

15 Years, Thousands of Solutions

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1 – Introduction

Text (0:00):

“FieldHaven Feline Center Presents...” / opening credits

Joy Smith (0:00):

People often ask me what caused me to start FieldHaven, why did we start FieldHaven? I’ve always loved animals, always been an animal person. Growing up on a farm in New Jersey, we always had a lot of different animals. I was always the “cat person.” I loved cats from the time I was a small child, and I always wanted to do something for animals, and when I had the opportunity to start FieldHaven, it was going to be something I would just do kind of on the side and save a few animals, and it just grew and grew. It took hold in the community of Lincoln.

Text (0:31):

“15 Years, Thousands of Solutions: The Story of FieldHaven Feline Center”

2 – The Beginning

Text (0:35):

The Beginning

Joy Smith (0:35):

It started with having a few litters of kittens in the tack room of my horse barn and then it grew from there to where we moved the shelter into a mobile home that was on our property.

Janice Covington (0:50):

It was small and homey.

Scout Valentine (0:52):

Our medroom was probably smaller than the average closet.

Sandy Stewart (0:57):

Things were a little crude then, but wonderful.

Joy Smith (1:00):

We have come a long way since then.

Sandy Stewart (1:03):

One of the things I most remember about the trailer is the floors. The floors, they had tried to make it less sterile and crummy. They had taken paint and they just dribbled it all over the floors, different colors of paint, which made it kind of festive, you know? And, of course, kitties everywhere, in the small space that were climbing on everything. It was just kind of a joy in it's own...it had its own personality for sure.

Joy Smith (1:34):

We quickly outgrew it and it was time for us to move on.

Scout Valentine (1:38):

I was here the day we tore it down. It was pretty funny. We did get a couple people out there with sledgehammers that had been there for years and wanted to put a hole in the walls.

Volunteer 1 (2:12):

Ready?

Jen Paul (2:20):

Again?

Joy Smith (2:21):

Yeah, keep going!

Scout Valentine (2:23):

Enjoy it!

Volunteer 2 (2:26):

I know, it's sad!

Jen Paul (2:27):

It's hard!

Joy Smith (2:31):

Alright! Whoa!

Volunteer 3 (2:34):

If I do it this way, it doesn't hurt so much.

Joy Smith (2:39):

Alright!

Joy Smith (2:51):

So we began a campaign in 2009, I believe, to raise the funds to build the shelter that we have today, which is absolutely gorgeous. We worked with the University of California, Davis, the Koret Shelter Medicine Program, to design the shelter. We had a lot of support from donors to fund the shelter.

Scout Valentine (3:15):

It seemed like it took forever until we had the new shelter and in that interim, we still had cats, and so we ended up putting them in the very small garages. We ended up making that the shelter, so we never stopped working, we just had to move situations around.

3 – September 60

Text (3:32):

September 60

Joy Smith (3:32):

In 2014, we received a call about a home that was greatly overcrowded with a lot of cats that were sick and very unhealthy. We reached out to the homeowner, who was very open to getting help. We went to that home and we brought in nearly sixty cats that were in all sorts of stages, from very newborn from just a couple days old to several older cats, in all conditions of health. Many of the cats had what's called feline herpes virus, which is an eye disease, if left untreated, will cause severe infections in the eyes. Many of the cats had very severely infected eyes from the herpes virus. We worked with Dr. Horikawa of Animal Eye Center, who provided us guidance and treatment plans for each of the cats. Our volunteers and staff worked around the clock for several months to treat these cats. Only one cat completely lost his vision, and that's Champy. He was completely blind when he came in.

Scout Valentine (4:48):

And he, that was his name. She had named him, the woman who had all the cats. That wasn't, you know, these names that they have were not names we came up with. Champy just had, you know, a great personality, and it began to shine through as he got better.

Joy Smith (5:04):

Every other cat retained vision in at least one eye. Some cats did lose one eye. Every other cat besides Champy has at least some vision. We're very proud of that and grateful to Dr. Horikawa for providing that guidance and that medical expertise to us. She also did surgery on several of the cats and we were very blessed to have a great surgical suite. And all of the cats have been adopted out into homes now.

