



# Feral kitties and those who love them

A friend of mine told me that when her husband passed away, she found out who her friends really were. It was no surprise to me that they were the people she knew through her wildlife rescue work. When my friend from college e-mailed me and said he was having trouble meeting the right kind of woman. I replied, "Join a rescue group."

It's a special person who cares for and sees the beauty in a creature that is fearful of you. Herein lies the mystique of the feral cat and the people who love them. We have discovered many of these people out there through

our own "Feral-kitty", who resides in our shelter.

At 4 months old, when we were acclimating several feral siblings, one kitten from the litter escaped in our shelter and this was the start of our adventure. Not wanting to traumatize him further, we left him loose for what was to be only a few weeks. Lovely people adopted all of his siblings and Feral-kitty remained. He shows himself to only the regular volunteers. He is fond of those who are patient enough to sit still and wait for him to come out. He generally stays several yards back and waits for everyone else to eat. He

sleeps lightly, seeming with one eye open, so that he can run when anyone gets too close. We watch him communicate with other cats and kittens and he is a gentle "uncle" to the younger kittens. He is a richly dark black tabby with a gorgeous face and his eyes tell you that he's not "ready" to come forward to the human world.

Feral cats are not dirty, they are not diseased, they are not mean, they are not smelly. (Remember Phoebe's song on Friends?) They have adapted to be self-sufficient due to abandon-

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## Featured pet: Celeste

Celeste is a plus-size girl with a plus-size personality! She is named after the full moon on a dark sky and she has the most engaging eyes! She is warm, sweet, and calm. This ladylike cat is easy-going and very affectionate. She loves to follow us around, talking and

seeking company. She is smart and down-to-earth too. Another positive trait of Celeste's is that she enjoys the company of other cats. She's a bit plump because of shelter life, but will do well in a caring home. We volunteers adore her. (Miriam St. C., volunteer)



*I am right here and waiting!*

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### Upcoming Adoption Fairs:

*Sundays: January 1, 2006*

*January 29, 2006*

*February, 26th, 2006*

*Time: 1 to 4 pm*

*Location: PETCO in the Herndon Clocktower Shopping Center, Centreville Rd. Herndon, VA*

*703 713-1552*

## Adoptions and letters

We are proud to report over 140 adoptions this year and quite a few were adults from county shelters.

### Cats:

April, tortie  
Barnie, b/w  
Buddy, black-sable  
Carmella, buff-wht  
Casper, white  
Casper & Trina  
Denzel, black  
Drew, 3-legged tab  
Duchess, Russian blue  
Dusty, black  
Electra, white  
Herman, Persian calico  
Hermine, b/w  
Madrid, b/w  
Molly, orange-wht  
Patches, white-blk  
Sabrina-1, black  
Sagwa, Siamese  
Sassy, tortie  
Simba, black  
Spice, tortie  
Spooky, black  
Sushie, orange-wht  
Volly, orange

### Kittens:

Alice, gray-Siamese  
Amber, brown tabby  
Amos & Peek  
Ana, Russian blue  
Annie & Ben  
Ariel, silver tabby  
Beau, b/w  
Bella & Nala, tabs  
Belle & Bo, Ragdolls  
Blue, gray/wht  
Bo, orange/wht  
Bo-Bo, Ragdoll  
Boomer, tabby  
Boris, Russian blue  
Botjer, black tab  
Buffy, 3 color tabby

### Kittens (cont.)

Carscadden, tabby  
CC Chicken, Manx  
Clarke, brown tabby  
Coco C. & J.Garcia,  
Cody & Sis, Rags  
Cookie, tabby  
Crackle & Mackensie  
Curls & Fireball  
Dye-2 kits, orange-wht  
Emily, b/w  
Ghana & Ginger  
Ginger-boy, buff  
Hitch, b/w  
Holly Berry - tabby  
Ice, Siamese  
James Bond, b/w  
Jefferson, orange  
Joel, orange tabby  
Jonah Jackson-orange  
Katie & Kirby  
Katie & Spencer  
Kinsey 2-kits, blk, gry  
Klein, brown tab  
Krista & Napoleon  
Kubus, orange/white  
Lily, gray/white  
Lily, tabby /wht  
Linus, b/w  
McCoppin, gray  
Mika & Scamper  
Milkshake, Ragdoll  
Millie & Pica, MC  
Minot, torti  
Missy & Sissy  
Mittens, gray-wht  
Miyu, Russian blue  
Ms Mollie & Woodie  
Molly, orange/wht  
Monroe, orange/wht  
Mosby & Belle  
Nadia, brown tabby  
Nicky - tortie

