



Cats love you no matter what you look like in the morning!



*Hi, I'm Bast. I am ready to give purrs and love in return for attention and belly rubs!*

## Tommy's Cats

Carrying on a legacy of love and caring

By Joy Smith

As a lifelong Lincoln resident, Tommy Howcroft was known by many people in downtown Lincoln. He made daily visits to the coffee shop, the barber shop and he helped keep the Women's Club building neat and tidy. So when Tommy passed away suddenly in his sleep in late May many people missed his smile, his stories of a lifetime in Lincoln and his great, honest spirit. Tommy had no relatives so the community of Lincoln was his family.

But it's not only the people in Lincoln that miss Tommy. There's a whole feline family that Tommy left personless at his house on a quiet side street in downtown Lincoln.

Tommy had a number of cats, some of whom lived in his house with him; others that lived in his yard. With Tommy's death they had a home for the moment but no person. And, even though Tommy loved all those kitties he only had about half of them spayed and neutered.

Tommy's neighbors knew how much Tommy cared for the cats so

they began leaving food on Tommy's back porch for them. Then they called FieldHaven.

Scout Valentine and Jennifer Tindall of FieldHaven went to Tommy's house to assess the situation and bring the family who was caring for the cats some extra food. What they found was at least a dozen cats and a number of kittens milling about, most of them very shy or feral.

Because of the situation we contacted Placer County Animal Services to alert them and to ask them to confirm that no more cats were left in the locked house. We discussed the situation with PCAS Animal Control Officer Joe Spera, and it was determined that both organizations had extremely limited resources to help the cats. But since FieldHaven had a tiny bit more "stretch" we would take responsibility for the cats.

What was instrumental in this decision was the fact that FieldHaven had received a grant for a pilot project from the Binky Foundation earlier this year. The purpose of the grant was to provide funds in cases where feral cats and kittens of feral cats being surrendered to PCAS would be euthanized due to lack of space and resources to rehome. FieldHaven would use the funds to divert the



Tommy was a familiar face around Lincoln.



Thanks to a special grant from the Binky Foundation FieldHaven had funds to take them in rather than bring them to Placer County Animal Services.

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## Tommy's Cats cont.

cats from PCAS and either bring them to FieldHaven or educate their caregiver on the benefits of TNR.

Since the caregiver in this case was deceased, the funds would give FieldHaven the financial support to care for the cats until homes or placement could be found.

With the help of Tommy's neighbors, Wally, Becky and their son, Johnny, we began trapping. On that first day of trapping, as Scout and I were in the back yard setting traps, I received a call on my cell from Susan Rosenberg of the Petco Foundation. She was calling on an entirely different topic, but when I told her what we were in the middle of she offered her assistance. Petco Foundation donated several cages which allowed us to expand our capacity just that much to be able to house the extra kitties from Tommy's house.

We were well on our way to ensuring Tommy's cats would not be homeless or personless for long!

That first day of trapping we found a litter of 10-day-old kittens nesting under an overturned lawn chair in the back yard. We were able to trap their feral mom and bring the whole family to FieldHaven.

Leonardo was actually our first "catch" of the day. He didn't need a trap – just a little time to get to know us before trusting us to put him in a carrier. Leonardo is an "old soul" (even though he's only a couple of years old). We all think he was probably Tommy's closest companion. He just had that look in his eyes of having lost his best friend.

Since that first day we have rescued another litter of tiny kittens found abandoned by their mom in a hot shed, several unspayed females and some older kittens. Several of the adults we trapped were already spayed/neutered, 2 of those were adopted by Tommy's neighbors. The first kitten adopted was Fifo who went to his new home recently. His new name is Tigger and he has his very own 6 year old human boy to play with him all day long.

