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CAFA 2015 Annual Report

CAFA thanks you for support and here's an update on our efforts this past year. CAFA continues to work hard to find more ways to help pets in our community.

CAFA rescued and adopted 70 cats/kittens in 2015. This past spring, CAFA received a call from a woman who lived on a farm in Dallas and had more than 20 cats that needed to be TNR'd (trap/neuter/return). We initially got 16 cats trapped and fixed (and the rest were eventually TNR'd, too). However, one of the females gave birth to 6 kittens in a barn, so CAFA took the kittens and the feral mom, so they could be safely fostered in my home. On my way to the spay/neuter clinic (with 16 cats in traps) I heard some sounds coming from one of the traps and sure enough, a cat had given birth to 5 kittens in a trap. So she and her newborns went back to my house to join the other cat her kittens. So this past spring CAFA started out with 11 kittens in my family room. All of the kittens were fixed, vaccinated and adopted into good homes. (The two momma cats were TNR'd returned to the farm as they were feral and unadoptable.)

This was the first of many cats and kittens rescued and subsequently adopted through CAFA. There are many other stories to share including taking care of several sick and injured cats/kittens. CAFA would like to expand its rescue efforts in 2016 but we need more people willing to foster (especially kittens). If you are interested or know anyone willing to help please contact me.

Speaking of helping cats CAFA also **TNR'd 150 cats this year** throughout Marion/Polk counties. An unsprayed female cat can have 3 or 4 litters a year. TNR is the only way to help decrease the cat overpopulation. CAFA is one of the member organizations of the Marion/Polk Community Cat Program which received a large grant via the Willamette Humane Society. This 2-year grant will spay/neuter community cats in the 97301 zip code. Again, CAFA needs more volunteers to help us trap these cats and get them fixed. Please contact us if you can lend a hand.

Additionally, CAFA always needs donations of cat food for people feeding cat colonies that CAFA helped TNR. Food is delivered to more than a dozen locations each month. This is one way to help get cats fixed—not killed—because people want to help the cats but sometimes can't afford the food in order to feed a colony of cats.

CAFA partners with Prevent A Litter (low cost spay/neuter for dogs). This year CAFA and PAL in conjunction with the Marion County Dog Shelter, began a new initiative—to get dogs back into their

homes as well as getting them fixed. The program is aptly named, **The Homeward Bound Fund**. The Fund is administered through CAFA, as a nonprofit all donations are tax deductible. (Donations to the shelter are not.) When a stray dog enters the shelter, and the owner doesn't have enough money to get their dog released, CAFA has a loan agreement that they sign, agreeing to pay the money back. This way the owner gets to take their dog home. The Fund only agrees to loans for owners whose dogs are fixed or the owners agree to get their dog fixed. This is where PAL makes a difference—the dogs get fixed, PAL pays for the spay/neuter and the Homeward Bound Fund covers the \$25 co-pay. Donations to the fund (via CAFA) are always welcome.

CAFA and PAL collaborate on a number of projects and fundraising efforts. One of our fundraising efforts is the **Cans for Critters program**. On the 3rd Saturday of every month, CAFA and PAL collect recyclables at Salem Pet Supply on Market Street from November through March and the Salem Saturday Market near Winter and Union Streets, April through October. In 2015, we raised over \$2500 that helped pets in our community. Again, please keep bringing us: cans, bottles, ink and toner cartridges, old cell phones, GPS devices, MP3 players, digital cameras, "gently used" shoes, used pen, highlighters and markers, and plastic tape dispensers. We sort and turn these items into funds to rescue cats, fix cats and spay/neuter dogs.

Next year, CAFA would like to do more—rescue more cats/kittens, get more cats TNR'd, donate more food and get more dogs released from the shelter. With your continued support, hopefully CAFA will be able to this. The challenges will continue but every time someone finds cats or kittens that need homes and CAFA is able to help, it makes all of our efforts very worthwhile. We look forward to helping more pets in our community in 2016,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lora Meisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lora Meisner
CAFA President