



SAVE A KITTY FERAL CAT PROGRAM, INC.

Publisher **SAK Volunteers**

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Date

2nd Qtr. 2007

Parkersburg, WV

NEWSLETTER

www.saveakitty.org

Congratulations to Dr. Leslie Elliott, DVM: We are sending a special welcome to Dr. Leslie Elliott, as she is the new owner of the Mineral Wells Veterinary Clinic located on Elizabeth Pike. Dr. Elliott, who has been very dedicated to the feral cat program, has helped us tremendously. We would like to send her a special thank you and ask that you patronize her facility. Your pets will love her and so will you! Please call (304) 489-2799 to schedule your pet's appointment. Her wonderful staff along with her mother, Elaine Elliott have also been very dedicated to the feral cat program and supported our efforts. Thank you and special wishes from all of us.

3rd Annual Benefit Sale: Save a Kitty FCP will be holding their 3rd annual benefit sale on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Jefferson Elementary School on Plum Street in Parkersburg. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We are asking for donations of items for the sale. Please call one of our members for the drop-off location of donated items. Judy Deem @ (304) 679-5576 or Carol Hanna @ (304) 428-4074. If you have donated to our sale previously, the drop-off location is the same.

Feral Cat Facts: Feral cats are cats that grow up with no human socialization or stray cats that have been outside long enough to revert to a wild state.

- They can usually not be tamed and are most content living outside.
- They often live in family groups called colonies.
- Stray cats are cats that have been lost or abandoned and have joined a feral colony but are not fully wild. Stray cats can usually be re-tamed and placed in homes.
- Estimates are **60-100 million** of these cats in the United States.
- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the non-lethal

population control plan in which entire colonies are humanely (and painlessly) trapped, vaccinated, ear tipped and sterilized by veterinarians.

- Kittens and cats that are tame enough to be adopted are sterilized and then placed in good homes. Adult cats are returned to their colonies to live out their lives under the dedicated supervision of volunteer caretakers. Cat populations are gradually reduced. Behaviors such as the yowling of females in heat or the spraying and fighting of male cats are virtually eliminated. The cats live healthy, safe and peaceful lives in their colonies.

TNR works. Shelters have been euthanizing feral cats for years and there are more of them now than ever. Obviously, euthanasia does not work. **TNR** (Trap, Neuter, Return) allows the cats that are healthy animals but un-adoptable, to continue living their lives with their colony members in the area they call home. Killing feral cats simply because they are not adoptable is unacceptable when Trap, Neuter, Return is a viable alternative. We must all work toward a "no kill" society and call for responsible action toward feral and homeless cats. The fact is that feral cats have declined by 2/3 since the inception of Trap, Neuter, Return. Is it time to change our shelter policies? You bet!

Did You Know? One un-spayed female cat with an average lifespan of twelve (12) years living outside and all her offspring can be expected to be responsible for over 3200 kittens if there is no human intervention.

Many people still believe that a female cat should have one litter of kittens before being spayed. This is **not true** and ridiculous in a day and age where we are euthanizing thousands of baby kittens on a daily basis.

Feral Friends Network: If you would like to join the feral friends network, go to www.alleycat.org today and sign up. You will receive updates and a newsletter. We at Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program consider Alley Cat Allies our “parent resource group”. They provide wonderful information on ways to help feral and homeless cats.

What does the “Perfect” TNR program look like? Communities must work together to make TNR a successful public policy. The perfect TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) program fully involves animal control agencies and residents in an active program of **publicly funded** spay/neuter and TNR outreach. The local shelters must identify ear tipped cats and the location they arrived from in order for the feral cat program to return them to their living area.

- The feral cat program would track all calls received from feral cat caretakers and identify locations where feral cats are living.
- Educating callers about spay/neuter options, with information on how TNR works.
- Loaning humane traps to the public for TNR purposes only, not for trap and kill.
- Helping residents to mediate and solve neighborhood issues about the cats.
- Working to secure publicly funded, low-or-no cost services for the cats they care-take.
- Ensuring that 100% of shelter animals are sterilized before adoption.
- Conducting workshops for caregivers and residents to teach colony management.

Establish a shelter policy that no feral cats are accepted, instead they are sterilized, ear-tipped and released in their home location, which is known when they are brought to the shelter and ear tipped cats are immediately returned to their colony. How do we fund this? We spend millions of taxpayer’s money each year to destroy them, instead lets fix them!

We hope this perfect model TNR program is the norm very soon for our community and statewide.

Special Thanks: We would like to thank the following supporters who kindly donated funds to purchase a gas grill for our July 2nd raffle. We appreciate your support and dedication! They are: Pat Elias, Roger and Jane Brown, Linda Miller, Carol Hanna and Gary and Kandi Habeb.

