

## March 2011 Cat Advocates Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Details:

**Date:** Thursday March 31, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 PM, come at 6 PM to socialize and grab some food (sandwiches and snacks will be provided)

**Where:** San Jose Animal Care and Services (SJACS) Conference Room

**Address:** 2750 Monterey Road, San Jose, 95111

Diana Grubbs opened the meeting with a review of the agenda, and an offer for anyone to contact her if they would like to speak at future meetings.

### 1. San Jose Animal Care and Services (SJACS) - Staycee Dains, Shelter Manager

SJACS [www.sanjoseanimals.com](http://www.sanjoseanimals.com) contracts with four other cities, Milpitas, Cupertino, Los Gatos, and Saratoga. They provide:

- stray animal intake
- diseased animals response
- adoptions
- low cost spay neuter clinic since 2006

They opened 2005.

Feral Freedom program was major initiative for 2010, and will continue to be evolved in 2011.

Starting to focus in on Chihuahuas, since 30% of dog intake is Chihuahua/mix. The total intake of dogs was between 6-7,000 in 2010, and the cat intake was about 10k with about 4k of those being kittens.

This May, SJACS is joining with East Bay SPCA to market Chihuahua education. And on May 3-6, SJACS is offering free spay/neuter for 100 Chihuahua dogs, along with a reduced adoption fees. Dog live release is at 70%, year to year holding steady. Cat live release improving due to feral freedom.

### 2. Santa Clara County Animal Control, San Martin - Brigid Wasson, Shelter Manager

The Shelter in San Martin [www.southcountypets.com](http://www.southcountypets.com) serves un-incorporated areas of Santa Clara County. There are many pockets throughout the county that are unincorporated, from Palo Alto to Gilroy. All of these animals come to San Martin. They are a very old, small facility with 20 dog kennels, 30 cat kennels and they take in 3,500 animals per year.

Their live release is above 70% due largely to support from rescue groups. In their service areas, there are lots of feral cats in rural area, and no strategy for managing this is in the County plan. The vet comes twice a week, and only adoptable animals receive surgery.

The County has subsidized spay/neuter program to help public. This program is always targeted for reductions during the county budget cycle. You can send email or regular mail to your county representative Board of Supervisors to protest the proposed budget cut. Info on how to identify your district, as well as supervisor contact information is in the last section of these notes titled "Additional Info and Resources". The spay/neuter program accepts **donations** on the shelter web site listed above. Also, not many vets participate in the south county areas. They find that the paperwork is onerous, and payment takes time. People in the south county who want to TNR have to drive up to San Jose to use the county program.

San Martin shelter has a new Return-to-Owner program initiative to get lost animals back to their homes. They got a starter grant from Maddie's Fund to educate people about finding their lost pets. They are marketing certain educational information about microchips and when / how to look for lost pets.

### 3. Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) - Dr. Julia Lewis, Chief Veterinary Officer

HSSV [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org) serves as animal control for the city of Sunnyvale. Their spay/neuter clinic uses the County program funding to do spay/neuter surgeries (with a \$25 co-pay for feral cats). Proof of Santa Clara County residency or SC county business letterhead or card is required. Appointments are required.

In March, HSSV waived the \$25 co-pay for feral cats. They have extended this program through April! They accept up to 8 appts per day on weekdays, and are open 2-3 Saturdays per month. Drop-off 6:30-7:30 am, pick up 4-6pm.

HSSV is also offering discounted May spay/neuter surgeries for Chihuahuas and Pit Bulls.

In 2009, 923 ferals were TNR'd at HSSV and 255 at PFOF clinics (held at HSSV).

In 2010, 841 ferals were TNR'd and 435 at PFOF clinics.

PFOF teaches a monthly seminar on TNR at HSSV called "Helping Homeless Cats in Your Community". In 2010 they held 11 classes and 2 off site at companies with a total of 70 attendees.

In 2011, HSSV is starting a partnership with IBOK to offer a "Caring for foster kittens"/"Raising Orphan Kittens" seminar. Everyone who registers will get a follow-up call asking if they want to foster through HSSV, where the kittens can then be placed for adoption.

HSSV's calendar where you can find the TNR class schedule as well as the orphaned kittens seminar: [http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=hssv\\_event\\_calendar](http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=hssv_event_calendar)

### 4. Town Cats (TC) - Rosi Mirko, Director

[www.towncats.org](http://www.towncats.org) Started in 1997. Their shelter is located in Morgan Hill with at least 100 cats (cageless). Foster homes house an additional 100+ kittens and cats at any given time. They cover all of Santa Clara County and have adoption fairs at pet stores throughout the County.

