friendly neighbors and community events like the Annual 4th of July Fireman's Breakfast followed by a parade where the floats are pulled by lawn tractors. Many families have horses, cows, sheep and other livestock on their rural property. All in all, an ideal place to raise a family. They even have their own community church – the First Church of the Garage.

But Amoruso Way had a problem that many neighbors weren't aware of. For several years generations of unaltered cats had been living amongst the community, residing in barns and other outbuildings. They survived on rodents, stolen food from residents' pets and the handouts of a few kind people. But no one took responsibility for "owning" the cats and they freely bred until they were noticed as a neighborhood nuisance. Diane Hilbert, the unofficial "Mayor" of Amoruso Way and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator saw the problem and saw how it was getting worse when the 2007 kitten season arrived.

Diane contacted FieldHaven and volunteers immediately got to work on *Operation Amoruso*. Thanks to FieldHaven's SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program), funded by PetSmart Charities, we were able to commit to financing the spaying and neutering of all of the cats and kittens. We could also provide equipment (traps, cages, etc) and transportation to the spay/neuter clinic. What we were short on was the people-power to trap, recover and care for the cats and we could not provide relocation for any of the adult feral cats. Residents didn't mind caring for the altered cats, especially because they provided terrific rodent control.

Diane took on the daunting task of primary trapper, transporter and recoverer. Command Central was established in Diane's horse barn. Only one lone 30+ year old equine remained in residence as Diane had retired from riding years ago. This sweet old gentleman now shares his barn with an accumulation of cat cages, carriers, traps and all the supplies that go along with running a large scale TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) project. In anticipation of the summer heat Diane rigged up fans. Cages were spaced well apart to avoid cross-contamination of any illness and the always reliable bleach and water cleaning protocols were implemented.



Rescued Amoruso kittens get much needed love and care from neighborhood children.

Diane communicates almost daily to FieldHaven volunteers, including SNAP coordinator, Maryanne Sehl, the status of the project. Early on, Diane began trapping a number of kittens. Most were healthy but there were several that came from 2 very malnourished moms. After establishing we weren't dealing with FeLV or panleukopenia, FieldHaven foster mom, Penny Dougherty, became the ICU "nurse" to give these sick kids a chance. Penny does an outstanding job and has an excellent track record of tiny saved lives to show for her round the clock dedication.

Yvonne Morales became the primary foster mom for healthier kittens, especially those needing socialization. Yvonne does such an excellent job with socialization that her first Amoruso litter of 6 kittens were all adopted the first day they were presented for adoption!

Back-up foster moms, Marty Sutton and Susanne Munkdale take in the overflow that Yvonne and Penny don't have room for.

About a month into the project another Diane entered the scene. Diane Cochran has foster experience and jumped in to help Diane H. Diane C. helps with trapping, recovering and caring for trapped kittens until being transferred to FieldHaven foster homes.

To date Operation Amoruso has spayed 13 female cats and 2 male cats. One very elderly, ill male was humanely euthanized. We have brought 26 kittens into FieldHaven's foster program. Watch our website for updates as the project continues.

The quote "It Takes a Village" couldn't apply more with Operation Amoruso. The Amoruso "village", especially Diane H and Diane C, FieldHaven staff and volunteers, Animal Spay/Neuter and PetSmart Charities (for providing the funding) have all come together to bring the cat population problem under control.

It seems as if what was once known as Toad Hill could now be call **Cat Hill**.



Diane C. setting traps



**Diane Hilbert and
Diane Cochran are coordinating the
effort on Amoruso Way TNR project.
Over 40 cats and kittens have been
rescued so far.**

FieldHaven Adoption Hours

Mon-Fri – 10-2
Sat 12-4
Closed Sundays

FieldHaven Alumni

Powder

Hi Everyone at
FieldHaven!

Just some more photos
of Powder as she is
growing up!

She is filling out well
& is beginning to get a
full coat of beautiful
white fur - especially
the cowl of white fluff
around her neck!
She plays 'soccer' with
paper & comes
running any time she
hears paper being
wadded up. She will

play with one 'ball' for quite possibly an hour. She sleeps ON
me every night. She curls up on my chest & puts her head
under my chin, purring the whole time. She may move down
between my husband and me, but doesn't move at all & it
quite content until my husband gets up in the morning. Then
it's his lap while he drinks his coffee & reads the internet
news.



We love her!
The Harvey Family

Sonny

We adopted two of your cats last December. Wanted to let you
know everyone is doing great. They are both wonderful cats

Sonny is a little more independent but comes better when he is
called. He loves to wrestle with Huey and is always hunting
something or other.

We love them both and are very thankful for your wonderful
program.

Mark and Peggy D



Teach Your Children...

