



# Open Window

Issue 3 March 2009

Open your heart to our community's homeless cats

## Feral Feline Friends of East Tennessee

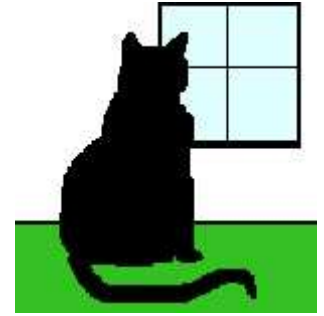
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**Feral Feline Friends of East Tennessee** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We are dedicated to the care of feral cats, and members of our group work on a volunteer basis to feed, water, and provide medical care for hundreds of feral cats in Knoxville and surrounding areas. We participate in a trap/neuter/return program in an effort to control the feral cat population. The TNR program is where feral cats are humanely trapped by volunteers, taken to a clinic to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated, and returned to their colony where they are most comfortable. We are not an adoption agency nor do we take in unwanted pets. *Our organization only holds adoption fairs in order to find homes for socialized kittens born into feral colonies and to re-home stray pets that are abandoned in our colonies!* We are funded solely from donations and fundraisers with 100% of money raised going directly to controlling and maintaining the feral cat population.

### Monthly Meetings

Feral Feline Friends meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (March 10, April 14) at Mr. Gatti's, 6913 Kingston Pike (just west of Papermill Road). Please come and learn how you can make a difference in the feral cat community.


### Exciting Numbers!!!!!!

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Spays and Neuters KFCF sponsored	455	363	483	371	174
Feral Fixin'- UT sponsored	222	300	250	22	
<b>Total Spays and Neuters</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>174</b>
Adoptions	231	156	171	162	75

Our work IS making a huge difference for feral cats in our community!

*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world.  
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.- Margaret Mead*





## Colony Characters Meet "Sherman" Caretaker Mike Jones

Sherman is a great example of a "friendly" feral cat! Much like humans, all cats have distinct personalities and Sherman happens to be one of the most outgoing characters in his colony. Sherman quickly decided that Mike was a great caretaker and worthy of feline attention. He recognizes Mike's car and runs to greet him; in fact, Mike took this picture while sitting in the driver's seat! Although Mike can easily pet Sherman, the cat is still cautious with other people and will usually be social with humans only if Mike is present. A cat like Sherman is a wonderful gift to any caretaker- receiving affection from a feral cat is truly priceless.

*Do you have a "colony character" that you would like for us to meet? Send a picture and description (or any other colony news) to Donna Poling at [dmpoling@comcast.net](mailto:dmpoling@comcast.net).*

### UT Vet School Feral Fixin' Event

UT's Vet School will host a feral spay-neuter event on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to trap, transport, and house the cats in a warm place for one or two nights as well as work at the Vet School during the events. If you do not have trapping needs in your own colonies, we have a list of colonies that need help! Please contact Kristen or Diane as soon as possible if you have UT and/or KFCF traps.

If anyone has cats that they want to bring to UT, they must confirm the details with Diane Stephens first. She has the master schedule and it is important that she has your name and number of cats expected so that the Vet School can plan accordingly. Contact Diane at [kfcf@knology.net](mailto:kfcf@knology.net) to let her know if you will be bringing cats and/or helping out. The Vet School does a fantastic job with our colony cats and is a tremendous resource for the community.

### Garage Sale

It's time to get those closets and garages cleaned out!! Please start gathering all your garage sale goodies for the FFF/KFCF fund-raising garage sale on Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2. It will be held at 1939 Grenada Blvd. in Foxfire subdivision which is off of Ebenezer Rd., just north of Northshore Dr. We will start accepting items on Saturday, April 18.

Help will be needed on the days of the garage sale and one or two evenings before the sale to prepare the merchandise. Also, if anyone is interested in baking, we could sell cupcakes, muffins, etc. and drinks to bring in a little extra \$\$\$. If anyone has any other suggestions, please contact Debbie Marsh at 690-9040.

*If I tried to tell you how much I love my cats, you wouldn't believe me -  
unless your heart is also meow-shaped and covered in stray fur. ~  
Lexie Saige*



## **CHOCOLATE!!!**

Kristen has arranged for our group to sell *World's Finest Chocolate Bars* as a fundraiser! These scrumptious candy bars are only \$1.00 and will sell themselves if you leave a box sitting around your workplace. Please pick up a box (or two or more...).

## **TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

*Here is some basic information on trapping condensed into a list. For additional information, please visit Alley Cat Allies at [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org).*

1. Set up a daily routine by feeding the cats at the same place and time.
2. Make sure you understand how your particular trap works!!!
3. Withhold food one day prior to trapping (unless you have kittens-they must eat). Hunger is the key element in enticing cats into the trap. Use tuna, any canned fish, or canned chicken. Place a puppy training pad on the bottom of the trap and trail bits of food from the front to the back, placing most of the food behind the plate that they must step on in order for the trap to close. Cover the back of the trap with the sheet or towel that you will be using to cover the trap. Half of a flat bed sheet works beautifully!
4. When trapping, place the trap in a quiet, safe place, where cats are accustomed to feeding and where you can see or hear when a cat is trapped without interfering in the trapping process. Do not leave the trap unattended.
5. Once trapped, some cats may panic and thrash about. Place a cover completely over the trap to calm the cat. Do not panic and do not release the cat. Leave the cat in a covered trap for transportation to the vet. Do not let the cat loose in a room or attempt to transfer into a carrier. The cat will be safe and secure in the trap and will be ready for the veterinarian to treat. Remember to withhold food and water 6-8 hours before surgery (except for kittens).
6. After surgery, the cat will be placed directly back into the trap with clean covering on the bottom. Keep cats in their covered traps in a quiet, dry, warm place. Once they are alert, offer water and a small amount of food. Some cats won't eat at all while trapped, so don't be alarmed. Cats should be held for at least 24 hours and can be returned to the colony the next day if their eyes are clear and they are alert.
7. Return the cat back to their colony and make sure fresh food and water are provided. Monitor their health closely for the next week to ten days.

This website has great trapping information (including pictures):  
<http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/info/trapping.htm>



*One must love a cat on its own terms.- Paul Gray*

## Questions that people have asked on a pet food companies 800 help line

My cat just came in from the garage and I was wondering - how many calories are there in a mouse?

I have a neutered male cat. How old should he be before I can breed him?

How can I keep my cat from stealing my husband's toothbrush?

My cat passed a stool on the indoor rug and it's stuck in the vacuum cleaner. Any suggestions?

How do I stop my cat from giving food to the dog?

Do you know how to toilet train a cat?

*Do you have a picture or story about a KFCF adopted cat or colony cat who has passed away? I will be putting together an "in memory" page for next month's newsletter. Please send any information to Donna at [dmpoling@comcast.net](mailto:dmpoling@comcast.net).*

### Support Feral Feline Friends of East Tennessee!

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my donation of: \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other

**Your donation will be used solely for the care of Knoxville's feral colonies, to include spaying/neutering, food, or other necessary care. Your donations are tax deductible under section 501c3 of the IRS code. Please let us know if your employer will match your gift.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