4 – The 2nd Chance Ranch

Text (5:40):

The 2nd Chance Ranch

Joy Smith (5:40):

We have the 2nd Chance Ranch, which we opened last year. That is for cats that really have no place else to go, like feral cats, semi-feral cats, cats that have behavior issues that prevent them from being part of a family. So the cats that go into the 2nd Chance Ranch are then rehomed in places where they need Rodent Rangers – any place that needs rodent control. That's where the Rodent Rangers can be adopted to.

Linda Howard (6:08):

One of our staff people, Jen, is the one that pretty well determines – interviews people to determine which is the best barn program for them.

Jen Paul (6:18):

We also, at 2nd Chance Ranch, determine if they're tame or feral. This one was tame and her name is Karma, and when she first came here to Buck's Barn inside the 2nd Chance Ranch, the volunteers said, "She will tear your face off," but look at her now! And that's because this is a quiet, calm area with very large spaces for cats, so we can determine if they're going to be tame or feral. A lot of the feral cats here were from a garbage dump or a situation where somebody was harming or harassing them. We get them spayed and neutered, and then we adopt them out as barn cats, and we use Alley Cat Allies® protocol for adopting out feral cats. You really never, ever want to relocate a feral cat unless they are in danger of death. It's very dicey expecting them to live in a new home or a new barn. Imprinting is important. It's three to four weeks of imprinting them. Our Spay/Neuter Assistance Program started in '05 and every Tuesday, we can help twenty to twenty-three cats get spayed and neutered. We drive them to the low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Auburn, called Animal Spay Neuter. Different volunteers can pack their car with twenty cat carriers and then another volunteer brings them all back, and then either the community picks them up or they are FieldHaven cats that can be adopted out. And the exciting thing is we are about to open our own spay and neuter clinic and we'll have spay/neuter here on Thursdays. There is such a great need for more low-cost spay/neuter clinics. Everybody – almost, I'd say 90% of the public – is onboard to spay and

neuter the feral cats and return them to where they came from, but we are finding that we need lots more low-cost spay/neuter clinics, so FieldHaven gets to have one. Yes!

5 – FieldHaven Marketplace

Text (8:31):

FieldHaven Marketplace

Joy Smith (8:31):

FieldHaven Marketplace is one of our biggest revenue sources for FieldHaven, for our operating funds, and it is a store in downtown Lincoln. It's a very large store, about three to four-thousand square feet. It's right smack in the middle of downtown Lincoln and we have there a thrift store, we have vintage items, lots of great clothes, furniture, I mean, just a wide range of wonderful things and wonderful shopping. We have volunteers who refurbish jewelry and that is one of our biggest sellers and we're very well-known for our jewelry at the Marketplace. We also have there Champy's Catfé, which is an adoption center set up like a coffee shop, where you can just come in and just have a cup of coffee or tea or bring your lunch in or bring your laptop and do some work and just sit there and enjoy the cats and maybe fall in love and adopt one. So, FieldHaven Marketplace is always looking for volunteers to help out there, make donations of items to sell, and of course, we love it when you come in and shop.

6 – Classics, Cats & Cabernet

Text (9:37):

Classics, Cats & Cabernet

Diane Kemper (9:37):

When you say "Classics, Cats & Cabernet," it is classic, because it's all about the cats, the wine's really good, it's all about the cars, and it's all about the fun.

Scout Valentine (9:49):

I had heard about Classics, Cats & Cabernet and it was the first year, maybe a month away from auction, and not much was in place, so I asked to help with that.

Trish Milthorpe (9:58):

We have been catering from 450 to 550 people for the last three years. We're giving people good food, hot food, and pretty fast. The dessert bars we had last year, they were very good. Nice and rich, so you didn't need a lot. We're having the same again this year.

David Sobon (10:21):

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to Classics, Cats & Cabernet. Are we having a good time at FieldHaven?

Scout Valentine (10:27):

My favorite part is seeing people during the live auction so excited, people jumping up and down, seeing people screaming.

Sharon Kurth (10:36):

I think by that time, people are filled with wine and filled with food and the evening is still young. They have a number of people that go around. They're dressed as cats and they go around to the different tables and, you know, say, "This is the last bid, no, this is the last bid!" and so, you see all this activity and excitement.

Diane Kemper (10:57):

It's really interesting to see the people that come through the shelter. They're looking at the kitties, they want to take the kitty home, and they're not too sure they're ready to.

