



# **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**

**Winter 2022**



## **FUSION 2022 Is Now in the past! And what a grand time it was.**



250 people attended this lovely event, On Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>, and thank heavens it was before our massive storm!



The donations of lovely items were fabulous and brought in much needed revenue. As you might know Feral Cat FOCUS, Inc subsidizes every feral cat that comes into Operation PETS the Spay/ Neuter Clinic of WNY no matter where they come in from, or who brings them in.

When you are looking at 2,589 cats altered in 2022 by us in conjunction with Operation PETS who also subsidizes, that requires a great deal of funds to sustain such projects.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported FUSION 22.

Here are some pictures to share with all of you.





Every experience allows us to learn and grow. There are always challenges. Our passion is helping the feral cats. We do TNVR (Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return) to help lessen the overpopulation. And to give the feral/free roaming cats a decent chance at life. When you think you know what to expect, something else happens. And we ask "Why" is this happening? The "why" isn't important. I've learned the "what" is..."What" are you going to do now?

I was trapping feral cats who congregated around a dumpster. Area employees were feeding the cats. After a trip to Operation PETS, I learned that one cat, a 'tortie' cat, weighed barely three pounds. Oh no, now what? she can't go back out right now. For a few weeks she hid in her carrier in a crate, but she was happy to eat, and content with a safe, warm place. Finally, she came out and interacted with me. Quiet meows and head-butting, she was becoming eager for attention.....

I moved her to a crate in my living room, close to people and other cats. I still can't pick her up, but she is coming along. I don't know what her future holds, but she is safe, and she is learning and growing!



The questions are always "what" is best for the cat? and the answer is not always what "we" want for these cats, but "what" am I going to do? "What decision shall I make?"

## Feral Cat FOCUS Food Distributions

With the help of our rescue partner Second Chance and Purina, Feral Cat FOCUS held 7 cat food distributions this year, 2022. That is approximately 56 pallets or 28 tons of assorted bagged dry cat food that we have given out. Feral Cat FOCUS pays for the truck rental and the fuel, we never pass on any of the cost to our caregivers. Our wish is to supplement the cat food that our caregivers are feeding to their community and free roaming cat colonies. Also, **thank you** to our many helpers who volunteer their time and energy in any weather to help unload the truck and hand out the Food.

This a story about an ‘orange traveler’ who ended up in a very interesting place at a very interesting time.

On or about August 2022 an ‘orange cat (AKA known as the ‘traveler’) started to appear around a populated neighborhood in the south towns, in Erie County.

The residents of the house thought this must be a neighbor’s cat which they are deciding to let out. Over the course of time the ‘orange traveler’ was coming by more and more, and to the *delight* of the ‘homeowners’ the ‘traveler ‘was ear



tipped! Well soon it was realized that the ‘orange traveler’ was starting to reside under the deck, of the ‘said homeowners’, but still the ‘traveler’ showed signs of being a feral/free roaming cat. Now the ‘homeowners’ were starting to care for the ‘traveler’, having checked within and around the area the ‘homeowners’ began to realize that the little ‘orange traveler’ might not have another home.

Fall set in and an outdoor dwelling was built to keep the ‘orange traveler’ safe and dry. Then the Snow started to fall, and the ‘orange traveler’ decided he wanted the ‘homeowners’ to let him in. A humane trap was set- the ‘orange traveler’ came in.

Well 77” of snow fell that weekend but the little ‘orange traveler’ just watched the snow fall from the confines of the inside residence of the ‘homeowner’. What a lucky cat he was! 4 square meals a day and a lot of attention and love, boy did he hit the ‘jack-pot’. (*He had no idea*)

The homeowners decided to get this ear-tipped cat into the vets to be checked out. Low and behold the little ‘orange traveler’ had a microchip and a real owner. The ‘orange traveler’ had been missing from HER home since Spring and was over 1 ½ miles away and across a major highway. Ruby’ the ‘orange traveler’ was a very lucky cat indeed for the ‘homeowners’ happened to be one of the Co-founders of Feral Cat FOCUS and Ruby has now been re-united with her family, and hopefully will now become an inside cat.

In the true meaning of **Giving Tuesday**, once again Feral Cat FOCUS Inc. gave away 15 spay/neuters to area caregivers for their feral/free roaming ‘Community Cats’

**“For it is in Giving, which we receive!”**



**Happy Holidays!**



'Ethyl' had a run in with a dog and has been a tripod since June. She's a little over 2 years old and was feral. She is now very used to people, loves treats and getting her cheeks and head scratched. Can you open your heart & home to this little sweetheart?