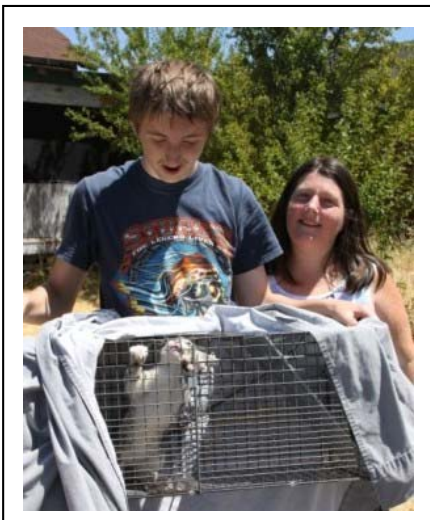
Several of the feral cats have been placed as Rodent Raiders.

To date we have rescued 21 cats from Tommy's house. There are still at least 8 more "teenage" kittens, but we have to wait until we have space or foster homes available to house them.



Leonardo, our first catch, and probably Tommy's closest companion.

He is currently available for adoption at FieldHaven.



Neighbors Becky and Johnny were invaluable as "trap watchers" while FieldHaven rounded up Tommy's cats.

I never met Tommy but through his friends I feel I know him. He led a simple life and brought smiles to a lot of people in Lincoln. With Tommy's Cats our goal is to pass on Tommy's Legacy by bringing smiles to the faces of the people who fall in love with and adopt his kitties.

We have so many people to thank for making this project a success. This came at a time when we had very, very little space in terms of foster homes for these cats, but with the help of the community we have made it work. Tommy's neighbors, especially Becky and Johnny, have been the "trap watchers" saving us from having to run surveillance on set traps. The neighbors also adopted several of the kitties after they received medical care. San Juan Veterinary Hospital, Banfield Lincoln and Animal Spay Neuter provided the veterinary care and spay/neuter services. Dani of Itsie Bitsie Rescue helped with the abandoned litter of tiny babies by bottle feeding them. Binky Foundation and Petco Foundation provided funds and supplies to help us with the costs. The volunteers of FieldHaven work tirelessly every day making a better life for all the kitties in our care. And, we are always grateful for support from the community of Lincoln.

You can follow the progress of Tommy's Cats on Facebook. Please consider donating to help Tommy's Cats find their way to forever homes. Your support is needed to help us with the expenses in making this happen!

## A Day in the Life of the Shelter Manager At FieldHaven Feline (and an occasional Canine) Rescue...

By Jen Paul as told to Lorraine Davis

I was late for work – nothing unusual about that. Several kitties at the shelter awaiting intake – nothing unusual about that either... Concentrating on getting to FieldHaven, out of the corner of my eye I saw a small dog crossing East 12<sup>th</sup> Street going towards McCourtney Road in Lincoln. My instincts say “stop car, get dog”. The kitties will just have to wait. After 20 minutes of chasing the puppy he stopped in a yard with a water bowl. I was horrified to see that he couldn’t take a drink because there was a thick rubber band tied around his snout! His mouth was very swollen around the tight band. This was a pup definitely in need of rescue!



Sully—A canine rescue success story.

A quick call to Banfield Pet Hospital where Dr. E and staff said to bring him in immediately. I scooped him into my car and went back across town to the hospital. The rubber band was cut off allowing my little rescue pup to drink...and drink and drink. By estimation he had been without water for a couple of days. Imagine the fear and frustration this poor guy went through in his effort to remove the torturous rubber band.

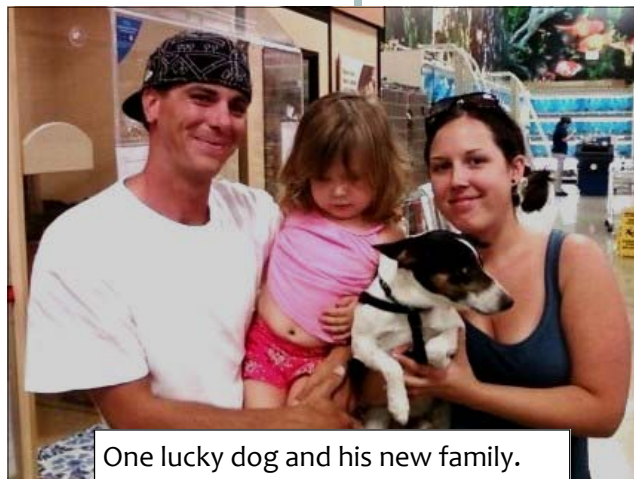
Why would someone be so cruel as to place a rubber band around a dog’s snout and leave him out in the hot sun? Not a question we’re likely to have an answer to.

