



Winter 2012

# SNIPPETS

News from the SD West River Spay/Neuter Coalition

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Dumpster Kittens. Photo by Shari Rose

## Happy Tails

### Dumpster Kittens (above) Shari Rose, rescuer

The Coalition was called on to deal with a 20+ cat colony living out of a dumpster behind an area restaurant. With owners unwilling to help, volunteer Shari Rose organized a TNR effort. Because the younger cats and kittens could not climb into the dumpster for food and appeared in poor condition, she placed them in screened barn homes once they were altered. Kittens in one litter were too young to leave their mother, so Shari took them home (there they are hiding under the sink). No dumpster diving for these guys!

### Joey (right)

Kathy Brown, rescuer

One day last April Kathy Brown noticed a severely matted long haired orange cat near where she feeds her feral colony. She put out a special bowl for him away from the feeders and eventually set a trap. A cat

expert, Kathy quickly realized he was tame – yet another abandoned cat. She named him Joey. His matted hair had pinched his skin and left open sores. She took him to the next scheduled Coalition clinic where Dr. Becky Wagner (Animal Clinic of Rapid City) discovered that someone had tried to neuter Joey themselves. She patched his wounds, neutered him and shaved him to the skin. Kathy fostered Joey until he was back to being a big beautiful long-haired cat, then placed him in the most perfect home she could find. ◆



Joey. Photo by Kathy Brown

Clinics for domestic cats and occasional ferals.

Screening, sign-ups, follow-up calls, and running the clinic itself form just a part of what we do at our clinics. Our dedicated volunteers keep things running smoothly.

## Our Clinic Managers

Our in-clinic spay/neuter clinics continue to attract folks from all over the Hills and beyond. Screened according to WIC guidelines, clients are grateful for the opportunity to have their cats altered at an affordable cost. These are the volunteers who conduct these regularly established clinics:

- Belle Fourche Animal Hospital: Carol Markeson, Sandy Kringin
- Spearfish Animal Hospital: Sarah McEvoy, Donna Watson, Marshall Raeburn
- Rapid City (Animal Clinic of Rapid City, Mountain View Animal Hospital, Cook Veterinary Hospital, Rapid Spay, All Creatures Animal Hospital): Shari Rose, Claudia Murphy
- Custer clinics: Laurie Kampher

Find the latest clinic dates and updated s/n statistics on our website: [spayneutercoalition.com](http://spayneutercoalition.com)

# NEWS

## Participating Vets

We would like to thank the vets that have given their time and energy to saving lives through spay and neuter throughout the years. We could not have done it without them. ●

Clinic	Vet	Clinic Fixes	Voucher Fixes	Joined
Cheyenne River Animal Hospital	Stephanie Stevens	26	40	2006
West Winds Veterinary Services	Kristina Trautman	437	375	2006
Belle Fourche Veterinary Clinic	Bill Marlatt	186	375	2006
Spearfish Animal Hospital	David Elsom	311	275	2006
Northern Hills Veterinary Clinic	Carl Johnson	--	125	2007
Metzger Holcomb Animal Clinic	Sandra Holcomb	139	--	2008
Rapid Spay	Wendy Howard	390	50	2009
Animal Clinic of Rapid City	Becky Wagner	403	--	2010
Country Vet	Lloyd Emond	172	200	2010
Mountain View Animal Hospital	Lynne Mazzoni	50	--	2012
Cook Veterinary Clinic	Victoria Cook	45	128	2012
All Creatures Veterinary Hospital	Dean Falcon	61	25	2012

## Our Favorite Foundations

Our work would not be possible without the generous assistance of the following foundations:



