



Feline Focus

Spring 2009

There are no ordinary cats.

—Colette



Kisa is looking for her forever family



Invest in life with FieldHaven

Since 2005, a total of 1,386 cats have been spayed or neutered through SNAP

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Invest in FieldHaven We Turn your \$\$ into Lives and Tax Money Saved

At FieldHaven we've also been affected by the economy. While donations have definitely decreased compared to last year, there has been an increase in the number of cats being returned by adopters. Some of the returns were adopted 3 or 4 years ago. Surrenders due to housing situations have also increased.

More than ever we need your donations. Every amount helps. Here's just a sample of how your donation will give you a tremendous return on your investment and save many tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on unwanted and feral cats and kittens:

- \$15 will spay one female kitten and prevent the birth of up to 316 kittens over the next 7 years
- \$5 will vaccinate one adult cat against distemper, a disease that could cost \$1000s to treat

Please help us in any way you can. What better way to fight the economic downturn – invest in a life!!

For more ways to help see Page 3

Homeless No More — A Success Story

Hello! My name is Homeless, but you can call me "Homie".

A very nice woman rescued me about a year ago. My mouth hurt really bad due to stomatitis and I could barely eat. She couldn't afford the hundreds of dollars for dental surgery but still wanted to help. She called FieldHaven and they were able to help fund the surgery. My rescuer angel nursed me through several weeks of medicine and special feeding until I got well enough to be adoptable.



She was so nice, but I was still really hoping to find a home because her other cats were not nice to me and wouldn't let me in the house. Finally FieldHaven had an opening for me, but it was really scary to move into the Cat Trailer with all the other cats. I hid all the time and didn't know what to do.

The people at FieldHaven were worried that I would be nervous going to PetSmart for the weekend adoption event, but I tried real hard to be brave. That's where my new family found me! I am so happy now! It took a year and lots of caring people, but now, thanks to all who helped me, I get to live in a loving, comfy home.

Persistence and love made for a very happy ending. Thank you!!

FieldHaven Alumni

Brodey's Update

Introduced on page 1 as Homeless

Dear FieldHaven,

I love my new home and my new name, Brodey. Glenn and Jeaninne let me sleep with them and I get the whole house to myself when they're at work. The golden/lab dogs, Bonney and Benney, come in at night, but I am already under the covers by then. I get plenty of food, water and loving. I even have my own toy box. There are many windows from where I can watch the birds and other cats, but my new family says I'm safer in the big house all the time. I like being the king of the castle. Yes, I think I'll stay here, it's home now. Thank you for taking good care of me so my new family could find me.

Love,
Homie
(now
Brodey).



Kahuna
(formerly
Frazier Lee)

Kahuna is a happy cat and has gained 4 oz so his total weight now is 12 lbs 13 oz. I think it's probably time to cut back on the "Greenies"! He just loves them! He knows where they are kept, so when someone walks in the kitchen, he gives this sad eye look, meows and gets a treat! He is such a character and has so much personality and has become quite a lap cat too. And his new toy is our socks. It's just a riot when he plays with them. Carol

See more alumni at our web site
www.FieldHaven.com

Hey Mom It's ME! Look at This Spot on My Chin!

River was found starving in an open space near Lincoln in October 2007. We couldn't locate his owner so we put him up for adoption and in March 2008 he went to a great home. But River (now Linus) was trying to tell everyone that even though these people were awesome they weren't his family. The only way he could think of to get back to FieldHaven, and hopefully to his family, was to pee where he wasn't supposed to. It worked. His adoptive family tried everything but River/Linus just wouldn't stop and he came back to FieldHaven in March.

River was just hanging out at our adoption center in PetSmart Lincoln when it happened. His mom walked by! And as soon as he showed his distinctive black spot on his chin she recognized him. After a tearful reunion, complete with the Lincoln News Messenger recording the happy event, River who is really Charlie went home to his family and his brother.

Happy at last – and now with a microchip although we all hope he won't ever need to use it.



April Volunteer of the Month—Susie is the Voice of FieldHaven

By Joy Smith

Susie has been volunteering at FieldHaven for 5 years. She is a foster mom and has helped with outreach events and assisted at the trailer with office-type duties. But it was last fall when Susie found her true calling at FieldHaven - CAT (Cat/Community Assistance Team)! Susie handles the CAT line 6 days a week (Thanks Dava Weiland for taking the 7th day). And she does it most excellently. No longer do phone messages sit in voice mail for several days before someone picks them up. Susie checks voice mail several times a day and returns calls immediately. Even if the call is to be directed to Jen or myself, she calls the person to let them know we're very busy and may not be able to get back to them right away - so please be patient. If she doesn't know how to answer a particular question she gets in touch with the "expert" to learn the answer then calls the person back. Susie also contacts Lincoln residents who have posted "free" cats on Craigs List and encourages them to use SNAP to get them spayed/neutered before placing in a new home and about our courtesy listing service. She'll also coordinate with Foster Coordinator, Penny for available foster homes. Susie networks amongst other rescues, shelters and other resources to get the best information and help to all callers even if they're calling from far away.

