

Compassion Begins Early

On March this year, Brownie Troop 6937 helped us collect much needed items for our rescue. The girls collected bleach, dish soap, trash bags, plastic utensils, canned cat food, dry cat food, kitty litter, paper towels, cat toys, cat treats, newspapers, and even dog food!

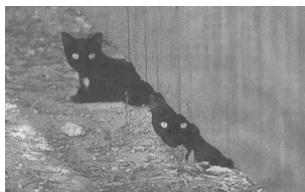
The troopers stood six hours at the door of a local grocery store and asked costumers to add any of these items to their shopping list. The result was incredible!

As part of the requirements for earning a badge dealing with animals, the girls need to work on a service project for a rescue. We are thrilled that they chose us. Many thanks to these caring youngsters and their troop leaders Mary Mahoney, Ann Ballard and Thale Wilberding.

Another group of Brownies, this one from Lotspeich Elementary, will also help out in a similar way. As part of this effort, one of our volunteers and some of our cats will visit them and will talk to them about cat care and responsible pet ownership.

If you know of an organization that would like to partner with us, call 871-PAWS and leave a message for Jennie.

What is TNR?



TNR (**trap-neuter-return**) is a comprehensive management plan where healthy feral (wild) cats are sterilized and vaccinated, then returned to their habitat and provided with long-term care. Adoptable cats and kittens are placed into homes.

TNR is a **humane and nonlethal** approach to feral cat population control

If you would like to be taken off of our mailing list or have an address change, please inform us by referring to the spelling of your last name as it appears on this label.



O'Bryonville Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 9206
Cincinnati, OH 45209

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



O'Bryonville Animal Rescue
The Greater Cincinnati Resource for Feral Cats

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2002

President's Message

As the feral cat population is getting ready to endure another winter, I feel it is appropriate that we take a moment to consider the state of our organization. OAR has made a significant contribution in aiding these cats. Thank you to all who have selflessly lent their support.

Even in this period of increased performance, we have areas to improve. Over the last few years, the number of cats that have come into OAR for sheltering has increased dramatically, while the number of committed volunteers has not. This has put a severe strain on our basement facility as well as my antique store which provides the rescue with space.

From its beginning, OAR's charter has been to provide official framework for a group of concerned individuals to address feral cat overpopulation in targeted areas of Greater Cincinnati through trap-neuter-return efforts. Looking towards the future, it becomes clear that we need to refocus. **To that end, we hope to acquire a small building that can be set up with a surgical suite.** This would provide volunteer vets with a place to offer spay/neuter services for feral

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YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DATE

Sunday, December 8th, 2002
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION

1999 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45208



Raffle drawing will be held 5:00 p.m.

Look inside this newsletter for tickets and a list of prizes for the raffle. You

can also download tickets at our web site:
www.theanimalrescue.com

Volunteers Are Priceless

O'Bryonville Animal Rescue started out with one woman and a goal to help the feral cats in her neighborhood. **Today OAR is a 60 volunteer-run organization and growing.** OAR could not exist and survive without our volunteers. From cleaning out the rescue to working the many adoption and fundraising events that OAR has, we are a success from our volunteers' hard work and dedication. **We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our volunteers and how much they're appreciated for their caring and dedication to these cats.** We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to become part of OAR and join our family of volunteers. A volunteer application can be accessed from our website www.theanimalrescue.com or you may call OAR at (513) 871-PAWS. **Help us continue to help feral cats, join OAR.**

Visit our Web site
www.theanimalrescue.com

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at colony caretakers. The rural cat situation in the Cincinnati area is huge, and this will help address the problem more than we can at present.

All of us love our rescue residents, but OAR just doesn't have the financial resources, space, and most importantly people to continue to act as a shelter/adoption center for non-feral cats. Of course, we will work to find the best possible placements for our current cats, but in the future, our rescue will only take adoptable kittens from our TNR efforts in targeted feral colonies. OAR must not lose sight of our unique mission, since we are the only facility in Cincinnati whose focus is on these forgotten felines.

