



## **FERAL CAT FOCUS INC. COMMUNITY CAT NEWS**

P.O. Box 404, East Aurora, NY 14052

1-888-902-9717 (toll free)

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

Like Us on Facebook

**PROVIDING FERAL & FREE-ROAMING CATS WITH FUNDAMENTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**MARCH 2018**

Winter is generally a quiet time at Feral Cat FOCUS. Winter is when we get organized, set up training dates, get our humane traps in working order, and work to recoup depleted funds used during the spring/summer/fall feral/free-roaming cat Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) season. Well – that is all good in theory! This has been an unusually hard year on feral and free-roaming cats and the 2017/2018 winter has been a hard winter for Feral Cat FOCUS. Here's just a few of the things that have kept us busy this winter:

- We rescued kittens born in December
- We rescued cats hit by cars
- We assisted with the rescue of a friendly stray adult cat found semi-frozen
- We rescued two eight week old kittens found dumped in a cemetery in February
- We rescued very sick cats trying to keep warm in a crawl space under a house

We rescued a kitten found in a wood pile. We think she was thrown from a car. She needed her leg amputated. Her name is Hope.



- A volunteer heard a kitten crying near a feral colony and TNVR project Feral Cat FOCUS has been working on. The kitten was found underneath a mobile home and was stuck in the insulation netting. Two Feral Cat FOCUS volunteers (one who is also a veterinarian) crawled under the trailer to rescue the kitten. We named the kitten Harriett and her leg needed to be amputated. Both Hope and Harriett have found great homes! Perhaps you read their stories on our Facebook page.

### **THEN THERE ARE THE CHAFFEE CATS**

The Chaffee Barn Rescue Project is how Feral Cat FOCUS has been helping to save cats, cats and more cats! Ernest Hemingway's quote "One cat just leads to another" says it all. Feral Cat FOCUS became involved in January when the SPCA Serving Erie County directed us to a case at an abandoned huge old dilapidated barn in Southern Erie County.

When volunteers entered the barn for the first time in January what they found was heartbreaking. There were about 50 cats in the barn—all struggling to survive. The barn has been gradually falling down. One wall had collapsed and there was a large gaping hole exposing cats to the brutal cold weather. They had no shelter. There was no straw or places for them to keep warm during the horrific January cold spell. The water was frozen. One cat was sicker than the next one. They were in desperate need of food, water, shelter, affection and someone to save them.

(Their story is con't on next page)

In cold weather, shelter is as important as food because cats can die from exposure if protection from the elements is not available. Volunteers immediately sprung into action. Straw was trucked in and scattered throughout the Chaffee barn to provide warmth. Lots of Styrofoam coolers were set up as shelters in the barn.



The Chaffee cats were starving and malnourished. Volunteers brought in lots of food. The cats immediately swarmed the feeding dishes.



Volunteers also brought in fresh water and heated water bowls. This cat was especially resourceful. She was so cold she found an empty heated water bowl to sit in.



On a return visit to the barn a volunteer found newborn kittens and a very sick mother cat with a prolapsed uterus in one of the Styrofoam shelters. The kittens were put into foster care and the mother cat was immediately taken from the barn to emergency surgery. It was touch and go for the mom "Essie Mae" but with medical care and a good foster home she is thriving.

Two kittens in the barn were immediately taken to a veterinarian because their eyes were badly infected. One kitten will lose her eye and the other one will need eye surgery.

Every cat removed from the barn has been examined by a veterinarian. Most are sick and suffering with thick mucus and bloody discharge from their nostrils. We've seen the cats sitting on their back legs using their front paws to pull the discharge from their noses. It's all very sad. Some were coughing. Most weren't eating because they couldn't breathe.

The rescued cats are receiving fluids and steaming treatments to open their airways. We gave them four different antibiotics but nothing was working. We sent a culture to Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center where it was discovered that the cats had pneumonia, streptococcus (bacterial infection), and possible lung worm. That is why no one medication was doing the trick.



## ***YOU CAN HELP MAKE 2018 A BETTER YEAR FOR THE CHAFFEE CATS***

Feral Cat FOCUS has removed 38 friendly cats from the Chaffee barn and we are still in the process of gathering up more cats.

The cats are being placed in foster homes (we need more foster homes). When they are healthy they will be spayed/neutered and vaccinated. A few will have to go into good barn homes, but most of these cats are friendly and adoptable as pets. The friendly cats will be turned over to local rescue and adoption organizations to find new homes.

