



# UNITED PAWS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY

February 2004

## Special Points of Interest

- *Who we are*
- 2004 goals: your donations at work
- 2003 ON Tillamook spay/neuter clinic
- FCCO spay/neuter certificates return
- Volunteers needed to foster, adopt!
- *Ark Update*



Flip - Tillamook Rescue



Rescued Kittens



Milo - In Loving Memory



Mookie - TCCA Stray



## 235 SPAY/NEUTERS AT "ON" CLINIC; YOUR 2003 DONATIONS AT WORK!

In March 2003, the Oregon Neutermobile (ON) visited Tillamook on its maiden voyage as Oregon's first mobile low-cost spay/neuter clinic for dogs and cats living in rural or economically disadvantaged Oregon communities. ON held three separate, three-day clinics in Tillamook over the next two months. A dedicated and exhausted veterinarian, Rebecca Henry, spayed/neutered a grand total of 235 cats and dogs (mainly cats). Your donations made this possible!

Thanks to several very generous donors, we received enough funds to cover ON's trip to Tillamook. Donations paid the initial, required \$1,000 deposit to ON and helped supplement the many spay/neuters designated for low-income folks. This was ON's first-time-ever venture. Many unanticipated clinic details and expenses came to light during the first clinic - such as food for volunteers and staff, clinic supplies, bedding and office materials. Volunteers, who served as the entire staff for the clinic, generously absorbed these costs, thereby allowing all the donated funds to be used specifically for spay/neuter.

We can't express enough thanks and gratitude to the small group of dedicated volunteers who braved the rain and cold to help with set-up, registration, intake, pre-op and post-op monitoring and care of our furry patients, not to mention handling paperwork, laundry, clean-up and the myriad of other tasks necessary to ensure a successful clinic. For more information on the Tillamook clinics and ON, visit the website: [www.neutermobile.org](http://www.neutermobile.org)

### Tillamook Realities

A beautiful coast, clean air, the gorgeous Pacific, peaceful small-town living. However:

- Tillamook County has no humane society, animal shelter or fostering program.
- There are no discount spay/neuter clinics; vet fees are more than many can afford.
- An abundance of residents are either senior citizens on fixed incomes or low-income individuals/families.
- Tillamook animal population control too often takes the form of drowning, dumping or indiscriminate giving away of animals in front of grocery stores.
- Minimal county funds are budgeted to "aid" the community and to provide a solution to strays/abandoned animals by holding them for a few days and then euthanizing them, even if they are perfectly healthy.

Fortunately, a small amount of donated money remained in our Tillamook United Paws fund following the ON clinics, but not enough money or volunteer help to support a fourth clinic. In a small town, word gets around and we have continued to receive calls requesting spay/neuter or medical emergency assistance. Individual supporters have funded some requests, others were paid for from a portion of the remaining funds. Monies were paid directly to local veterinarians, via United Paws. A recent example of your dollars at work: we spayed and bought food for the cat of a Rockaway gentleman whose home burned to the ground in December, leaving him and his beloved cat homeless. The American Red Cross helped him; we helped his companion. We have provided other low-income residents with spay/neuter assistance. The total number of cats/dogs spayed or neutered in 2003 was 240!

### This year we hope to raise funds to help us:

- Provide spay/neuter assistance to low-income individuals as funds allow.
- Work with local veterinarians to offer reduced-fee spay/neuter services for low-income individuals.
- Work with local officials to resolve Tillamook's lack of animal control services.
- Heighten public awareness of animal suffering and homelessness.
- Encourage responsible pet guardianship.
- Create a foster home network to help place homeless animals in temporary homes until permanent placements can be found, thereby avoiding needless killing of local animals.
- Arrange a program of transporting feral cats to an affordable clinic for spay/neuter and return to those responsibly caring for them.

### Who We Are and Our Goals for 2004

We're a small, informal, grass-roots network of Tillamook County individuals bound together by a common love of animals and concern for their welfare. We sponsored three local FCCO summer feral cat clinics and last year's ON clinic. We meet only by phone or e-mail and donate our time and services.

***Tillamook's homeless animals need your support more than ever!***

***Spaying and neutering can mean the difference between life and death!***

***All funds go directly to vets to spay/neuter!***

***Please help put an end to animal neglect and homelessness!***



Peg – Amputee Rescue Needs a Home

United Paws, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, is our “parent” organization, located in Lincoln City. Donations are tax deductible. All donated funds go into a special Tillamook account to track all income and expenditures to assure integrity and accountability. We ask for and need your continued support!

