

**United Paws of Tillamook
Spay/Neuter**

is a local 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization serving the cats and dogs of Tillamook County and working to end animal homelessness through spay/neuter efforts



Ilythia waiting for her own home

**P.O. Box 159
Tillamook, OR 97141**

**To Foster or Adopt
503/842-5663
See our beautiful pets up for adoption**

www.unitedpaws.org
or write
unitedpaws@hotmail.com



United Paws 2008 Newsletter

SPAY AND NEUTER OR ANIMAL RESCUE—THE DIFFICULT CHOICE

In a county with so few services to offer our homeless cats and dogs, United Paws continues to focus on spay/neuter, but also increasingly finds itself pulled into the murky world of animal rescue. More and more, our Hotline and volunteers receive calls from the public and the county needing help. Because the county's Animal Control agency is obliged by statute to respond only to calls about dogs, they refer calls about cats to United Paws. The county does not give us any funds to do this, so expenses incurred have to come out of United Paws' coffers. We are an all-volunteer group that relies solely on public donations and grants.

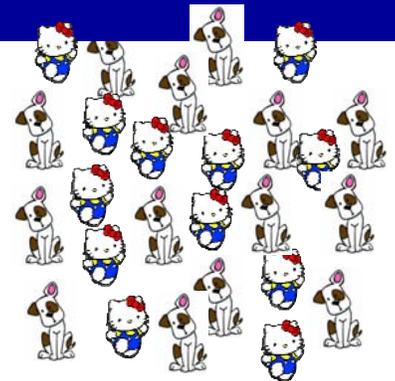
Well-documented research proves that the root cause of animal homelessness is not spaying and neutering companion animals, and that targeting the cats and dogs of the poor is the most effective way to tackle this problem. This is the concept out of which United Paws was born, and we shall always remain true to this. Even if the county does eventually have an animal shelter, the need for spay and neuter services will still exist ... perhaps even more so than ever, because many will view an animal shelter as a convenient place to drop off unwanted litters of kittens or puppies. Because this throw-away attitude prevails throughout the nation, animal shelters alone destroy 5 million healthy, adoptable, loving and lovable animals a year. Our mission is to deeply embed into Tillamook County a culture of spay/neuter, so that when an animal shelter does open its doors, it doesn't simply become a dumping ground for "inconvenient" animals.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES!

From a fundraising effort that brought in only a few thousand dollars in 2003, in 2007 United Paws raised over \$45,000. Of this, more than 94% went to local veterinarians, primarily for spay/neuter surgeries, and other United Paws' program activities directly helping animals. United Paws has secured several grants from out-of-state and out-of-county Foundations and Trusts, thereby bringing money into our community that would not otherwise be spent here.

At the end of 2007, we had a carryover of more than \$6,000 to spend in 2008. 2007 was the first year that we had to use some donated funds for basic

Where does my dollar go?



Program Services—94%



Administration & Fundraising 6%

January—December 2007

Income

Adoption Fees	\$7,013.00
Donations	10,614.92
Emergency Fund	875.00
Fundraising	9,202.09
Grants & Awards	13,950.00
Insurance Fund	1,295.00
Memorials	1,597.00
Spay/Neuter co-pay	475.00
Total Income	\$45,022.01

administrative services, such as postage, ink/toner, tax-filing fees and the monthly Hotline telephone fee. Volunteers used to pay for all these expenses beyond spay & neuter, but, with increasing demand for UP services, we simply cannot afford to do this any longer.

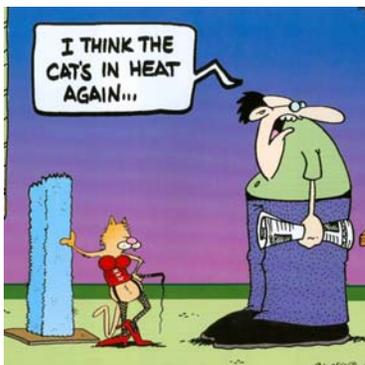
The beginning of 2008 brought UP two substantial out-of-county grants, allowing UP to aggressively approve funding for 164 spay/neuters as of March 1st. We look forward to exceeding last year's funding and to reaching a goal of over 2,000 spay/neuter.

OUR MISSION

Provide financial assistance for spay/neuter of companion dogs and cats of low-income county residents; aid feral cat caregivers with spay/neuter assistance, traps, education; assist foster caregivers with veterinary expenses and advertising support to help place animals in their care.

Can you believe these numbers?!* WOW!*?

In 2007 alone, United Paws spayed and neutered 621 cats and dogs.



That number rivals any big national group with a much larger budget, a paid staff, and hundreds of volunteers. Yet only one dedicated volunteer handles all the paperwork. She pays for all phone calls, stationery, and fax bills herself, because she doesn't want to take money from United Paws' donations. So 621 animals spayed and neutered adds up to many phone calls to the UP client requesting assistance, that many pieces of mail to confirm the surgery

with the client, and that many faxes to the vet to ensure all the paperwork tallies, then the bills to pay.