Please Contact us@  
1-888-902-9717 and  
ask for Marla



**Feral Cat FOCUS would like to Thank all their wonderful supporters!**

**The Special Foundations, the Anonymous donors and every single kind person who donated to the cause of helping the Feral/free roaming 'Community' cats live a healthier life, regardless personality.**

**The stats will speak for themselves 2,589 Feral Cats have been altered in the year 2022.**

**That does not include all the kittens which were sick and injured, treated, and surrendered to local animal adoption organizations as well as our SPCAs**

**Next year will be Feral Cat FOCUS's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will be on track to hit 40,000 Feral Cats altered since 2003**

**A special shout out to Brian Shapiro of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) for replenishing new traps for us!**

***Please know we appreciate every penny that is sent in, and we will continue our work helping feral cats with the support from each and every one of you!***

**Thank you**



Feral Cat Focus made over 100 winter shelters for our community cats this year! Because the demand was so high last year, we started building them earlier this year. We sold out of the shelters almost as quickly as we were able to build them.

Our shelters are built by a core group of FCF volunteers (thank you Kathy, Cheryl, Maureen, and Alicia!) but we could use more help. If you would be interested in learning how to build shelters (and helping our community cats in the process!) please contact Melissa @ 716.515.8965. We always need help picking up materials, cutting and stuffing/constructing the shelters, and delivering them to people who have no transportation.

We are also considering holding a shelter-building workshop next summer. We are not asking for a commitment but would like to get a sense of how many people might be interested. If you think you might like to attend a workshop,

Some important reminders about shelters:

- Never put food or water in the shelter because it will create moisture and mildew if spilled.
- Always use straw as an insulator. Never use hay! Hay gets damp and holds moisture; straw does not.
- Never put blankets, pillows, or bedding in your shelter. These materials become damp and freeze which rapidly decrease the cat's temperature. Straw is all you need!!
- Make sure you shovel/clear a path to the shelter when it snows so that the cats can easily access the shelter and fluff up the straw every few weeks. Cats love to burrow in the straw to keep warm and over time it can get matted down. You can add straw as the winter goes on but usually just fluffing up the straw is enough.
- Place your shelter in a quiet location, if possible, away from traffic and busy areas.
- Position it out of the wind as much as you can.
- Make sure the cat has access to both openings so that he may escape if a predator arrives.
- If placing the shelter outside, be sure to put it on bricks or on boards, etc. to keep it off the ground. Do the same if placing it on a concrete patio/garage floor. These surfaces freeze easily which have a significant cooling effect. Elevating the shelter will keep it warmer.
- Place a board or something heavy on the shelter to avoid it being blown around by the wind.
- If you have two shelters try lining up the shelters end-to-end with the openings facing each other and place one board along the top of both shelters.
- When warm weather arrives remove the shelter and place it out of the way if possible, to keep for next year. You may be able to just fluff up the straw or you might want to replace or add more straw.

**For more information on Feral Cat FOCUS *Winter Policies* and shelter tips visit our website at [www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org).**



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH FERAL CAT FOCUS?

Since its inception in 2003 Feral Cat FOCUS has had a drastic impact upon the community cat population in Western New York. In conjunction with Operation PETS close to 40,000 feral cats have been spayed or neutered which translates, at minimum, to saving over 450,000 unwanted kittens. (An un-spayed female cat averages 2 litters per year with an average litter of 4-6 kittens).

We are an all-volunteer organization and currently have a group of dedicated volunteers who specialize in the following areas

Trap Loaning	Trapping
Linen Cutting	Fund-Raising
Telephones	Shelter Building
Socializing Kittens	Barn Home Setup
Transporting	Holding
Fostering sick or injured adult cats	

Although we welcome volunteers in all of these areas, we have found that an increasing number of caregivers who call us for help are elderly and/or unable to drive. Many of them also do not have a place to hold a cat post-surgery (males need to recuperate in a trap for 24 hours and females for 48 hours before being released). As a result, we are in dire need of volunteers in the following two areas:

- **Transporting.** This involves picking up a cat in the morning from a caregiver and transporting him to Operation Pets for surgery and then picking him up in the afternoon post-surgery and returning him home..
- **Holding.** For caregivers who are unable to keep their cat confined post-surgery for recuperation, a volunteer keeps the cat in his trap in a safe and protected area for 24-48 hours prior to returning him home to his caregiver.

This year was challenging for us because we were not able to accommodate the needs of all of the caregivers who required extra help. If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity Feral Cat FOCUS could be for you! To learn more about our volunteer opportunities (particularly Transporting or Holding!) please visit our website ([www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org)) for more information. You will also find a volunteer application on our website. We provide training for all areas and ongoing support and you can choose to be as active as you wish.

**Interesting fact:**

*By spay or neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just four years - and more than 2 million in eight years!*

*-North Shore Animal League*

Please remember Feral Cat Focus is an **all-volunteer organization** and if you want to know more ways to support the Feral cats, join us by donating through the **United Way Foundation Vendor ID 229624, Network for Good, I Give.com, Amazon Smile** or check with your company for Matching Charity Grant opportunities. Shop for the products you love and help raise money for Feral Cat FOCUS Inc.

