

Mews and Purrs



Volume IV Issue 2

Spring, 2012

Bubbles Awaits a Bright Future By Tami Ritchson

Statistics (January to April)

TNR: 34
 Took In: 4
 Adopted: 1
 Looking for Homes: 48
 Died of Natural Causes: 4

Inside this issue:

<i>Beautiful but Deadly</i>	2
<i>Wish List</i>	2
<i>Quarterly Quote</i>	2
<i>Quincy on the Roof</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Opportunities</i>	3
<i>A Note from Tami</i>	4
<i>Thanks to Our Donors</i>	4
<i>Gallery of Faces</i>	5
<i>About Feral Cat Rescue</i>	6



Bubbles

Sula, Montana, sits at 4,600 feet in the Bitterroot mountains. Temperatures get well below zero degrees in the winter, with significant snow accumulation.

Bubbles is a seven year old Manx cat who has lived her life indoors. She has a shiny, black, short-haired coat.

In the January winter of 2012, Bubbles was put outside in Sula because she did something 'bad'. Apparently it was an unforgivable deed. As she sat on the doorstep, confused, ear

tips freezing, her owner turned her back.

A visitor saw this sad situation and asked Tami, at Feral Cat Rescue, to take Bubbles and find her a new home. While TNR and a food bank are FCR's primary programs, how does a person say no, knowing this kitty is ill-equipped to live outdoors in such a harsh climate?

It's been over three months since she came to Feral Cat Rescue. We find she's very affectionate and tidy. Her right ear tip did fall off. Her little four inch tail lost all it's fur. The fur is growing back now, but the ear will not.

Her story continues to unfold each day, just like our own stories. Many of us carry the scars of character-building experiences, but they do not diminish our lovability, nor our desire for companionship. Bubbles does not look in the mirror and see flaws. She accepts who she is and enjoys each day, while she awaits the arrival of her kindred spirit.



Beautiful but Deadly - A Short Primer on Toxic Garden Plants

By Carolyn Jones

Spring is here and many of us are turning our attention to sprucing up our yards with flowering plants. When selecting your bedding plants, it is wise to remember that cats like to chew on greenery and not all of it is good for them. Below is a list of common garden flowers that can give kitty a tummy ache or worse. This is by no means a complete list, but a selection of flowering plants that are popular.

Amaryllis	Chrysanthemum	Iris	Most Lily Varieties	Narcissus
Azalea	Daffodil	Jonquil	Morning Glory	Wisteria
Bleeding Heart	Foxglove	Larkspur	Peony	
Buttercup	Hydrangea	Lily of the Valley	Primrose	

There are, of course, many non-flowering plants that can also be toxic to cats. Should your cat ingest any plant parts that you believe are poisonous contact your veterinarian.

List adapted from *Emergency First Aid for Your Cat* by Tamara S. Shear D.V.M.

Wish List

If you can help us acquire any of the items listed below please call 381-6580

Loving permanent homes!	Kitty Kupboard food bank donations (food or monetary (restricted)
Kirkland Cat Food (for shelter/rescue kitties)	Your empty ink cartridges for recycling
Feral boxes (10)	Volunteers
Small cat carriers	Kitty beds and towers
Fuel cards	Foster homes
Kitty back/front packs	
Paper towels	
Stamps/postage	

And most importantly, LOVING PERMANENT HOMES!



Feral Cat Rescue is Now Online

Visit us at our website: <http://www.feralcatrescuemt.org>

Or on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Feral-Cat-Rescue/272363599048?ref=ts>

Quarterly Quote: “The idea of calm exists in a sitting cat”

Jules Renard



Save a Cartridge—Save a Cat

Be green and help feral cats at the same time. Instead of throwing those empty printer ink cartridges in the garbage, donate them to Feral Cat Rescue. We can recycle them and earn cash to help needy kitties. Drop bins will be located at Willow Mountain Veterinary Hospital in Corvallis, Cindy's Pet Grooming in Stevensville and the Florence Veterinary Clinic in Florence.. For more information please contact

Quincy on the Roof

A Short Anecdote By Dennis Jones

Quincy, our Maine Coon Cat, proved to us that there was no creature more curious than a cat. Whatever one of us would be doing, he would be there.... watching... to be sure (we felt) that we were doing the job right and in the right place. He frequently “talked” to us and usually didn’t leave until he seemed convinced we were doing OK or he lost interest as there was nothing “fun” in it for him.

As I was on the roof cleaning our chimney that particular day, I was joined by our young friend (not unusual) who walked around and around the work area until he finally lost interest in my BORING project.

After a while, I noticed he was on our fiberglass porch roof which, apparently, needed careful consideration. Suddenly, he squatted to pee and let go a stream. Of course it ran down the roof. He tried desperately to find something to cover the moving water while he was moving alongside the little yellow river. He reached into space to try to find something to put over it, but finally just sat down and watched it run.

A minute or two later, he got up and departed in his BEST “Well, who cares anyway” mode and went back down the ladder.

He’s gone now and we will always miss him.