About 900 cats adopted per year.

They are funded through grants and private donations.

They work on hoarder cases with animal control, and have worked on large feral cat projects such as Agnews and Alviso Ranch.

TC is focused on cats' rights: feral cats to live outdoors, and pet cats to be in homes. Realizing that kittens over 10 weeks of age who have not been socialized will probably not be adoptable, it is best to leave them with their colonies.

They rescue cats from city shelters. Also, when possible, they have taken cats from outside the county like Los Banos.

Just today TC got calls for help from Gilroy: One person has 30 cats on their property, another has 8 cats. TC also gets calls for advice for behavior such as introduction to a new baby, inappropriate urination, etc.

Video and slideshow about Town Cats:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibmQSZPBgmg>

<http://www.towncats.org/article?id=221>

#### **5. Itty Bitty Orphan Kitty (IBOK Rescue) - Casey Leonardo, VP & Pre-Wean Project Coordinator**

The Pre-Wean Kitten Project provides members of the public who have found orphaned pre-wean kittens with a FREE Kitten Starter Pack. These packs are available at any Pet Food Express Store in the Bay Area: <http://www.petfoodexpress.com/stores/>. They are also distributed to Bay Area shelters to be given to people who are surrendering kittens that are under 8 weeks old if they are willing to take the kittens home with them instead of surrendering them. These packs are free to members of the public who have found orphaned kittens but are not recommended for rescuers to keep in their car, as there are perishable items in the packs. If you meet someone who has found kittens and needs assistance, please refer them to their website or have them email [mentor@ibokrescue.org](mailto:mentor@ibokrescue.org) for advice.

The Kitten Starter Pack contains:

Written instructions on caring for pre-wean kittens, KMR, food, syringe, bottle, flea comb, discount coupons, TNR information, spay/neuter information, and a DVD with a 30-minute instructional video.

Beginning this month, they will be holding training classes at HSSV for kitten care on the second and fourth Mondays from 6:30-7:30. Sign up on HSSV's website. They recently completed a 30-minute video on caring for Orphaned Kittens, which is available online at:

<http://www.ibokrescue.org/> Scroll down to view video on home page.

They are also actively seeking experienced bottle-feeders to act as mentors to participants in the program. If you are interested in helping, please contact them at [mentor@ibokrescue.org](mailto:mentor@ibokrescue.org)

#### **6. Feral Freedom (FF) Program Update - Staycee Dains, Shelter Manager**

SJACS offer two Programs for feral cats:

##### ▪Low Cost Feral Package

This is a walk-in clinic for feral cats in traps offered on Tues, Wed, Thurs. Only for residents of cities they contract with. The fee is \$25 for spay/neuter, shot, microchip, ear notch. This is a good program for people who want to be sure to get their colony cats returned.

##### ▪Feral Freedom (FF)

A cat is surrendered, impounded, evaluated, (if healthy) spayed/neutered, and returned to their neighborhood. Sometimes friendly cats get returned outside. Why? Because the alternative is to kill her. These cats were brought in from the outdoors, they are returned to where they came from.

For people who do not want cats in their yard, they offer Cat Stop ultrasonic cat deterrent, for free or loan.

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Staycee presented the statistics for the first year of the FF program.

2117 cats: total returned 2199 returns (some cats were trapped and returned twice)

**81% reduction in behavior-related euthanasia since the Feral Freedom program began.**

New 2011 programs:

- TNR kittens 3 months or older. In 2010, the youngest was 4 months
- Kittens at 6 weeks old can now be adopted through a "foster to adopt" program
- Kittens with mom: mom will be allowed to care for them until weaned

#### **7. Peninsula Fix Our Ferals (PFOF) - Denise Uriarte, Board Member**

PFOF is a non-profit group that started August 2004. To date, PFOF has Spay/Neutered more than 1,500 feral cats. PFOF is currently partnered with HSSV to provide 16 low cost Spay Neuter feral cat clinics for 2011. The clinic dates for 2011 are as follows: Jan 9, Jan 23, Feb 6, Feb 27, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 12, June 26, July 24, Aug 14, Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 23, Nov 13 and Dec 11, 2011.

PFOF also holds monthly TNR seminars at HSSV. Click on HSSV's event calendar to locate the HSSV/PFOF TNR class schedule: [http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=hssv\\_event\\_calendar](http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=hssv_event_calendar)

PFOF needs spay clinic volunteers to check in kitties, and donations to keep their programs going. Please visit [www.peninsulafixourferals.org](http://www.peninsulafixourferals.org) to learn more or to donate time or money!

