

# MEWSINGS

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

September 2010

## It's Pawstock time again!

Our annual benefit, Pawstock, will be held on October 3rd, from 2 to 7 at Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant. Los Cucos is at the western end of Bee Cave Road, almost to Highway 71, across Bee Cave Road from the HEB. It is in the location formerly occupied by El Arroyo Mexican Restaurant. Please check our website for more information on performers, times, and silent auction items. And please come!

## Before Pawstock...

You may want to check out the Austin Cat Fanciers Cat Show at Palmer Auditorium before you come to Pawstock. This event totally donated to felines will be held October 2-3, 2010. Please check our website for a flyer for this event.

## Second Starbucks Volunteer Day a Success

Thundering Paws volunteers and employees from the Starbucks all over Austin participated in the Starbucks' Make Your Mark program for the second time in August. The Starbucks program requires an organization log 100 volunteer hours in one day, using at least three Starbucks' employees, that organization is eligible for a



Kittens living in Annie's room.

## Kittens, kittens, kittens

This summer Thundering Paws rescued more than 35 kittens in 3 separate feral colonies.

We had lots of help from other organizations; please read more on page 2.

*"The cat is the only animal which accepts the comforts but rejects the bondage of domesticity."*

- Georges Louis Leclerc de Buffon

## We save more kittens by collaborating with other groups

Thundering Paws is concurrently involved in trap/spay/neuter/return of three separate feral colonies right now. One colony is at Hill Country Care (HCC) in Dripping Springs, where a long-time animal rescuer now lives. Volunteers have trapped two moms, one male, and fourteen kittens. They are being spayed/neutered at many locations: The Austin Humane Society (AHS), Emancipet, or Sunset Canyon Veterinary Hospital. Most of the tame or tamable ones will go to PAWS of Kyle to be adopted. A few have stayed here, one to be adopted out, and one because he has FIV. Beautiful Susie came from HCC with a raging eye infection, now cleared with the ministrations of Dr. Shifrin of Austin Animal Eye Clinic. She is spayed and ready for a home. Fabion came with her five kittens that were one day old. She is feral, but her kittens will be raised being kissed and cuddled by humans so they can be adopted. This is, of course, her last litter, and she will return to HCC to be fed by residents.

A second colony is on the property of a man who lives on the western outskirts of Dripping Springs. George has been trying for twenty years to get his colony spayed/neutered, and under control. Losing sight, and on veterans



### Austin Humane Society's Feral Cat Program

While we are plugging other groups, we want to be sure that everyone knows about Austin Humane Society's (AHS) program for the free spaying and neutering of feral cats. See <http://www.austinhumanesociety.org/volunteer/feral-cat-program>



## Why do black cats get adopted last?

Black cats are usually the last cats adopted at animal shelters across the nation and Thundering Paws has lots of black beauties ready for new homes too.

Top reasons to adopt a black cat:

Black never goes out of style.

Black goes with everything.



cont.

disability, he could only manage to get one or two cats fixed per month. Thundering Paws' excellent trapper, Calene Summers, stepped in and within 10 months, George has no more unaltered cats. He has food for all, and we provide medical care when needed. In our final fell swoop, we took 23 kittens. PALS (Prevent-a-Litter) of San Marcos made arrangements for AHS to take all the healthy kittens, and 15 of these babies went to AHS. The other eight have been adopted, or are here, recovering from ringworm, eye infections, upper respiratory infections, and intestinal woes. All have survived and are doing well.

## Sometimes the cat picks you

Over the years, we have noticed that people don't pick cats; cats pick people. We have had adopters come to the sanctuary with a particular cat in mind, "Oh, we saw So-and-so on the website and he's so cute! We want to adopt him," they say. These people rarely leave with So-and-So, but they often leave with a cat.

The most definitive example of this was a young woman named Sierra who came to adopt a cat. A careful, thoughtful adopter, she visited every cat in the sanctuary to see which cat she wanted to take home. The entire time she was here, Raven, a four-month-old black kitten, followed her around. Sierra met cats for an hour and a half. When asked which one she would like to adopt, she said, "Well, I guess it's Raven, isn't it?" We're glad she knew.

In case you aren't as perceptive as Sierra was, we want you to know that we have a guarantee. This means that if you adopt a Thundering Paws animal, that animal can come back here at any time for the rest of his or her life. Until everyone—Thundering Paws, the adopter, and the animal—has declared delight with the adoption, we don't deposit the check. Once the check for the adoption donation is deposited, we don't refund the money, but the animal can still always return.