Fortunately, this pup’s luck took a serious turn for the better that day. Jennifer, a Pet Nurse at Banfield fell head over heels for the little Jack Russell/Rat Terrier and took him home to be part of her family. His name is now Sully and he is living like a prince!

Thank you so much to Banfield for helping Sully. I love Banfield! They are so compassionate and always put a pet’s welfare above everything else.

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One lucky dog and his new family.

## C is for C.A.T.

... and community and caring and creativity.

Here are a few more of our extraordinary C.A.T (Community/Cat Assistance Team) volunteers.

**Nancy “Where There’s A Will There’s A Way”**

**Kuhlman** – Have a cat that needs re-homing and there’s no room at FieldHaven? Never fear, Nancy will guide you expertly through our Courtesy Listing service where the kitty gets all the benefits of becoming a FieldHaven cat without ever coming to the shelter. Cats stay in their familiar home but are advertised for adoption on FieldHaven’s website, Pet-Finder, Animal Planet, USA Today, New York Times and various other national media outlets – where the monthly audience is 4.7 million viewers! Not content to stop there, Nancy often helps Courtesy Listers bring their kitty to PetSmart or Petco to display their pet for adoption in our valued space in the adoption center! Nancy’s efforts resulted in nearly 20 adoptions last year - kitties that may have otherwise been surrendered to municipal shelters.

**Maureen “Matchmaker” Moss** – Often the first voice of FieldHaven a potential adopter hears is Maureen’s. Nearly 30% of our adoptions last year began with an online adoption survey. Maureen very promptly (often within minutes) calls the potential adopter and discusses their survey with them. She doesn’t screen, interview, interrogate or cross-examine but sets out to graciously ask just the right questions and set the stage for making a perfect match. Maureen never fails to let adopters know just how honored we are that they are considering a FieldHaven kitty for their home.

Would you like to volunteer with C.A.T.? No experience necessary! We’ll start with your talents and train you on the rest. There are lots of ways to get involved. Whether you want to be on the “front lines” or spend some time logging the information into our computer, FieldHaven needs you.

Call or Drop us an email today to sign-up.



# Grants...Graces...Gratitude

By Sabina Pellissier

As the volunteer tasked with writing grants for FieldHaven I have learned more than I ever thought I would about the *business* end of rescuing cats. I spend most of my FieldHaven time researching the thousand of charitable organizations around this wonderful country of ours seeking new sources of funds to help pay for SNAP, TRAP, Fostering and all the other programs we work so hard on.

In late 2009 the Greg Biffle Foundation, an organization established in 2005 by NASCAR driver Greg Biffle and his wife Nicole, chose to recognize FieldHaven's SNAP program with a grant of \$1,500.

Now it is not ordinarily possible to tie a specific cat (or cats!) to specific funds. We receive donations for our SNAP program from several sources, and the money is put in one account and carefully and exclusively used to pay for the surgeries and vaccinations that are so desperately needed in our community.

But in early spring of this year Shelter Manager Jen Paul got a call at the trailer that would not only lead to seven lives saved and a new FieldHaven family member (welcome Kiley!) but would serve to illustrate just how critically important the grant makers are to fulfilling our mission.

The grant from the Greg Biffle Foundation came in just at the point when our existing SNAP funds were dangerously low. It was at that time that Jen answered a call from Kiley up in Wheatland. Our wonderful Jen did what she always does and went the extra ten miles to help Kiley with a problem that many of you will recognize as all-too-familiar in our rural community.

Kiley's story – which she tells in her own words below – illustrates exactly the reason why FieldHaven was born, and *its beautiful outcome is a tribute to the generosity and spirit of the Greg Biffle Foundation and the FieldHaven volunteers who make these miracles every day.*

Dear FieldHaven and SNAP

I can't begin to explain how much I appreciate all you have done for me in my situation of dealing with the feral cats I have encountered when purchasing my new home. I bought my home in May of 2009 and it came with 7 little presents hiding under my shed. I never had any experience with feral cats and was very nervous and upset at the situation I found myself in.

