



FERAL CAT FOCUS INC. COMMUNITY CAT NEWS

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

1-888-902-9717 (toll free)

www.feralcatfocus.org

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PROVIDING FERAL & FREE-ROAMING CATS WITH FUNDAMENTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

DECEMBER 2020



During the Holiday Season,
we "paws" to say an extra special
thank you to all our wonderful
caregivers, volunteers and supporters.

The work we do wouldn't be possible
without your combined support!

You have made an unforgettable
difference for so many animals that
are otherwise forgotten.

Words cannot express our appreciation for you and your support. The time, financial resources and commitment that you put forth to help the community cats is amazing. There is not kinder act than helping animals in need. You all deliver time and time again!

The significance of your support and good work is emphasized even more this year. No doubt, 2020 has been the most challenging one that we have ever experienced. This shifted world in which we are living has strained us all on so many levels. So many things have been derailed this year. You, however, selected to stay the course for the community cats during all of this. We are so fortunate to have such a strong core of dedicated persons in furthering the lives of so many community cats. Each of you brings critical gifts and talents that keeps the mission and goals alive.

In some enlightening words by a very inspirational individual, Helen Keller "*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*" You make the community for the animals that we all hold so dear. We couldn't do it without you.

Your continued loyalty, faith and actions in making a difference in the lives of the community cats to means the world to us. Together, we will achieve the goal of making Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) fully understood, accepted and practiced in every community.

Have a joyful holiday season.

Your friends at Feral Cat FOCUS

FERAL CAT FOCUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

Since 2003 Feral Cat FOCUS has spayed/neutered over 37,000 feral cats and helped hundreds of injured cats and kittens.

2020 has been an extraordinary year, but through all this upheaval Feral Cat FOCUS still subsidized the spay or neuter of over 1,992 feral cats in 2020.

We helped 500 caregivers with food, feeding thousands of feral cats. We had five food giveaways, charging no feral caregiver for any food and paying for trucks and transporting of tons of food out of our own funds.

This fall on "Giving Tuesday" we gave 40 spay or neuter appointments to people that entered our drawing. Giving Tuesday is something Feral Cat FOCUS believes is the time we GIVE to help the feral/free roaming cats.

Feral Cat FOCUS also assisted with several large Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return (TNVR) projects. We have had trapping projects in mobile home parks, several large barn cases, and businesses and companies from Erie County to Wyoming County to Niagara and down to Cattaraugus County. One case in Wyoming County we spayed/neutered 32 cats and placed 14 kittens into rescue.

In 2020 Feral Cat FOCUS has helped projects with the SPCA Serving Erie County, Niagara County SPCA, Allegany SPCA, and Chautauqua County Humane Society.

Feral Cat FOCUS has worked tirelessly to get Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) into communities throughout Western New York. We have been able to make TNVR a household name in Erie County, City of Buffalo, Amherst, Cheektowaga, West Seneca, Lancaster, Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Springville, Alden, Olean, Batavia, and Brockport.

Williamsville questioned whether TNVR was working for them. Feral Cat FOCUS had a zoom meeting with Williamsville, showed them the statistics, and offered them further assistance. Williamsville is now back on board. Congratulations for continuing the TNVR program, Williamsville.

Evans says that they are TNVR but we have seen nothing in writing.

We are still hoping that Lackawanna will come join us. We have not given up on them.

We are hoping that in 2021 we can continue our work in getting TNVR passed in Niagara County with the help of our friends at the Niagara County SPCA.

We had a generous donor create a Matching Gift Campaign of \$10,000.00 this November. We are so grateful for our donors and all the people that helped the Matching Gift Campaign become such a success. Bless you all!

We had five new volunteers this past year. It was a bit of a challenge doing a COVID-19 volunteer orientation, but we did it. Welcome to all of you. Rest up and get ready for 2021.

As most of you know Feral Cat FOCUS believes that winter in WNY possess a problem for the feral/free roaming cats. We believe that during the unpredictable winter months the feral cats struggle to stay alive. And that the best thing we can do for the feral cats is to feed and shelter them, not trap, and alter them. It also gives Feral Cat FOCUS time to replenish our finances and give our trappers and caregivers a rest. This has always been our policy.

In spring 2021 we will start TNVR all over again to spay/neuter and vaccinate as many feral/free-roaming cats as we can.

Check out our Cold Weather Policy and Winter Trapping Tips on our website at www.feralcatfocus.org.

