



# Cat Tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOMELESS CAT NETWORK

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Holiday 2021

## Celebrating Community Cats

With your support, HCN has continued to improve the lives of community cats through spay/neuter, adoption, and responsible colony management. We have much to celebrate, thanks to our volunteers and supporters!



# Thanks For Rescuing Us In 2021!

All these kitties and more were rescued by HCN in 2021, thanks to our amazing volunteers and your support. Please help us make 2022 another great year with your donation today.





More information on available cats can be found at [homelesscatnetwork.com/adopt.html](http://homelesscatnetwork.com/adopt.html).

# A TNR Teamwork Story



HCN's core mission of Trap-Neuter-Return couldn't happen without teamwork. Our rescuers work together and support each other through the process. We also encourage community involvement so we can teach more people how to help cats.

At one site near a downtown area, HCN volunteers were alerted to a situation where a resident was feeding approximately 20 to 30 unaltered cats. This was a big job, but luckily there were two motivated neighbors ready to pitch in.

HCN volunteers helped with initial trapping and training. The residents coordinated lookouts and started feeding cats in traps. Because the team was unable to stop the primary feeder from feeding, the team resorted to especially tasty/smelly foods, such as fried chicken and seafood.

The neighbors soon took over trapping entirely. HCN volunteers continued to coach, coordinate surgery appointments, and help with transporting cats to the spay/neuter clinic and recovering them afterward.



*One of the 22 cats trapped so far at this site.*

We're proud that in the course of a year, most of the cats have been TNR'd at this site. All it took was cooperation between HCN volunteers and previously inexperienced community members, with resources and training provided by HCN.

We continue to support TNR activities all over San Mateo County. You can help by donating to help with our surgery costs, which are about \$100 per cat. Thank you for your support!

## Want to help?

Donate much-needed supplies via our Amazon Wish List (search for "Homeless Cat Network") or visit [www.homelesscatnetwork.com/donations.html](http://www.homelesscatnetwork.com/donations.html) for more information. Thank you!



*HCN volunteers trained the neighbors to trap themselves.*



# YOUR KINDNESS HELPS!

## Donate

As an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit rescue organization, our work is supported entirely by donations from caring people like you.

- \$50 pays for vaccinations and basic medications.
- \$100 subsidizes the spay/neuter of community cats.
- \$250 supports kitties in colonies and at our shelter.
- \$500 funds veterinary care for rescued cats.

Go to [homelesscatnetwork.com/donations.html](https://homelesscatnetwork.com/donations.html).

Tax ID: 94-3177950

## Volunteer

- **Fostering:** Open your home to a cat or kittens.
- **Professional help:** Vet/vet tech, PR/marketing, CPA, attorney — anyone with special talents!
- **Rescue:** We'll teach you how to humanely trap community cats.
- **Colony feeder:** Bring food and water to a colony of fixed community cats.
- **Cat socializer:** Care for rescued cats at our shelter.
- **Social Media:** Help us communicate HCN's mission and promote adoptable cats.



### Amazon Wish List:

On Amazon.com, go to Account & Lists > Find a List or Registry, and search for Homeless Cat Network. <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/JDEK11R6UHX6>

## Recycle Bottles and Cans for the Cats!

HCN volunteer Judy H. collects CRV aluminum cans and plastic bottles and cashes them in for the cats.

You can help! Collect your empty plastic bottles and aluminum cans (no glass please) with the CRV or Ca Cash labels and schedule a drop-off by contacting [judyh@homelesscatnetwork.com](mailto:judyh@homelesscatnetwork.com) or (650) 508-9013 x5.



# New Neighbors: A Community of Cats

By Nicola Macfarlane



**When** Lindsey was making the long drive out to California from Omaha, Nebraska she had no idea of the “kitty adventure” awaiting her in her new home.

Settling into a cottage in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park with a small garden, it was not long before Lindsey noticed two cats hanging around outside.

Being a kind person, Lindsey put out some food for them and soon, lo and behold, she noticed some kittens in the bushes under a tree.

Uncertain what to do next, Lindsey reached out to Homeless Cat Network for advice.

HCN provided Lindsey with a large cage and supplies for the kittens, as well as a trap. After getting the kittens accustomed to eating in the trap, she was able to trap the kittens and bring them into the house.

Setting up the cage in a small laundry room with a door into the outside allowed the mother cat to visit her kittens. The mama kitty would hang out in the room near them as long as the “escape door” was always open. At the same time, Lindsey was able to begin handling and socializing the kittens inside the house.



*Altered cats make great neighbors.*



*Mom kitty nursing her babies*



*Mom kitty relaxing after her kittens were rescued and she was spayed.*



*As more cats appeared, the TNR work continued.*



*The 3 kittens – all grown up!*

*“I was so impressed with the Homeless Cat Network,” Lindsey said. “I had reached out to other cat rescues but most were on pause or unable to help me during COVID. When I reached out to Homeless Cat Network, they supported me through the whole process and provided everything I needed to make sure these cats were fixed, healthy, and well fed. I would have not been able to help my feral friends without the guidance of the Homeless Cat Network. They changed my life and the lives of these cats.”*

After the mama kitty was spayed, another cat showed up to eat. And another. They all seemed to get along well together, so Lindsey’s little band of cats continued to grow.

Now the happy (and fixed) cats visit regularly to enjoy a good meal and hang out together.

Oh – and the three kittens who started it all? Well, Lindsey and her boyfriend adopted them.

**Please donate** to HCN so that we can continue to help people like Lindsey provide spay/neuter surgeries and food for stray cats in our community.



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## Our Costs Are Going Up! Can You Help?



HCN is watching the prices of everything go up, including the food we provide to kitties in our shelter and fostering program, and community cats all over San Mateo County. Veterinary services are another challenge, with appointments becoming scarce and costs rising.



### **You can support our rescue efforts today!**

- Send a check in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter.
- Donate online at [homelesscatnetwork.com/donate.html](https://homelesscatnetwork.com/donate.html).
- Shop through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Homeless Cat Network as the charity you support.
- Donate directly via our Amazon Wish List. On [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), go to Account & Lists > Find a List or Registry, and search for Homeless Cat Network.