I called the shelter in my county and they explained to me that they could not loan me cages nor could they come out and assist me in catching or fixing the wild cats. I asked what am I supposed to do? The girl from the shelter said I was to go to my city council meeting and ask that they put a pound in my city so I had somewhere to take the cats and help me deal with them. I live in a small town between Yuba City and Lincoln. It isn't big enough to have its own shelter yet this was their suggestion. Meanwhile, the feral cats under my shed were getting bigger and almost ready to mate and have litters of their own. What a terrible system we have to assist people in these situations. After this I called a few rescues who suggested FieldHaven and that is when I met Jenifer. She was awesome. She loaned me two traps and since I had 8 cats to catch she let me keep them until all of them were caught and fixed. That wasn't the only saving grace she had offered, she also said that I could take the cats to a nonprofit spay and neuter clinic in Auburn that would spay and neuter the cats for free. I felt very guilty not having the money to pay for all of them myself because usually I am very self sufficient, but with the cost of their food and driving to Auburn from where I live in Wheatland, my budget was stretched just to its max and yes, \$30. would have broke me and I probably wouldn't have had even one of them fixed at all or not in time before they bred again. Jenifer was there for me when I needed to talk as well. Sometimes it was overwhelming dealing with all these cats myself and she told me what I

had to do to take control of the situation.

The financial assistance was of a GREAT GREAT Help. I can't imagine what would have happened to these kitties if Jenifer, FieldHaven and the funding from SNAP had never met us. I know there was a reason I bought this house because I don't think any other person would have had the patience and resources to deal with this. I now understand the complications and horrendous outcomes of animals especially dogs and cats that do not get spayed and neutered is. I watch a male cat every day come from the field across the street to feed off the leftovers my 8 feral kitties leave. He is so tore up, ears and face battered, filthy, and just living day to day. I feel so sad that he has to live like this because some irresponsible person didn't do their job. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed when I see how many feral cats are in my neighborhood. I get angry thinking I'm the only person who cares about this problem. I almost feel like giving up and saying, "who cares no one else does". But that is when I think about FieldHaven and Auburn Spay and Neuter and SNAP and think, "If these people are willing to help me mentally and even financially to try to fix this problem and give these animals a chance then it's not so hard. It isn't as bad as it seems knowing there are places, people and organizations willing to assist you and not let you go bankrupt trying to make a change. So thank you dearly FieldHaven. I would have been lost without your assistance and cat traps and money for my 8 feral kitties spays and neuters. They are now doi.ng much better and have a forever home in my backyard to do whatever they please and not cause me any worry of dealing with something that could have easily got way out of control.

Thank you and I believe that FieldHaven deserves the funding because they serve the public in areas where there is no help.

*Kiley*

## Greg Biffle Foundation

This wonderful organization established by NASCAR driver Greg Biffle and his wife raise funds throughout the year and uses it to support animals in need. Without their support for FieldHaven this year we would certainly have had to join the list of those who could not help Kiley and her cats in their hour of need.

Please visit the Greg Biffle Foundation website at [www.gregbifflefoundation.com](http://www.gregbifflefoundation.com). Or find Greg's page on Facebook and send him a message of thanks. Make it on behalf of all of us at FieldHaven and help us show our true appreciation.

## FieldHaven's Circle of Life



Thank you



Field Haven



for helping



spay and



neuter us



ur the best!

## Featured Adoptable

### Dino

Hello! My name is Dino. I am a little shy. I was the last of my siblings Bam Bam & Pebbles to purr. I just wanted to make sure that my foster mom knew it was an important event! Come and let me meet you to decide if you are the next one to hear me purr!



Left: Kiley's "little presents" found living under the shed of her new home. With help from FieldHaven she was able to trap and spay/neuter all of the cats before they could have litters of their own.

# FieldHaven Alumni

## Nellie

Nellie was not quite feral when she came to FieldHaven. She tried hard to become a "house" cat but it just wasn't what she wanted. However, she wasn't completely feral either.

