



## 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)

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

**MARCH 2019**

### SPRING GREETINGS!

Can you imagine it is FUSION time again! Yes, Saturday April 6, 2019. Your invitation is enclosed. The FUSION Committee is fast at work. We hope to see you there.

Spring also means we are getting ready for the new 2019 feral TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) season. Our phone volunteers will be standing by to answer your TNVR questions. Follow these steps to ensure the best TNVR experience.

1) Appointments are required for spay/neuter surgery. Call our Feral Cat FOCUS toll free number at 1-888-902-9717. Leave a message. Give our volunteers a couple of days to get back to you (a different volunteer on duty each day).

2) Our volunteers will go through the TNVR process and set you up with an appointment at Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY in Lackawanna.

3) Our volunteers will set you up with a volunteer to lend you a humane box trap if needed. Our trap loaner will show you how to set the trap and give you tips on how to best trap your feral cat.

4) A few days before your appointment, you will get a confirmation call. Once you have a trap you will be instructed to pull all food three days before you set the trap so the cats are VERY hungry (they are trapped using stinky food). You trap the day before surgery and keep the cat safe in an enclosed area.

5) You transport cat/s to Operation PETS by 8:00 am. After check-in you leave the cat/s for the day and return to pick them up at 5:00 pm. You will be given recovery instructions.

For detailed information on Before You Trap, Trapping Basics, Trapping Do's and Don'ts please visit [www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org).

*Let's Get These Cats Altered & Healthy  
...Happy Trapping!*

### OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

Led by Kate Wagner these are the hardy volunteers who get our Feral Cat FOCUS newsletter in the mail several times a year. Address labels get printed, the newsletter is folded, collated and stuffed into envelopes and brought to the post office for delivery. Currently the newsletter is sent to about 2400 people who are either caregivers or supporters of the work of Feral Cat FOCUS. The mailing group usually meets in the Northtowns and can always use extra hands. If you'd like to be part of this hard working group let us know by filling out a volunteer application on the Feral Cat FOCUS website.



Pictured left to right - Kim, holding Mica the cat, Rose, Kathy and Kate (missing Mary Ellen and Theresa)

## **RALPH'S STORY**

Our boy Ralphie was trapped during a Trap-Neuter-Vaccine-Return project in July 2018 by Catt County Cat Nippers ([www.facebook.com/cattcountycatnippers](http://www.facebook.com/cattcountycatnippers)). Even though he was living outside trying to survive on his own, Ralphie was extremely friendly!! It was quickly discovered that he was in very rough shape. He was dirty and disheveled. He was starving and living on a sporadic, unhealthy diet.

After being fully vetted Ralph was placed in a Catt County Cat Nippers foster home. It became obvious that he was having difficulties as he could barely lift his head to eat. He was taken to a veterinarian where he was diagnosed with entropion in both eyes (a painful abnormality of the eyelids in which eyelid rolls inward). He also had the human version of a C-diff infection in his intestinal track which caused severe diarrhea. He tested positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). Not great news for our boy but not a death sentence either.

Ralphie was vaccinated, neutered and had mats of filthy fur removed. He was then transferred to a Feral Cat FOCUS foster home to begin the long process of recovery. He never raised his head, except to eat. He was always curled up in a ball with his tail tightly wrapped around him in a defensive position. He never cleaned himself. He made no eye contact. He didn't respond to stimulus like sounds, other cats, or toys.

Ralph's foster home noticed that his rear legs were weak and swayed when he tried to walk. He was unable to jump. He was unwilling to move and expressed pain in his hip area. Ralph was taken to the vet and it was discovered he had hip dysplasia in both hips (genetically inherited malformation of the hip joint and relatively rare in cats). So now Ralph was suffering from entropion in both eyes, C-diff infection and hip dysplasia.

Ralph had eye surgery to correct his entropion. This made a big difference because his eye pain was gone and he could see clearly. When he recovered from eye surgery the plan was for Ralph to have hip surgery. His vet suggested we first try a regime of Cosequin to see if it helped. Ralph was given Cosequin

twice a day for three months. He started going up and down stairs and jumping on furniture for naps. His jumps aren't perfect 10's but they are a long way from the cat that could barely move. His hip surgery is on hold for now unless we start to see deterioration of his hips.

The improvements in Ralphie continue. One night he was sitting by his Turbo scratcher -- a toy he previously paid no attention to. One paw went out to gently bat the ball around the track. Ralph started to bat the ball around the track all hours of the day and night. And he loves playing with his squeaky mouse. And catnip. And balls. Slowly Ralphie has transformed into a sweet cat who loves playing with toys, getting brushed, and massages.

Ralph's Catt County Catt Nippers and Feral Cat FOCUS foster homes refused to give up on him and with medical care and lots of TLC, he has completely transformed.

This is a current picture of our boy Ralph. He has "permanent grumpy face" and he always looks mad (but his purrs reveal his true emotions). We wish he could tell us his story before he came to us. Undoubtedly, it's a sad one. With your continued support we are committed to finding Ralph health and happiness.

### **JUST LOOK AT THAT FACE!!**