About Pet Overpopulation

By Cindy Moore

Too many cats! Yes, we have too many cats and kittens with not enough homes for them all. Unfortunately, most of our children do not know the facts of pet life. When visiting classrooms in Lincoln in May we asked the children what the words "spay" and "neuter" mean, the children were silent.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Lincoln about 400 Lincoln children now know what those words mean! The CLEAR project (City of Lincoln Education about Responsibility) was funded for the 2007 year by the Community Foundation of Lincoln. FieldHaven Feline Rescue Organization, working with the SCHOOLS group (Sun City Helping Our Outstanding Lincoln Schools,) developed an education program focused on understanding the need for spay and neutering pets and also, the importance of caring for our pets. At teacher request, a team of presenters visit the classroom and share age appropriate lessons with Lincoln students.

One lesson we share with students is a story about receiving a new kitty, who in turn has three litters of five kitties, who in turn..... you get the idea. We soon have over 180 pictures of "magnetic" kitties



Foster mom, Yvonne Morales, shares her experiences of fostering kittens with a Lincoln classroom

on the board representing how many cats can be born in one year if their new beautiful kitty is not spayed.

Our goal is to make every Lincoln resident a lifelong responsible pet owner. We start with the children. In May, thanks to the fabulous coordinating efforts of Cindy Moore, we visited with 400 Lincoln students with 15 hours of Pet Care presentations.

The stars for the children are the animals that join them in the classroom. FieldHaven kitties or the presenter's family dogs join the children during the lessons. The CLEAR project will continue, at teacher request, this fall. Teachers can contact Thelma Ferguson at tedferg@pacbell.net or call FieldHaven at 434-6022.



Lincoln children learn about responsible pet ownership



Tesla is currently available for adoption. Contact or visit FieldHaven for more information.

Bookstore owner honored for supporting Animal Welfare Groups

FieldHaven's Board Member Sharon Kurth presented a first-ever Business Sponsor Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition Plaque to **The Almost Perfect**

Bookstore owner, Kelley Ulmer, her employees and their customers. Kelley and her customers have been donating books to benefit local animal welfare organizations since the used bookstore opened its doors some fifteen years ago.

Present at the award was Lynn Willingham of Penryn who received used books from Kelley since the store opened its doors, raising over \$340,000 for local animal charities. Lynn hosted frequent barn and book sales which ended in 2006 when she went into retirement from on-site sales at her home. More recently, Lynn continues to pick up about a thousand used books a day from Kelley and distributes them to local animal welfare agencies that hold sales themselves, to animal welfare thrift stores for resale, or to independent buyers whose purchases go directly to the animal welfare organizations. FieldHaven has been one of the organizations involved with used books for resale, earning \$3,866 during 2006.

After 15 years in the same Roseville location, The Almost Perfect Bookstore managed to fit the inventory of 340,000 books into 2,400 square feet. Because browsing for titles was a challenge for her customers, Kelley moved the store into a new space four times bigger than its old one. Since March 1st , The Almost Perfect Bookstore now occupies the former site of Naturewood Furniture Store in the Raley's shopping center, (at 1901 Douglas Blvd., Roseville); the new location is only a short walk from where it started.

FieldHaven President, Joy Smith appreciates the support of both Lynn and Kelley. "We depend on them as resources for used books that makes our Annual Barn and Book Sale (held each September) so successful. We will call on both of them to help and they won't let us down."

Joy went on to say, "With so many non-profits dependent upon contributions and fundraising as major sources of funding, it is South Placer County's good fortune to have Lynn and Kelley helping to support animal welfare programs."



Kelley Ulmer of Almost Perfect Bookstore has donated enough books to raise over \$340,000 for local animal charities.

The new store is 4 times larger than the previous location. It occupies the former site of Naturewood Furniture Store in the Raley's shopping center at 1901 Douglas Blvd. in Roseville.

Mature Cats for Mature People Adoption Event

Saturday September 29th, 10 am - 1 pm
Sun City Lincoln Hills Sports Plaza
Contact: Carol Mintz – 916.434.8401

FieldHaven's adult cat adoption program will place a loving cat in your arms and in your heart. We'll waive adoption fees for senior kitties (6 years and older) adopted by folks 60 years and older.

Lower your blood pressure the natural way!

Research supports evidence that owning a pet has positive health benefits.



Upcoming Events -

PetSmart Adoptions — Roseville (Fairway Drive near Kohl's) - 2nd and 4th Saturdays and 2nd Sunday of each month, Lincoln - 3rd Saturday and Sunday of each month.

Microchip Clinic - 3rd Saturday of each month at Ben's Bark Avenue in Lincoln.

Petco Adoptions — Rocklin (LoneTree Drive) Petco has kitties there Sunday thru Friday day and Sunday of each month.

Barn and Book Sale - September 15 - 16 at FieldHaven.

Mature Cat Adoption Event - Sun City Lincoln Hills at Sun City Lincoln Hills September 29

2754 Ironwood Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

Feline Rescue



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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.