



**FieldHaven
Feline Rescue**

Happy
Holidays
from all of us at
FieldHaven!



Contact Info and Hours

Mon-Fri, 10 am - 2 pm
Saturdays 12-4 pm
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Lincoln, CA 95648
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Feline Focus

Holiday 2011

Kittens in the Couch - A Rescue Story

By Julie Anderson

The strange call came in on a Saturday. There were kittens in a couch and many feral and semi-tame cats on the property of a retired man in Lincoln who was getting ready to move. He needed help. More than that, the cats needed help. Desperately.

Although FieldHaven was full and the foster homes were also bursting at the seams, the decision was to take on this project. A plan was put immediately into action.

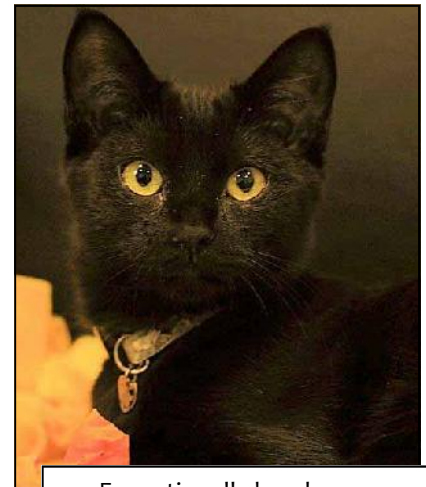
First, the newborn couch kittens arrived. Thin, sickly, and with no mother. They needed urgent care and were whisked away to 2 foster homes with Dawn, one of FieldHaven's medical technicians and another with Charla, a savvy bottle-feeder.

Then some FieldHaven trapping experts got together and brought some older kittens to FieldHaven. They were so weak or hungry that trapping was not even needed. It was determined that their health was too frail to withstand spay/neuter surgery. What they needed was a safe place to get nourishment and regain their health.

Lorraine, Peri and Scout went to further assess the property. The situation was simply heartbreaking. Cats and kittens in various degrees of poor health were scrambling over each other for food. The original caretaker had moved, but some caring neighbors agreed to help FieldHaven volunteers with the feeding until the cats were healthy enough to trap and bring to FieldHaven. Unfortunately, they could not ever be returned to the property as originally hoped. It was in the process of being sold and the new owners had dogs which were not cat friendly.

With more foster homes and FieldHaven's Isolation area acting as a safe room, a total of 38 cats and kittens were removed from the Fruitvale property over a week or more of concentrated trapping.

After spaying/neutering, 16 adults went to the new home of the original caretaker. A home visit was made by Lorraine to ensure the safety



Exceptionally handsome "Beverly Hills" was one of the many lives saved from a heart-breaking situation.



Kittens and cats finally enjoying plentiful food and water.

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A Rescue Story *(Continued)*

of the new property. The owner had taken some of the others on the property he had been able to catch at the time he moved, and appointments were made for spaying and neutering of the rest.

Many of the kittens were shy, and have either been socialized and adopted through FieldHaven's venues or are still in the process of waiting for permanent homes. FieldHaven fosters, Wendy, Susi, and Mark are helping these kitties learn what living in a real home is like.

A perfect barn became home to 3 of the semi-tame young adults where they can live free, yet be safe.

Sadly, 2 friendly young adults tested faint positive for Leukemia and are awaiting further testing. Also, faint positive were 2 kittens. They are safe in a foster home, hoping the next testing will show their immune system has fought off the virus.

As sick as these cats were, it is remarkable that only 1 adult had to be euthanized due to illness and 2 of the tiniest kittens could not be saved.

This was a tremendous example of what motivated volunteers can do to remedy a potentially tragic situation. Great medical care by Dr. Roberta Peterson was a huge help. The trapping, fostering, shelter care, transporting, and adopting out is helping this situation turnaround from being a heartbreak to a happy future for most of these sweet kitties.



Top: The couch mentioned in the initial call to FieldHaven.

When FieldHaven volunteers arrived they discovered a heartbreaking situation.



Raven - One of the Fruitvale kittens when rescued and as he looks today

If you would like to be part of this happy ending, please contact FieldHaven to find out about the kittens and young adults still available for adoption. The leukemia positive cats are in need of foster.

Donations to help cover the cost of their care would also be gratefully accepted. Together, we are saving lives!

FIV : The Truth About Feline AIDS

by Michael J. Engelsgjerd, DVM

Many people have come into a situation where they take a wonderful and loving stray cat into their home, only to subsequently discover that she tests positive for FIV, (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), also known as Feline AIDS. This is a shocking discovery and can poison what should be a joyous, welcoming time. Questions automatically come to mind such as "Will this cat be a risk to other cats?," "How long will this cat live?," or "What would I need to do to keep this, and other cats healthy?" Let me assure you at the outset that many FIV positive cats can live long and wonderful lives with only a few minor safeguards.

