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## 9 orphaned cats need new homes following death of owner

### West River Spay & Neuter Coalition pleas with public for help with placement



These four cats are being temporarily housed at the Western Hills Humane Society in Spearfish following the death of their owner. They, along with five others, are expected to be ready for adoption this week. *Pioneer photos by Mark Watson*

**By JACI CONRAD PEARSON**  
*Black Hills Pioneer*

**BELLE FOURCHE** — The death of a Belle Fourche woman with no known family or relatives in the area has orphaned nine cats that need new homes.

Donna Watson, West River Spay/Neuter Coalition volunteer, said that over the past few years the group helped the cats' late owner, Faye

"Garri" Garrison, who passed away March 6, financially with spay/neuter costs, while Garrison paid for vaccinations for the cats each year.

"Once I saw her obit in the paper, I asked a volunteer in Belle (Sandy Kringen) to go to her house and feed them, which she has been doing," Watson said. "When she got there, they had no food or water, and I

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## CATS

called the police department to say we would be taking them out. They were happy about this. The bottom line is that we need homes for these cats, so we're putting out a plea for good homes for them."

All of the cats are adults that are spayed/neutered and will be temporarily housed at Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and Western Hills Humane Society.

They are: Inky, a black long-haired male; Spatz, a black and white short-haired male; Ferrell, an orange tabby male; Belle, a gray short-haired female; Ester, a Tabby short-haired female; Emma, a black short-haired female that is also declawed; Guy, a black and white male; Mr. Sniffles, an orange and white short-haired male; and Eddy,

a gray and white short-haired male. Watson said that the situation is a sad one for the cats and that their owner had a true passion for them and all cats.

"She somehow came into a little money awhile back and donated \$75 a month to us for a couple of years despite living in a shabby trailer with all those cats," Watson said. "She was a poor person, but it was important for her to help cats. She was a kind and generous person who loved cats and we need to do something to help her cats now that she's gone. We'd like to try to get them trapped and placed as soon as we possibly can."

Watson said all the cats are tame, but are frightened right now, due to the stress of losing their owner and the disruption to their routine.

For more information on adopting one of the cats, call Donna Watson at 578-9770.