Quincy

Volunteer Opportunities

Feral Cat Rescue needs volunteers who can work independently as:

- ⇒ **Digital video editor**
- ⇒ **ABS feral cat recovery box builder**
- ⇒ **Proactive foster homes**
- ⇒ **TNR trap setup and check, transport to spay/neuter**
- ⇒ **Fundraising and food drive organizers**

If you are able to help out in any of these areas, please call Tami at 381-6580

A Note from Tami By Tami Ritchson

Feral Cat Rescue continues to be of service to the local community. In 2011 we improved the lives of 64 felines through Trap-Neuter-Return, which prevented a minimum of 128 kittens competing for available homes. FCR's foster network took in 58 cats/kittens and adopted 67 into new homes. Our Kitty Kupboard food bank supplied 9,896 pounds of cat food to approximately 390 needy kitties, from Florence to Darby.

FCR received just over \$15,000 in financial support in 2011.

Our operational expenses were \$12,580. The Kitty Kupboard distributed \$7,553 worth of cat food. \$2,900 provided food, litter and supplies for our foster network, which houses 50 to 60 cats on average. Donations also funded several other necessary rescue expenses, such as medical, spay/neuter and administrative costs.

Thank you to all who contributed your time, money and resources to make 2011 a successful year for our little organization.

Thanks to Our Donors We could not get along without you

Monetary Donations

Brett Zander
 Marilyn Taylor
 Holly Hanson
 Glaxo Smith Kline
 Bill Good
 Bonnie Nickerson
 Bob Opitz
 Joanne Hosko
 Laura Craig
 June Jones
 Jeannie Bibler
 Kim Buckman
 Penny Jakes
 Bob Taylor
 Audrey Erhardt

In Kind Donations

Carolyn & Dennis Jones
 Dr. Seltzer's Office
 Cashier at the UPS Store
 Marilyn Taylor
 Jesse Applebury
 Kelly McKee
 Diane Ackerman
 Nancy Boice
 Kerstin Siefert
 Alan Applebury

Business Support

Gary and Leo's IGA
 Dr Seltzer, DDS
 Lakeland Feed
 Rainbow's End
 Valley Drug & Variety
 Hamilton's Market Place
 Shear Delight
 Feed and Farm
 Valley Pet Clinic
 Willow Mt. Vet. Hospital
 Florence Vet Clinic
 Café Firenze
 Florence Pharmacy
 Mountain Supply, Missoula
 IGIVE
 Glen's Cafe
 Deb's Restaurant



Gallery of Faces

To meet the adoptable cats pictured here, please call 381-6580



Cinderella

I'm a little shy with strangers, but once you've earned my trust, I'll show you what a FUN, spunky, playful little girl I really am. I prefer women over men, but I'm very easy-going with other kitties.

Plucked from the hearth, I'm now ready for my own grand castle.



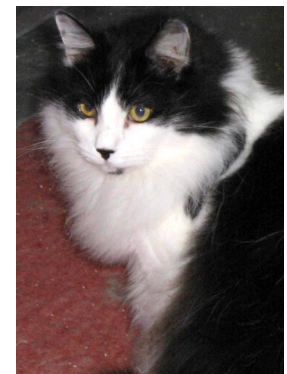
Opal

Opal is an unusually SWEET kitty. She loves to tuck her head under your chin and then she chirps. She is looking for an equally unusual person who will give back as much as she gives. She's about three years old now, but still loves to play. She had her tail amputated due to a past injury, so she looks like a Manx, but she's pure SWEET-HEART.



Elvira

I'm a capricious imp from nose to tail. Whimsical and unpredictable, I'm also incredibly sweet when I trust you. I'm looking for an unusually special home where I can be myself without getting into trouble. Kids don't interest me much. Dogs, - well, as long as they understand I'm the Queen. I have no outdoor skills, so I need to be indoors only.



Pepe

Pepe is the son of Madonna (below). He is about 5 years old and was already an adult when he and his mother were trapped by Feral Cat Rescue. He enjoys human interaction, but can be very shy at times. At 15 pounds, he is a gentle soul and easily intimidated. A momma's boy, he is hoping for a home he can share with his mom, Madonna (below)

Li'l Miss



2 yr. old DSH Black hair, with white 'highlights' (tuxedo).

I'm very short, chubby, and walk on four legs, but I'm *very* huggable. Looking for a tall(er) loving partner for a committed one-on-one relationship. I'm tired of living at the Rescue and having to share attention! Looks don't mean anything to me.... as long as you have a pure heart and a nice lap.

Likes: food, naps, hugs, food, naps, hugs - the smell of tuna fish.....

Dislikes: most other cats, loud noises, children, long walks in the park.....

I'm very loyal and will look *great* on your window sill!

Madonna

Before arriving at Feral Cat Rescue, Madonna raised her kittens in the basement of a burned out house. She is now ready for a real home, ideally, with her son, Pepe (below), to whom she is very devoted. Madonna is about 8 years old and has been looking for a home for four years.





Feral Cat Rescue
PO Box 1018
Hamilton MT 59840
(406) 381-6580

Board of Directors

Tami Ritchson, President/Treasurer

Chris Ritchson, Vice-president

Kelly McKee, Secretary

Jeanne McKinney, Director

Helene Bazin-Lee, Director

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Jones

<http://www.feralcatrescuemt.org>

Email: bitterrootfcr@gmail.com

About Feral Cat Rescue

Feral Cat Rescue is dedicated to the humane treatment of feral and stray cats. Through TNR, education, spay/neuter, foster care and adoption, our goal is to end the needless suffering and killing of unwanted and abandoned felines.

FCR was founded in 2007 as an unincorporated non-profit organization. It received its 501C-3 status as a non-profit organization in 2010.

IF you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to FCR please send it to: Feral Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 1018, Hamilton, MT 59840



Every Cat a Wanted Cat