This has been a very difficult decision to make, but we feel we will benefit more feral cats in the long run and return us to our original charter. I know you can count on your continuing support for this new and exciting era in the life of our rescue.

Athleen Nicholson

ADOPTION HALL OF FAME

CAMILLA

I started volunteering at the O'Bryonville Animal Rescue in August of 2001. If you're a volunteer or have ever visited the rescue you know it doesn't take long to find a special friend. In September of 2001 I adopted Camilla.

Camilla is a long-haired tortoise-shell colored cat and is now almost a year and a

half old. Camilla was known at the rescue for climbing up your leg and sitting on your shoulder. She never had a hard time letting you know she was around. In fact the rescue still sports little white paw prints on the floor made by Camilla after knocking a can of paint over. My husband wasn't too thrilled about becoming a three cat household, but Camilla did a great job of warming her new daddy up when she came home. She loves to terrorize her two bigger brothers Tiger and Raven, and we're still not sure who is head of the house. Each morning when I am getting ready for work Camilla needs a good ten minutes of love time where she sits on my shoulder and gives me kitty kisses on my ears. The special friend which I found at OAR has turned into a loved and cherished family member and we couldn't imagine our house without her. So thanks OAR for another great success story and keep up the great work!!

Tosha Cumbee

Have you adopted a cat from OAR? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please let us know how your furry friend is doing, and send us a picture. If your entry is selected, we will post it in our next newsletter. Send your letters to: **OAR Adoption Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 9206, Cincinnati, OH 45209**, or e-mail them to: **info@theanimalrescue.com**



EMERGENCY

Farm homes desperately needed for feral and semi-feral cats!

We are in desperate need of finding farm homes for groups of feral cats that are being tortured in the Cincinnati area. These cats are feral and can not be adopted into a normal setting. If you own a farm or a home in a rural area with plenty of land and low car traffic, please consider helping these cats by letting them live on your property.

If you are interested in helping, please call 513-871-7297 ASAP!



Linus, Oliver, Maude, and many others are counting on you!

Did you know that in 2001, the OAR spent nearly \$65,000? Most of that money went to medical care for the cats and food and litter. We have been successful at grant writing, but most foundations will not support the day-to-day operations of the rescue. That's where you come in. Almost half of last year's income came from donations from supporters like you. We could not survive without these donations. **Unfortunately, we have not received as many donations this year as in 2001 so we have had to scale back our operations, which means fewer cats rescued.**

Please consider making a donation when you receive this newsletter. Even small donations help and all are fully tax-deductible. If you prefer not to give a monetary donation, we also have a wish list of items needed for the rescue. Contact OAR at 871-PAWS to arrange to drop off your donation.

Oliver, Linus, Maude, and the other cats and kittens at the rescue and yet to be rescued need your help. Please don't let them down.

BASKET BENEFIT

Baskets and cats are a natural pairing, and Longaberger™ consultant Mary Matthews is once again helping us raise money with a Longaberger™ fundraiser. **This is a terrific chance to help OAR and get some holiday shopping at the same time.** You can see all the available baskets, pottery and fabric accessories, including the sweetheart special baskets, at Mary's web site: **www.longaberger.com/marymatthews**.

You can request a catalog or place your order by calling **513-385-3973** or by e-mail at **picabo@fuse.net**. Make certain you let Mary know that you want your order to count towards the OAR Fundraiser. **To have your baskets ready for Christmas, you need to place your order by November 30.**



OAR on the Road

OAR had many adoption promotion events this past year at the **Wild Oats Market at Rookwood Commons**. Thanks to all who attended. We received several adoption and volunteer applications, a few donations, and answered many people's questions about our work at OAR.

A special thanks to the **College Hill Pet Clinic** for allowing us to use their van. We would also like to sincerely thank Wild Oats for their continued support.

