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# Feral Cat Advocates Meeting

## 2010 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting

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Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Location: San Jose Animal Care & Services

Organizers: Diana Grubbs & Denise Uriarte

Meeting Participants: Local Rescuers & Feral / Community Cat Advocates

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Update: Lobbying / Influence & Mitigation Groups Diana**

No new activity to review from the Lobbying group. Diana submitted her application to the Santa Clara County animal advisory committee but has not had any response.

Mitigation group has been very active (Diana/Janice/Cathy G)

Three sources of requests: SJACS, CRC/PAWS, and rescue network

SJACS example: Mobile home park. Manager was OK with TNR, but some of the residents consider the cats a nuisance. The team will give a presentation to the residents, including deterrent methods, in June.

CRC example: Lady thought her neighbor was poisoning outdoor cats and wanted help in relocating the cats. Mitigation team made sure she had contacted the appropriate authorities (she had). Team will stay in touch with her for whatever support she needs.

Network example: A colony manager was taking care of cats at an apartment complex, doing everything right. But the complex HOA was still upset, mostly due to flea and nuisance concerns. The team attended the HOA meeting, addressed their concerns, learned that there was a second group of cats in another area, which the colony manager agreed to TNR and manage in addition to the existing colony.

The Mitigation team is looking for new members, as the number of cases is increasing. Contact Diana.

The mitigation packet is almost ready for distribution. It is meant as a resource for all trappers to educate the public and/or deal with upset residents. The info will also be on the CRC for download.

#### **Cat Resource Center (CRC) Update / Q&A**

**Scott / Dana**

170 requests were logged on the CRC from Jan 1 – May 16. 75% of those were successfully handled. The others were not handled due to no responses from

trapping/colony feeder community. CRC response will be revised to include an option to keep the request on a list for when someone has time to respond.

Some examples were reviewed – the aim is to get the caller involved, not to provide a free service.

### **108-Cat SJACS Shelter Intake Update**

**Staycee Dains**

Hoarders = collectors. Everyone in the room has the potential to be a hoarder, so reconsider categorizing all hoarders as bad people.

The recent case showed us how a well-meaning person went too far. We need to be there for each other, and watch out for those who are in over their heads. While most hoarders are solitary and go undiscovered until authorities are called in, we may have prevented this one if we'd gotten more involved with this person and offered support.

Of the 108 cats, 69 are remaining at the shelter. Of the 69, 40 are friendly and 15 pass the SJACS adoptable test. The other 25 have health issues – 4 of these need end of life support (not caused by the hoarder) and may be helped by Best Friends. The 39 not friendly are not completely unhandlable. Some could be indoor-outdoor pet cats but are too scared for the shelter environment.

Needs are: Friendly but sick foster care for a couple of weeks / Funding for Dental surgeries / ranch (barn) homes

### **San Jose Feral Freedom Program Update**

**Staycee Dains**

464 Feral Freedom cats returned! About 10 have been re-trapped and re-surrendered (and re-returned). Only 1 re-trapped had a “do not return” from the trapper, and Town Cats took the kitty.

The FF pilot program ends September 30. SJACS will apply for a ASPCA competitive grant, as well as a Maddies Fund grant in order to continue the program.

The FF program is the reason that none of the 108 cats were put down – the shelter had the space and the resources to care for them, and the rescue group response was outstanding.

Numbers are expected to increase, as kitten season has officially started May 19, about 10 days earlier than last year. Kitten season is the first day that 2 mo/2 lb litters are surrendered at the shelter. This year has seen more pre-weans than last year too, and the rescue groups have taken more than previous years.

### **Feral Freedom “LIVE Release” Teams**

**Denise**

Denise thanked the Feral Team drivers with a polo shirt with the FF logo.

Drivers needed for Monday and Wednesday teams.

## **Fremont Shelter Feral Program**

**Martin Serena**

The Fremont program (Fix Our Ferals) has been TNRing for about 2 ½ years and saved 450 cats. The Fremont area shelter takes in about 2,000 cats per year (vs 11,000 for SJACS) and Martin works with a team of only 2 ½ people.

The Fremont shelter previously did not ask the surrenderer for much information, but now they ask for details about the trapping location and reason for trapping, and who is feeding the cats. They also ask for permission to be contacted by the Friends of Ferals (FOF) group.

One recent case was a resident who was feeding the neighborhood cats and decided that there were too many so he/she took the unwanted ones to the shelter. When FOF contacted them, they said that they wanted to continue to feed 5 cats but now there were many more that they did not want back.

FOF relies on Haydens' law to get the cats out of the shelter, then advises the residents that they must take responsibility for keeping the cats out of their yard.

## **IBOK Preween Packs & PFOF/HSSV TNR Classes**

**Casey Leonardo**

Trapping classes are every month at HSSV, and Casey is willing to do other classes wherever they are needed.

IBOK has free bottle-baby starter packs at area Pet Food Express Stores and at SJACS. They have basic instructions and supplies for caring for young kittens, as well as coupons. They are producing a DVD to provide further instruction on bottle kitten care and development.

Catalina noted that HSSV will spay the mother cat for free if the owners raise the kittens to the adoption age – 2 mo/2 lbs.

## **County Feral Spay Program**

**Brigid Wasson**

The county budget cuts were announced, and they are losing 2 staff positions. The county spay/neuter program will continue for now. The county provides \$100,000 and another \$80,000 is provided from donations. Last year, most of that came from the state. But anyone can donate to this fund. The more individual donations are received the greater chance the program has of being funded next year. Brigid handed out information for donations, which are also accepted at the county shelter in San Martin. Be sure to write "spay/neuter fund" on the check.

Brigid also reminded everyone to register those chips! Because there are many unincorporated pockets throughout Santa Clara County and animals picked up there go to San Martin. Not many people know to look at San Martin for their lost pet. And not all

vets keep records of microchip numbers. So as soon as you get a chip implanted, go and register it.

### **Microchips**

**Diana**

Providing microchips to low cost spay/neuter clinics for feral cats has been harder than expected. While some vets are very enthusiastic, not all vets in the county program have agreed to do it, and some want an additional fee. Discussions continue. The first trial batch of chips has been purchased from HSSV and will be registered as sold to Diana. Then they will be delivered to the vets. Upon dropping cats off for surgery, trappers will complete a postcard with their information and the clinics will get it back to Diana. Volunteers have already signed up for data entry.

### **Contact Info**

#### **CRC - Cat Resource Center**

[www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org)

408-335-4357

dana@catcenter.org

Scott@hpssims.com (408-241-6886)

#### **PAWS for SJACS – Pet Awareness and Welfare Society**

[www.paws4sjacs.org](http://www.paws4sjacs.org)

877-729-7475

#### **IBOK – Itty Bitty Orphan Kitty**

[www.IBOKrescue.org](http://www.IBOKrescue.org)

408-414-3204

#### **PFOF – Peninsula Fix Our Ferals**

<http://www.peninsulafixourferals.org/>

650-261-6665

#### **FOF - Fix Our Ferals**

<http://fixourferals.org/home/>

510-433-9446