Vacuum Effect Documented: Feral cats establish territories based on availability of food sources

and shelter. When feral cats are removed from this environment, other cats move in to take advantage of whatever sources of food and shelter are available. They will also travel to look for food, only to return to their home base. A feeding ban will not make the cats go away. Cats bond to their territory and are opportunistic scavengers that can survive on garbage. If not fed by caring citizens, they become more visible as they search for new sources of food. Trap-and-remove, which has been the traditional approach to managing feral cats, **doesn’t work**. If it did, why do we have more feral/homeless cats now than ever? It may achieve a temporary lowering of the cats but un-sterilized survivors breed prolifically and new cats move in to the now-available territory. This is known as the vacuum effect. TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) is the humane, cost-effective solution to managing feral cats. Trap and remove requires continuous trapping and killing, is an unending budget expense for taxpayers and is not supported by a humane community.

True or False? Feral cats are not nurturing or have emotion? **False!** As you can see by the following picture, this feral daddy cat and his male kitten, both sterilized and ear-tipped through Save a Kitty’s TNR program, care very much about each other. Their lives have quality and they deserve to live, just like any other outside creature.



We need your help: We currently have a nice supply of lumber for building cat shelters and feeding bins but we don’t have anyone to build them! If you can help, please call Kandi at (304) 482-8987. Winter will be here soon!



SAVE A KITTY FERAL CAT PROGRAM, INC.

Publisher SAK Volunteers

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Issue No.3

Date

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Parkersburg, WV

NEWSLETTER

www.saveakitty.org

3rd Annual Benefit Sale: The 3rd annual benefit sale was held at Jefferson Elementary School on Plum Street on Saturday, October 6 from 10 am to 6 pm. It was held in honor of National Feral Cat Day, celebrated on October 16. NFCD raises awareness for the many homeless and feral cats and kittens in the United States and the success of TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return). All funds raised go toward our feral and homeless spay/neuter program. Special thanks to all who donated items and to the volunteers who worked the sale.

Special Thanks: Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program would like to send a special thank you to Lori and Jason Limb for their help this year. They have been working constantly to build insulated shelters and feeding stations for our cats and kittens. Many of these wonderful animals will benefit from their hard work this year. They will be enjoying an insulated house to live in during the cold winter months and a nice feeding station to keep their food dry. Thanks Lori and Jason. You are truly special people. Lori is a Massage Therapist, located behind McCarter Chiropractic on Emerson Avenue. Please visit her and repay our gratitude. You'll be glad you did.

Deepest gratitude to our Basket Bingo Sponsors:

The following individuals and businesses have sponsored our Basket Bingo, which will be held on Saturday, November 10th at Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School on Juliana Street. The doors open at 5 pm and the games begin at 6 pm. Early bird tickets are available at the Clothes Tree Consignment Boutique on Dudley Avenue. The price is 20 games for \$20 dollars. Early bird tickets will have a chance to win a beautiful Longaberger basket. We will have door prizes, raffles, refreshments and lots of fun! Hope to see you there! If you have questions, please call Carol Hanna @ (304) 428-4074. Our deepest gratitude to these wonderful businesses and individuals for sponsoring the baskets: St.

Joseph's Ambulance Service, Winans Services, Mountaineer Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Union Trades Federal Credit Union, Kathy Hammett, Der Daug Haus, Atlas Systems, Dunbar and Fowler, Mr. Jim Stealey, Attorney @ Law, Paul Astorg - Astorg Ford, Taco Bell - Mineral Wells, Alice Keife (Coldwell Banker Realty), Carol Hanna, Dr. Judith Kemp and Cindy Mowery, McCarter Chiropractic, Mahone Tire, Evelyn Hartley and friends of Carol Hanna. We truly appreciate your support.

