

United Paws goes where the wild felines are

Contributed by **CHRISTINE WATT**
Co-founder of United Paws of Tillamook

TILLAMOOK — To honor those ubiquitous, free-roaming cats commonly referred to as “feral,” “wild” or “barn” cats, United Paws of Tillamook County would like to remind everyone that National Feral Day is Oct. 16.

Nobody knows how many of these free spirits live among us. Based on models by the American Veterinary Medical Association, Alley Cat Allies and others, there could be anywhere between 4,000 and 8,000 in Tillamook County alone. United Paws believes there are probably more though, because no other group has targeted free-roaming cats for spaying and neutering until 6 years ago, when United Paws’ volunteers started the universally-acclaimed program of TNR – humanely Trapping the cats, taking them to the vet to be Neutered or spayed, then Returning them to the only place they’ve ever called home.

The life of a free-roaming cat is harsh, unless humans intervene. It’s a myth that cats can fend for themselves. Female cats can become pregnant at 4 months of age, then their lives become one debilitating pregnancy after another. They must constantly search for food, turning more gaunt and skittish with each pregnancy. United Paws has often taken a female feral to a veterinarian for spaying to be told, “Her next litter would have been her last,” because her insides are simply worn out.

While more than 50 percent of pet cats nationally are spayed or neutered, only 3 percent of free-roaming cats are. As a result, 80 percent of kittens born every year are born to free-roaming cats. The vast majority of kittens born in the wild will not survive their first year, dying of malnutrition and disease or falling prey to predators. It is therefore imperative that all free-roaming cats (as well as pet cats and dogs) be spayed and neutered to prevent animal suffering.

Within a week of spaying a free-roaming female cat, the difference in her demeanor and appearance is striking. She loses that haunted, hunted look as her

fur turns to satin. About a week after neutering, tomcats’ testosterone levels drop, so they fight and spray less (and their spray loses that obnoxious odor). Peace reigns at last, and we can all get a good night’s sleep, instead of being disturbed by yowling and caterwauling.

Since there are approximately 25,000 human beings in Tillamook County and, for sake of argument, let’s assume there are 8,000 free-roaming cats, if every resident in three humanely trapped, took to the veterinarian, and spayed or neutered just one free-roaming cat, we should have gone a long way to alleviating the suffering of these creatures, who are among us through no fault of their own. As long as United Paws has the funds, the group is committed to helping any compassionate resident of Tillamook County who wishes to care for free-roaming cats. Just call the hotline at (503) 842-5663 and leave a message.

When United Paws comes across free-roaming kittens young enough to be socialized (younger than 12 weeks), if at all possible, we take them out of the wild and foster them. This means lots of TLC to get them to trust humans. Then we put them up for adoption into loving forever homes, ensuring all are spayed and neutered. United Paws is desperate for more foster homes, so please get in touch if you could undertake such a rewarding experience. You’ll be giving an animal in need a “second chance.”

In honor of National Feral Day, United Paws’ next adoptathon is Saturday, Oct. 17, noon to 3 p.m., at the 4-H Dorm, Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 4603 Third St. Once again, Tillamook Animal Shelter dogs will be joining us. To preview cats and kittens for adoption, visit www.unitedpaws.org. We have many, many kittens, all longing for their own special lap to purr in, plus cool dogs in need of loving homes for life. To see dogs for adoption, go to www.tillamookanimalshelter.org or call (503) 812-0105.

Investig of June

ILWACO, Wash. — Shores Library, UFO woman who claimed UFOs were real and t afraid to say more unt cer and decided to tel and his research in a p Saturday, Oct. 17.

Crain had worked a pivotal period in the a secretary with a Q-I ry. According to Clark UFO crash retrievals a also acquainted with human remains back t

Clarkson will reveal on at Wright Patterso UFO outreach activiti

Clarkson is a caree itary police investiga Aberdeen, Wash., poli cialized training in the He later worked as a c ter until he was hired the State of Washing Mutual UFO Netw www.clarksonufo.com

The presentation is Park Timberland Libra First Ave. N. For mor or go to www.TRL.o

New and artists to

SKAMOKA — Redmen F
sor an

Skamokawa artists, ope Oct. 17. The exhibit, “Waters,” will feature a in wood, metal, jewel making, silkscreen, ho prints, exploring a gr mediums and techniq

Several of the artists new to the public, wh be showing familiar

“DAILY ASTORIAN” OCTOBER 17, 2009
COAST WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT

coast weekend classif

70 Help Wanted

The Northwest Oregon Housing Authority is accepting applications for a full time Housing Quality Standards Inspector.

For a complete job description and application please contact NOHA at: 147 S. Main/PO Box 1149, Warrenton OR 97146, or 503-861-0119, ext. 111 or visit our website at

70 Help Wanted

Substitutes Needed
Warrenton-Hammond
SD #30

Substitutes needed for Ed Assistants, Custodians and Bus Drivers!

Educational Assistant

Ed Assistant — 4 hour position — 5 days per week. Two year degree required.

Job descriptions and applications available at the

70 Help Wanted

Jewell School District is accepting applications for the following coaching position:

HS Varsity Basketball Coach (boys).

Application available at www.jewell.k12.or.us, or contact Dr. Brian Gander at 503-755-2451 for additional information.

There is a stipend

70 Help Wanted


Areté
Sleep Health

Medical Office Assistant needed: Scheduling

70 Help Wanted



Management & Training Corps seeks candidates for the following positions at our Astoria campus, serving youth ages 16-24