What is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and how is it spread?

FIV is a retrovirus, like HIV in humans, that affects the immune system and infects approximately 2-3% of healthy cats, or up to 15% of cats at high risk in the United States. Bites are by far the most common way that FIV is passed. Another route of transmission is from an infected mother to her kittens, during gestation, queening or through nursing. Many kittens that initially test positive for FIV will fight off the disease. There is rarely passage through casual contact, like food bowl sharing or even excessive mutual grooming, so it is even possible in some situations, for positive and negative housemates to coexist without passing infection. Cats that are at greatest risk are those already sick with another disease, such as FELV, and cats that spend time outdoors with the potential for being bitten by an infected carrier.

What does FIV do to a cat?

FIV positive cats may live without any symptoms for years. Eventually infection will lead to a decline in the immune system, hindering the cat's ability to protect itself against other infections. The same bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and fungi that are found in the everyday environment causing no problems in a healthy cat, can cause severe ill-



Dr Michael J. Engelsgjerd, DVM
Chief of Staff/Charter Owner
of Banfield at the Lincoln Petsmart.
Giving great care to FieldHaven cats.

ness in those with a weakened immune system. Some common symptoms that appear in cats with FIV are: poor coat, loss of appetite, gingivitis, recurrent infections of any body system, persistent diarrhea, slow weight loss, blood diseases, or various cancers.

How should I care for my FIV positive cat?

- Keep your FIV cat indoors to decrease risk of passing to other cats and to keep her safe.
- Feed a nutritious diet +/- vitamin supplements or omega fatty acids; no raw meat, eggs, or unpasteurized dairy products.
- Maintain all recommended preventive care such as spaying/neutering, vaccines, lab tests, and well checks.

Bring your cat to the vet at the earliest

sign of illness!

So you see that if you discover one of your cats has FIV, it does not necessarily lead to a death sentence. It is best if infected and non-infected cats be housed separately, but due to the relatively low chance of passage with casual contact, even cohabitation can work if the situation allows.

Available to sponsor or adopt, Goliath is a senior gentleman positive for FIV.



Sweet Goliath's name represents a giant warrior, but he's really more of a quiet gentle giant. He'd been around the town for quite a few years and finally settled in with some feral kitties at an abandoned church in Lincoln. The volunteers at FieldHaven are famous for making sure that feral colonies are spayed and neutered to prevent more homeless cats and that they have care givers to make sure that food and water are available. He

is not a feral cat, just kind of a quiet dude that adopted the kindness of the church care giver. Since he is tame, FieldHaven decided that they should bring him to their shelter and find him a loving home for the remainder of his life. Currently, he is living with a very caring foster mom.

**FieldHaven's rescued cats
thank you for your support.**

It saved their lives.



New Sponsored Cats

FieldHaven Sponsored Cats Lindy and Hot Rod are pleased to welcome new cats to the rank of Sponsored FieldHaven Cats. Sponsored Cats have a low chance of being adopted due to health or other issues. Because FieldHaven will take care of them for the rest of their lives if they do not get adopted, they are looking for loving donors who will help support their care with monthly donations. If you would like to sponsor Lindy, Hot Rod, or any of the new cats, click "Sponsor Me" under the "Programs" link on the FieldHaven site, or give us a call or email. Any amount will help keep them as healthy as possible, and you will get monthly updates on your sponsored kitty.

Let us introduce you to 2 of the new Sponsored Cats: Goliath and Felicia. We know they are very special needs kitties, but we also know they deserve long and happy lives. Please consider sponsoring one of them while they wait for their perfect person to come and adopt them.



Goliath, a gentle giant tested positive for FIV, the Feline Immune Virus. He is available to sponsor. See his complete story on page 3.



Facebook literally saved Felicia 's life! The staff and volunteers at the county shelter she was surrendered to recognized that Felicia deserved a chance before her time was up. They posted her info on a Facebook page devoted to blind kitties. A FieldHaven staff member saw the posting and before you know it Felicia was at FieldHaven. During Felicia's exam she was found to be very social and loving. But we found that she had an additional handicap - she is also deaf!! You actually have to look hard before you realize Felicia's handicaps. She is very well adjusted and pretty unflappable. Every so often she'll howl. I guess she thinks we can't hear her - but really we hear her very well, she just can't hear herself! Felicia is a great spokesperson for FieldHaven and you can often find her at outreach events. Because she cannot see or hear the noises and commotion, she is perfect for going to an event!