

August, 2009

Dear Friends of ALF,



ALF has been really busy the past several weeks, rescuing 10 precious lives, and sterilizing the adult cats who produced them. Our volunteers have logged **more than 150 hours** on this rescue alone, **another 300** on socializing these beautiful babies who were born in the desert, and we're not done yet! We've become way too intimate with the natural inhabitants of the desert, especially those who only come out at night. We've caught (and released) skunks, instead of cats and kittens, on 8 separate occasions.

We really need your help! Even if you can't assist financially, please help us spread the word, to save more animals from suffering.

In 11 years at this location, we had never seen a Siamese cat, but this Spring and Summer have brought more than a half dozen to the area. Some have been adopted, some were feral so they were trapped, spayed, and released. Some showed up extremely pregnant, ready to deliver any day, in search of food and a safe, secluded area to have their babies. Unfortunately we've seen a few of them dead, hit by cars, one of whom was very pregnant. This can bring even the most seasoned rescuers to their knees, saddened like you can't imagine! Our volunteers are giving SO much of their own time and money to capture and sterilize as many as we can, while trying to rescue and salvage the somewhat tame ones, always racing against the clock trying to prevent suffering and death.



We recently managed to capture 9 kittens and their mamas, but somewhere out there, among the spiders, scorpions, ants, roaches, rats, bats, owls, skunks, and coyotes, is still one tiny little baby kitten, and some other cute little creature we can't identify. We've seen the kitten, and even got it crying frantically, in answer to our best imitation of a mama cat, but this baby is extremely scared, and won't come out from the crates where we can rescue it! While sitting out there in the dark, waiting

with the pull rope in our hands, watching through the binoculars, we witnessed the cute little unidentified creature scurry out from the crates and reach up to the water bowl for a drink. We saw plenty of creepy insects crawling around, and rats scurrying about. We saw the roadrunners and bats, heard what sounds like loons and catbirds, and even heard an owl or hawk screeching right over our heads in the dark. We've heard dogs barking nearby, and saw their feces near the feral cat feeding station. Sadly, we've also seen cat skeletons in the nearby ravine. All of these things frighten US! All we can think about is that this poor little defenseless baby kitten is all alone, and is a sitting duck! It spent 5 nights without mama and siblings, and we had no sightings nor heard any sounds from the baby, in more than 3 days and nights.



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After this long without seeing or hearing the kitten, we feared it had been taken by a predator, or had already succumbed to the heat and starvation, because we know the skunk has been eating the food left at ground level. But after some very powerful, emotional prayers, and returning mama cat to the area, we finally spotted the baby again! A flood of tears poured from the heart through the eyes, and many thanks were given that our prayers were answered! So we're starting at the beginning again, training mama and kitten to come at regular feeding times, and gradually moving the food closer to the trap, out from under the crates.



Besides the many hours and tanks of gas, we've spent a small fortune on smelly foods to attract the cats out from their hiding places. Tuna, mackerel, salmon, specially made equipment for trapping small kittens in confined spaces, and lots of miscellaneous items have all been quite expensive. Testing and vaccinations, spays and neuters, and of course tests and treatment for a variety of parasites, and lots and lots of kitten food, have broken the bank again.

Your donations, and sharing this letter with your friends, are key to enabling us to continue saving lives.

Animal Loving Friends, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charity, which means that your donations are tax-deductible! Rest assured that 100% of every dollar we receive goes directly to the animals and stays right here in our community. We have no paid staff, only a small group of volunteers, who give from their own pockets to care for these animals, without reward - except knowing that they're saving lives with every selfless act. You can reap those same rewards! [Any amount you donate](#) will help us to continue to care for the approximately 100 animals who currently depend on us for their survival.

*These are the kinds of rescues we typically perform.
If you want to join our team, please visit our [Volunteers page](#).*

We continue to struggle to meet our other fundraising goals as well. Willow's time is closing in, and it's extremely important that she see a specialist within the next few months. We've only raised enough to sterilize 6 of the 30-some cats at the landfill. Donations have been slow for most charities this year. We hope you can find it in your heart to help us to help the innocent victims of this sour economy. Your donations could not be more appreciated!



animal loving friends

Don't forget to check out all the latest news on [ALF.Petfinder.com](#).

Thank you for all that you do for animals everywhere.

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