

## SAVE A KITTY FERAL CAT PROGRAM, INC.

Publisher SAK Volunteers  
Parkersburg, WV

Volume No.3

Issue No.3

Date 3rd Qtr. 2006

### NEWSLETTER

[www.saveakitty.org](http://www.saveakitty.org)

**Rummage Sale a success:** Special thanks to our supporters who donated items for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual rummage sale. We raised \$1,163.57 for our sterilization fund. As of this newsletter, we have sterilized 301 cats and re-homed 127 cats and kittens. Special thanks to our volunteers who worked so hard preparing, setting up and cleaning up after the sale. We hope to have an even bigger sale next year. It's a lot of hard work but so worth it!

**WI Success story:** Special thanks to Kathy Fox and George Hammett, our WI caretakers. They have worked hard to help the many cats located there. To date, Kathy and George are responsible for coordinating 28 sterilizations. The number of lives saved is amazing! A few of the tame cats have been adopted. Unfortunately, a few of the drop-offs did not survive their welcome of the feral cats. Feral cats are very territorial and tame un-neutered males are at extreme risk when dumped in to feral cat territory. Of the 28 cats we have sterilized, if half are female and half are male, that would mean that 12 females are having 4-6 kittens at least twice a year, on average. Even with a 50% mortality rate for kittens born outside, our grand total after just one year would be 60 kittens. Once those kittens reach the age of 5-6 months, they can also reproduce. Are 28 sterilizations important? You do the math!



Thanks Kathy and George. You've made a big difference in these cats' lives. We would also like to thank Jack and Helen Lemley for the wonderful shelter they built this year for the cats and the special "treats" they provide them daily.

**Athens County Humane Society:** Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program received an email in August, 2006 from the Athens Co. HS asking for guidance on care taking feral cats, for a gentleman feeding 50+ cats. Since the HS was forced to close their doors to the public, they weren't sure where to begin. After much planning, several spay/neuter clinics were organized by Save a Kitty FCP and all but (2) of these cats have been trapped and sterilized. The remaining two will be in our next clinic on October 21. Nineteen of these kitties were relocated to Parkersburg to a new feral cat caretaker, Judy Deem, our own Education Coordinator.



After four weeks of confinement, Judy released her new colony on September 29 on to her twenty-five acres of land. Dr. Kelly Pinkston, DVM and her staff and Nancy Simmons, Director of Help for Animals, Inc. are one amazing crew. They sterilized a total of sixty (60) cats and kittens for the Saturday mobile run in Athens, Oh. We would like to thank them for quickly coordinating this urgent event for us. They are truly dedicated to helping animals and we will be utilizing them often. They specialize in juvenile spay/neuter and have sterilized several (8) week old and up, feral kittens for us. Special thanks to

**Alley Cat Allies** for funding this endeavor. We still have several colonies of 50+ cats and kittens that desperately need our help. If you can donate to this special spay/neuter fund, please mail your contribution to Save a Kitty FCP, PO Box 1442, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

**Volunteer Thank You BBQ:** A special get-together was held for the Save a Kitty volunteers who have worked so hard the last year helping the program. Hosted by Jill Huling, one of our own Board members, a covered dish picnic was held with plenty of good food and cat lovers everywhere. Special thanks to these hard workers who help the cats and kittens all year long.

**Steps to Prevent F.L.U.T.D.:** Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease. Signs of FLUTD include frequent, often non-productive trips to the litter box, blood in the urine, pain or evidence of straining when urinating, excessive licking of the genital area, crying, depression, poor water intake, lack of appetite and vomiting. FLUTD can be serious. Cat owners should promptly seek veterinary treatment. Factors associated with the condition include: stress, obesity, viral and bacterial infections, anatomic abnormalities and genetics. One myth about FLUTD is that dietary ash causes the disorder. Ash, a measure of the total mineral content in a particular cat food, neither causes nor contributes to urinary tract disease.

**Winter preparation a must!** With the winter season quickly approaching, most caretakers are preparing a warm shelter for their colony. Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program, Inc. is very fortunate to have Dick Huling building shelters for our colonies. These wooden shelters are insulated and lined with straw to help keep the kitties warm during the cold weather. Dick has built several shelters for us and we would like to thank him for helping us out. He is one master craftsman. The cats thoroughly enjoy having their own little "cat condo" to live in. If you have lumber to donate or would like to contribute toward this effort, please contact Kandi Habeb @ 482-8987 or Jill Huling @ 489-2249. We would also like to thank his wife Mary, for her patience while we keep Dick so busy.

**Cat Behavior.** Urine spraying is a normal act for most cats, male or female, neutered or not. Unfortunately, it cost many felines their indoor

home. It is a territory marking behavior and is usually performed against vertical objects such as fence posts, bushes and of course your tires, which rival cats may encounter. It is normally restricted to the outdoors because of competition with local pets. Cats rarely spray indoors because the home is usually secure from rivals and needs no further identification. The indoor sprayer is therefore usually a cat that is feeling insecure or threatened and is trying to boost his or her own presence. Any changes in the household such as, redecorating, new visitors, a new baby brought home or the death of a family member can all trigger spraying. The more cats that share a home, the more likely it is that at least one will spray due to the competition. Doors, curtains, windows, furniture legs and black plastic trash bags are all common targets. Urine spraying is reliably halted by sterilization. Older cats of both sexes may feel less secure even in familiar territory and begin to spray to maintain their presence against real or imagined competition. A cat should never be punished for spraying, even if caught in the act, as this will only make it more insecure and spraying more likely. Of course, all cats should be examined by a veterinarian if spraying begins suddenly to rule out any medical reasons.

**Dear Cat Lover by Katrin Hecker:**

Thank you for your support throughout the year,  
now that it's winter we'll need your ear,  
we get through the season on a wing and a prayer,  
not only the cold but the hunger we fear.  
Your sweet generosity will get us through and  
we want you to know, we owe it all to you!  
please don't forget us hidden behind  
the dumpsters and bushes, hoping to find  
Some leftover food, a warm place to stay,  
the typical life of a cat that's a stray  
while we are still waiting for our dream to come  
true:

to spend our lives with a person like you!

**Just a Reminder!** We are still selling Kroger gift cards. If you shop at Kroger or have family and friends that do, please offer them the chance to purchase a card. The card is easy to use and provides Save a Kitty FCP with funds for our spay/neuter program. We are also collecting empty ink cartridges, toner cartridges and unused cell phones for our Cash for Critters program. Please call 482-8987 for information.