Now she has the best of both worlds, where she keeps the grounds surrounding my gardens and vineyards free of pesky moles and other unwelcome critters. She

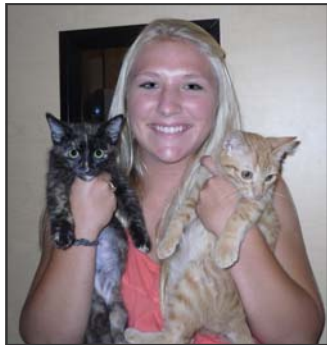


enjoys hanging out with us humans in our outdoor entertainment area and her fellow FieldHaven Rodent Raiders, Smokey and Ruby.

Maureen

## Newport and Ventura's Happy Ending

My name is Newport and my sister's name is Ventura. We were born in a barn where the neighbor had an aggressive pit bull who would have loved to have us for breakfast. Fortunately for us we were rescued by FieldHaven and recently were adopted by Kimberly and her family. They have horses and two dogs and we are very excited about living in a big house with lots of fun things to do. Here's a picture of us with our new owner. Isn't life wonderful?



Submitted by Lorraine Davis

## Featured Adoptable Noodles

Noodles is a playful kitty and loves to be with the other cats. She always wants to be part of whatever you're doing and chats with you the whole time she's with you. She loves to play with toys and runs to the kitty scratch mat to stretch and roll around.



Must have a fishing line toy please! She loves to be cradled like a baby and rocked, and she also loves our cat friendly large dog that lives at FieldHaven. She also like to go outdoors for short times but always wants back in. Noodles is one energetic girl!!!!

## Memorial Donations

- David & Sandra Altman*
- Teresa Cummins*
- Lelia & Chris Hanson*
- Sara Hostetler*
- Caroline Merrill*
- Richard & Mary Norkin*
- F. Pinomaki*
- Laverne Power*
- Vivian Mc Elroy-Skophammer*  
*In memory of Jim Skophammer*
- Vicki (Scout) Valentine*  
*In memory of Elsie*
- Patricia & Fredrick Sehnert*  
*In memory of Sam*
- Laura Cantrell*  
*In memory of Holly*
- Kelly Gunn*  
*In memory of Ellie Steckoeck*



# New Shelter In Progress!

By Joy Smith

**By the time you read this our beloved Cat Trailer will be resting in peace.** In its place, rising from the rubble, will be a spectacular new shelter – larger in size and designed just for the comfort and health of the kitties who stop by to spend time with us enroute to their new and permanent homes and families. Our new shelter will allow us to function so much more efficiently and provide better care for the cats and kittens at FieldHaven.

It has been a long and often stressful journey to this place where we are right now with the construction of the new shelter. It will be beautiful, cheerful and charming – not quite the same charm as the Cat Trailer but a brand of charm all its own. No longer will we need to worry about people – or kitties – falling through holes in the floor, tripping over the uneven surfaces, door with sticky latches not closing and letting adventuresome kitties out into the night or the old swamp cooler that barely blows the sweat off the brows of the hard-working volunteers.

I remember the day we first moved into the Cat Trailer from the first “shelter” our fledging rescue inhabited in the tack room in my barn. We were so excited! We thought we had all the room in the world and could house countless kitties. Well, it hasn't quite been countless, but since that first kitty came across the wisteria-draped front porch of the Cat Trailer and through the front door, nearly 2,000 kitties have called the Cat Trailer home before being adopted. And, somewhere around 3,250 cats owned or cared for by our community stopped by the SNAP (spay neuter assistance program) staging area underneath the stately oak tree shading the Cat Trailer, on their way to the clinic where their lives were changed forever for the better by a simple spay/neuter surgery.

Please come by and celebrate with us as we watch FieldHaven's new home rise from the ground. We have been fund-raising for over 2 years; a daunting task in the face of our nation's worst economy in decades. Here's to you, our fabulous and faithful donors, who have provided the funds to launch the project – we wouldn't be here without you. Thank You!