Susie has a fabulous sense of humor, is very professional and compassionate - a perfect blend of talents for CAT. Please join me in congratulating Susie! You are a blessing girl!!



Susie on one of her many FieldHaven calls..

Special Thanks to Buonarroti of Lincoln for sponsoring the Volunteer of the Month

Buonarroti
Ristorante

If anyone would like to relieve Susie for one day a week on the CAT line (she told me the other day she needs to do some laundry!) please contact Susie at pezthiz@yahoo.com or Joy at joy@fieldhaven.com or 916-434-6122. We'll fill you in on all the details and get you started.

\$\$\$ Tight? Here are some non-monetary ways to help FieldHaven.

- Donate time. See our website or call about volunteer opportunities.
- Donate Used Books. Send your own or collect from work, school, church, etc.
- Unused gift cards to buy shelter supplies or for volunteer appreciation.
- Rebate or frequent shopper coupons – sign them over to FieldHaven, eg, Staples coupons can be used for office supplies.
- Cat food donations (open bags included) for use by our feral colony caregivers.
- Use your email contact lists to introduce everyone you know to FieldHaven.
- Used items such as towels, sheets, blankets, cat trees and pet supplies are welcome.
- Host a fundraiser such as a bake sale or garage sale to benefit FieldHaven
- Vote in the Shelter Challenge! (see enclosed information)

Helping the Homeless

by Lorraine Davis, TNR Team Volunteer

There are different kinds of feral cats. Some cats may have been born without human contact or they may have become homeless and became unsocialized from living on their own. Adult feral cats that have never made contact with humans can rarely be socialized.

A feral cat colony is a group of cats that live near each other and are usually near a food source. Unfortunately, feral cats have no hope of being adopted because of their unfriendly behavior. They are considered unadoptable and when trapped and brought to shelters they are euthanized. Many people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave them behind. However, domestic animals do not automatically return to their natural instincts and cannot find enough food to survive on their own. As a result of pet owners abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, feral cats breed uncontrollably. Unspayed feral female cats spend most of their lives pregnant and hungry. U.S. animal



Rescued feral kittens Treasure, Tiki, Tommy and Tony

The Humane Society of the United States estimates the number of feral cats in the US is estimated at 6–12 million!

FieldHaven's TNR program provides a humane alternative for feral cats. Often wild kittens can be tamed and adopted, saving them from short, hungry lives in the wild.

shelters are forced to kill an estimated 3 to 4 million homeless cats and dogs annually. The alternative to humane euthanasia for almost every stray is a violent end or slow, painful death. Many abandoned cats die outdoors from starvation, disease, abuse or are eaten by predators.

There is another alternative for these helpless animals. When Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) is used, the cats

are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated against common diseases and released back to the feral colony by a volunteer. This is a humane alternative to euthanasia for managing the feral cat population. Since most kittens can start reproducing by six months of age and can have up to 3 litters a year, it is important to spay and neuter the cats as soon as possible. Returning the feral cats to familiar surroundings is an excellent way to reduce the feral cat population without euthanasia. By ear tipping each cat, any newcomers that join the colony are easily identified and can be sterilized before they start to breed. Any kitten or tame adult that is trapped can be socialized and adopted into a good home.

Caretakers provide daily food and water for the cats. Most caretakers bond with the cats in their colony, and I know from experience that the cats bond with the caregiver. Most of the cats know their feeding schedule and will wait at a specific place at mealtime. Some of the cats know a caregiver's voice and come out when they hear their names called. Even though most feral cats will not let people touch them, I have seen cats let their caregivers pet them and touch them while they are eating.

Feral cat colonies can be found behind shopping areas,

businesses, in alleys, parks, abandoned buildings and rural areas. I manage a colony at a park in Roseville. Originally there were almost 40 cats in the park. We trapped 21 adults and 17 kittens. FieldHaven was instrumental in finding homes for 25 of the cats and kittens. At the present time there are 13 adult cats living at the park. We continue to monitor the park daily and I am often greeted by all 13 cats. They each have a name and a personality and will often lie on the ground and roll over to watch me while I put out the food. These are healthy cats with an opportunity to live long and happy lives. And, best of all, no births of homeless kittens!

I would like to encourage you to get involved in TNR and/or to help feed at a feral colony. It's a very rewarding experience and sharing the responsibility helps to lessen the load. You can make a difference and help reduce the feral population by volunteering once a week or less according to your schedule. If you think you'd be interested in TNR or feeding feral cats, please contact Lorraine at 916-677-7117.

Right: Three ferals enjoying a meal in the park



The lower left of this picture shows a rabbit hole that the feral cats use for shelter.

