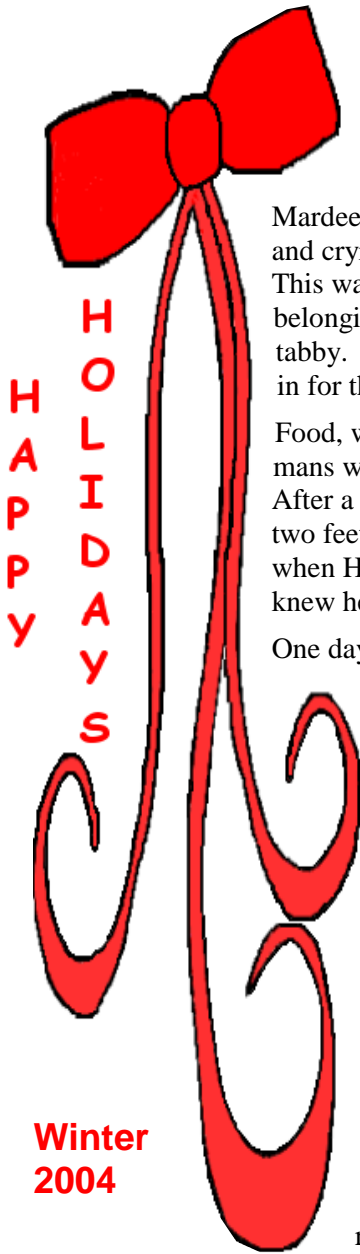


Feral Cat Foundation

PO Box 1173 Alamo CA 94507



Mardee saw the little cat limping across her backyard, dragging a left back leg and crying piteously. From the distance she could see a large wound on his leg. This was the third or fourth time she had glimpsed him in her yard – territory belonging to her own four cats. The new cat tried to befriend Jack, the resident male orange tabby. Strangely enough, he didn't seem to mind the little intruder too much. When Jack came in for the night, Homeless Hobbs, as Mardee now called the ailing cat, hung around outside.

Food, water and a bed were left out for Homeless Hobbs. At first he would eat only if no humans were within grabbing distance, so Mardee and family observed him through a window. After a few weeks, Homeless Hobbs began to wait for the food and he even came as close as two feet from his benefactor. Mardee felt a breakthrough occurred while she was gardening when Homeless Hobbs spent an hour circling her and meowing. His leg looked bad. She knew he needed medical help, but he evaded her movements toward him.

One day, when the sliding door was open, Homeless Hobbs slipped inside. Aha ! This was an opportunity, Mardee thought ! She quietly closed the door. Hobbs panicked and tore wildly at the screens trying to escape. Mardee couldn't get past him to open the door to allow him out. Terrified, Hobbs ran off and hid somewhere in the house. At dusk he started meowing loudly. The family cats were locked up, the door was left open and after a couple of hours Homeless Hobbs found his way back outside. Mardee feared that in trying to help she had made things worse – had poor Hobbs further damaged his leg in the distressing mishap? Would he be too frightened to return? She needn't have worried – Hobbs knew that he had found a new friend and a safe place. He came back the next day.

Mardee realized she needed to enlist more experienced hands if she was ever going to help Homeless Hobbs and get him the medical attention he deserved. Calls to her vet, the SPCA, and every other humane organization in the East Bay elicited no offers of assistance. She finally contacted Feral Cat Foundation. With helpful advice from FCF's Betts Sanderson and the loan of a trap, Homeless Hobbs was soon on his way to ABC Pet Clinic to be checked out by Dr. Raj, one of the wonderful veterinarians who works with FCF. X-rays showed multiple fractures, now healed, probably the result of being hit by a car. Abrasions on the leg were from dragging the damaged limb

around. Dr. Raj considered amputation, but Hobbs is a cat of considerable spunk and spirit who seemed to be managing the handicap without pain, so he decided against it unless his condition worsened. Homeless Hobbs was neutered, received routine shots and treatment for the abrasions, then went home with Mardee.

