



Feline Rescue, Inc.  
593 Fairview Avenue North  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-642-5900

[felinerescue.org](http://felinerescue.org)  
"Kneading Paws, Needing Homes"

For name or address changes, or to let us know you are receiving duplicate mailings, please call or send an email to:  
[mailinglist@FelineRescue.org](mailto:mailinglist@FelineRescue.org)

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# THE SCOOP

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## A Strong and Mighty Kitten: Meet Topaz

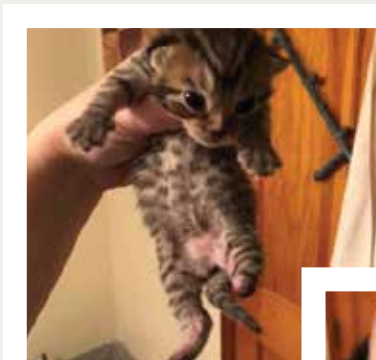
By Dr Lisa Mekka, DVM

Topaz the brave, beautiful brown tabby kitten didn't have the easiest start in life. Shortly after being born, she and her siblings became tangled in each other's umbilical cords, and one of those cords wrapped tightly around her back left leg. Topaz's foster caregiver rushed the knot of kittens in for veterinary care as soon as she noticed their predicament, but by the time the kittens were cut apart, it was too late to restore blood supply to Topaz's left ankle and foot. Over the next several days, while Topaz was kept comfortable with pain medication and protected against infection by antibiotics, the damaged tissues died, and Topaz's back left foot fell off.



Topaz was resilient in the face of adversity. She continued to nurse and grow, learned to walk on three legs to keep up with her siblings, and healed as well as she could while members of Feline Rescue Veterinary Services monitored her progress and planned for her eventual hind leg amputation. In general, veterinarians avoid performing surgery on very young kittens because their bodies don't handle anesthesia very well, and they could die. Instead, it is best to wait until they are at least 8 weeks-old and weigh 2 pounds, and Topaz reached those milestones in mid-October.

The Veterinary Services department coordinated with a surgical specialist to have Topaz's amputation performed in our on-site surgical suite. From start to finish the procedure lasted less than an hour, and Topaz was finally free of the extra weight and strain that her damaged left hind leg had been forcing her remaining legs to carry. In less than a day, she was back to playing and learning how to balance herself as a tripod kitty.



## There are lots of ways you can help the cats at Feline Rescue!

- You can make a gift by mail via check to Feline Rescue at 593 Fairview Ave, St Paul, MN, 55104 or online at <https://felinerescue.org/donate-now>.
- Find out if your employer will match your gift or volunteer hours. Many Feline Rescue volunteers and supporters participate in workplace giving and volunteer match programs through their employers. Contact your employer's human resources department to find out if it matches employee charitable donations and/or volunteer hours.
- Add Feline Rescue as a beneficiary to your 401(k), IRA, will or trust. People age 70-½ or older are able to transfer

up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to the charity of their choice without having to pay taxes on the donation.\*\*

- Instead of donating cash, you can make charitable gifts of appreciated stock. Feline Rescue can convert the donated stock into cash. The donor gets a deduction for the market value of the donated stock on the date of the donation, and does not have to recognize the capital gain that would result if the stock were sold.\*\*
- From cat food to litter to office supplies, your in-kind donations help us to save more cats. You can find our full wish list at <https://felinerescue.org/donate-now/donation-wish-list>.
- Your Amazon purchase could generate a donation to Feline Rescue, at no additional cost to you! Amazon donates a percentage of eligible

purchases to your charity of choice through AmazonSmile. Select Feline Rescue as your charity on AmazonSmile; as you do your shopping, Amazon will donate a percentage of eligible purchases to Feline Rescue. Get started at [smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1876072](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1876072).

- Donate your old car! See the Donate Your Car article in this newsletter to find out more.
- Attend a fundraising event! See the Events and Initiatives section of this newsletter to see what events are coming up.

Thank you for your continued support!

\*\*Please consult your tax advisor to determine the impact of these donation strategies on your specific tax situation.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Founded in 1997, Feline Rescue is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Minnesota corporation organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Our primary goal is to provide shelter and care for stray, abused and abandoned cats until they are adopted into suitable homes.

Feline Rescue promotes positive community interaction through education, spay/neuter programs and other activities that enable all people to enjoy the friendship of cats.

**Feline Rescue's 2018 annual report is now available on the About Us page at [feline rescue.org](http://feline rescue.org).**

(Topaz continued)



Topaz's story isn't finished yet. She's in the process of recovery and doing well, but as of October 31, it will be a few more days before her stitches can come out. She'll also need to continue to have her activity restricted to a small, safe recovery pen for a few more weeks. Luckily, she's in the care of her foster mother who loves her so much that she can't let her go. Topaz will be adopted by her foster family when she's recovered enough for the paperwork to go through!