### Kittens (cont.)

Nikki, tortie  
Notter-2 kits, b/w, g/w  
Obi & Gypsum  
Paris, calico-tortie  
Patches, grey/wht  
Petey & Sammy  
Peyton gray/wht  
Pinkie, Silver tabby  
Rachel, gray-siamese  
Rebecca, gray-siamese  
Reeses, 3-color tab  
Riley, brown tab  
Rocky, gray/wht  
Roosevelt, black  
Samantha, b/w  
Sammy, gray/wht  
Samson & Sparkle  
Sara, gray-Siamese  
Sassie, dilute tortie  
Schroeder & Daisy  
Scout, orange/wht  
Smokey & Cali  
Snap & Pop, white  
Terra & Tucker  
TK, black  
Tommy, white w/tab  
Tommy, tabby  
Truman, orange/wht  
Twinkles, b/w  
Zoe, Ragdoll

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### FERAL-KITTY LETTERS:

Last spring, an untamed, beautiful orange cat came to our hillside. He knew we had cats, and maybe assumed that there might be food for him. I started feeding this poor guy. Eventually, after many months, I was able to get within five feet of him while he ate. I ended up trapping him with a humane trap. After a trip to the vet, I released him and he promptly disappeared. A week later, he showed up for dinner and tentatively ate. Since that day, we have grown to trust each other.

It's been slow, but Flynn now is part of the family. He is most comfortable when my other cats are around, as he plays off their "cues". Flynn comes in the house to eat when he is hungry, and he lets me hold and cuddle him. He has the loudest purr when he is being "loved up". Although he sleeps out-



Unsinkable Mollie in bag hiding, 6 mos



Lucy - playmate of Mollie, 6 mos old

side now, I have a feeling that he will sleep inside the house this winter, as he will finally be "ready" for that. He is never going to be as relaxed as my other cats, and always will have a wild skittish side about him, but he is a wonderful pet and fits in well with the rest of the gang. To the person who adopts Feral-kitty: you will feel really satisfied when he finally settles in and becomes part of the family and he will be more grateful than he can ever tell you.

Karen of Portland, OR

## Make your own cat toys or build your own cat tree

Pet toys don't have to be expensive. Here are some items you can make at home.

1. A simple box, taped shut, with a "door" cut into each side makes a great hiding place and playroom.
2. Yarn toys w/ catnip. Wrap yarn around your elbow or a book. Tie a knot in the middle and cut the loops., Store for 2 days in a plastic bag with catnip.
3. Large pipe cleaners wrapped

around your finger (to form a spiral) with safe bells attached are favorites.

4. Ping pong balls, cotton pom-poms, or small crinkly papers wadded up (origami-sized papers) make nice toys and even better if scented with catnip.
5. For a more involved project for your furry friend, you can build your own cat tree with the instructions at <http://www.cfhs.ca/>

animals/  
[build\\_your\\_own\\_cat\\_tree\\_1/](#)



Eight kitties lounging

## Ferals..... (continued)

ment or birth in the wild. Many lead good lives in their own settings under trap-neuter-return programs, a more progressive alternative to the trap and euthanasia mindset. They do typically have a shorter life span than an indoor cat due to dangers in the wild and the difficulty in getting them veterinary care.

Its important to know that a feral cat that goes unspayed will reproduce at an exponential rate, so if you see a feral cat in your neighborhood, please ACT QUICKLY and take it upon yourself to help the cat get its rabies shot and spay-neutering as a FIRST STEP. Many shelters rent traps to aid in the rescue work. DON'T take these cats to your county shelter, as they are typically euthanized on the spot. Af-

ter surgery, you can re-release the cat back to its familiar territory and continue to be a "caretaker".

Feral-kitty has become somewhat of an icon for us. Earlier this year, he received over 200 views a week at [www.castlecats.org](http://www.castlecats.org). He was posted on one of Yahoo's web pages, and every week our rescue group received e-mails from all over the country in support of him. Those letters tell the story of many feral kitties that have been cared for or "adopted" and the people who support them. Thanks to all who wrote.

### More Feral-kitty letters:

Feral-kitty is a beautiful cat. He looks as if he would be someone's best friend. Who knows, he could also be a lap kitty. I have three lovely boys, Puff,

Skinny, and Garfield. They are always looking for a friend. As for why Feral  
*(continued on insert)*

### In Memoriam -rest in peace-

Jack, beloved cat of L. Szabo & C. Hernadi  
Celeste's kittens: Mohawk, Tipper,  
Tipper-2, Smidget, Chlorice, 2 wks  
Jerry Garcia, beloved kitten of P. & P. Frye  
Sister of J. Garcia, 12 wks  
Phoebe, loved by all, 4 yrs  
Ivan, beloved cat of Kascedan family, 9 mos  
Jay-Jay, beloved cat at NRL, 14 yrs  
3 orphaned kittens nursed by Felicity, 3 wks  
Brown Tabby- beloved cat, J. Rice & J. Horwitz  
3 orphaned kittens from PETCO.  
Tortie kitten from 2<sup>nd</sup> orange mom  
Josie, beloved dog, J. Rice & J. Horwitz, 14 yrs  
Tiger, beloved cat of M. & M. St. Claire  
Max, beloved cat of Demcheschen family  
Lucy, beloved cat of J. Rueger, 5 yrs  
Electra, beloved cat of M.A. Hazen  
Callie, lost cat, 15 yrs

