

BUSH THE cat arrived severely injured at holly white's home. south county cats volunteers lindsay fors (front), michelle canzano (middle) and kim rector (right) marvel at bush's disposition. - photo by d'ann tedford

## Cats here, cats there

# Cats & kittens are everywhere

By D'Ann Tedford

The cat stories tugged at your heart with descriptors like *special needs*, *feral* and *unadoptable* banded about. But the numbers from last weekend's CAToberfest provided a lift higher than a kitten jumping for its play toy: 200 attendees at South County Cats' celebration in Black Diamond; all nine kittens adopted plus potential homes for two special needs cats; 40 volunteers assisting the Celebration of Cats event with their families and 4-H members.

An adoption costs \$70 and helps with expenses like

spaying, neutering, shots and basic necessities. Price was no obstacle, however, as cat lovers jointly opened their hearts and their pocketbooks - \$3500 was raised at the silent auction of cat-related accouterment. As admission fee, feline friends also donated 315 pounds of litter, 68.9 pounds of dry cat food, and 622 cans of wet cat food.

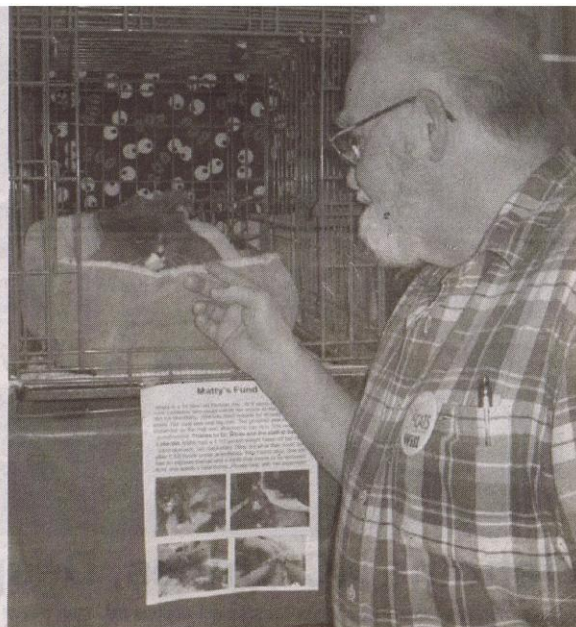
While cats and kittens were the biggest winners at the day-long celebration and adoption event, Dana Lewis of Maple Valley was a winner too. She took home the cat-themed quilt from a raffle.

Distressed cats that found homes included a 10-year Persian mix adopted by Will Thomas, a relatively new volunteer with South County Cats. His recently shorn pet, "Matty," spent the last four years living outdoors. It was weighted down by hair so thick and matted it took Sawyer Lake Veterinary Hospital staff more than

an hour of anesthetic-induced sleep to remove most of it. A giant mat of one and a half pounds (just from the cat's back) was on display. Also contributing to Matty's touchy personality, Jan White, DVM, said the cat still needed medical care for an ingrown toenail and tooth extraction.

Best joke of the day went to the sad case of Bush in the White house. A cat foster mom, Holly White, found severely injured, "Bush," a Maine coon cat mix on her front porch. South County Cats paid all costs for removal of its leg and rehabilitation. The pleasant three-legged cat whose free roaming days are over, thrived on attention and well deserved its new placement at an indoor home.

Kathy Myers, event chairperson, announced the next adoption event, "Howl and Prowl," on Halloween, October 31 at



MATTY THE PERSIAN gets a new life from South County Cats volunteer Will Thomas. He adopted the cat whose one and a half pounds of matted hair was on display. - Photo by D'Ann Tedford

Reber Ranch, 28606 132 Ave SE, Kent. South County Cats allows only indoor pet owners to adopt and renters need a landlord's permission. "Kittens must be adopted in pairs or to a home with another kitten or young cat," she said. "Some cats/kittens may be suitable as singles if someone is home most of the day." The organization has a "no declawing" policy.

Sally Halela is founder and president of South County Cats. She said they have facilitated 500 cat spay/neuters, their annual goal, already this year. South County Cats is an all-volunteer spay/neuter assistance organization based in the Maple Valley area. Their volunteers

foster under-socialized cats and kittens to increase adoptability. Sara Kalb and her two daughters have fostered 80 kittens in the past two years, including a pregnant female who delivered five babies with the family nearby.

The cat website is [www.southcountycats.petfinder.org](http://www.southcountycats.petfinder.org). E-mail is [southcountycats@comcast.net](mailto:southcountycats@comcast.net).

**Happy Halloween!**

© 2007 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.  
World rights reserved.