How to Donate Online

You can now donate online! Simply click a button through our web site, and you can contribute to the O'Bryonville Animal Rescue through the **Network For Good**. A service developed by America Online, Yahoo, Cisco Systems and Helping.org to help non-profit organizations. 100% of your donation goes to OAR! Network For Good charges no fees and does not take a percentage of your contribution.

www.networkforgood.org

By mail

Please make checks payable to "O Bryonville Animal Rescue" and mail to the following address:

O Bryonville Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 9206
Cincinnati, OH 45209

Wish list

- Stamps
- Cat Food – Dry & Canned for Adults & Kittens (Eukanuba, Science Diet, Iams, Nutro)
- Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR)
- Glad Heavy Duty Trash Bags
- Tidy Cat Litter
- Bleach
- Yellow & Latex Gloves
- Playpens – w/plastic bottom & shelves (Midwest)
- Humane Traps (Hav-a-Hart, Tomahawk)

Our New Home

We are actively looking for a permanent home outside of the antiques' store, but still in the neighborhood. We have several leads but for obvious reasons, do not want to publicize them at this time. **Once we find a place that is suitable, we will try to secure an option to purchase and then actively solicit donations for a down payment and pledges for monthly contributions to cover the ongoing obligation.** This will obviously be a tax deductible endeavor. We will be exploring more sophisticated setups with tax professionals to make the contributions as attractive as possible for those who are willing to participate. One thing on the wish list is a surgical suite, so that spays and neuters can be done on site. **Keep your fingers crossed and start rolling your change - a new home is just around the bend!**



Someone once said, "Music feeds the soul." In our case, music is also feeding the cats

We have organized two benefit concerts for OAR this year. The first one was August 16 at the 20th Century Theater. It featured 7 local acts - **Vinyl Eddie, the Black & Tan Carpet Band, Hyperstatic, Buckra, Dann Bayer, Len's Lounge, and Jason Ludwig** - all performing original music. Even though it was put together on the fly, we managed to raise about \$400 after costs and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The next event was held on November 9 at Jack Quinn's in Covington. Local rock duo, **Meridian**, and new Cincinnati Beatles' Tribute band, **8 Days A Week**, were our featured acts.

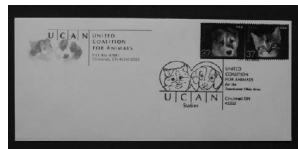
Organizing a concert is not so hard to do and it provides great publicity for all involved. Clubs allow us the space because it will bring in customers and they don't have to pay for entertainment. Musicians volunteer a couple hours since they enjoy playing out - especially when they don't have to lug in sound equipment. Sound people cut us a good deal (Maximum Sound, 513-887-2054). A local news rag gives us ads (ArtSpike magazine). Businesses donate prizes when we tell them any contribution is appreciated. OAR collects money from the admission, raffle prizes, and cat toys.

Will there be more O.A.R. benefit concerts in the future? **Sure - as long as there are musicians who are willing to donate their time and can bring in a crowd.** OAR volunteers have been great in coordinating the rest.

For more information contact MoniqueMaisenhalter, 513-731-4843

OAR and UCAN

The O'Bryonville Animal Rescue is part of the **United Coalition for Animals**, a collaboration of local humane societies, the veterinary health community, shelters, and rescue groups whose purpose is to **improve the quality of life for animals and to reduce the number of unwanted animals in the Greater Cincinnati area.** Specifically, UCAN seeks to promote spay/neuter awareness, humane education, responsible animal care, and adoptions.