United Paws/Tillamook P.O. Box 159 Tillamook, OR 97141  
unitedpaws@hotmail.com

### Ark Sanctuary Update

The court has closed down the Ark Sanctuary, on Fraser Road, run by the White Family for seven years. The Whites were charged with many counts of animal neglect and fraudulently taking donated funds intended for animal care, instead using them as their primary source of living income. On June 2, 2001, 421 live animals were rescued from the “sanctuary” by volunteers who came from all over Oregon and Washington, during a rapid two-day effort carried out and coordinated by Tillamook’s Peggy Kirke. She worked tirelessly and courageously for more than two years to bring this situation to light and to closure with authorities. Ed White, in a recent plea bargain, received one year of jail time and five years probation, with the edict that he may never “own” animals again. The rescued animals are all in foster homes and will either be allowed to remain in these homes or be adopted out, as individual situations require. Unfortunately, 27 exotic animals, including the well-publicized monkey, have never been found. Many of the rescued animals were in tragic physical shape and needed immediate veterinary care. Bills for their care remain unpaid, due to lack of funds. In Defense of Animals, a Portland-based group, monitors the status of fostered animals, as does Peggy. Animal updates and donations may be coordinated either through In Defense of Animals (503-496-9996 ) or Peggy Kirke (503-842-6357) This case is sad evidence that a “sanctuary” is only as humane and caring, as well as legitimate, as the people who run it. The toll of animal abuse reaches way beyond even one community and impacts us all.

### Low-cost Spay/Neuter Certificates Available for Feral Cats

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a full management plan in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors in cities, towns, and rural areas are humanely trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated and sterilized by veterinarians. Kittens and tame cats are adopted into good homes. Healthy adult cats too wild to be adopted are returned to their familiar habitat under the lifelong care of volunteers. The **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO)** is dedicated to this concept and its sole purpose is to spay/neuter feral cats. In the past, Tillamook has hosted FCCO one-day clinics that altered more than 80 cats. FCCO also provides spay/neuter certificates that cost clients meeting the FCCO criteria just \$20 per cat. These certificates are honored by local participating veterinarians who are subsidized an additional amount by FCCO for their services. The good news is that this program will start up again in 2004, after having been halted toward the end of 2003. You perhaps don’t often see these unique and admirable cats, but they are widespread in Tillamook County – spay/neuter provides the humane solution for the community and for these cats, who struggle so desperately to survive in the wild. **Call Javlen Jones, after 5 pm, at (503) 842-7710 for certificate details.**

### Tillamook Must Tackle Lack of Shelter and Animal Control Services

There are no shelters or humane societies between Astoria and Lincoln City. Lost, abandoned and captured stray and/or unwanted dogs and cats (and there are many!), if not placed within a few days, are almost always euthanized. The veterinarian paid by the county to hold and euthanize these unclaimed animals has announced that she will no longer carry out this task, effective July 1. That means Tillamook has no place to even temporarily shelter lost or stray animals and no one to euthanize them. A very small network of experienced community members is planning to meet with the sheriff and other officials to try to come up with possible solutions as to how to shelter, foster and place these animals. WHERE and HOW can animals at large be housed? LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER to stop the cycle of pet overpopulation and PUBLIC EDUCATION to foster responsible pet guardianship will be key issues to tackle. Developing some sort of NETWORK OF FOSTER HOMES is also critical. Being given a foster home removes an animal from its crisis situation and provides a temporary, stable and safe environment until a permanent home can be found. Spay/neuter will help eliminate the tragic euthanization of perfectly healthy animals, and IF we can locate safe havens, these animals will no longer have to struggle, only to end up on death row! **Foster homes are a critical need!** It means the difference between life and death. If you have room in your house and heart to provide this critically important service, please contact your favorite local vet and ask to be put on a list that states you are available to foster and what kind of animal you would be willing to take in.

### How You Can Help!

Money donations are critical, but there are many ways to help, both small and large. You may ask: “What good can I do?” There are niches to be filled. How about those premium catnip pillows on sale at RC&D, made by a caring volunteer. Thanks to repeat buyers, those little pillows have raised some much-needed money for the vet’s stray cat fund, and they are a visual reminder to spay/neuter. Ask your vet if he/she would sell some item you could make to help raise money to spay/neuter animals in need. You could also donate a big bag of cat and/or dog food to your local Food Bank for needy seniors. Meals on Wheels can then take pet food on their home deliveries to help feed seniors’ four-legged companions. Or offer to provide transportation for people who have no way to get their pets to a vet. On a big scale, if you have land or a building that could be used as a shelter, please let us know. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** We can support your efforts with computer assistance, ideas or additional helping hands. **WE APPRECIATE YOUR DONATIONS AND YOUR COMPASSION FOR THE ANIMALS!**

United Paws of America  
c/o Patricia A. Bumgarner  
P.O. Box 159  
Tillamook, OR 97141



**ALL DONATED FUNDS ARE  
DESIGNATED TOWARD SPAY/NEUTER  
EFFORTS IN TILLAMOOK COUNTY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

*You Will Be Mailed a Receipt*

*United Paws of America is a 501 (c)(3) Oregon nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

***With Gratitude for your Concern for the Animals of Tillamook County***