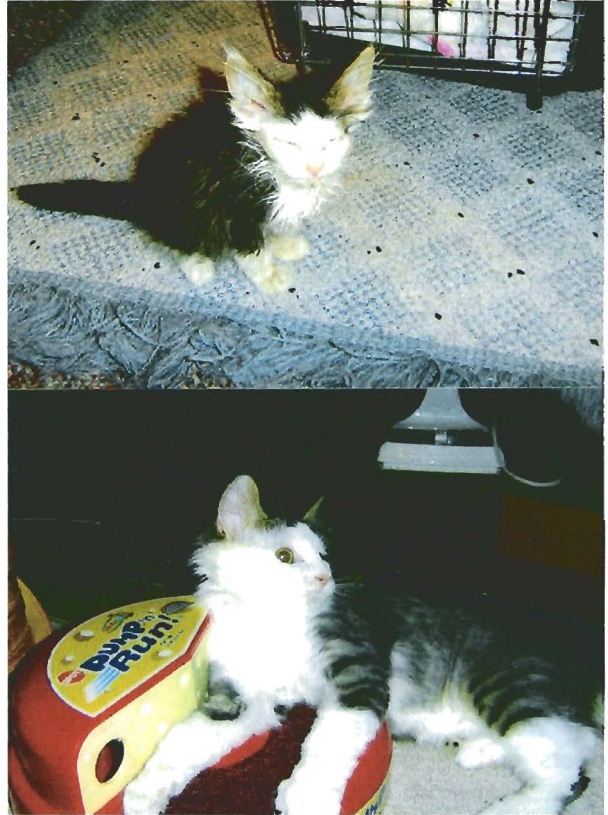
New FIV Information: FIV, commonly known as feline AIDS affects up to 3% of outside cats. Free-roaming, non-neutered cats are at the highest risk of contracting FIV. FIV is contracted primarily through blood transfusions and bite wounds. Fighting between non-neutered males often results in deep bite wounds, which easily transmit the virus. Mother cats have passed the virus antibody on to their kittens. These kittens do not become sick because they don't have the virus but only their mother's antibodies. They are usually found to be free of the antibodies when tested at six months of age or older. Classified as a lentivirus, the FIV virus works slowly to affect the cat's body and can be present for many years before making the cat ill. The FIV virus affects a cat's immune system. Infected cats that die are often lost to common diseases that their compromised immune systems are unable to handle. In many cases, FIV does not cause severe clinical disease, says Michael Stone, DVM, a board-certified internist and Clinical Assistant Professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. With proper care, FIV-infected cats can live many years with a high quality of life and may actually die from causes un-related to FIV infection. FIV can include any or all of the following symptoms: Poor coat, fever, lack of appetite, gradual weight loss, inflamed gums, chronic skin infections, cancer,

chronic urinary tract infections, chronic upper respiratory infections, chronic diarrhea, eye problems, blood diseases and neurological symptoms, such as seizures. Un-spayed females may actually abort their kittens. Cats who are sick with diseases that result from a compromised immune system can be given supportive therapy, such as antibiotics, fluids and other treatments appropriate to whatever illness is affecting them. FIV cats can live many years and should be treated by your veterinarian on a regular basis, along with keeping routine vaccinations current, keeping your FIV cat inside and relieving stressful situations he/she may encounter. Another area of concern is the new FIV vaccine. The form of the vaccine is adjuvant, which means agents have been added to it to help increase the action of the active ingredient. Adjuvants are believed to be the cause of vaccine-related sarcomas, so cats that receive the vaccine could be at a higher risk for cancer in their future. Some researchers have also questioned the effectiveness of the vaccine suggesting that the initial efficacy study may be overstated on the vaccine's effectiveness. Many veterinarians consider using the FIV vaccine only in high-risk situations, such as un-supervised, outdoor cats.

SAKFCP rescues on Network WV: Special thanks to Suddenlink-Channel 2 for featuring our adoptable cats and kittens on their station. We have some wonderful cats and kittens for adoption and they are featured each day at 10 am, 1 pm and 11 pm on Channel 2. This segment will run through the end of the year. If you would like to adopt a cat or kitten or know someone who would provide a wonderful inside home, please contact us at (304) 482-8987.

Say hello to Lancelot: This little sweetie was found with his little head lying in Dutch Ridge Road on the verge of dying. A kind couple by the name of Lance and Jessica Marshall rescued him and enlisted their neighbors, Ingrid and Vonnie Mayer to help him. Judy Deem, our own Board Member was called to assist but soon realized the little guy needed prompt medical care. After much needed attention, Lancelot is thriving and is quite the playful one. He may still need surgery for a urinary tract problem in the months to come but for now is doing quite well. As you can see, he has become quite a handsome gentleman. Thanks to all the "angels" who helped him that

day. Special thanks to Vonnie and Ingrid who now own this handsome little guy. We can only hope the irresponsible person that dumped him will be punished in some way!



Thank You Sam's Club: Special thanks to Sam's Club in Vienna, WV for their continued support. They have provided Save a Kitty FCP with another \$500 community support grant to further the number of cats that will be sterilized. They believe that what we do impacts the entire community and helps the cats and kittens that would not otherwise be sterilized.

Did You Know? Cats can problem-solve. They learn from trial and error and by observation. One study found their power of recall to be superior to that of monkeys and orangutans.

Some animal behaviorists believe that an adult cat has the IQ of a toddler. Most of the evidence is anecdotal. There are very few studies of cats because it's hard to get a cat to perform on cue for a reward. Another sign of intelligence, perhaps?

Believe It Or Not? We still have over 400+ cats and kittens on our sterilization waiting list. There are more and more added each day. Please spay and neuter your pets. It truly saves lives.