You can help UCAN by purchasing a **1st Day Issue Pictorial Cancellation of the new Spay Neuter Stamp** - Help support our programs by making a \$10 donation and receive this commemorative stamp cancellation. Send check or money order with your name and address to United Coalition for Animals, P.O. Box 42083 Cincinnati, OH 45242, Phone: 513-981-7933, or visit our web site: www.petfinder.org/shelters/ucan.html

Matching Funds

As you consider your donations for the year, please be sure to check with your employer. **Many employers will match the amount of your donation to a non-profit group such as ours.**

The L-Kittens

If you've looked at our web site this fall, you may have noticed a preponderance of kittens with first names starting with L - Laurel, Lisa, Liza, Luke, Lydia, Louisa, Lily, Laura, Louie, Lester, Liam, Lawrence. All of these kittens are from Avondale, an area where we have been doing TNR in feral colonies. During TNR operations, we place kittens in our rescue if they are still young enough to be socialized for adoption.

Linus is a black feral kitten with golden eyes born under a porch in Avondale. OAR rescued first Linus and then his three sisters, Lisa, Liza, and Libby. All were shy and nervous when they came to the rescue, but volunteers worked patiently to accustom them to human touch.

Linus has come the furthest, turning into a kitten who craves human companionship, frequently following volunteers around the rescue, and curling up in any arms he can find. He's now at the rescue, waiting for a permanent pair of arms to hold him.

Leo, Lucy, and Leisel were also born in Avondale during the hottest part of the summer. When found, they were very dehydrated; one of their siblings was dead. The kittens were rescued and put into a foster home, where they were nursed back to health and socialized by a volunteer.



Unfortunately, they were discovered to have some minor motor skill impairment, probably due to an illness suffered by their mother during pregnancy. Today, they are beautiful velvet-like gray kittens who love to be held. Other than a slightly wobbly walk and a shyness with strangers, they show no signs of their traumatic beginnings. Like Linus, they are looking for a home; we are hoping that someone will adopt all three special kittens so that they can stay together.

THANK YOU!!!

We are happy to announce that early this year, the O Bryonville Animal Rescue received a wonderful grant of \$10,000 from the **Jean E. Siemer No-Kill Shelter Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.** The grant money was used in various areas of Cincinnati, allowing us to spay 56 females and neuter 46 males. We also purchased test kits in bulk and surgical equipment for future efforts. Thanks to the generosity of the Fund we transformed colonies in Mount Airy, South Fairmount, and Oakley to zero or near-zero population-growth colonies.

In September, we received a grant for \$2,500 from the **Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust.** We are using this money to continue our efforts in these colonies. Next year, OAR will target five colonies in the following neighborhoods of Cincinnati: Avondale, Clifton, Evanston, Over-the-Rhine, and Westwood. We have applied for more money to continue our TNR efforts in these colonies.

Thanks to the following business that have donation boxes on behalf of OAR. Please show your appreciation by giving them your business:

- **The Animal Hospital on Mt Lookout Square**
- **College Hill Pet Clinic**
- **Duck Creek Antique Mall**
- **Especially Dogs**
- **Franklin Savings**
- **Im-pet-uous**
- **Lewis Animal Hospital**
- **Mountain Meadows**
- **Nicholson Antiques**
- **Oakley Antique Mall**
- **Towne Square Animal Clinic**



Cats are not for Christmas

A kitten may look adorable with a little ribbon tied around her neck, a beautiful soft bundle of fur underneath the Christmas tree, **but giving someone a cat or kitten for Christmas is not a good idea.** Every year animal welfare charities are flooded with pets who were unwanted Christmas presents, or from people who had underestimated the burden of responsibility that comes with pet ownership.

If you are considering giving a cat as a gift, we offer the following reasons why you should change your mind:

- Giving a cat as a surprise present is unfair on the recipient: having a cat is a serious decision and requires planning.
- The holiday season, full of noise and disruption, is the worst time to bring a pet into a new environment.
- Even little kittens do not come cheaply. The recipient of a surprise cat may not have the financial resources to continue caring for her, or may lack the necessary equipment or knowledge to care for a new cat.
- The surprised new owner may not want to have a cat, and both will suffer for it.

If you are determined to make the season festive feline-style, we recommend giving cat-related gifts, such as scratching posts, catnip toys, or IOUs for things like pet insurance or vaccinations.

Help your feral cats stay warm when it's cold outside!

