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CAFA 2017 Annual “Gratitude” Report

After receiving the Marion-Polk Food Share “2017 Gratitude Report,” I thought what a great idea, because that’s what an annual report is—thanking the community for all the good things that happened this past year.

CAFA is grateful for your donations and support throughout 2017 year. Without support like yours, CAFA would be unable to help as many pets and people in the Salem area.

- **2017 surpassed our previous years’ efforts. CAFA rescued and adopted 128 cats/kittens this past year. This was a 15% increase over 2016 when we rescued 112 cats/kittens.** CAFA was able to increase its intake capacity due to a grant from the Karen M. Schroth Foundation. Without this grant, CAFA would not have been able to rescue as many cats and kitten as well as increase the number of fosters who provide home for cats/kittens until they can get adopted. Anyone interested in fostering cats/kittens for CAFA, please let us know. There are always more cats and kittens that need rescuing.
- **All** of CAFA’s funds—from donors, fundraising and grants—go directly to proper veterinarian care (vaccinations, spay/neuter etc.) of the cats/kittens and helps to keep our adoption fees competitive. CAFA funds do not purchase the thousands of dollars of food needed to feed the rescued cats/kittens. Fosters donate most of the cat food for cats/kittens in their care and I purchase the rest from my personal funds.

CAFA would not have been able to rescue so many cats/kittens without the help of several fosters who generously opened their homes and hearts to moms and kittens. The good news is that they are willing to help us again in 2018.

- Speaking of helping cats, CAFA also **TNR’d 55 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. Grants via the Willamette Humane Society helped to get these cats TNR’d at their spay/neuter clinic. 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 approximately a dozen locations each month. Donating cat food is one way you can help support those who are feeding cat colonies.

- CAFA will also work to fight animal cruelty and supports and assists the United States Humane Society in their legislative efforts to help animals here in Oregon. In the upcoming (2018) legislative session, we will be disseminating information to support HB 4045 which prohibits pet stores (in Oregon) from selling or offering dogs that don't come from rescues, shelters, non-profits or animals control.
- CAFA partners with Prevent A Litter (low cost spay/neuter for dogs). CAFA and PAL collaborate on a number of projects and fundraising efforts. One of our ongoing fundraising efforts is the **Cans for Critters program**. On the 3rd Saturday of every month, CAFA and PAL collect recyclables at South Salem Pet Supply on Commercial Street (November – March) and the Salem Saturday Market near Winter and Union Streets (April – October). In 2017, we raised over \$2500 through our Cans for Critters program that helps pets in our community. You can help by bringing your cans, bottles, ink and toner cartridges, old cell phones, GPS devices, MP3 players, digital cameras, “gently used” shoes, used pens, highlighters and markers, and plastic tape dispensers. We sort and turn these items into funds to rescue and fix cats and spay/neuter dogs.

Next year, CAFA would like to do more—rescue more cats/kittens, get more cats TNR'd, and donate more food. 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, because of your generosity, CAFA is able to help. We look forward to helping more pets in our community in 2018 and we are grateful for your support,

Sincerely,



Lora Meisner
CAFA President