## Seven ways to lower vet bills

1. *Pick a vet before you need one. Pet emergencies can cost a fortune. Ask friends and neighbors to recommend a good vet.*
2. *Spay or neuter. These animals are at a lower risk of cancer and have lower risk of transmitting disease.*
3. *Don't overfeed your pet. Over-weight animals are prone to heart disease and diabetes, and have a shorter lifetime.*
4. *Perform basic pet care yourself. Learn how to clip your pet's nails and perform basic grooming.*
5. *Ask for discounts. If you have several pets- take them in at the same time. Some vets give discounts for rescued pets and some to senior citizens. Also look for inexpensive shot clinics run by humane societies.*
6. *Look for free stuff. Lots of companies offer free food, free samples, and vet rebates.*
7. *Investigate the cost/benefit of pet insurance.*  
*(Cole Redman newsletter, in part)*



Gretta- a "single cat" kitty

## Help us help more kitties!

**Special fundraising this year:** Kristin Donahue initiated a music concert in honor of Castle Cat Rescue and attendees offered cash and food donations to our charity. It was also part of her Girl Scout Silver Award in Troop 3491. We thank her for conceiving and organizing the event and we thank all the performers and donors.

Grace Cottrell, an expert knitter, made two beautiful Irish cable sweaters and auctioned them to friends for a dona-

tion to Castle Cat Rescue. Thanks to her for creative fundraising.

Bruce and Gay Griffin made a large cat condo for our kitties and re-carpeted and repaired all of our old cat trees. Thanks for helping make the shelter a "home" for the kitties.

We received cash, food, and medicine donations throughout the year and we thank each and every one of you for thinking of the kitties and offering your support.

**Cash donations** are always appreciated. Make checks to "Castle Cat Rescue" and send to PO Box 1723, Annandale, VA 22003-1723. Castle Cats is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization; financial statements are available on request.

**Volunteers:** We're always looking for regular volunteers or substitutes to feed and clean once a week. We are also ISO someone who can help reupholster our shelter couch and chair.



## Feline's Basement News

CASTLE CAT RESCUE  
PO BOX 1723  
ANNANDALE, VA  
22003-1723

### Volunteers:

Jane Rice Marty Summerour  
Kristi Barnes Amy Adler The Listopads  
Ginger Caress Miriam St. Clair Beverly O'Dell  
Susan Kelly Nancy & Matt Carroll  
Heather Nagler Samantha Jessee Erika Harrison  
Carol Pulido Danielle Johnson

### Fosterers

Neville Withington & Kerry Kingham  
Danielle Watson & Josh Schmidt Sue Vlasic  
Lyn McCoy & Jane Blackburn Julie Demcheshen  
Chris Clendenin Susan Spalding Amber Scivolette  
Corrine Rypka Dennis Potter Debra Horst  
Deborah Macklin

Phone: 703-655-3285  
Fax: 703-425-0581  
Email: Rice\_jk@hotmail.com

We're on the web:  
[www.castlecats.org](http://www.castlecats.org)

GREAT kitties available for adoption!



Timmy— brown tabby, curious  
and sweet, 11 mos



Fluffy —buff and white,  
adorable and low-key



Storm— silver tabby, sweet and  
lovable, 11 mos old

## House in rubble - 38 cats

When we heard about the predicament of these cats, we offered our help. We FeLV/ FIV tested, arranged for 9 to be spayed-neutered and took one to an eye specialist for evaluation. ASAP, Pets Limited, Kathleen Culbertson, and Beverly O'Dell were instrumental in getting care for these kitties. HART and Little Buddies have taken some of them for adoption. The owner of the cats was evicted or had to move from her home and she placed her cats in a nearby house temporarily. No sooner than she relocated them, workers came and bulldozed the house with the cats in the basement! One was hit by a car and taken for emergency care, but the others are safe.



Cats after house razed.

