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CAFA 2021 Annual “Gratitude” Report

2021 was a very challenging year for all shelters and rescues. With the aftermath of spay/neuter clinics being closed as well as most vet offices, many people were playing catch-up. So many times we heard the same distressing message from people: “we couldn’t get our female fixed, she had a litter of kittens and now those kittens are having kittens.” Our fear of being overwhelmed by so many kittens became a reality.

2021 was an extremely busy year for CAFA. We rescued and adopted 148 cats/kittens. Once again, CAFA could not rescue as many kitties without our wonderful fosters. CAFA sends a big thank you to— Leah, Gillian, Jenny, Larry, Lee Ann, Martha & Sherree. Without these wonderful fosters opening their homes to litters of kittens (and some momma kitty’s, too) we would not have been able to save so many kitties.

Though the new Covid variants made adoptions more difficult for organizations with facilities, CAFA being home/foster-based, was able to safely accommodate adopters—masks and hand sanitizers. Many inquiries for already adopted kitties turned into pre-adoption applications for kittens not quite ready for their new homes.

In 2021, CAFA and PAL ended up suspending one of our bigger fundraisers the Bow-Wow Meow Trivia night at Half Penny Pub. However, we have it on our calendars for March 6, 2022—barring any covid surprises. Put it on your calendars, too.

With fundraising efforts on hold because of Covid, 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 to spay and neuter owned cats to decrease the number of kittens born each year. CAFA also formed a partnership with the Willamette Humane Society spay/neuter clinic that helped many of these owned cats get fixed with this grant.

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. Anyone with an "oops-litter" can easily get their kittens into any shelter or rescue—no kitten(s) ever need to be abandoned. CAFA has had many people contact us and if we have space take the cat/kittens into our rescue no questions asked.

CAFA ends 2021 with several shy kitties in our care that will be socialized over the next month. Winter gives us a bit of a respite to work on socializing these kitties.

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 approximately 150 cats in 2021. CAFA greatly appreciates the Willamette 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 2022 is a good year for pets and people.....Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

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

Lora Meisner