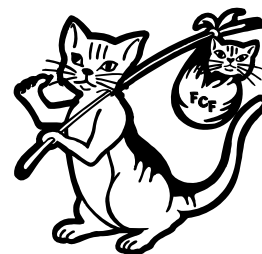


Feral Cat Foundation

P.O. Box 1173 • Alamo, CA 94507

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Have you ever been walking along and noticed a cat in the bushes, or under the car at the curb, or perhaps just lying on the sidewalk? Did that cat “speak to you?” And did you wonder if, just maybe, you were supposed to be at that place at that particular time? Rescue people are often led down a particular path in just that way, and for a very special reason.

One Sunday, a nurse on her way for a quick lunch, took a path she seldom takes—behind the hospital. As Jane walked, she heard a very weak meow. Down the steps of an adjacent building, there was a very, very thin, very sad looking cat with long, matted, grey and white hair. Jane ran to her car to get the cat food she had recently bought for her own cats, and some water. As Jane encouraged the cat to eat, she noticed that the cat’s skin, under all the fur, was yellow with jaundice. As a nurse, Jane knew this cat had not eaten for some time, and that the jaundice was likely due to a problem with his liver. As a rescue person, she also

knew that this cat needed help, and quickly, if it was not to die. Being jaundiced and weak, this cat would not likely be able, or interested enough to eat, or to drink the amount of liquids required to help flush the toxins out of his system. He needed fluid therapy and nourishing food—the sooner the better. Jane took him home, and so the life-saving journey began.

Once home, Jane set the cat up in his own room and gave him food and water. But he refused to eat. Having been trained by her veterinarian to give fluids subcutaneously, Jane proceeded to do so, and then gently force-fed him a syringe of canned cat food.

The next day, off the cat went to see Dr. Raj Aulakh, of ABC Pet Clinic. Hopefully, Dr. Raj would not tell Jane the prognosis was poor, and that the humane thing to do would be to euthanize the cat. Dr. Raj confirmed that the cat was suffering from a condition called hepatic lipidosis, and that the survival rate was, at best, 50%. But, much to the Jane’s surprise, Dr. Raj felt that, given very aggressive treatment involving fluid supplementation and force-feeding with special food, there was a good chance this cat would recover. Much encouraged, Jane took him back home, named him Julio, and immediately began to follow the Doctor’s instructions.

Rescue people have very big hearts, but sometimes there just isn’t enough time in one day to do all the things we need to do. Luckily, Jane has a very good friend who is home during the day. The friend knew her nurse’s schedule prevented Jane from being able to feed Julio as often as he needed, and graciously offered to help Julio through his treatments, feedings, and finally convalescence.

After two months of being fed by syringe every 3 to 4 hours around the clock, and with daily fluids given subcutaneously, Julio finally began to show improvement. Soon he became interested in eating and started to eat small amounts of food on his own.

Despite his improvement, Julio's ordeal had been traumatic for him, and as he improved he became increasingly more anxious. Night after night he would howl, for no apparent reason. But Jane was committed, so in spite of his howling, and through many sleepless nights, his foster mother patiently continued to care for him. But, as Julio continued to improve, he did not seem as responsive to his surroundings as was expected. For a long time, this was attributed to the fact that he had been so ill for so long. But, after further testing, Julio was diagnosed as totally deaf!

Through time, and with lots of love and attention, the howling became less and less frequent. Julio began to venture from his room, and introduced himself to the other cats in the household. Soon he was sitting under the table at dinnertime, waiting for any interesting tidbit of food to fall onto the floor.

Julio now weighs almost 15 lbs. (He weighed only 6 lbs. at the time he was rescued.) In spite of an extensive search, his previous owner has never been found. But, Julio has a permanent home now, and he has taken on the role of nurturing and mentoring the stray and feral kittens his human mother rescues. When not engaged in parenting kittens, Julio spends his time purring contentedly while soaking up the sun's rays as he lounges on his bed. And he happily greets anyone who comes to visit.

Julio's story has a happy ending. The nurse, an experienced Feral Cat Foundation member, was at the right place, at the right time. Jane knew what to do, and was willing to do it. We don't know where Julio came from, but we do know his life from now on will be better. Fortunately, most of the hundreds of cats rescued by FCF members each year do not require such extensive care. Feral Cat Foundation members continue rescuing neglected and abandoned cats, in addition to our main mission of relieving the misery of feral and stray cats and kittens by humanely trapping, altering, releasing, feeding and caring for colonies of cats that are too wild to be adopted. We also find homes for tame cats and kittens that have wandered into our colonies, and we tame and adopt feral kittens born in those colonies.

Won't you please help us continue our rescue work by purchasing the enclosed tickets? Check out the fantastic prizes! Just as our organization is all volunteer, our raffle prizes are all donated. Tickets are \$2 each, or a book of 6 for \$10. Use all your extra address stickers, or fill out the stubs, and mail them with your check for \$10, or more, if you can, to FCF in the enclosed envelope. Want more chances to win that trip to Hawaii? Leave a message at (925) 829-9098, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to FCF, PO Box 1173, Alamo, Ca. 94507.

You are a very important part of our rescue work. Thanks to you, and your purchase of these raffle tickets, or your donation, FCF can continue to help improve the lives of these innocent victims of human neglect. Feral and abandoned cats endure a miserable life. They deserve better, and with your help, we can offer them a better life. All proceeds from this raffle are spent directly on the cats we rescue. We know there are many worthy causes that ask for help. However, FCF is one of the few all-volunteer rescue groups with no paid staff, and no professional fund-raisers; and your purchase of these raffle tickets will have a real impact on the work we do. We hope we can count on you for help. Please send in your ticket stubs and donation TODAY.