

THE BIG FIX (830) 896-6053

WINTER 2019

WWW.BIGFIXCATS.COM

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is a domestic cat that has been abandoned or born to cats who were abandoned. They become 'wild' due to their lack of human interaction. The longer they are away from a loving home, the more they think people are predators who will hurt or kill them. This is why a grown feral cat is nearly impossible to adopt successfully. When many feral cats live in a group it is called a colony. With a lot of patience and compassion, feral kittens can become good pets.

What is a stray cat?

A stray cat is also a cat who has been abandoned, but it hasn't become completely feral. A stray cat is often approachable and easier to catch or trap than a feral cat. Stray cats usually live around humans and will try to find food to eat from trash cans or discarded food, because it isn't adept at hunting.

What is TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Return is an effective program where feral cat colonies are humanely trapped, taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, and then returned to their familiar home colony to live out the rest of their lives.

Why does TNR work?

When every member of a colony has been sterilized, and is allowed to die out naturally, the colony will one day no longer exist. If TNR isn't practiced, a colony grows exponentially year-after-year. As we have stated many times in our newsletters, one female cat can have up to 100 kittens in her lifetime. Multiply that by the number of female cats in one colony and you have an explosion of feral cats that need food and sterilization.

Why are domestic cats abandoned?

Some people do not understand owning a pet is a lifelong commitment. Sometimes when people move they leave their pets behind. This is cruel and should never happen. The pets are confused as to where their happy home has disappeared to, and where their food supply is going to come from. Being a responsible pet owner means not only caring for your pet for the rest of its life, but also not having more pets than you can afford to have spayed or neutered and give annual shots and medical care.



How can you help?

The Big Fix is in desperate need of funds to continue to help Kerr County control its feral cat population. Please visit our website or mail in (address on the back) your beneficial donation so we may resume our important mission. Thank you!!



Visit our website at:
www.bigfixcats.com
and watch a short video
to learn how to quickly
and easily build a winter
shelter for your
outdoor cats.

Have you lost a pet? It's important to get the word out everywhere that you can. In addition to talking to neighbors & putting out posters, try these suggestions: On Facebook go to: Kerrville Lost and Found Pets. Visit Animal Control Services to see if they have your pet. Get help from your HOA. A collar and a tag with your phone number is a great idea. Also Animal Control will microchip your pets for only \$5 which can greatly increase your chances of getting back your beloved pet.

We are a 501c(3) non-profit organization and our work is primarily sustained from tax deductible donations. Contact (830) 896-6053 for more information or to become a volunteer. What type of volunteer help do we need? Trappers, telephone counselors, transportation for vet visits, and more. Your help is vitally important to our success and we are grateful for your continued support!



Christmas is a time of many distractions. With lots of gifts under the tree, only give a cat (or pet) as a gift if the recipient wants one and is prepared to take care of him/her. It would be heartbreaking if this new cat was surrendered to a shelter because he was unwanted or the recipient was unprepared to care for a pet.

If you travel with your cat, make sure you have an appropriate carrier that is

safely secured in your car with proper identification in case you get unintentionally separated.

If you suspect your cat has ingested something toxic, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 immediately.



Seasonal Cat Names: Blustery, Boots, Candy Cane, Charity, Christmas, Cindy Lou Who, Cocoa, December, Faith, Gingerbread, Grinch, Gumdrop, Holiday, Icicle, Maple, Miracle, Mittens, Mocha, Pageant, Poinsettia, Saint Nick, Snickerdoodle, Snowy, Vanilla

Is there a Cat Lover on your gift list? A gift to *The Big Fix* is a wonderful way to celebrate your shared love of cats and to make the world a better place for them. We will send a card notifying your honoree of your thoughtful gift in their name. Your tax deductible gift of as little as \$10 will allow us to continue our mission. Your donation goes directly to (and only to) humane trapping, neutering, and veterinarian care. Simply fill out the form below and enclose it with your gift donation. Checks should be made out to: *The Big Fix* and mailed to: The Big Fix, P.O. Box 294003, Kerrville, TX 78029.

Name of Honoree:

Occasion (Christmas, Anniversary, Birthday, etc.):

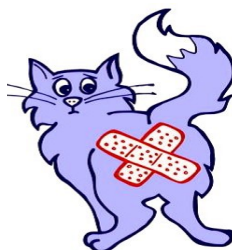
Send my gift card to:

(Recipient's mailing address):

Donor's Name:

Donor's Phone #:

We Thank You for your generous support!



Tinsel & Ribbon – If your cat ingests tinsel, string, or ribbons, it is life-threatening. Many times if your cat swallows a non-food object, it does not pass through in the feces and your cat would need surgery to remove the item. Consider skipping the tinsel and ribbon in order to keep your cat(s) safe this season.

Did you know Lions, Tigers, Panthers and yes our domestic cats all love catnip? Zoos have discovered that big cats love it too! Can you imagine how big the catnip toy would have to be for a Tiger?

It's fun to play with toys and cats. Just like with a toddler be sure there aren't small items that can come off and be swallowed by your cat.

Did you Know? The ancient Egyptians, first domesticated cats 4,000 years ago. Not only did they welcome the cat for protecting the grain they ate, they revered the cat. They developed cat cults and temple worship of the cat.

The unjust extermination of cats no doubt helped rats spread the murderous Black Death, the plague that killed 25 million Europeans, (one-fourth of the population at that time) between 1347 and 1351.

Around 1750, cats were introduced to control the rodent population in the American colonies. After being handled, cats will lick themselves to smooth out their fur and get rid of that "person" smell. Licking is also thought to produce a calming effect.