The total number of Tillamook County animals spayed and neutered to date (March) is 1,700. Our goal this year is to exceed 2,000. As of March, we had authorized the spay/neuter of 164 animals, the largest number yet for this time of year.

Spay and neuter is expensive, even though we negotiate discounted rates from our local vets. A large dog spay – and large dogs have large litters – may cost United Paws, even with discount, over \$100. If the dog is pregnant, this price goes up substantially.

One of our volunteers works in Tigard once a week. Before she starts her long journey at the crack of dawn, she rounds up cats in need of spaying and neutering and drops them off at a Tigard vet who offers us deeper discounts. On her way back from work, the volunteer picks up the cats and delivers them back to their caregivers

IMPORTANT

The more donations we receive, the more we can ask in grant applications. Out-of-county and out-of-state Foundations and Trusts do not award money to groups that lack community support and cannot show local backing. Therefore, please be as generous as you can!

United Paws Wish List

In-kind tax-deductible items we could use:

- postage stamps
- humane traps -- optimum size is 26x9x9, model 606, deluxe transfer trap. Tomahawk manufacture.
- cat playpens for fostering & adoptathons-contact volunteers for size
- Kirkland Costco cat food



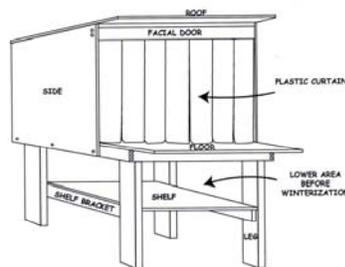
Trap/Neuter/Return Successful Project Enters its Third Year

We return over and over again to the topic of Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), because this is the only way communities can humanely and effectively manage their homeless cat populations and stop animal suffering. TNR is practiced throughout the United States, and UP is proud to have brought the concept to our county. Killing stray cats just doesn't work; others will simply take their place. TNR works because the cats are spayed and neutered and, therefore, cannot breed. Their numbers stabilize and eventually dwindle to 0 as the cats die of natural causes, such as old age.



Several years ago UP learned of a dire homeless cat situation in a business section of Tillamook City. Sickly cats desperate for food were begging at the doors of commercial enterprises, and the customers of those businesses were repelled by this sad sight. UP set about humanely trapping all the cats. Those too ill were sadly euthanized; those who were healthy were sterilized, then returned to the only place they'd ever known as home, namely, where they'd come from. (Dumping cats in the woods or anyplace they are not familiar with is condemning them to certain death from

COMPLETED FEEDER
(Not to Scale)



starvation or by predators.) UP built shelters and feeding stations; then watched as, with good quality food fed to them daily by staff of one of the businesses, the cats' health and appearance quickly started to improve. No more tomcat fights, no more permanently pregnant females, and ... most important ... no more kittens.

This colony of cats has not only survived two grim winters in a flood zone, it has also kept intruder cats to a minimum (UP spays and neuters any new arrivals

immediately). The colony has thrived, and the cats' personalities have developed. From matted, dull coats, their fur is now shiny as satin as they preen themselves in the sun. Surrounding businesses are very pleased with the results of TNR, and both staff and customers look forward to visiting with the increasingly friendly, handsome cats.

UP heard that the Tillamook City Council had received complaints about large numbers of homeless cats within city limits. In pro-active mode, several UP volunteers attended a meeting of the Council to explain TNR. UP discovered that several members of the City Council have adopted from UP, but were unaware of the public community service we provide through TNR. As a result, UP was greeted with enthusiasm by the City Council. The meeting was televised, and subsequently UP received support from residents who watched the broadcast. Many residents are already working with UP to spay and neuter their neighborhood stray cats.



Support for UP comes from Many Sources Other than the Publications Shown

Bay City Boosters; Bay Ocean Medical Center; Cable Channel 35; C.A.R.E.; Economic Development Council of Tillamook County; Eugene Schmuck Foundation; Hope Chest Thrift Shops; Local Radio Stations Coast-105, KMUN/KTCB & KTLI; Tillamook Moose Lodge #1260; Neahkahnne Students; Nehalem Bay Garden Club; Netarts/Oceanside Residents (Rummage Sale); Old Wheeler Hotel; Pacific Kitchen & Bath Co.; Peterson Co. Painting; Realtors Julie Gunderson & Susan Tone; Spath Engineering; Tillamook Education Services District PS; Tillamook Forestry Center; Tillamook High School Charity Drive, Tillamook Motor Company; T.P. Freightlines; Tillamook Women of the Moose

Rags to Riches

Word came to a United Paws volunteer of a puppy fastened under a trailer all through the howling, wet winter of 2007. The 6-month-old lab-mix – we'll call him Tucker - literally subsisted in a mud-hole. Human contact occurred only when his owners fed him. Tucker was never walked. Tucker had to defecate at the end of his short chain. Tucker's owners wanted rid of him. After many hours of work, UP volunteers were able to find a great foster home for Tucker, who at last got to enjoy his first walk ... and his very first toy. He'd moved overnight from a derelict slum in the south Bronx to a villa in Beverly Hills! Tucker's now got a great family. An added bonus: Tucker's new mom reports she's losing weight because of all the hikes she and Tucker enjoy together. Companion animals must by law be given adequate shelter, water and food. United Paws does not consider Tucker had any of these. It makes us shudder to wonder how many more Tuckers there are out there.