Feral Cat FOCUS would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone that helped with our Chaffee Barn Rescue Project. We could not do any of this without any of them:

- Catt County Cat Nippers (helped us feed cats, trap cats, transport cats)
- Dr. Kathy Makolinski
- Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY
- Dr. Eladio Adorno/Adoring Pets Veterinary Health Center

For a small all-volunteer organization like Feral Cat FOCUS it often amazes us on the enormous amount of work our dedicated volunteers do throughout Western New York. The Chaffee Barn Rescue Project is just the start for 2018. We have been asked to help with two more cases!

The Chaffee Barn Rescue Project has gone above and beyond the costs that Feral Cat FOCUS originally allocated to this project. We are asking for your help. Saving one cat may not change the world, but it certainly will change the world for one of these cats.

- Monetary donations are very much needed. The medical costs for this project are enormous. Please consider making a donation to help. No amount is too small. Make an online credit card donation at [www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org) or mail a check to Feral Cat FOCUS, Attn: Chaffee Cats, P.O. Box 404, East Aurora, NY 14052.
- We need more foster homes to care for these cats until they are healthy. For more information call 1-888-902-9717 and leave a message for Liz or email [liz@feralcatfocus.org](mailto:liz@feralcatfocus.org).
- Adopt a barn or blue-collar working cat. This is a mutual companionship program where an individual with a barn or other appropriate shelter can provide a safe home to a cat while receiving the benefit of rodent control. Read more this program at [www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org).
- Adopt a friendly Chaffee cat from us or one of our rescue and adoption partners. For more information call 1-888-902-9717 and leave a message for Helen or email [helen@feralcatfocus.org](mailto:helen@feralcatfocus.org).

## **2018 TNVR SURGERY SCHEDULE**

Everyone is waiting for our 2018 Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return schedule for booking spay/neuter surgery appointments for feral/free-roaming cats. We will soon kick into high gear and begin scheduling surgery appointments. We normally start mid-late March (depending on the weather).

When our surgery schedule is ready we will post it on Facebook and on our website. To schedule an appointment, you will call Feral Cat FOCUS at 1-888-902-9717 (toll free) and leave a message requesting an appointment.

Feral Cat FOCUS spay/neuter surgeries are performed at Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY located in Lackawanna. Operation PETS follows strict arrival times. You must arrive at 8:00 am (unless you have been directed otherwise).

## **TIPS FOR TRAPPING**

Trapping is tough love! It's normal for cats to thrash around inside the trap. You may be tempted to release a thrashing cat because you fear the cat will hurt itself, but cats calm down once the trap is covered. You are doing this for the cat's benefit. If cat is released, you may not be able to trap her again and she will continue to breed. Most injuries from traps are very minor, such as a bruised or bloody nose or scratched paw pad.

Never trap in extreme temperatures, hot or cold - they are dangerous conditions for cats to be in without food and exposed to the elements. A simple guideline—if it is too hot or cold outside for you, then it is too hot or cold for the cats. Never trap in pouring rain.

NO CAN OR BOWLS of any kind in the traps. Use a small piece of a paper plate when putting in the bait food.

Traps MUST be covered with a trap cover immediately after trapping cat. Keep trap covered until you release the cat following surgery. Trap covers are necessary to keep cats calm when in the trap. Without a trap cover, cats can become agitated and injure themselves trying to escape.

Please remember that a warm area for holding might still be needed.

It is up to you to insure the safety of these cats! Cats are extremely vulnerable once trapped. Place trap somewhere safe, secure and warm overnight. Never place the trap where a contained cat will be in the hot sun, direct wind or in an unsafe location.

Once the trap is set, check the trap every two hours. DO NOT leave a trap set overnight.

Cats must be transported in closed vehicles. NEVER transport cats in an open-bed truck or an unventilated car trunk. These are not safe situations for cats and are extremely terrifying to cats.

For the safety of clinic staff, all feral/free-roaming cats MUST arrive for surgery in a humane trap. No Squirrel Traps. You must use appropriate size trap for cats. Feral Cat FOCUS traps are 30" x 11" x 12".

On the day of your appointment leave cat/s in your car - not on the pavement. Come inside first to complete your paperwork. Operation PETS will let you know when they are ready for your cats.

Feral Cat Focus  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**FUSION**  
Grapevine Banquet Hall  
333 Dick Road - Cheektowaga - 14225  
Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
6 pm - 9 pm  
Vegetarian  
Buffet Dinner  
Music by Grand Knight DJ  
Silent & Theme  
Basket Auction  
Local Artists Featured, including  
Feral Cat Pen and Ink Prints  
By Mark Benz  
Advance: \$35 per ticket  
Door: \$40 per ticket  
Portion of Ticket price can be used as tax deduction.  
visit our website for details  
Register Online: [www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org)