



1347 Spyglass Court SE, Salem, OR 97306 503-588-6924

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CAFA 2020 Annual “Gratitude” Report

2020 is a year that most people are happy to see end—especially Covid and its effects on individuals and families. For cats it has been a mixed bag. We had wonderful success with adoptions but with the closure of spay/neuter clinics as well as regular vet clinics, thousands of cats were not able to get fixed or TNR’d. Could that mean that spring/summer of 2021 will overwhelm us with litters of kittens? We hope not but we need to prepare.

2020 was a banner year for CAFA—rescued and adopted 134 cats/kittens. There were two reasons for our success—more fosters and because of Covid and being home, many people had the incentive to adopt a pet.

CAFA sends a big thank you to our fosters—Artie & John, 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 Covid made adoptions more difficult for organizations with facilities, CAFA being home/foster-based, was able to safely accommodate adopters—masks and hand sanitizers at all times. Many inquiries for already adopted kitties turned into pre-adoption applications for kittens not quite ready for their new homes. This year kittens and cats too were in high demand.

CAFA and PAL were able to get one of our main fundraisers in before the Covid closings—Our Bow-Wow Meow Trivia night at Half Penny Pub. Don’t know yet whether we will be able to repeat it in March 2021 or not. It may need to be held later in 2021.

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 our 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. This year we had a very difficult case of a momma kitty with a serious birthing issue. We were also lucky that our foster Jenny and her family stepped in to help Opal and her two kittens, aptly named, Miracle and Chance. They survived, thrived and were adopted.

Adopters ask us, “Where did 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. We always try to help people get their cats fixed—especially the females. That’s our goal this winter to help get their female kitties fixed to have fewer litters in the spring and summer.

CAFA ends 2020 with several skitty 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 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.

Another 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 2021 is 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