## Outreach Program Update

By Vickie Lachelt

This year has been an explosive year for cat overpopulation. Our Outreach program is busy with phone calls and emails as to what to do with various cat situations. Some cats are tame and some are feral. For the feral cats, we have worked heavily with the Animal Humane Society Community Cat Program where we educate people on how to live-trap cats humanely, then neuter, and return to the area (TNR). We also educate on the need for food, water and shelter after the cats are altered and returned to their community. We offer advice for other cat issues that people in the community have and resources that may be available.

We have spayed and neutered more than 800 cats this year. This past summer, two outreach volunteers trapped and altered over 50 cats in East Saint Paul. Recently, we worked with Here To The Rescue in Barron, WI on its "TNR 100" project, which altered 100 cats. Each cat will have a better life and will not be adding to an already overpopulated world. Feline Rescue has partnered with Here To The Rescue for the past few years and has adopted out many lovely cats from them that had nowhere to go. By making people aware of the cat overpopulation problem, educating them and helping get these cats altered, our Outreach Program makes our communities better places to live for both cats and people.

## Community Education and the Alley Cat Bash

By Nancy Miller

### Radio Interview and Film

Sterling "TrapKing" Davis spent the week of October 13-19 with Feline Rescue to help spread the message, "You don't lose cool points for compassion," and to educate about trap/neuter/return (TNR) and humane solutions to the cat population. He started the week with an interview at KMOJ radio, then went to our partner organization, Animal Humane Society (AHS), to prepare for a showing of The Cat Rescuers film that was presented by Feline Rescue and hosted at the AHS Golden Valley location. More than 100 attended to see the film and learn about TNR efforts in Brooklyn, NY. The film is now available on demand from numerous streaming services.

### Educating Kids in Our Communities

Sterling spent much of the week teaching kids about compassion and TNR, building community cat shelters. He visited Earle Brown Elementary, Rice Lake Elementary, and Basswood Elementary, as well as a collective of Girl Scout troops at the Eastman Nature Center where he presented his message to more than 100 second-grade students. Kids had the opportunity to build community cat shelters; see a live demonstration of how a live trap works; hear Sterling read and rap; and meet Damita Jo, Sterling's rescue cat. There was TV news coverage of some of these activities on Kare11 and Fox 9.

### Open House & Donation Drive

Sterling was present on October 16 at Feline Rescue's Open House which doubled as a donation drive for our Outreach Program. Sterling mingled with visitors who brought in monetary and food donations for our Outreach Program, and were able to see our new kennels in use.

### Alley Cat Bash

Wrapping up the week, Sterling was the guest speaker at the Alley Cat Bash at Macalester College on October 19. Attendees enjoyed Sterling's rap performance followed by his presentation where he discussed the path that led him to become a strong animal advocate and founder of his nonprofit, TrapKing Humane Cat Solutions, which focuses on TNR. After his presentation, patrons had the opportunity to mingle with Sterling and to purchase TrapKing and TrapQueen merchandise. The event brought in more than \$10,000 in ticket sales and sponsorships, \$3000 in games, \$2000 from the silent auction, and more than \$7000 in Fund a Need (for the Feline Rescue Outreach Program) and other miscellaneous donations. Overall, the event netted nearly \$9,000 for Feline Rescue.





## Message from Executive Director Phil Manz

I hug my grandbaby cats, Tiberius and Sarah (when she lets me!), just a little tighter now after seeing and hearing the cats in our care here at Feline Rescue. Like about 20 percent of you (as I gleaned from our initial meetings), my connection to Feline Rescue started with death. In my case, a human. In late June, I learned that a friend and former colleague from 15 years ago lost her son in a tragic accident. I reached out to another mutual colleague in Maine. By the time she got back to me on July 2, I was in the midst of a divorce. The friend in Maine was the executive director of the Animal Welfare

Society and offered me a job as chief operating officer of that organization.

However, having lived in Minnesota for 30 years and with a married 27-year-old daughter in Eagan, my decision was easy, Thanks, but no thanks. I was headed back to Minnesota. Learning of the Feline Rescue executive director role from a friend who worked for the Animal Humane Society for 15 years and a former next door neighbor who ran an informal but impressive multi-animal rescue out of her house for 20 years, I responded eagerly when approached about applying for the job.