The third colony is Syble's. Syble cannot leave her disabled husband to get her cats to the vet. She was overrun with reproducing felines, so we arrived in April to trap them and take them to AHS. All the adults were spayed/neutered at that time, and we told her we would come back for the kittens in August. The four and five month old kittens are now getting altered. Syble loves her cats and feeds them daily, she just needed help in stopping the reproducing, and we are glad we could help.



*"When you're special to a cat, you're special indeed...she brings to you the gift of her preference of you, the sight of you, the sound of your voice, the touch of your hand."*

- Leonore Fleisher

## Somebody please adopt Rosie!

She's driving us all crazy! Rosie was fostered by a friend of Thundering Paws, but came to the sanctuary when her foster mom had to leave town. She is a bundle of energy! She is the most playful kitten we have ever seen. Rosie is too wild to play nice with the other kittens. She doesn't hurt anyone, nor does she want to; she just moves too fast and frightens some of the more sedate kittens. She needs lots of room, toys, her hammock, and someone to wiggle things for her. The good news is that she plays well by herself and, when she is finished, is available for petting, which is wonderful because she is velvet! Please adopt her and give her somewhere to run and play.



## Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that causes "Kitty AIDS." Like HIV, it affects the immune system, however, FIV does not seem as virulent as HIV. There is disagreement among veterinarians about how FIV is passed. There is even disagreement among *our* veterinarians!

One veterinarian has advised us that, in her opinion, FIV is not easy to transmit. Other veterinarians agree that it is passed only through sex, from which everyone at Thundering Paws is retired, or a deep bite, which usually happens only when cats are fighting about sex. Therefore, the transmission of FIV among spayed/neutered cats is rare. Other very reputable sanctuaries place their FIV positive and non-FIV positive cats together, with no transmission. Of course, feline leukemia positive kitties are separate.

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is passed through sex, fighting, *and* litter box usage, as well as through saliva on cat food. We have been fortunate in that we have had only a few cats test positive for feline leukemia and, when we have, we have miraculously found placements for them.

We have one FIV positive cat in the Sanctuary, 4

Mason. Mason has his own room (from which he has been temporarily displaced by kittens), because we don't know that everyone will honor the "no biting" rule. Even neutered and spayed cats can have fits of pique in which biting seems necessary. Mason would *never* bite anyone, however. He is the sweetest boy!

There is also a controversy among people who trap/spay/neuter/return cats to managed feral colonies. Some people feel it is advisable to test every cat and euthanize those who test positive for FeLV, FIV, or both. Thundering Paws does not routinely test cats to be returned to feral colonies, nor have we found it necessary to euthanize any cat solely because he or she is infected with one of these viruses.





## Volunteer Fair Recruits New Cat Lovers for Thundering Paws

On September 14th, the Dripping Springs High School hosted their second Volunteer Fair ever. We were there. Staff member, Sherry Anderson collected information from 46 potential volunteers. We are delighted as at least three quarters of our young volunteers are from the Dripping Springs school system.

### Starbucks Volunteer Day Continued...

\$1,000 grant from Starbucks. On-site we reached 102.5 hours so we are eligible for the \$1000 grant. When you count the volunteer hours logged at PetSmart adoption days at the Sunset Valley location we reached 142.5 hours.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support!

### Adoption Update...

Great news... five cats have been adopted since the June issue of the newsletter!

*"There is, incidentally, no way of talking about cats that enables one to come off as a sane person."*

- Dan Greenberg

## A day in the lives of our feline family...



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Authorization for Direct Deposit (ACH Deposit) of Monthly Donations

I authorize Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary to initiate variable\* entries into my account described below:

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_\_\_ or Savings \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of Bank, Credit Union or other financial institution  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name on Account \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Draft funds on the 5th of the month \_\_\_\_\_ or the 20th of the month \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary has received written notification from an authorized individual of its termination in such time and manner as to afford Thundering Paws a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

**Please attach a voided check.**

\* The word "variable" in this instance pertains to the ability of Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary to draft monies out of the above account and, if a cancellation order is received after a monthly draft has been taken, to refund that donation back into the account.

To cancel this authorization, please send a copy of this form with the word "CANCEL" prominently written across it to the above address.

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary thanks you for your tax deductible donations. You will receive a yearly summary of your donations in January.