

Feline Focus

FieldHaven Feline Center Newsletter



AUTUMN 2018

Gypsy and Noah: Alumni of FieldHaven

Joy Smith, Executive Director

Each time we place a cat or kitten into a new home our wish for a long, comfy life goes with them. We have heard from many of our alumni adopters over the years and cherish each story we get. Every photo is looked at with loving and thankful eyes, but the stories and photos of Gypsy and Noah are among the most precious of all, as their story was the start of FieldHaven and all that it is today.

In July of 2003, before the concept of trap, neuter, return (TNR) was widespread, sisters Joy Smith and Jann Flanagan heard about a ranch that had several feral cats with kittens. They trapped them and, once the kittens were weaned, the mamas were spayed and returned to the Hutchinson Ranch where they were originally found. The kittens were socialized and soon ready for adoption.

Looking for a kitten, Terri and Howard Parker came to a little makeshift "booth" set up in Beerman's Plaza at the Lincoln Farmer's market and fell in love with one of these kittens – a little waif who was named Laurel. Gently petting and swooning over her as she sat in the palm of Howard's hand, they fell in love. Laurel, soon named Gypsy, had purred her way right into Terri and Howard's life and hearts. Even better, they returned several weeks later to adopt Noah, one of the other kittens up for adoption.

Throughout the last fifteen years, Terri and Howard have stayed in touch, and it was with great sadness that we learned Gypsy had passed away earlier this year, close to her 15th birthday. As sad as this was to hear, it brought us full circle back to the beginning of FieldHaven. Her story, after all, is exactly why we pour so much of our hearts, souls and energy into saving these deserving, beautiful little beings. It is hard to imagine that FieldHaven might not exist if not for Gypsy, Noah, and all those kittens saved back in 2003. Instead of being kittens who perished in a feral colony, they lived long and wonderful lives filled with love. How fitting it is that Gypsy's birth was the inspiration for FieldHaven and her passing to the Rainbow Bridge occurred as we celebrated our 15th anniversary.

And Noah? Noah is still loved and cherished by Terri and Howard. As Terri wrote recently, "Noah is a character and, at this rate, he may be with us for your 20th anniversary!" We sure hope so.

FieldHaven staff and volunteers love hearing from our "alumni." Every story and photo reinforces why we do what we do. Do you have an alumni story? Please share it on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FieldHaven/>



(Top) Terri and Howard Parker with Laurel/Gypsy in 2003.



(Left) Gypsy all grown up, and Noah taking time to smell the flowers. (Bottom) Gypsy and Noah, pals forever.



NEXT STOP: SEATTLE



Scott loading up the precious cargo



Taking care of business at one of many kitty pit stops



Mama and her kittens



Volunteers and cats arrived safely at Seattle Animal Shelter thirty-nine hours later

When FieldHaven heard that Yuba County Animal Care Services (YCAC) needed transport for 20 kittens to another shelter we had to act. With kitten season in full swing, kittens were arriving every day, sometimes left in boxes at the door when the shelter was closed, leaving the shelter critically overcrowded. The only problem was that the receiving shelter was hundreds of miles away in Seattle!

It was not long before staff members Scott and Jyll stepped up for the challenge. They arrived at YCAC at 5:00 pm on a Tuesday prepared to take the twenty abandoned kittens on the long journey north. A shelter worker then stated, "If there is room, we have five nursing mothers with kittens." Before long, Jyll and Scott had their car loaded with not twenty, but forty felines headed for new lives in Washington.

Anyone who has traveled with children knows about bathroom stops and kittens are no different. Every two hours, Scott and Jyll stopped to scoop and clean each and every carrier. At each rest stop, people wanted to know about this incredible, lifesaving journey and cheered them on.

They drove through the night arriving in Tacoma earlier than anticipated and found a park where they could rest in the shade and recheck each kitty before delivering their priceless cargo. Soon they were at Seattle Animal Services, where each cat and kitten was received into loving, open arms.

It was a thirty-nine hour labor of love for Scott and Jyll to deliver a carload of forty deserving kitties who now have a future and are sure to find loving homes where they can give and receive love, comfort and purrs for the rest of their lives.

The Big Fix in Meowysville

Marysville, California: a little city with a BIG problem. A cat problem. There are cats everywhere.

For years, without any non-lethal resources, people in Marysville were trapping and killing feral and stray cats in an effort to control the growing cat population, but their efforts did little to decrease their numbers. Realizing that something had to be done quickly, city officials contacted FieldHaven for help. Their plea of, "What can we do to get the cat population under control?" was the only thing Joy Smith needed to hear to put together a trap, neuter, and return (TNR) team and come to the rescue.

In July, FieldHaven started a city wide TNR program in Marysville. Their newly hired Animal Services Officer Sammons is learning all about feral cats as we work side by side with the community to set up trapping schedules and spay/neuter dates. Every Tuesday at FieldHaven's Hathaway Surgery Suite, a stream of cats from Marysville come through our facility and, after being spayed or neutered, they are released back to where they came from and go on to live much better lives without continued breeding.

Marysville City Council has approved funds for 200 cats to be TNR'd, which is a huge start in controlling the cat population but, there will be many more who will need our help. If you would like to help raise additional TNR funds for The Big Fix in "Meowysville," please contact Rochelle at rochelle@fieldhaven.com or (916) 434-6022.

Your donations will help save lives.



Thank you to the community of Lincoln for voting FieldHaven Marketplace your FAVORITE Thrift Store of 2018!



Nicole, Benay and George

The Marketplace is so much more than a thrift store. Champy's Catfé is an adoption center as well as a place to meet up with a friend or just sit back and relax with the kitties. The Pet Food Pantry distributes food for the pets of low income and others in need. Monthly vaccine and microchip clinics help protect the pets in our community. Volunteers have a super fun place to spend time contributing to a great cause. Your shopping dollars and donations all go towards saving and enhancing the lives of our 4-pawed family members.

2003 - 2018



**FieldHaven
Feline Center**
2754 Ironwood Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
(916) 434-6022

For every Cat in need, a Solution.

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 316
SACRAMENTO, CA

Our website has a
New Look!



Visit FieldHaven.com

HATHAWAY SURGERY SUITE



Another Milestone for FieldHaven

Not only are we celebrating 15 years of caring for cats and kittens, but on June 11th we had a very special happening. The very first spay was done in our brand new Hathaway Surgery Suite! Thank you Dr. Heather Kennedy and RVT, Kimmie Soler! The surgery suite was generously gifted by Mark M. Glickman in honor of his beloved kitty, Hathaway.