In meeting most of the shelter and office volunteer and paid staff, I have been humbled to hear how often their connection with us starts with the death of their own loved cat. Often on the same day, I get to see a new family formed either through fostering or adoption of cats. We have the full circle of life coursing through

our volunteers every day. Most of our staff members and volunteers simply love cats, found us and now feel a sense of family with their team in the shelter, out in the community or in their homes fostering. The energy, emotion and commitment of everyone I have met thus far are very impressive. I look forward to working with all of you to realize our mutual vision. Please reach out with question or concerns at 612-443-7276 or phil.manz@felinerescue.org.



"Tiberius"

# Thank you!

We could not have done this without some help from a very special organization! All of us here at Feline Rescue wish to extend our deepest thanks to the Orphan Kitten Club (OKC) for bestowing upon us a \$2,000 grant to help Topaz through its Mightycat Program! Orphan Kitten Club is a nonprofit run out of California by our friend Hannah Shaw, also known as The Kitten Lady. OKC's Mightycat Program is the first grant program in the world to specifically fund the care and protection of neonatal kittens. The Mightycat Program is currently invitation-only. Thanks to OKC reaching out to us, we were able to meet all of Topaz's medical needs in-house and coordinate with surgical consultants to give her the very best care. Our very own mighty tripod cat, Topaz, is recovering well and has bounded into the hearts of her foster family, who will be adopting her as soon as she is ready to be officially adopted.

You can learn more about the Orphan Kitten Club and their Mightycat Program at [orphankittenclub.org](http://orphankittenclub.org).



## Message from the Chair of the Board

By Elaine Grittner

We are grateful for so many things that have occurred in the past several months. First of all, we are happy to have Phil Manz join our team as our new Executive Director. Phil will be introducing himself elsewhere in this newsletter, but suffice it to say, we are excited about all of the skills Phil brings to Feline Rescue. I encourage you to stop by our administrative building and introduce yourself.

This year, we introduced a "get-to-know-you" event called Kitties and Conversation. This event gives stakeholders an opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with leadership, provides guided tours of the shelter, and allows us to show off the many accomplishments we have made. We will be reaching out to our stakeholders to invite them to join us at this fun and informative event.

There are so many opportunities coming up in the next few months to support Feline Rescue. We will be launching our year-end campaign to raise funds to keep us moving into the next year. We also encourage you to view our website for information on Feline Rescue's participation in Target's new program, Target Circle.



## Barn Homes Needed

Feline Rescue sometimes comes across less social, outdoor cats in need of new homes. These cats make ideal residents for horse/hobby farms and other suitable locations with outdoor shelter.

You are responsible for providing daily food, water, shelter from the elements, and long-term veterinary care. Feline Rescue provides spay/neuter, initial vaccinations, as well as assistance for the relocation and support during the adjustment period. Please contact [outreach@felinerescue.org](mailto:outreach@felinerescue.org).

## A New Twist on Planned Gifts From Estates

By Phil Manz, Executive Director

My amazement at the impact of everyone's contributions to Feline Rescue grows each day. Two weeks ago, I discovered that Feline Rescue received \$1,000,000 worth of financial support in 2008 from two estates. Last week, I learned that Alden Drew, our Board Chair from 2011 to 2018, is going to advance a planned gift from his estate to us during the remainder of 2019. In committing up to \$50,000 to match any new donors or donors increasing their gifts by 10%, Alden is hoping to see our future realized in the present—a community supported by an increasing number of financial supporters.

We haven't always known the specifics of what captured the passion of other estate gifts to us, but we assume it is our vision of a community in which no cat is unwanted. In the case of Alden Drew, we know from his work as a board member for nine years, eight of which as chair, that our mission to provide safe shelter, veterinary care and socialization for stray, abandoned, or abused cats until good permanent homes can be found for them is what captured his passion. We here at Feline Rescue look forward to learning how we can work with each of our supporters to help us achieve our mission. There are many ways in which you can contribute, several of which come at no additional cost to you. Check out our article in this newsletter to learn how you can help our cats!

# The Intake Selection Process

By Robin Bliss,  
Cat Movement Manager (CMM)

The intake selection process determines what cats Feline Rescue can accept and where they will be placed within the Shelter and Foster programs. As Cat Movement Manager (CMM), a paid employee of Feline Rescue, I am responsible for directing the intake selection process for each week while adhering to Feline Rescue's population composition guide for the Shelter and Foster programs.

Shelter Intake composition aims for 25-30% easy-to-adopt cats, 50-60% adoptable cats, and 10-20% challenging-but-adoptable cats. Adoptability is defined in terms of expected length of stay (LOS): easy to adopt cats have an anticipated LOS of 2 weeks or less. Adoptable cats have an anticipated LOS of between 2 weeks and 4 months. Adoptable challenging cats have a LOS greater than 4 months. Our Foster Intake aims for a rough ratio of 7:1 between easy to adopt and adoptable challenging cats. That means 7 cats having an anticipated

LOS of less than 4 weeks or less for each cat having an anticipated LOS of greater than 4 months, with one kitten litter counting as one cat.