## Letter from the President

### 2012 Highlights

Donna Watson



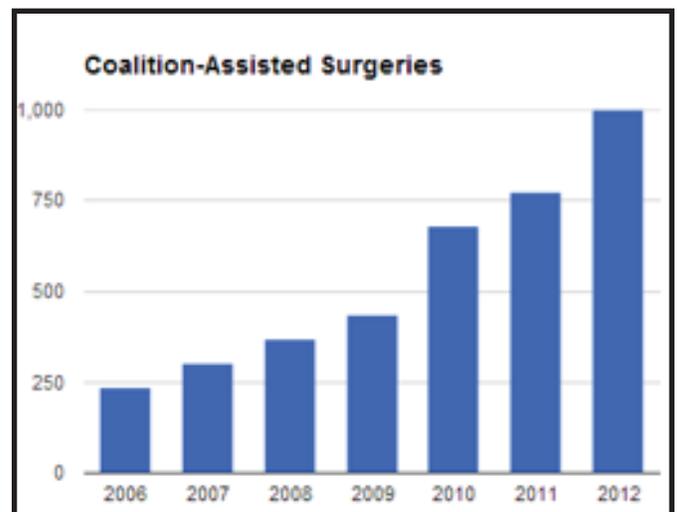
Coalition President Donna Watson

The year 2012 has been a very busy one for the Coalition as our effort to help both domestic and feral cats continues to expand. Since its inception in 2006 the Coalition has held spay/neuter clinics and issued s/n vouchers through our generous and much appreciated participating veterinarians. Our mutual goal is to decrease cat overpopulation and the suffering and death that go with it. We started out with one area vet and now have eleven on board throughout the Hills. In addition to our wonderful vets, the Coalition relies heavily on dedicated volunteers who devote many hours of their time to saving cats. Nor can we forget the national organizations and individuals who donate so generously. (Only 2% of our funding goes to administrative costs.)

In 2009 our efforts expanded greatly when we began TNR (trap, neuter, return). Geared toward stabilizing large colonies, TNR finds volunteer trappers

spending countless hours hunkered down outside barns or mobile homes, behind stores or anywhere a colony has formed waiting to hear a trap door snap shut, then hauling the irate cat to one of our vets. These wonderful volunteers definitely deserve gold medals and cosmic commendations!

All this said, we know that many more homeless cats struggle to survive in towns and rural areas throughout the region. It is truly an uphill battle, but we have allies on the ground well armed with traps and mackerel, and loyal veterinarians waiting in the trenches. ●



# TREATS

## TNR in Action

*"When 70% of the cats in a colony have been trapped, the colony can be considered "stabilized," since at that point the birth rate equals the death rate."*  
-- W. Marvin Mackie, D.V.M.

### Rapid City

\* The Coalition completed stabilization of a large 33 cat colony in west Rapid City with the help of veterinarian Lloyd Emond of Country Vet. We undertook this project on-site with several volunteers assisting with trapping, pre-surgery and recovery. Shari Rose headed up this effort.

\* We have recently learned of a 30+ cat colony at a business in east Rapid City. A kind caretaker provides food and shelter for the cats. Claudia Murphy is organizing this TNR effort, scheduled to begin soon.

\* For five years with the Coalition's help Kristina Prioetti has been conducting TNR on her own on and around the SD School of Mines campus. She counts around 200 cats altered to date!

### Black Hawk

\* Even before she knew about the Coalition, Kathy Brown was trapping and fixing cats in a mobile home court in Black Hawk. She places tame adults and kittens and releases altered ferals in a colony she cares for. Kathy works two jobs so she can feed her colony. She estimates that she has trapped close to 100 cats in the past

five years.

\* In September we learned of a 30+ cat colony in another mobile home park in Black Hawk. Often not having enough to eat herself, an elderly caretaker feeds the cats, many abandoned by former occupants of the park. To date volunteers Claudia Murphy and Lori Tetrault have trapped, altered and released 19 cats from this ongoing colony.

### Whitewood

For years Whitewood has suffered a serious cat overpopulation problem that has either been ignored by town officials or dealt with by having local police trap and transport cats to the Sturgis shelter to be euthanized. Two years ago a Whitewood resident began trapping, placing homeless domestic cats, taming feral kittens and either finding barn homes for adult ferals or returning them to their guardians. This has been a Herculean effort conducted almost single-handedly by Lori Tetrault, who trapped 145 cats in 2012!

### Custer

Custer has a long history of homeless, roaming cats in and around town. That began to change two years ago when local resident Laurie Kampfer decided to take action. Without a local participating veterinarian, Laurie relies on Lloyd Emond (Country Vet) or Victoria Cook (Cook Veteri-

nary Clinic) to travel to Custer and conduct the clinics. Vet techs Shannon Stites and Crystal Wiest donate their time to assist with surgeries. Laurie has also held clinics in Keystone and Hill City. This year she and her helpers trapped, fixed, placed and returned 147 cats and kittens!

