

# SOUTH COUNTY CATS

Winter 2012

Volume 4, Issue 1



South County Cats, 26828 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Road SE #160, Maple Valley, WA 98038  
web: [www.southcountycats.petfinder.org](http://www.southcountycats.petfinder.org) e-mail: [southcountycats@comcast.net](mailto:southcountycats@comcast.net)

## 2011 by the Numbers!

Another year is in the record books for South County Cats! These numbers highlight our achievements:

**1609:** The total number of spay or neuter surgeries with which South County Cats assisted in 2011! This is a record high. We like to think of it not only in the number of cats that were spayed or neutered, but also in terms of the *thousands* of kittens that were prevented. They would have added to the problem of overpopulation in local shelters and the cats that might have been euthanized. That's how we save lives through spay and neuter!

**441:** The number of vouchers that were redeemed in our Companion Cat Voucher Program. This is the program by which financial assistance is provided for the spay or neuter of cats whose caregivers have limited resources. Recipients schedule appointments and transport their cat(s); South County Cats covers the cost of spay/neuter.

**277:** The number of cats/kittens placed in 'forever homes' by South County Cats. Many of these adoptions take place on Saturdays at Petco in Covington. Before going to their new homes, the kittens have been spayed or neutered, microchipped, are up-to-date on standard shots, flea and worming medications, and they (or an immediate family member) have been tested for FeLV (feline leukemia) and FIV (feline AIDS).

**60:** The number of days South County Cats transported cats to the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project in Lynnwood. This means that a South County Cats volunteer drives a carload of cats 90 – 120 miles round trip from south King County to the spay/neuter clinic in Snohomish County an average of five times per month.

**44:** The number of names on our current, active volunteer roster. As an all-volunteer organization, this is an important number – and one of which we are very proud! Volunteers tend to gravitate to one or more of the activities that help us to achieve our mission. These include serving as adoption counselors, fostering kittens, cleaning, trapping, transporting, fundraising, and working community events to increase awareness of the need for spay and neuter and our services.

**5:** The number of years since South County Cats was established as a Washington State non-profit corporation. In addition to our fifth anniversary, we also celebrated the milestone of assisting with 4900 spay and neuter surgeries since 2006! (We have since exceeded 5,000!)

## Our New Banner!

A new banner, which was donated by a generous volunteer in recognition of the fifth anniversary of South County Cats, will help to communicate our focus in the community. South County Cats



participates in many events throughout the year. These events give us the opportunity to educate people about the

importance of spay and neuter of companion cats, the Trap-Neuter-Return of community cats and the assistance available from South County Cats. We also recruit new volunteers and welcome donations. This year we will be at Auburn Petpalooza, Renton & Maple Valley Farmers Markets, Woofstock and Catapalooza! Stop by to say hello and let us know you are a friend of South County Cats!

## Behind the Scenes

There are important tasks that go on behind the scenes which help to achieve the mission of “saving lives through spay and neuter”. They require effort that doesn’t get reflected in the statistics, but are necessary for the health and welfare of the cats and kittens in our care.

Cleaning is one of these less glamorous, but extremely important, volunteer tasks. That includes cleaning equipment - the carriers, cages, traps, litter boxes and bowls - used in our trap-neuter-return activities. Certain diseases are highly transmissible through saliva, mucous, or fecal matter. Only a thorough, proper cleaning will prevent the spread of these diseases.

The first step in disinfecting is to disassemble all of the equipment for easy reach of all nooks and crannies.

Then, the equipment is thoroughly scrubbed with a cleanser.



After rinsing, it is then sprayed with a 10% bleach solution, allowed to sit for 10 minutes, then rinsed again. If it is suspected that any cats are ill, more stringent cleaning protocols are put in place.

The cleaning is a time-consuming job, and as South County Cats is able to neuter more cats, more carriers and cages need cleaning each week. It may not be a “warm, fuzzy” volunteer task, but the volunteers have the satisfaction of knowing that they help keep our cat population healthy and safe.

