



# Stevens County Cat Care

November 2011  
Kit-E-News

**Our next clinic:**  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 2012  
(location still unsure)

Our volunteers and veterinarians hold mobile clinics in a different town's community center one Sunday each month. Our low cost mobile clinics are made possible thanks to the generosity of local veterinarians, grants, and local donations. Low income Stevens County residents may call

**(509) 935-MEOW (6369)**

to make reservations for their cat(s) at an upcoming clinic.

Check out our website in progress at [www.stevenscountycatcare.org](http://www.stevenscountycatcare.org)

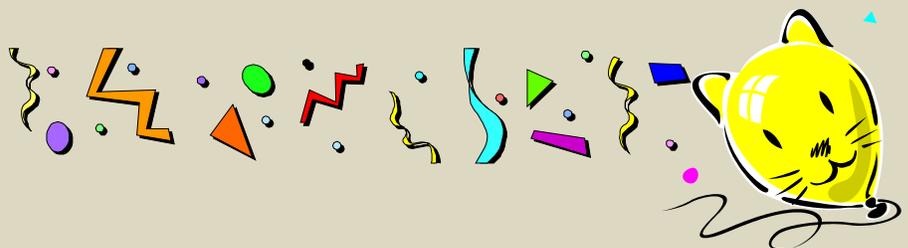
## Announcing...



So far this year our one-Sunday-a-month clinics have enabled us to spay/neuter 1,262 cats! This gives our group a total of 6,011 cats fixed since we began doing low-cost, high-volume clinics in Stevens County, WA in mid-2006.



Stevens County Cat Care  
Kitty # 6,000  
Kettle Falls, WA 11/20/2011



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## Did you know?

- Newborn kittens have closed ear canals that don't begin to open for nine days.
  - A kitten's eyes are always blue at first.
  - Cats with white fur and skin on their ears are very prone to sunburn.
  - Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
  - A cat is pregnant for about 58-65 days.
  - A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
  - Neutering a cat extends its life span by two or three years.
  - A cat's tongue consists of small "hooks," which come in handy when tearing up food.
  - Cat's urine glows under a black light.
  - A cat sees about six times better than a human at night because of a layer of extra reflecting cells which absorb light.
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## A History of cats

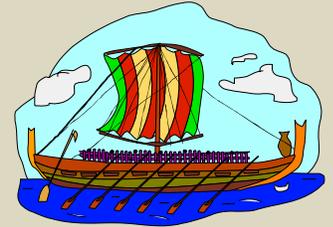
**A**round 1500 B.C., cats were considered sacred by the Egyptians, and if a person killed a cat, they were usually put to death. Egyptians shaved their eyebrows as a symbol of their grief when their pet cat died, and they made their dead cats into mummies.



**C**ats first came to Europe and the Middle East about 1000 B.C., most likely from Greek and Phoenician traders. In Ancient Rome, cats were especially welcomed as vermin controllers. Most pictures of cats in Roman art show them as working animals. And yet, at one time the cat was considered the guardian spirit of a household, and the symbol of liberty in Rome. The Roman Army recognized the value of cats as store watchmen. They carried cats with them through Gaul and eventually to Britain.



**V**ikings used cats as rat catchers and companions. Freyja, the Viking goddess of love, fertility and war, was associated with cats, as they were considered her sacred animals. She was often portrayed in a chariot drawn by two horse-sized winged cats. Kittens were given in her name to new brides, linking together Freya's influence over cats, romance and fertility.



**E**uropeans once again began realizing the important role cats played in controlling rodents, and cats gradually regained their popularity.

Traders, explorers and colonists brought



domestic cats with them to the New World during the 1600's and 1700's, and settlers continued to take their cats with them as they moved towards the West. Virtually all the cats of today in North America are descendants from these cats.



**T**he very first cat show was held in London in 1871. And that the first cat association was formed in 1887 in Great Britain, called the National Cat Club of Great Britain.

**A**bout 63 percent of all households in the United States have a pet, amounting to about 75 million dogs and about 85 million cats.



## How can you help?

**Cat Food (we pass it on to those in need)**

**Clorox**

**Computer paper**

**Laundry Soap**

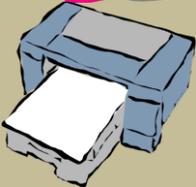
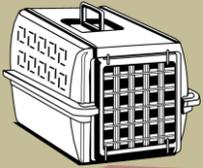
**Live traps**

**Paper Towels**

**Plastic crates (like you'd use on airlines)**

**Printer Ink (HP 920)**

**Towels (your gently used old ones)**



**Money for:**

- Rental fees to rent the places we fix cats at.
- Surgical supplies , drugs and medications.
- Those who cannot afford to pay to fix their cats.

## 'Too Much of a Good Thing'

Webster's dictionary explains the word 'hoard' as '*a supply or fund stored up and often hidden away*'. Therefore a 'hoarder' is one who stores up, or hides, a supply of something. So what would we, in this age of plenty, hoard? Some women hoard shoes and no one knows how many shoes hide in closets, under beds, out of sight of those who would snicker at the amount deemed necessary to match every dress, purse or party. Some people hoard weapons, or old newspapers. But the saddest example of hoarding I see here on a local level is the hoarding of cats.

If you don't know a cat hoarder, you might laugh at the thought. How, you might ask, can someone store up cats? Oh, but they do. The average cat hoarder is a usually a good person at heart. They believe they are doing the cats a great favor, usually saving them from certain death. The hoarder takes them in, telling themselves they will just keep it until they can find it a good home. But they keep it because, deep in their hearts, they are sure no one could provide as good a home as they can. They keep their kittens and the kitty's cousins too. As their numbers grow, the litter boxes are overgrown. The home reeks with the ammonia smell of cat urine.

The problem is more than just a filthy house. Cat feces is not healthy to cats or humans when it's on the walls, kitchen counters, and embedded in the carpet. Often the person who isn't cleaning their house isn't cleaning themselves either, so this becomes a health issue to the humans as well as the cats.

As friends and neighbors complain about the numbers and the smell, the hoarder goes into defense mode, visualizing the kitties cast out into the cruel world with no one to feed them. They often become more solitary as their efforts to protect their lifestyle become more offensive to others. They believe they are doing the right thing, and no amount of ridicule is going to change their minds about saving these little furry beings from the clutches of those who 'don't understand'.

Alcoholism, gambling to excess, or cat hoarding; all are symptoms of an invisible illness that prevents one from knowing when to stop. Berating your neighbor's overabundance of cats isn't the answer. A solution that doesn't involve the words 'dump' 'drown', or 'shoot' will work better than angry threats.

Cat hoarders are everywhere. But a solution does exist to help prevent future cat hoarders from ever starting. It's a simple process called 'spay' or 'neuter'. If cats don't have unwanted kittens, then no one needs to rescue them. Call (509) 935-6369 (MEOW) if you have, or know of, a hoarding situation and think we can help. We can (quite literally) 'fix' problems like that.

*-Linda*

