

FieldHaven Feline Center

2754 Ironwood Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
(916) 434-6022

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For more information:

Joy Smith: (916) 300-8166
Kimberly Wade: (904) 294-1914



FieldHaven Feline Center Welcomes New Executive Director

July 16, 2024

Lincoln, CA – FieldHaven Feline Center is pleased to announce Makenna Gwaltney as their new Executive Director! Makenna is already off to a fast start, working closely with Founder and Ambassador, and former Executive Director, Joy Smith.

Makenna joined FieldHaven in 2022 as the Hathaway Spay & Neuter Clinic Manager. Now as Executive Director, she is thrilled to continue to lead a talented and passionate team that saves lives, keeps families together, and creates a better future for pets and their people.

“When Makenna came to work at FieldHaven two years ago, I recognized a rising star. During the past two years she has shown that she is the very special person to lead FieldHaven into the future. It is my honor to hand over the Executive Director reins to Makenna and I am eagerly anticipating working with her as I move into a new role and semi-retirement,” said Smith.

“I am honored and excited to continue my journey with FieldHaven as Executive Director. Over the past two years, I have witnessed our team's incredible dedication and compassion for helping every cat in need. The commitment to finding solutions is truly inspiring, no matter the challenge. From my first day, I recognized Joy's visionary leadership, and I am thrilled that our visions align to further the success of FieldHaven. For 21 years, FieldHaven has been a beacon of hope for cats in need, and I look forward to upholding this proud legacy. Cheers to the future!” said Gwaltney.

Before joining FieldHaven, Makenna dedicated over a decade to Itsie Bitsie Rescue, a neonatal kitten and puppy rescue based in the Sacramento area. She served as a Board Member and later as Executive Director during the global pandemic, demonstrating her strong leadership and commitment to animal welfare.

Makenna's experience extends to her role as a Senior Community Outreach Coordinator for Donate Life California, where she educated communities on the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation across a service area from Santa Rosa to Reno, Nevada. She also worked on the Donate Life tissue recovery team, where she worked around the clock to recover human tissue for live-saving transplants. Her academic background includes a Bachelor's in Family Studies from Sacramento State University and an Emergency Medical Technician Certification from Sierra College. Outside the office, you will find Makenna backpacking in the Tahoe National Forest with her husband, Bryce, or making candles that give back to local animal welfare organizations through her small business, the Paw-sitive Candle Company. Makenna has two rat fur-babies at home, Ghost and Shadow.

FieldHaven started in 2003, operating out of a trailer on a private, 10-acre horse ranch, with a handful of feral cats. By 2008, it was apparent the community's needs were great and FieldHaven's facilities were small. A campaign to raise funds to build a state-of-the-art center was launched and completed in 2011. The innovative design of the shelter, located on that same ranch, is now recognized as a model for improving the health, safety, and adoptability of rescued felines. FieldHaven's programs are funded through donations and private support, and they appreciate the generosity of the community. To get involved or donate, please call (916) 434-6022 or visit www.fieldhaven.com.

Organization

Founded in 2003, FieldHaven Feline Center is a progressive nonprofit animal welfare organization who offers innovative solutions for cats and people in need while enhancing their lives. They operate a free-roaming cat adoption facility, thrift store marketplace and spay/neuter clinic. For more, visit www.fieldhaven.com.