### Box Elder

We have been receiving reports about cat colonies in Box Elder since the Coalition was formed, but only recently two women in that town have stepped forward to undertake control of two colonies near their homes. We hope to be able to extend our efforts in Box Elder with the addition of other local volunteers.

### New Feral Colonies

New feral colonies are being reported weekly. One of these is in Hill City (12 ferals), with a TNR effort being headed up by Shari Rose and Laurie Kampfer. The second is in Nemo (15 ferals), with a caring resident willing to trap and transport with financial assistance from the Coalition.

To get people in Hill City invested in the TNR project, two downtown galleries are accepting donations of hand-made jewelry, artwork, quilts, etc., with profits going to help stabilize the Hill City colony through TNR. ●

## Our Heroes

**From a seven-year-old boy to an eighty-year-old woman, Coalition supporters find unique ways to show they care.**



Holden Thayer Gladstone

### Holden

When Holden Thayer Gladstone turned seven, he asked his mom if he could have his friends donate to some animal organization rather than giving him presents. His mom Meg suggested that he choose the Coalition since cats are Holden's favorite animal. His friends donated \$250, which went to alter eight cats. Thank you Holden!

### Maria

Maria Trainin has been an active cat advocate all her life. Now 80, she continues to assist cat causes by donating charming cat-themed greeting cards that she makes and decorates herself. Volunteers love the beautiful cards and use them for official mailings. Two area shops also offer the cards for sale on a donation basis, bringing



Handmade greeting cards by Maria Trainin

joy to the lucky recipients while saving lives. Many thanks Maria! ●

# RISING STARS: COALITION ON TWO NEWS SHOWS



Volunteers Shari Rose (left) and Claudia Murphy (right) were excellent spokespersons for the Coalition and for the importance of spay/neuter.

**KOTA:** “Linda Eddy (Caretaker): ‘I started feeding them when there were probably six or seven that a neighbor left behind! Today there are between 25 and 35 unspayed and unneutered felines that come to her door for food every day. It costs me \$200 a month to feed these animals, which I don’t mind doing.’ But she can’t afford for

the colony to grow any more. That’s why she called the West River Spay/Neuter Coalition.

Shari Rose (Coalition): ‘If it weren’t for us coming out and doing this in February, she would probably be facing another 15-20 more litters.’

The Coalition offers low-cost procedures to low-income families.”

**KEVN:** “Volunteer Claudia Murphy with the West River Spay/Neuter Coalition says they fixed 61 cats during the one-day clinic, 16 of those being feral cats that were trapped from around the area. Murphy says Operation Fix-It is an important way to educate pet owners.

Claudia Murphy: ‘We need to make it clear that everyone out

there that has any type of pet that is not spayed or neutered needs to go out of their way to get their animals in to get them spayed or neutered. It cuts down on the overpopulation and it really does make the pet healthier and happier, and have a longer life. It’s a better life for the animal”

## Art for Cats

We are privileged to know many very creative people as well as kind-hearted shop and gallery owners in the Black Hills area. These wonderful folks have graciously offered to sell and display donated artworks (paintings, jewelry, sculptures, quilts, the list goes on!) with 100% of the proceeds going to the spay and neuter of cat colonies. If you are an artist or know of an artist that wants to donate an

item, or a shop or gallery that would like to display them, we would love to hear from you.

**If you want to make a direct donation, we need:**

- food
- humane live traps
- towels
- blankets
- kitten milk replacer

**To contribute call 605-343-5351**



Mechanical Cat, by Coalition volunteer Marshall Raeburn. Made from a motorcycle engine part, an auto part and cat’s eye marbles.

## Spay a Stray

No it’s not your cat, and you would really like to believe it has a home somewhere in your neighborhood. Chances are 100 to 1 that this not the case. With the economy in a slump and money tight, people somehow feel it’s okay to move and leave their unaltered cats behind. This is how the majority of the colonies reported to us

get their start: one unspayed female = eight more cats in a year, 16 the next year and, assuming four of the original eight kittens are female, 32 more kittens, and on it goes increasing exponentially even with the high mortality rate that feral cats suffer due to fighting, disease, inadequate food and shelter. You can help: take action

when you see a stray – put out food and water and call the Coalition!

**Feral cats have little to no chance of placement if taken to your local shelter and are generally euthanized upon admission.**