

FERAL CHANGE

2023 IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You've heard it before: we cannot adopt our way out of the cat overpopulation crisis. There will never be enough resources, fosters, and adopters, which is why spay/neuter is at the heart of all cat rescue.

In 2023 we made a big push to fix over 1,000 cats and we proudly exceeded that goal by 20%, fixing 1,209 cats. This is remarkable not only because of the amount of work that goes into coordinating with the clinics, volunteers, and community members, but because the cost of surgery at many of the clinics in our area greatly increased – in some cases it even doubled. The same amount of money that before could have fixed a colony of ten cats now only fixed five cats. We provide assistance with spay/neuter and TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) for free so that cost will never be an obstacle to the folks we are helping, so to fix over 1,000 cats, even with the rising costs, is a big testament to our supporters.

Working out on the streets means we never know what situations we will encounter. Luckily Feral Change has a robust foster program in the event we find kittens and cats that have nowhere else to go. We work to take in kittens when other organizations are full, cats needing medical care that would be too much for overburdened shelters, and neonatal kittens whose involved care most shelters and rescues are unable to provide. Again, it is our supporters who make this possible.

We talk a lot about helping cats, but it's also about helping the community. These cats and kittens aren't the ones emailing us for assistance! It's the folks who noticed the tiny meow of newborn kittens under their deck, who observed a neighborhood cat struggling with a wounded leg, or who watched the population of cats on their street grow and knew that something had to be done. No one wants to see suffering on the street or have the costs of caring for the cats pile up. When Feral Changes helps the cats in the community, we help the community itself.

We are so grateful for our partners, fosters, volunteers, community, and supporters. Together we can tackle these rising challenges.