## Mom & Me Program

Have you ever wondered how a spay/neuter assistance organization ends up with so many cute kittens?!? There are a number of reasons, and one is that volunteers monitor local ads, bulletin boards, even signs in yards, in an effort to rescue “free” kittens. Uncertain of their fate in general, we also know these kittens are going to

a new home without the benefit of spay or neuter. Many times kittens are being given away just because their caretaker was unable to pay for the mama cat to be spayed, resulting in the unwanted



litter. In other cases homeless cats choose to give birth in garages or sheds, and good-hearted people are

trying to find new families for the mama and kittens. So, as capacity in foster homes allows, South County Cats makes an offer to take the kittens IF they agree to spay or neuter the mama cat and other cats in the house or yard. Vouchers and transportation, if needed, are provided for these cats. The kittens are fostered and then spayed or neutered before they are ready for adoption. So that’s one way a spay/neuter assistance organization ends up with so many cute kittens!

## Where’s Waldo?

A casual conversation sometimes identifies cats in need. It was in this way that we learned about someone who was feeding an eartipped, stray cat. Waldo was what we would call a ‘community’

cat. He was homeless and the eartip was an indication that he had been trapped-neutered-returned. He was reported to be a great hunter, so arrangements were made for this cat to help a South County Cats volunteer needing to



control a terrible mole problem. Immediately upon his arrival, it became apparent that not only was he *not* feral, he was very affectionate! Had he somehow been separated from his family, maybe through moving or abandonment or being required to live outdoors? He was not microchipped, so ‘Lost Cat’ signs were searched and Craigslist was monitored in case someone was looking for him. He hid at first so he was called ‘Waldo’ during the search. “Where’s Waldo?” became a common phrase in the household. Due to his gentle, passive nature, he

quickly made friends with two resident females. He has NO interest in going outside and just wants to sleep on the bed or in the window. Waldo is lucky and now has a home, but how many more tame cats are out there wishing they could be back inside a warm house living with a loving family? Volunteers who do trap-neuter-return try to recognize a tame cat in a colony, now known as the "Waldo Rule." If his home cannot be located, after spay or neuter they will make him available for adoption as a family pet.

Note: Microchipping is the best way to ensure that your cat can be identified and returned to you if he gets out. Always make sure your cat's microchip registration information is up-to-date.

## Annual CAToberfest

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual CAToberfest was held October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Maple Valley Community Center. In addition to the silent auction, raffle, kids' drawing contest and Marketplace, an added feature to the event was a series of speakers who gave brief talks on areas of expertise related to pet care. The program included 'Pet Livestock



*Preparedness*' by Marie Schimke, WASART, 'Your Animals Are Talking. Are You Listening?' by Polly Klein, Tonglen Healing Arts for Animals, 'How to Recover a Lost Pet' by Kat Albrecht (and Cheeto, pictured above), Missing Pet Partnership and

'Keeping Indoor Cats Happy' by Cori Gross DVM of Feline Behavior Housecalls. Refreshments at CAToberfest included a special cake recognizing the anniversary. Event attendees also donated cat food and litter to replenish these basic cat care necessities.



**Mark your calendar!!**

This year, **CAToberfest** will be held on **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**!

## How You Can Help!

There are many ways [you can help](#) our efforts to save lives through spay and neuter:

**Let people know about our services** - We provide year-round financial assistance for limited income, disabled and senior citizens to have their companion cats spayed or neutered.

**Donations** – We can always use non-clumping cat litter, cat food, cat toys, bleach and more. Please see our [wish list](#). Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated and can be sent to our mailing address (see below).

**Ink Jet Cartridges** – Donate used ink jet cartridges for recycling. Staples and Office Depot award valuable credit that we use for printing services and office supplies. Email us to arrange a pickup or drop-off.

Visit us at [www.southcountycats.petfinder.org](http://www.southcountycats.petfinder.org). Also, **Like** us on [Facebook](#) page and share our postings with your friends.

Thank you for your support of  
*South County Cats.*

We are a small organization  
making a **BIG** difference.

*Saving lives  
through spay and neuter...*

**South County Cats Spay/Neuter Assistance Organization**  
*Saving lives through spay and neuter*  
Over 5,000 cats altered since 2006!

South County Cats is an all-volunteer,  
IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Tax ID # 20-5278961

Tax-deductible donations may be sent  
to our mailing address:

South County Cats  
26828 Maple Valley-Black Diamond RD SE #160  
Maple Valley, WA 98038

web: [www.southcountycats.petfinder.org](http://www.southcountycats.petfinder.org)  
e-mail: [southcountycats@comcast.net](mailto:southcountycats@comcast.net)