Feline Rescue accepts cats from two sources: individuals and other organizations. Individuals are required to submit an intake Inquiry form via our website. Each day, the CMM evaluates each inquiry and either adds the cat to our individual waiting list or directs the Intake Assistant to refer the applicant elsewhere. Organizations either send us lists of cats or post their available cats online. We refer to these lists and websites as we have openings.

Feline Rescue has worked with/taken cats from at least a dozen organizations (other limited admission rescues, animal controls, humane societies) in Minnesota and western Wisconsin since May, including having a standing weekly appointment with St Paul Animal Control. When these organizations post or email lists of cats at risk of euthanasia, the CMM prepares to pull any cat in danger that meets criteria for admission on a date prior to the deadline, but allows other organizations to pull the cat unless it falls within the population mix desired for the week.

Taking in cats from organizations that are running full is most always a priority over taking cats from the waiting list, because waiting-list cats usually have people caring for them. Exceptions are usually emergency situations. Waiting-list emergencies

include bottle-feeding kittens in the hands of good Samaritans, declawed cats that are outdoors, and injured or ill cats that need medical treatment. When these requests are noted in ASM incoming forms, they are immediately addressed. In terms of medical emergency admissions, the CMM first consults with the Veterinary Director and Executive Director to determine whether Feline Rescue has the resources to handle the request. If so, then the cat is scheduled for intake as soon as possible. If not, then the party is referred elsewhere.

Feline Rescue's waiting list is a list of cats that may be eligible for entry to Feline Rescue. We do not know that the cat is eligible until we speak with the person who submitted the intake inquiry form. The main criteria are as follows: the cat is able to be picked up, the cat is not owner surrendered, the cat is not feral, and the cat does not have a known history of biting or aggression with an unknown or unpredictable cause.

The cats on the waiting list are not taken in order. The waiting list functions more like a lottery system. If you are on it, you have a chance of being selected, but only if your number comes up. The cat also must fit in with the demographics needed at the shelter and in the Foster program, including where the cat would fall on the scale of adoptability. There is no guarantee that we will ever take a cat that is on the waiting list.

## If you can't adopt a cat now, you can still make a difference!

### SPONSOR A FELINE RESCUE CAT

Feline Rescue's Cat Sponsorship Program is a way for supporters to help provide necessities for our cats until we find their forever home and family. You can sponsor a cat in honor of a loved one, in memory of a beloved cat who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge, to celebrate an occasion, or for no special reason at all. For your \$60 sponsorship fee, Feline Rescue will send you or your honoree a photo and bio of your sponsored cat and a special greeting card acknowledging your gift. Here are some of our deserving cats that you may want to sponsor.



*I'm Minta, and I have my initial on my forehead! I would love nothing more than to curl up with my people friends, keep them company, and tell them about my day. I love to play and am determined to catch that nefarious moving red dot that insists on eluding me. I was adopted once before, but it just wasn't a good fit. I am looking for my forever home with a quiet family without children or other cats that has the time to devote their attention to me, the queen of the household.*

### Car Donations

by Emily Wallner

Wondering what to do with your old used car or truck? Donating your old vehicle to Feline Rescue is convenient, easy, and may qualify you for a tax deduction. In addition to cars and trucks, other types of motor vehicles are also accepted, including boats and motorcycles.

Best of all, your donation of a used car or truck will make a big difference in supporting Feline Rescue. For each vehicle donation, we receive a cash donation that is used to help fund our new and existing programs and increase community awareness through local events.

Information regarding car donations, along with an online form, is now available on our website at <https://feline rescue.org/donate-now-2/donate-your-car>. You can also call 1-866-628-2277. Arrangements will be made to pick up your vehicle or have it towed, and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, all at no charge to you.

To sponsor a Feline Rescue cat, complete the form below. You can also process a sponsorship online at [feline rescue.org](http://feline rescue.org) by clicking on the **Donate Now** tab at the top of the page.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion/Brief Message \_\_\_\_\_

Send Card to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not send Sponsorship Packet  Send a Receipt

**Please mail your check of \$60 (or more if you choose), to Feline Rescue, 593 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55104.**

Feline Rescue, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

[FelineRescue.org](http://FelineRescue.org) • 651-642-5900



When submitting photos for the newsletter, please provide images at minimum of 4 inches wide and resolution at 300 dpi.

