

The purrfect solution to cat overpopulation

All it takes is one story about a cat-welfare organization to be reminded that cat lovers are a passionate bunch.

The news feature in the Reporter Jan. 19 about South County Cats was headlined "They're felines' best friends." It went on to describe the all-volunteer group's tireless campaign to provide spay and neuter services to help keep the cat world around here from repopulating too much.

After they read the story, we heard – totally unsolicited – from several readers who offered glowing testimonials on behalf of South County Cats.

And the organization itself shared some reactions it received, including one from a woman who lamented that two cats – one male, the other female – that her family adopted to help keep rodents off their property wound up parenting a litter of kittens. Unable to afford the cost of having the sudden mini-explosion of cats neutered and spayed by a veterinarian, she asked, "What are your charges? Help! I can't tend to

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any kittens."

As the story explained, South County Cats will provide the service to anyone who needs it. So best wishes to the lady, and I hope she follows through.

I wish such a service had been available on the Hawaii island of Kauai, where my family, while living there a few years ago, took in a feral cat. It was way too wild to keep. As I drove the yowling demon back to the kindly, elderly woman who'd given it to us, I stewed about people who irresponsibly let cats breed and turn them loose to fend for themselves. Thank goodness some folks are just the opposite.

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