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CAFA 2022 Annual Report

I usually have the annual report done by early February but this year with so many extenuating circumstances, I am very late. The biggest challenge/stressor is the fact that the Oregon Humane Society (which took over the Willamette Humane Society July 1) has stopped taking in stray cats/kittens from Marion County. OHS contends that they need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that gives them permission from the county to do this. I have been in communication with one of the Marion County Commissioners and they told me the truth—the Marion County Legal Counsel has stated that OHS can take in stray cats/kittens without a MOU from the county.

Marion County has repeatedly told OHS to stop stating publicly and on their website that OHS needs this MOU to take in strays—NOT true. The fact of the matter is this: Polk County's MOU signed by OHS and an individual with the county that has no legal right or representation on behalf of the county. In other words, OHS's MOU with Polk County is meaningless.

Needless to say this whole matter has been extremely stressful and depressing for all of us who work hard to rescue, spay/neuter and then adopt stray cats and kittens in the Salem area. And on top of all of this, we are still playing catch-up on getting both owned and strays cats spayed and neutered. Just when we thought things couldn't get worse post covid. Now the Oregon Humane Society (they should get reintroduced to their middle name) has decided to add a thousand-times more misery to the lives of cats in Marion County.

2022 was an extremely busy and very stressful year for CAFA. We rescued and adopted 135 cats/kittens. We are extremely grateful to Cat Adoption Team and their Nine Lives program which helped us to save additional cats and kittens this past year. The Portland area is a much better adoption market than Salem.

But once again, CAFA could not rescue as many kitties without our wonderful fosters. CAFA sends a big thank you to—Jenny, Larry, Sue & Audra, and Joscelyn. Without these wonderful fosters opening their homes to litters of kittens (and some momma kitty's, too) we would not have been able to be remotely as successful.

Even with successful fundraisers, like Bow-Wow Meow Trivia, CAFA (along with PAL) is extremely grateful for every donation especially our monthly donors. The continued donations of cans and bottles to our Cans for Critters recycling program helps to sustain us with regular monthly income. Thank you to everyone who donates to our recycling efforts.

Of course, no rescue can be successful without great veterinary care—CAFA has a wonderful partnership with the No Frills Pet Clinic. Thank you, Dr. Fulton for helping CAFA save so many cats/kittens which come to us with serious infections, compromised immune systems and ever-present eye infections as well as spay/neuter of dozens of kittens. Additionally, CAFA is grateful for the assistance of the Salem Park Vet Clinic. They stepped up many times to help with exams, vaccinations, and several kitty emergencies.

This year CAFA was a grateful recipient of a Karen Schroth Foundation grant as well as a Bissell Foundation grant to spay and neuter owned cats to decrease the number of kittens born each year. CAFA also formed a partnership with the Humane Society spay/neuter clinic that helped many of these owned cats get fixed.

Adopters ask us, “Where do the kittens/cat come from?” 99% of CAFA kitties are abandoned or born outside. People find them in bushes, under decks, in engines of cars/trucks, in barns, wandering in parking lots, the locations are endless. Unfortunately, people abandon cats/kittens like “yesterday’s news.” The negligence and callousness of people never ceases to amaze us. There were cats in a taped up cardboard box abandoned at my front door. They got out and we recovered one but the other was not found. Hopefully someone has given her a home.

We continue helping people in the community with Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)—a continual challenge because of the thousands of abandoned kitties in our community. CAFA TNR’d 100-150 cats in 2022. CAFA greatly appreciates the Humane Society spay/neuter clinic—a major community asset. Without them there would be thousands of additional cats/kittens roaming around Marion County.

Thank you to our rescue partner Prevent-A-Litter (PAL) who helps many dog rescues get their dogs spayed and neutered. PAL also helps many low-income people in our community to get their dogs fixed as other low-cost options are no longer available in the Salem area. PAL and CAFA partner on Cans for Critters, other fundraising efforts and work together on spay/neuter.

Here’s hoping that 2023 will improve to be a good year for pets and people.....Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lora Meisner".

Lora Meisner