#### **8. Cat Resource Center (CRC) - Scott Hamilton, President and Dana Linder, Executive VP**

Started in 2009 as a resource for volunteers to share information, ask for trapping assistance, and advice. Now the majority of effort is fielding calls from public.

They received 527 request calls in the past 12 months, 27 are open right now, 301 closed without resolution (many requestors did not call back, or CRC could not find anyone to help them), about 38%, or 200 requests, were resolved.

Many people tell them that they are the only group that has called them back, and that even if they could not help, it was good to know someone cares and at least got back to them.

Staycee noted that the CRC was instrumental in pulling together the effort for the Feral Freedom program and pays for the doorhangers and post-its used in the program. FF is successful because of the wide variety of participation from various groups.

Visit the CRC and join as a volunteer at [www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org). You can take one job per month, week, year, whatever you choose! This is an easy way to make a difference for the cats and the public in Santa Clara County.

## 9. Comments:

Janice Frazier of PAWS noted that SJACS has a colony management pamphlet that is available for distribution (in the SJACS lobby and on the CRC website

[http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/34\\_Ferals\\_and\\_Colonies/pdf%203405%20SJACS%20Feral\\_Colony\\_Management.pdf](http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/34_Ferals_and_Colonies/pdf%203405%20SJACS%20Feral_Colony_Management.pdf) ).

Denise Uriarte gave the return numbers from the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA) Feral Freedom Program, which started in October 2010: 33 returns. As the animal control service for Sunnyvale, HSSV returned 25 cats under their Feral Freedom program.

With each cat return, the house and neighboring houses received a door hanger and ear tip post-its. These list the CRC web site and phone number for anyone to call with questions, and serve to educate the community.

### Additional Info and Resources:

1. Low cost spay/neuter resources, including the 12 county spay/neuter participating vets (found on Town Cats' website): <http://towncats.org/lowcost>

2. Bay Area Rescue Groups and Shelters (found on Town Cats' website): [http://towncats.org/newsletters2/Rescue\\_Resource\\_List\\_2009.pdf](http://towncats.org/newsletters2/Rescue_Resource_List_2009.pdf)

As well as the Cat Resource Center (CRC)'s website:

[http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?Title=Local%20Rescue%20Groups&URL=44\\_Local\\_Rescue\\_Groups](http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?Title=Local%20Rescue%20Groups&URL=44_Local_Rescue_Groups)

3. Tips for hard to trap cats, Alley Cat Allies "How to Live With Cats in Your Neighborhood" brochure, Feral Freedom door hanger & other mitigation tools, and a list of more than 50 relevant topics, can be found on the Cat Resource Center (CRC)'s website in the Knowledge Base: <http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/DocIndex.ASP>

Cat Deterrent List:

[http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/19\\_keeping\\_cats\\_out\\_of\\_yard/cat\\_deterrants\\_2.ASP](http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/19_keeping_cats_out_of_yard/cat_deterrants_2.ASP)

4. Trapping and trap loans/rentals:

[http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?Title=TrappingandTrapRentals&URL=41\\_Trapping](http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?Title=TrappingandTrapRentals&URL=41_Trapping)

5. CRC sponsored programs

[http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?URL=58\\_CRC\\_Sponsored\\_Programs](http://www.catcenter.org/Pages/KnowledgeBase/Documents/ShowDocPage.ASP?URL=58_CRC_Sponsored_Programs)

6. Learn about re-homing a cat, behavior issues, declawing, FIV/FELV, etc. at

<http://towncats.org/> Click on "Resources"

7. HSSV's Homeless Cats Page:

<http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=homelesscats> Access great info on homeless cats, HSSV's Cats Without A Home Documentary, and the TNR video with Dr. Julia Lewis and NetApp (double-click on the video if you'd like to enlarge it and you'll be directed to its listing on YouTube).

8. HSSV's Prevent Unwanted Pregnancies (PUP) program:

[http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=surrender\\_prevent\\_unwanted\\_pregnancies](http://hssv.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=surrender_prevent_unwanted_pregnancies)

9. The County provides a webpage that allows you to find your Board of Supervisors member by inputting your address:

<http://eservices.sccgov.org/district/home.do>

Contact information, including e-mail addresses and web pages for the individual Board Members, is found here (you must copy the ENTIRE link, including the underscores/lines at the end, for the web page to come up):

<http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/scc/aspecial?path=%252Fv7%252FSCC%2520Public%2520Portal&contentId=be0a08dfd33f6010VgnVCMP2200049dc4a92>

(NOTE: if the web page does not come up, go to: <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/scc> then click on the top link in the middle/main section (section title "@ Connect With Your Elected Officials") Link title "Your Elected Officials"

Minutes by Elisa Hamilton