UNSUBSCRIBE ME

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our print newsletter and all future print mailings because it will help us save money. It's easy to do. Just send opt-out email to rose@feralcatfocus.org.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK PATTY WALL **ONE OF OUR VERY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS**



Patty made face masks for hundreds of front line workers, school teachers, salon owners, and people from every walk of life, with the proceeds from the donations she raised going to Feral Cat FOCUS.

She has made several hundreds of dollars for the feral cats and all the money she has donated will be put into our "Large Project Fund". Many thanks to Patty for all her hard work and her care and love for the feral cats.

If you are interested in purchasing a mask, she can make a mask to fit any holiday or special occasion. Contact Patty at 716-548-4055 to order a mask.

FERAL CAT WINTER SHELTERS

Feral Cat FOCUS volunteers were busy this fall building and distributing winter shelters for feral cats.

The shelters are made from 30 gallon totes. Inside the 30 gallon tote is an 18 gallon tote. The space between the outside and inside tote is filled with straw for insulation. The shelters have an entry hole and an exit hole for cat safety. Pictured here is one of our hardest-working felines and shelter-builder extraordinaire, Alaina Doll. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us build 46 shelters to keep outdoor cats warm this winter.

We still have shelters available at both Northtowns and Southtowns locations. The cost is \$20 per shelter which covers the materials needed to build them.

Please contact Mel at 716.515.8965 if you would like to purchase one!



Under the CARES Act, you can donate up to \$300 to Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic *this year only* (2020) and you will be entitled to reduce your taxable income by that amount! At the same time, you will be supporting Operation PETS in our efforts to continue our valuable mission of spaying and neutering cats and dogs during this critical time period when our services are needed more than ever. This is only available if you do not elect to itemize deductions for 2020. The \$300 limit per filing unit applies regardless of filing status (single, married, etc.). A qualified charitable contribution for purposes of this new provision is a charitable contribution made by cash, check, electronic fund transfer, or payroll deduction. Contributions of noncash property are not allowed as an above-the-line deduction. It's a win-win for both Operation PETS and the animals! Consult your tax, legal or accounting advisor for further information.

FERAL CAT FOOD RELIEF DISTRIBUTION



In August 2020 Feral Cat FOCUS had a huge COVID 19 Feral Cat Food Relief Distribution.

We gave away eight tons (16,000 pounds!!!) of cat (and some dog) food to feral cat caregivers and food pantries in the WNY area. In addition to our fabulous Feral Cat FOCUS volunteers who work so tirelessly that day, we would like to thank Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY, Second Chance Sheltering Network, and the Humane Society of the United States (HUSU).

A huge amount of feral/free roaming cats were fed. If you ever want to donate food to help the feral cats, please look at our Wish List on www.feralcatfocus.org for details.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE TO FERAL CAT FOCUS

United Way - Vendor number is 229624

Network for Good - www.networkforgood.com

Remember Feral Cat FOCUS in Your Will

OUR WISH LIST

MONETARY DONATIONS

We rely on monetary donations to help us subsidize spays, neuters, and vaccinations of feral/free roaming cats through TNVR – the humane and effective approach to addressing feral/free roaming cat populations. You can make a secure online credit card donation or you can mail your donation to Feral Cat FOCUS at P.O. Box 404, East Aurora, NY 14052.

CAT FOOD

Every cat deserves a healthy and nutritious diet – including feral cats. Our feral colony caregivers care for and feed colonies with multiple cats. When we receive donations of food we are able to share food donations with our registered feral caregivers. We appreciate donations of any brand of good quality dry or canned food. These are a few examples of food we often use (but any good quality food is welcome):

- Purina Cat Chow Complete Dry – 15 lb. bag
- Purina Kitten Chow Dry Cat Food -14 lb. bag
- Purina Friskies Wet (Canned) Food – 5.5 oz

Call us at 1-888-902-9717 or email info@feralcatfocus.org to arrange a drop off location and time.

SHEETS

We use sheets to make trap covers for our humane TNVR traps. The covers help calm trapped cats and makes their journeys to the spay/neuter clinic less stressful. We accept new sheets or used sheets (used sheets **MUST** be washed before donating).

Call us at 1-888-902-9717 or email info@feralcatfocus.org to arrange a drop off location and time.

CHEWY e-GIFT CARD

Sometimes it may be easier for you to let us do the shopping. When you order an e-Gift Card at www.chewy.com enter the “Email Delivery Details” as follows:

TO: edie@feralcatfocus.org
FROM: smithj@gmail.com / john smith*

*Enter “FROM” as shown above (email address / your name). Chewy does not send us your email address (just your name) so be sure to include your email so we can thank you for your donation.

iGive.com

**You Shop
Feral Cat FOCUS Gets Money**



Shop at more than 2,322 stores you already know and a percentage of your purchase is automatically donated to Feral Cat FOCUS.