Trish Milthorpe (11:05):

Everybody that I come across all day has a smile on their face and they're praising what we're giving them for the money.

Janice Covington (11:15):

There's just so much to see.

Trish Milthorpe (11:18):

There's the photo booth, there's popcorn, there's free ice cream to begin with during the day, and of course, there's the display of vintage boats and cars.

Barry Fowler (11:27):

I'm a boat guy, love seeing the collector boats, the old mahogany ones. My favorite part of being a sponsor is knowing I'm helping out a very good organization. I just wanna do everything I can to help out FieldHaven.

Janice Covington (11:39):

Everybody's happy even though we're exhausted. Yeah, we did it, we pulled another one off!

Trish Milthorpe (11:44):

You need to come to CC&C. We provide a whole day for them and they love it.

7 – Why Support FieldHaven?

Text (11:51):

Why Support FieldHaven?

Linda Hutchinson (11:56):

They get to help the cats and help save cats and especially those who have health

issues, special needs cats, and stuff like surgery, and things that if they could support FieldHaven, that would be awesome because we're not funded by the state and it's all by sponsorships and donations.

Sandy Stewart (12:18):

Well, it saves the county a ton of money, to start with. Kitties mate when they're unbelievably young and they can have litters just on a – well, not like rabbits, but nearly – so we're cutting down on the number of feral kitties and kitties that accidentally get pregnant, those that hope to. So, I think it's that, plus just the rewards of being a part of something that is so good. It's just a...this is just a fabulous place. Truly fabulous.

Trish Milthorpe (13:08):

They're supporting an organization that just isn't an intake of cats and an adoption of cats. We're extremely active in the community. We provide low-cost spay and neuter, we provide low-cost vaccinations and microchipping, all for community cats, and we also have a barn cat program. We instigate TNR, which is trap, neuter, release. We are, at the moment, help rescuing cats from the Yuba/Sutter area, where they've got very little help, but we are helping them. We even started the vaccination clinics up there for the locals up there. They just don't have the facilities up there to help like we're helping in our area, so we're trying to share the love. We also do outreach education with schools and community groups like scouts and girl guides, and they contribute here, too, as part of their education, you know, as organizations, they come out and they do volunteer work. We also provide the ability for kids at school who have to do four hours of community service. We take them on as well, so we're sharing a whole lot of active help within the local community. You can do a monthly giving from a small amount to a large amount, it's up to you, and we would really love to have some people volunteer. The volunteers here are a family. We're one big caring family and I love the place. Thank you.

Linda Howard (14:54):

I would tell them because of the funding, we don't have anything, any funding from the county or the state or the SPCA, anything like that, that all of this comes from the generosity of people that care about animals, and also if they're frustrated with stray cats, that we're getting to the source of it and we can help people get to the source of it.

Diane Kemper (15:24):

It's to watch the kitties go out the door. I mean, they come in, people look, and they look, and they look, and then they walk in, and then all the sudden, there's one little kitty who looks at them, and you can just hear it in that kitty's voice...it just says, "Adopt me! Adopt me! Adopt me!" and that's the important, the really exciting part of it. You get a little twing in your heart because when you get in that adoption room, you fall in love with every one of the kitties that are there and you don't want any of them to leave, but they've got to

leave. I'm still amazed at FieldHaven and what they do and how it works. It's, to me, a very exciting place to work at.

Roxie Edgett (16:11):

I mean, every single kitty will touch my heart in one way or another. Everybody gets along great, so it's one of the best places I've ever worked in my life.

Jen Paul (16:22):

I'm very clear about why people should support FieldHaven, without a doubt. First of all, I think we've got a lot of divine intervention here, or whatever one chooses to call it. The second reason is the people that are here are the most courageous, biggest hearts...Truly special people are attracted to FieldHaven and we have 200+ of those type people who help. The third reason is Joy – Joy Smith and our board of directors is extremely forward thinking and they make sure that the staff is trained appropriately and they make sure that we are on the cutting edge of being the best – they call it best practices type of shelter, meaning our shelter is always the most modern, cutting edge, guiding other shelters. And don't forget! Spay and neuter, spay and neuter, spay and neuter your pets and your weird friends and relatives, too.

Text (17:27):

Thank you for supporting FieldHaven Feline Center over the past 15 years and years to come! / end credits