## Donors

### Community Supporters:

Mark Brown  
Peggy Buckley  
Columbia Pike Vet Hospital  
Petco—Herndon Clocktower  
SPCA-PG Clinic  
Town & Country Vet Hospital  
Veterinary Vision of Virginia  
Idexx Diagnostics  
Petco, Gairthersburg, MD  
Pets Limited

### Golden Friends:

(greater than \$200)  
Debbie & Tom Carmel  
Grace & Bill Cottrell  
The Demcheshens  
The Donahues  
Katie Evans and family  
Lynne Hendricks & Les Aker  
Cheryl Foote  
Joanna Harkin, ASAP  
Judith Harrington  
Judith Henderson  
Anita & Nagestl Kanvindt  
The Listopads  
Neville & Karry Withington  
Miriam & Munsell St.Clair

### Friends of Castle Cats:

Amy Adler & Joel Schneider  
Kristi Barnes  
Barbara & Capt. Fred Becker  
Christine Biscardi  
Jane Blackburn & Lyn McCoy  
Charles Border & Thomas Greenia  
Mark Brown  
Peggy Buckley  
Lori Anglin and Metro Ferals  
Irv & Mattie Boker  
Ginger Bryan  
Cindy Burroughs  
Michael Carscadden  
Ann and Bob Charles  
Sandra Chalmers  
Joanne Chi  
Chris Clendenin  
Terry Cole  
Kemper G. Collins, State Farm Ins.  
Judith Edstrom  
Lydia Estes & Sandy Myrick  
Laurie Findlay  
Jennifer Frank  
Polly & Paul Frye  
Val Garcia  
Reylene van Geldern  
Michael & Kevin Gibson  
Elizabeth Glowicz  
Amber and Tessa Gorte  
Bruce & Gay Griffin  
Nicolette Hall  
Amy & Rob Harper  
Amber Hawes  
Alan & Irene Herman  
Susan Herschkowitz  
Dana Hudson  
Hytech Design, Doug Hyde  
Samantha Jessee  
Kelly Keys  
Denise King  
John & Suzanne Leonard  
Teri Lutz

Linda Lyons  
The Mattox's  
JoAnn Millikin & Bob Astheimer  
Joseph McDermott  
Margaret McLane  
Jo Anne Missal  
Jan Morgan  
Jane Moreland & Beverly Newberry  
Greg Morrison  
Melanie Mulcahy  
Bill & Michele Nicol  
Beverly O'Dell  
Roxanne & Debbie O'Brien  
Andrew Purdy  
Richard & Linda Rosenburg  
Becky & Brian Roser  
Jennifer Rueger  
The Sedgwicks  
Frederick & Marilyn Skaer  
Charles Shafer & Virginia Spivey  
Larry & Mary Shatzer  
Debra Scarborough & Paul Styer  
Sandi Sponaugle  
Mary & Gary Smith  
Laura Smith & Ward Parsons  
Liz Szabo & Chris Hernadi  
Claudia Thorne  
Danielle Watson & Josh Schmidt  
Eileen Slappay  
Susan Spalding  
The Summerours  
Leslie Ungaro  
Fran Vasaly  
Sue Valasic  
Katherine White  
Michelle Wiseman

## More feral letters:

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continued from page 3)  
kitty is the most visited cat, he has a disposition about him that says "love me".  
Regina V.

I was interested in Feral-kitty because I myself have a adoptive feral kitty named Melvin. Solid black with big orange eyes that look like a farmers moon. I wanted to see how your kitty is adjusting to his new life. Melvin has done well. He sleeps next to my head at night. If I wake up, he will run under my bed until I go back to sleep. We are making great progress. If you ever have the chance to love such a special creature, take them in. I have been given such joy in watching Melvin come to love and trust our family. Kimberly W.

My husband and I get teased by our neighbors for feeding the feral cats in our neighborhood. We have captured kittens & tamed them enough to find homes. We have two males that live in our home, which were both orphans at one time. We just recently managed to catch 2 kittens from a feral cat that we had been feeding in

our garage. One is spoken for already & we shouldn't have any trouble placing the other. If we manage to catch them early enough they are easy to domesticate. I am very disappointed in our local veterinarian, because I asked him if he would donate spays to prevent unwanted litters. HE SAID NO! We love all animals & wish we could save them all, but we can't so we just do our best. We are both retired & on disability but we still manage to put food out. Carolyn B.

I like Feral-kitty because i have a brown tabby that looks a lot like him. SHE is also a 'fraidy cat. she loves US and will let us pet now (she's 15) but if anyone else comes along she's gone! storms... she's gone. medicine.. gone. we think she's real smart because she has escaped all of the usual cat problems and we thing it's because she's SO careful. her name is Foxenne (aka Foxy or Fox) + Feral-kitty just looks SO bunchy. Fox gets like that and the best place to touch her is her bunchy ruff. if you're lucky, she'll let you. do you think all tabby cats are more cautious? my cat Robert - the bobtailed silver tabby - wasn't. i love cats.  
Leandra R.

You wanted to know why so many people were clicking on Feral-kitty's photo -I think like me it would be great to be able to "tame the wild beast", which every cat I know has inside them. I have one cat that belongs to a neighbor – a beautiful black tomcat. He has been eating at my house every morning and evening for years and I still CAN'T get him to let me stroke him BUT one day he will and it will be like going to the moon I think. B. Barnes



*Feral Kitty on front porch*