TLC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SUPPORT

TLC Federal Credit Union has continued a pledge of support to UP activities through sponsorship of our critical half-page and full-page *Headlight-Herald* ads to find homes for animals. TLC has paid for our liability insurance in 2006, 2007 and now again for 2008. TLC is a best friend to both UP and the animals.



An experiment that's here to stay!

Towards the end of 2007, UP volunteers wondered: Why don't we hold an adopt-o-rama, a kitty-a-thon...whatever you want to call it? So we hired the 4-H Dorm at the Fairgrounds for an afternoon to showcase many of our felines up for adoption.

While we adopted out a dozen, some cruel person dumped on the doorstep a tightly-sealed cardboard box full of kittens and a mother cat. (This is why, when you read our notices about our feline adoption afternoons, we always state that it is illegal to abandon an animal, punishable by 6 months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.)



Because this first adoption event was so successful, we have decided to run regular adoption afternoons once a month. So watch out for announcements about these events, and if you or anybody you know is in the market for a kitten or two or a cat or three, steer her or him in our direction. To preview cats and dogs awaiting permanent, loving homes, you can always visit www.unitedpaws.org. All our animals are also placed on Petfinder, which is a national database of animals in need of homes. This ensures Tillamook's homeless animals are given maximum exposure. However, we do screen all potential adopters. Since our foster program got underway in 2005, we estimate we have given over 800 abandoned and unwanted Tillamook County animals a *second chance*.

Make a will—and include your pets, please!

More times than we'd care to remember, UP has been contacted about pets left behind when a person dies. Too often, relatives of the deceased do not want the cats or dogs who were so dearly loved by the person who passed away, so they ask UP to take the animals, who are often older and sometimes in poor health. While UP ensures their health is improved before putting them up for adoption, these pets are often the most difficult to place. UP urges people to consider adopting a mature animal.

Don't let others abandon or have your best friends euthanized after you've gone. Please make a will to provide for your animals. An excellent source of information is the book *When Your Pet Outlives You* by David Congalton and Charlotte Alexander, available in the Tillamook Library system.

Animal abandonment on the increase

In these hard economic times, more families are just walking away from their homes. Often when realtors enter abandoned homes, what do they find but abandoned pets, hungry and bewildered. And who do they turn to for help? The only group they can turn to: United Paws. So, once again, we're called upon to save the lives of animals basically left to die. So far we've been able to nurse these animals back to an adoptable state with tender loving care (TLC), but we simply do not have the foster homes to fill this role any longer. Won't you please consider becoming a foster parent to a needy animal? There may be no more rewarding adventure you undertake than to nurture the unqualified love that's inside every cat and dog if it's only given a chance. A little TLC goes a long way with a cat or dog. You'll be rewarded with more love than you can handle!



Jack Abendroth's widow generously asked that donations be made to United Paws at her husband's memorial service held near this plaque at the waterside in Wheeler in 2007. Jack's friends donated almost \$900 in loving memory.

DONATIONS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE AND PETS:

Kevin Cosentini, Jim Erickson, Bert Korevaar, Joyce Moore, Dorothy Pierce, Martha Story, Carol Ann Woods. Pets: Brandy Heinz, BoBo, Brandy, Hildy, Puppy-Puppy, Toby, Scarlett

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF: *Rene Fortin, Judith Hill, Cate Mayer,*

Susan Montoya. Pets: Goza, Max & Zoe, Osborne, Poppy & Louise Christianson's many, many beloved animals

Please give as generously as you can for Tillamook's animals. Any amount you are able to give will help us all save lives.

The animals thank you!

Here is my donation for spay and neuter :

___ \$35 neuters a male cat ___ \$70 spays a female cat
___ \$80 neuters male dog ___ \$90 spays a female dog
Other: \$___

- I would be interested in volunteering
 I would be interested in fostering
 My donation may go to the emergency fund for animals needing immediate attention due to abuse or injury.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

We do not share your information.

Every donation is tax-deductible as law allows. Please make checks payable to United Paws of Tillamook. Thank you again!



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We must not refuse to see with our eyes what they must endure with their bodies.

.....Gretchen Wyler