No added costs, obligations, or hidden fees.

iGive takes care of the details, including sending the money you've helped raise directly to Feral Cat FOCUS.

Support Feral Cat FOCUS by starting your shopping at www.igive.com

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AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.

Same products, same prices, same service
No fees – no extra cost

Always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Feral Cat FOCUS, at no cost to you.

Support Feral Cat FOCUS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com



AMAZON SMILE CHARITY WISH LIST

AmazonSmile Charity Lists is a new way for you to donate wish lists items directly to Feral Cat FOCUS so you can take the guesswork out of giving and donate worry-free.

HOW TO FIND OUR CHARITY WISH LIST

[START AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM](http://SMILE.AMAZON.COM)

1. To add FCF as your charity - click on "AMAZON SMILE"
2. Search for Feral Cat Focus under "YOUR CURRENT CHARITY" and SELECT
3. Click on "ACCOUNTS & LISTS" (under your name)
4. Under "YOUR LISTS" select "AMAZONSMILE CHARITY LISTS"
5. FCF Charity Wish List will be there (scroll across to see all the items)

FERAL CAT **WINTER SAFETY TIPS**

Feral cats can always use some extra help in cold or severe weather.

Follow the tips on our website to help cats stay safe, warm, and healthy during severe storms and cold winter months.

feralcatfocus.org/colony-management-winter-tips

KITTY KICKERS



Feral Cat FOCUS was one of several vendors that participated at the Lockwood's Greenhouses and Garden Center Fall Fair on September 12. Our booth sold face masks, fresh catnip with a surprise inside, Crazy Cat Lady action figures, and our very popular kitty kickers.

The kitty kickers are made by Feral Cat FOCUS volunteers and are a very popular fundraiser for Feral Cat FOCUS at Lockwood's (we sell several hundreds of them there every year).

Cats love to kick, toss and cuddle their kitty kicker. If your cat likes catnip you can find the purrfect gift at Lockwood's (4484 Clark Street Hamburg) for \$6.00!

weknowplants.com

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK **PLEASE MEET "NORA"**



Feral Cat FOCUS was involved in a large TNVR project in Warsaw (Wyoming County). Abandonment is a real problem for people in the country. Some people feel that cats can just be discarded, with no concern for the abandoned animal or the overwhelmed caregiver or farmer. We trapped, spayed/neutered, and vaccinated 32 cats and kittens. Fourteen kittens were placed with adoption organizations. All the adult cats were returned to the caregiver.

Nora is a precious little girl. She followed her big brother into a humane trap during this TNVR project. She was only eight weeks old and weighed 7 oz. She was a bag of bones, dehydrated and scared. She hid behind her big brother. The worst part was that this little girl had coccidian (an internal parasite) and was barely holding on. Everything this brave girl ate came right back out.

Nora was too sick to be placed for adoption so a kind lady took her home to foster her until Nora was healthy. She began fluids, a special diet, and a regimen of medications to counteract the parasites. Little by little Nora started to come around. She began eating whole food and gaining weight. She is now three months old and weighs 3 lbs. She is a tad shy at first, but purrs when you cuddle her.

NORA NEEDS A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Do you have room in your heart and home for Nora? Please email Helen at helen@feralcatfocus.org or call us at 1-888-902-9717 and leave a message for Helen to return your call.

FERAL CAT FOCUS

PROVIDING FERAL CATS WITH FUNDAMENTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES



NOT EVERY CAT HAS A WARM, SAFE HOME

Many cats are left to fend for themselves outdoors.

Feral cats struggle throughout the year to find food, fresh water, safe shelter and to just survive.

Feral and free-roaming cats who only know the outdoor life should not be forgotten.

Please help us make 2020/2021 a better year for the feral and free-roaming cats of Western New York. Saving one cat may not change the world, but it certainly will change the world for that one animal. It is only through the generosity of people like you that Feral Cat FOCUS programs can continue.

Feral Cat FOCUS is committed to humanely reducing the feral and free-roaming cat population in Western New York through the use of Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return as fully understood, accepted and practiced in every Western New York Community.

Please mail your donation to the address below or you can make an online credit card donation at www.feralcatfocus.org.

YES, I would like to donate \$_____ to Feral Cat FOCUS

_____No Acknowledgement Needed

_____I Would Like an Acknowledgement

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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Feral Cat FOCUS is a registered nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. A copy of our latest annual report may be requested from us or from the Office of Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271