Now it was up to Mardee, her human and feline families, and Hobbs. Could the transformation from feral to domesticated cat be accomplished? The "Homeless" part of his name was dropped and Hobbs, as he is now known, began to come in and out through the sliding door which was left open during the day. Mardee and her family began petting Hobbs and gradually were able to pick him up. One night he came inside and stayed.

Hobbs' indoor presence was not immediately appreciated by all four of Mardee's cats. After a little adjustment and negotiation, everyone now accepts Hobbs and the household is at peace. More than that, the household feels blessed.

They've learned that patience and compassion pay off. Mardee describes Hobbs as the sweetest, most affectionate, happy, grateful cat she's ever come across. He greets all five human members of his new family with a meow, overtures to be picked up, and the loudest purr Mardee has ever heard.



Hobbs Relaxing At Home

Mardee has expressed her appreciation to FCF for the “wonderful work” we do. We, in turn, realize that in the course of our work, we can help not just needy cats, but also wonderful people, like Mardee and her family. Where would this world be without Mardee and the kind and caring people who make up the extended FCF family of supporters? We gain so much from our furry companions. Anyone who has an animal in their heart and life can describe the feelings of joy and contentment shared by cat and human alike. Sadly, many cats are not so lucky.

When did you last see a skinny stray slinking beneath a parked car? Did you stop and think about where it’s next meal might come from? Whether it had babies hidden nearby? Was it lost, abandoned, sick, injured? FCF members always consider these possibilities when encountering an unknown cat. With your support, we can help where help is needed. Your assistance enables us to give hope to the forgotten felines we care for daily. Please send your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope TODAY ! The cats and kittens really need your help.

This year, we continue our tradition of dedicating our holiday appeal to the many sweet adult cats that are homeless in our community – stray cats like Hobbs who just need a chance. These sweet spirits don’t realize that at only 1 year of age they will most likely be passed over in favor of little kittens (who will soon be adults themselves). This holiday season would be a wonderful time to give the gift of a safe and loving home to an adult kitty. If you have a place in your heart for such a cat please contact us. Our adoption day schedule is in the Contra Costa Times and at www.feralcatfoundation.org. Pictures and descriptions are available on the website, too.



A few of our adoptable adults are featured below. Their foster parents know them well and can help you make a perfect match. Call Betts at (925) 830-4074 – please leave a message if no one is home. You may also contact us by e-mail at info@feralcatfoundation.org (please include the cat’s name in the message title).



Merlin

Merlin is a very handsome, 1 year old, tuxedo kitty with the funniest mustache markings. He has a heart of gold, is never mean, and loves other cats. He also loves attention, but is undemanding. A little charmer !



Sam & Boots

These lovely gray/brown tabby siblings will be 10 years old this spring. They are healthy, very affectionate, well behaved, and easy to be with. They are best friends and enjoy sleeping together. Boots (female on the right) is the more assertive with her big brother Sam (on the left) following her lead. They lost their home when their loving owner died suddenly.



Bill

Bill is a healthy, handsome white with black cat, 8 years old. He is a very mellow, people-friendly guy who will politely join you in your chair. Bill loves attention and will be your devoted companion.

<u>Name /Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>
Griffin (M)	5 yrs	dsh black/white	Sweet, friendly... a great companion
Mama (F)	2 yrs	dsh black	Very nice, playful... found with 4 babes in tow
George (M)	4 yrs	dsh orange tabby	HAM, an affectionate and happy cat
Jolie (F)	2 yrs	dsh b/w tuxedo	Purrs easily and loves to cuddle - a little shy
Little Sister (F)	1 yr	dsh gray tuxedo	Once abused, extremely loving after she knows you
Luna (F)	1 1/2 yrs	dsh b/w tuxedo	Playful, affectionate, likes the human lap, shiny fur
Hermione (F)	1 yr	dsh brown tabby	LAP cat - LOVES people but NOT other cats

**During these times of turbulence and unrest
we wish for peace for all living creatures.**