Caring for feral cats involves much more than simply feeding them, which often results in cats congregating and breeding more than they might if individual cats roamed freely. **Being a caregiver is a year-round responsibility that involves trapping, vaccinating and spaying or neutering the cats prior to releasing them again.** But tending cat colonies is especially arduous when temperatures drop and the weather becomes harsh. **Even though feral cats develop a thick coat in the fall to keep them warm, they can die from exposure if at least some protection from the elements is not available.**

Look for information from Alley Cat Allies. Their factsheet **Build an Inexpensive Feral Cat Shelter** and article **Coming in From the Cold** will help you prepare your cats for the wintry weather ahead. Alley Cat Allies serves as a resource center for literature and educational information on all aspects of feral colony management. 1801 Belmont Rd. NW, Suite 201, Washington, D.C. 20009-5164 Tel: 202-667-3630. Website: www.alleycat.org



Remembering David

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our beloved David on February 16, 2002, from lymphoma complications.

Many of you remember David, as he always helped new cats arriving to the rescue feel comfortable. David always seemed to gravitate to those most frightened by their new surroundings and his calm nature helped them settle in.

We miss him dearly.

Happy Tails Cards

What better way to send your Holiday wishes than using our Happy Tails Cards? These cards feature the stories of David, Sasha, George & Shadow, Oliver and Simon, all adopted from OAR!

You can purchase the cards at any of our events or request them by mail or e-mail. **Each card is an actual black and white photograph signed by the photographer, Carolyn Evans.** The back of the card features the cat's rescue story, an educational statement and information about OAR's mission. The inside is left blank for your personalized message. *Price is \$3.50 each or 6 cards for \$18.*



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Please join the O'Bryonville Animal Rescue on December 8, 2002 for an Open House from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Nicholson Antiques, 1999 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Bring the whole family to visit our feline residents. This is also your chance to learn about our plans to purchase a building of our own to develop a surgical suite for feral cats. See how you can participate in this effort!

As always, great food, refreshments and desserts will be provided.

The day promises to be both fun and informational.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Tickets for the Holiday Raffle are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

For your convenience, tickets are included in this newsletter. If you need more, feel free to copy them, or request them by calling us at 871-PAWS. Alternatively, you can download the tickets from our web site: www.theanimalrescue.com.

Many different prizes - You choose yours!

You don't need to be present to win

1. **THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL ON MT. LOOKOUT SQUARE** – The official OAR vet clinic. Gift certificate for office visit includes CVR and distemper shots and fecal exam. VALUE \$100
2. **BONNE BELL™ LIP SMAKERS** – An assortment of flavored lip products in many different applications. Fun for all ages. VALUE \$200
3. **BONNE BELL™ TEEN GEAR** – An array of teen flavored lip products, eye definers, eye shades, Bottled Emotion fragrances and much, much more. VALUE \$250
4. **\$100 DOLLARS CASH** – The universal gift certificate!
5. **PET PSYCHIC READING** – By tuning into the thoughts and feelings of animals, Ms. Donetta Zimmerman has heard about their past experiences, medical problems and owner's quirks. VALUE \$50
6. **GENERIC QUILT** – Beautiful quilt handmade by SherryPounce, feral cat caretaker and adoptive mom of OAR kittens. VALUE \$80
7. **COLLEGE HILL PET CLINIC** – Gift certificate for veterinary services offered by Terri McCarty, DVM, or non-prescription items. VALUE \$100
8. **PET PHOTO SHOT** – By Carolyn Evans Photography. 513-702-7849, www.photographer.com. VALUE \$100
9. **BRANDYWINE INN** – Gift certificate to enjoy fine dining in the European tradition. Located in Monroe, OH - about 5 min. north of West Chester off of I-75. VALUE \$50.
10. **WOLFGANG PUCK** – Signed edition of Pizza, Pasta and More, a savory collection of recipes from one of America's bestselling chefs. VALUE \$35.