Lorraine - April Volunteer of the Month

You may have noticed some of Lorraine's great articles in our newsletter. Here is her story.

Lorraine began volunteering with FieldHaven about 6 years ago when a stray cat showed up near her home in Sun City Lincoln Hills. That was Lorraine's first experience with a "feral" cat. She got some trophy bite wounds during her quest to trap and secure Lucky but that didn't discourage Lorraine. She found her true calling during that experience. Lucky turned out to not be feral but just a rather belligerent intact male who just didn't want to give up his territory. Once he was neutered he changed his ways and found a great home.

By then Lorraine was off and running in her quest to TNR. She is part of our TNR team and you will find the back of her SUV stocked with everything an experienced TNR'er needs from (thick) gloves to traps.

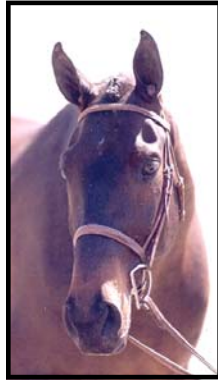


Lucky – the cat that changed Lorraine's life

Memorial Donations

In memory of Joy's Beloved Nathan

Diane Cochran
Vickie Croall
Penny Dougherty
Diane Hilbert
Sharon Kurth
Joni Lacey
Jeri Lobb
Maureen Moss
Dr. Berta Peterson
Jen Rosenbrook
Nancy Steuck
Sandy Stewart
Tom & Mary Swanson
Connie Wahlin
Pat Wells



Marie Rice in
memory of
Stewart



Patricia Jones – in memory of Charlie



New Shelter Update

Susan Gardiner Memorial Fundraising Campaign

We're Movin' On Up...
And FieldHaven Needs YOUR
Help!

Placer County is requiring that we remove the Cat Trailer and replace it with a new facility. It's a monumental task that will require lots of help from our friends and supporters, but we know we can do it!

Our goal is to raise \$150,000. (We have around \$20,000 so far.) You can help by donating money, time and/or skills!

Contact Joy Smith at
joy@fieldhaven.com or
916-434-6122 for more information.



No, the new Cat Trailer won't look like this but
we think it IS pretty cute!!

How SNAP Helps our Community

FieldHaven's SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program) provides a valuable service to our community and a play a major role in addressing the devastating problem of homeless cats. Each year in Placer County and surrounding areas 1,000s of cats are euthanized just because there are not enough homes. The solution is simple—Spay and Neuter!

Through SNAP Placer county residents can get reduced cost spay and neuter services for cats.

Please see our website for details about this program.

Cats Spayed/Neutered using FieldHaven's SNAP Program					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Males	67	111	172	265	615
Females	92	103	275	301	771
Total	159	214	447	566	1,386

FieldHaven's Adopter Survey Results

In December we conducted a survey to learn from all of you who have adopted cats or kittens from FieldHaven.

A huge thanks to the 157 adopters who took the time to provide us with this valuable feedback. You represented 14% of the 1,432 adoptions from 2003-2008. The information you provided has helped us to know what we are doing right but, more importantly, where we can improve. Here are some things we learned:

- More than 95% of adopters said FieldHaven adoption counselors were very knowledgeable in matching them with the best kitty for them
- 95% of adopters recommend FieldHaven to their friends
- FieldHaven's comprehensive medical program greatly minimizes post-adoption medical issues
- 22% of adopters report that being "shy or scared" was the most common post-adoption adjustment issue
Note: This is a fairly typical response for any kitty moving into a new home. FieldHaven provides adopters with guidelines for helping their new family member adjust.

The input from each and every one of the responders is extremely valuable to us. It will help us to make the best matches, place more kitties in new homes and look at where we can improve.

Here are some quotes from the survey:

- ◆ The staff who helped us... were very friendly, kind and full of helpful hints in caring for a new kitten...
- ◆ He is a pain but we still love him 😊
- ◆ You do an excellent job. Our community is better for your work.
- ◆ Mikey is very sweet and in control of this house. Just as it should be!
- ◆ Very nice cat. We love him. Great experience working with you folks.
- ◆ She has always been the best cat in the world for me!!
- ◆ FieldHaven is a fantastic place. You feel like family as soon as you walk in
- ◆ Bentley has been a great companion. He has the best personality of any cat I've owned.
- ◆ Thank heavens for all the people at FieldHaven! Especially thanks to those who foster.

The complete results can be found on FieldHaven's website at www.FieldHaven.com

**Help Us Raise Funds
for a New Shelter**
Our Goal: \$150,000
Raised so far: \$20,382

For a complete schedule and direction
visit www.fieldhaven.com

PetSmart Lincoln Adoption Center – Adoption Counselor on call during the week and onsite each weekend
Petco Rocklin – Weekends
FieldHaven Cat Trailer – Monday – Friday 10-2, Saturday 12-4 (closed Sundays)

Adoptions

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.

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