We are still in need of funds to complete this project but we have faith in our community and our supporters. Faith that the support will come through and help make our (and your) dream come true.

Please visit [www.fieldhaven.com](http://www.fieldhaven.com) for ways you can help with the new shelter. Or, call us at 916-434-6022 – we can't wait to hear from you!

**Here's to you, our fabulous donors who provided the funds to launch this project. We wouldn't be here without you. Thank You!**

## FieldHaven's Youngest Foster Volunteers

By Scout Valentine, FieldHaven Volunteer Coordinator

I would like to introduce two of FieldHaven's youngest volunteers. Four year old twins Jenna and Kiana Fau-cette assist in socializing kittens that I foster. Because my schedule can get very busy at times it is a huge relief to have my babies watched over by such compassionate, responsible little ladies. Under the watchful eyes of their parents they fill that very important role of handling, playing with and most importantly smothering with love the kittens under my care. They know all about the importance of careful handling with babies, bottle feeding, using only safe, appropriate toys plus keeping the kitten and litter box clean.

It just goes to show that you can never be too young or too old to volunteer!



Kiana and Jenna playing with my cat Rio.

# Facebook – it's not just for teenagers anymore!

By Sabina Pellissier

I don't know how it happened! I was one of those people who didn't see the point. "It's a timewaster and I don't have any time to waste" was my standard response when my daughter said, "Mom, you need to get on Facebook!"

But armed with her legendary powers of persuasion and access to my laptop she set to work and I soon found myself an involuntary member of the Facebook community.

For the first few months my lonely account sat there. On the rare occasion that I did log on I might upload a photo from my garden, spend an hour reading what my friends were up to, or more often stare at the screen for half an hour trying to come up with a witty status update that would be worthy among the creative things posted by others.

Now, people use Facebook in lots of ways - photos of vacations, political commentary, random thoughts. You name it, it's probably been posted! After all, that's what it's for, right?

But for some people Facebook is a way to share much more. FieldHaven's Johanna Meinking is one of those people. She too posts pictures of her children, her Farmville scores and other fun stuff. But she also shares some of the amazing, tender, lifesaving, loving and nurturing care that she gives on behalf of the littlest members of our FieldHaven family.



This kittens story from FieldHaven's Facebook page.

Among the daily listing of witty comments, funny pictures and political rhetoric Johanna recently posted ...

*"Tuesday night a 3-4 week old kitten in critical condition was brought into me at our PetSmart venue. She had been found in a bucket by some kids. She was very dehydrated and cold. I ran her to FieldHaven where we gave her fluids, warmed her then gave some supplements to help her along."*

And 2 days later...

*"She is doing well! She needed fluids again yesterday and had to be kept warm as she was unable to maintain it by herself. She was up most of the night Tuesday getting cold and needing calories supplement, fluids and warming. She slept through the night last night after eating a pretty good amount of formula last night. This morning she is toasty warm and on the road to recovery!"*

There are millions of people on Facebook and they are all posting and keeping in touch with friends and family and that's a wonderful thing. But as I cruise the information superhighway these days I often stop in to visit Johanna's Facebook page because she decorates it in a beautiful kitten motif.

**Be sure to visit FieldHaven on Facebook for more of our adventures.**

## Featured Adoptable Rhubarb

What a handsome guy! A steady, eddie sort of guy. He purrs like crickets on a summer night and loves his tummy scratched. Found wandering the streets off Wise Rd.



Please come see me and give me a happy home.

## Upcoming Events

**Second Annual Classics, Cats and Cabernet  
Saturday, Sept 11 2:00pm - 6:00 pm**

*Stroll the beautiful grounds of FieldHaven and enjoy the unique display of rare and beautiful classics - cars, and antique wood boats. Meet the amazing cats of FieldHaven while you enjoy the very best of the area's wines, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and live music.*

**PetSmart Adoptions** — Lincoln (920 Groveland Lane next to Target) Kitties there during business hours. Adoption counselors Sat 10-5 and Sun 11-4

**Petco Adoptions** — Rocklin (Lonetree Drive) Every Sat and Sun 12 -4