With gratitude,



Kirstin Cummings
Executive Director



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BY THE NUMBERS

1209

TOTAL
SPAY/NEUTER

259

CATS RESCUED
FROM THE STREET

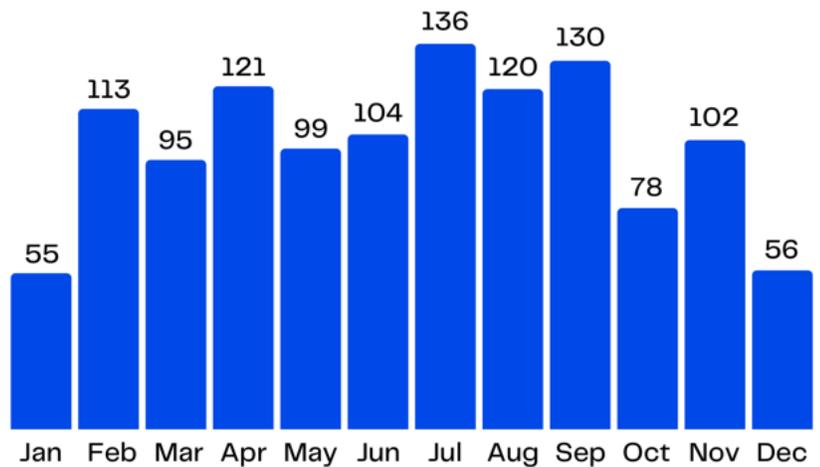
76

ADOPTIONS



57%

OF CATS WE
FIXED WERE
FEMALE



NUMBER OF
SPAY/NEUTERS BY MONTH

MAY

was the busiest month
for intake

11

East Bay cities we supported
with spay/neuter

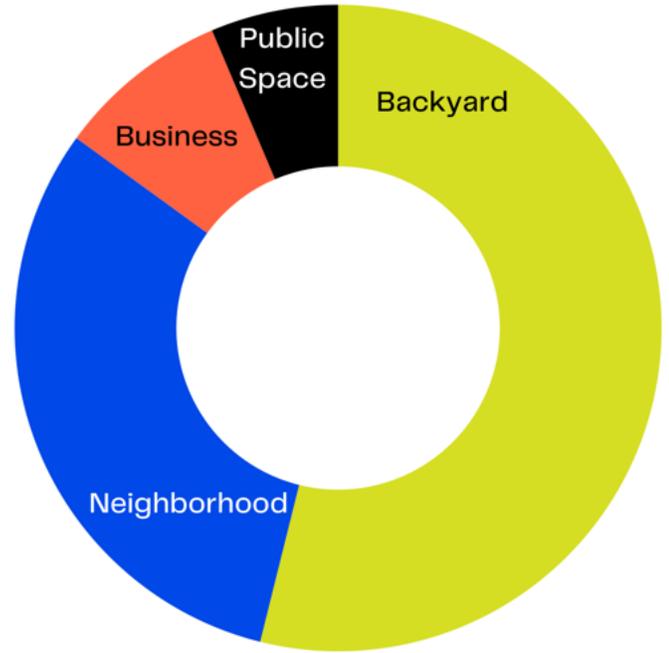
80%

of cats who entered our
foster program were under
1 year of age

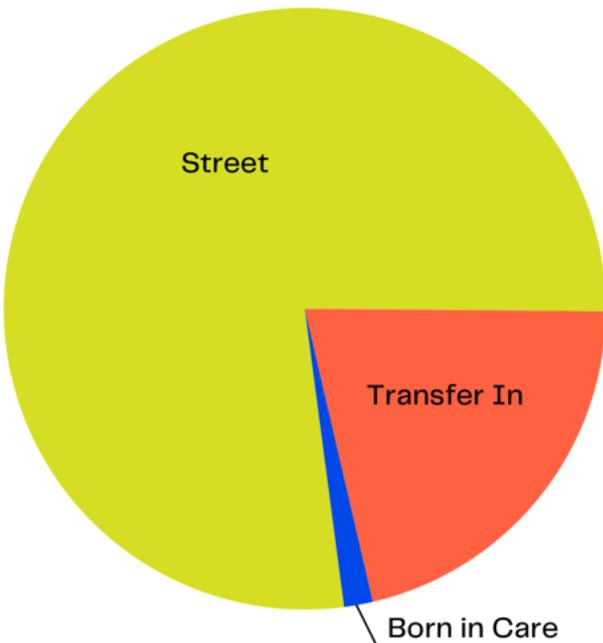
SNAPS & STATS



TNR Colony Types by Cat



Cat Intake Sources



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



In 2023, Feral Change hosted several free workshops to educate community members on TNR techniques and kitten care. In partnership with Cat Town, the hands-on workshops were led by experienced volunteers who shared their knowledge about how to trap cats in the field. Feral Change also visited Oakland schools to teach elementary and middle school children about community cats. Clockwise from top: volunteers Kate and Rachael demonstrating trapping techniques, school children practicing bottle feeding “kittens,” and an outdoor cat shelter built by after-school program students.



SQUID'S STORY

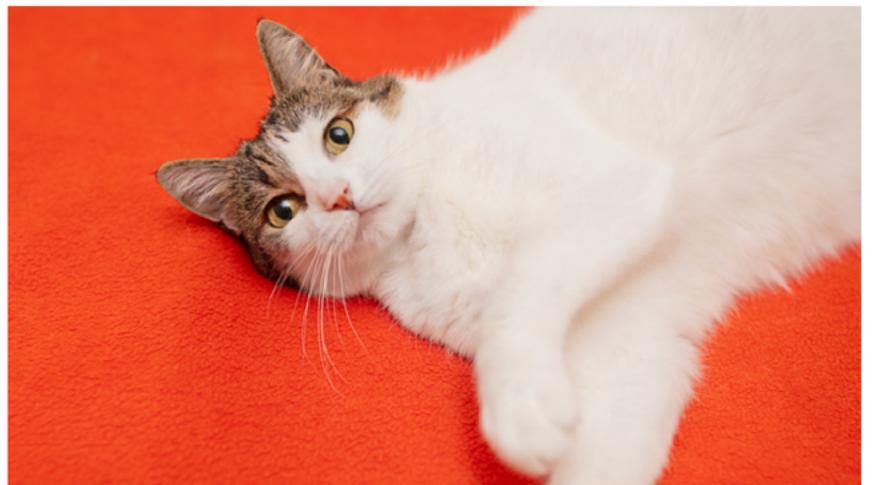


Squid, the radioactive cat! When we first learned about Squid and brought her into our program, she was in need of emergency bladder stone surgery, which we made sure she got immediately. However, that's where things became interesting.

While recovering from the surgery in her foster home, we learned that this sweet senior cat also had hyperthyroidism. Lucky for her, it could be treated with a daily medication. Unlucky for her, she developed a rare and severe reaction to this medication. After a scary trip to the ER, thinking that we would lose her, it was clear that we could not continue to treat her out-of-control thyroid with the standard medication. We also could not put her on a thyroid diet because she was already on a prescription diet to prevent a recurrence of the bladder stones. What options could there be?

Radioactive iodine therapy! This involved Squid going to the vet for the injection of the radioactive iodine, which helped destroy the overactive thyroid tissue. She then had to be quarantined at the hospital for several days, since the treatment made her so radioactive that no one could touch or pet her. Did she gain any super powers from this? Perhaps not, but thanks to her radioactive adventure, she is now able to live her best life as a healthy and loved senior kitty.

Over the course of her medical journey, she stole her foster's heart and we were thrilled when they announced that they would be adopting her! The happiest of endings for this adorable sweetheart.



MONTHLY DONOR SPOTLIGHT



“The Feral Change team always goes above and beyond to provide vital care, shelter and a pathway for adoption for vulnerable kitties. I've benefited multiple times from their amazing work. Through Feral Change, I adopted three kittens found in a forklift in 2020. These kitties are currently thriving and living their best kitty life. In spring 2024, I reached out to them again because my outdoor feral "garden kitty" was in desperate need of medical care. I didn't know how to help him. Feral Change got him a vet appointment and came to my home to help me trap him. Without their help, my outdoor kitty would not have made it. I will always be grateful for their generous help and kindness. Their volunteers are compassionate and dedicated and through their work, Feral Change is truly making a difference, one kitty at a time.” - Mina A.

“I've been in rescue for approximately seven years. I choose to support Feral Change on a monthly basis because I believe their work of TNR is vital to community cats. Every one of the volunteers in this group work very hard and tirelessly to support the mission of Feral Change. I also enjoy working with the group because they're young, forward thinkers who are always trying to help the community.” - Angela M.



“I started donating to Feral Change when I learned of a large feral cat colony in my neighborhood. Feral Change volunteers provided amazing training and support as I trapped more than 15 cats, including one who gave birth to her litter in the trap! I love being a monthly donor because I know that every dollar makes a difference for a cat, and reliable funding is so important to keep an organization going. Problems in our world can feel overwhelming, and sadly there are always more cats and kittens on the street, but Feral Change is a great organization that's steadily chipping away and making a tangible improvement in the lives of cats and our community.” - Shannon L.



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