



July 2023

Dear Friends:

What's new at LFFAC and what's old? As we approach our official 10th year anniversary later this year, we're feeling nostalgic and pleased enough about the evolution of our work caring for cats that we wanted to share it. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or just found us, we hope you will find the following interesting – a brief timeline and some pictures. It's because of you, our supporters and volunteers that the successes exist, and you are very much appreciated as a part of the following narrative.



Before there was an LFFAC, there was a small group of dedicated cat lovers who saw the need to care for cats without human homes who needed a little help to survive. Longmont Friends of Feral & Abandoned Cats was formed, and in 2013 received 501(c)(3) status.

In the beginning, we primarily provided Trap–Neuter–Return assistance, and daily food, water, and monitoring for any health problems to the cat colonies we cared for in Longmont. We began a community outreach program so people in Longmont who cared for community cats would know what we could do to help them.

In 2014, LFFAC received several grants that helped us expand our TNR program. In 2013 we TNR'd 65 cats; in 2014 the number rose to 115 cats, funded in part, by the grants we got, and in part because of generous donations from people like you, our valued supporters. In addition to being TNR'd, cats are vaccinated and given an exam by a veterinarian to see if any other medical treatment is needed. Kittens who were trapped were fostered by our volunteers and then transferred to local humane societies to be adopted. In 2015, 57 kittens were fostered by our skillful volunteers.

Some of our colony cats experienced loss of habitat in 2015, which meant LFFAC needed to find other safe places for the cats to live. A building in The Hood colony burned, and the cats were moved to the Cat House, a building on a volunteer's property. They were then moved to another volunteer's property and into a building, Ebon's Shelter for Wayward Cats, funded by a dedicated supporter. Other cats moved into the Cat House, and more were moved to The Hood on the Hill building at the home of yet another volunteer. LFFAC's board knew it was only a matter of time before other colonies would need to be relocated.

In 2018, an incredibly generous donor and volunteer, Cheryl, bought a property in Weld County for LFFAC to use. It became a foster home for under-socialized and displaced cats. With the new property, our foster program expanded to become a socialization program.

Volunteers working at the house help socialize the cats, preparing them for adoption. Because there are different people each morning and evening, the cats become used to a variety of humans — women and men, young and old — with the goal of increasing their confidence when being introduced to people who may want to adopt them. Adoptions are now handled through LFFAC.



When COVID-19 arrived in Colorado in 2020, it brought LFFAC some true challenges. The number of people volunteering at the shelter decreased because some volunteers got the virus and others were concerned that they might get it. Our executive director, Tonni Loutzenhiser, filled in for many, many open volunteer shifts. Also as a result of the virus, LFFAC cancelled its Purrs & Paws fundraising event (our biggest) in 2020 and turned it into online only for 2021. We missed the in-person event that allows us to connect with our supporters and our volunteers to celebrate our successes.



If 2020 and 2021 were challenging, the years also brought some blessings. We had been thinking about using the loafing shed on the Weld County shelter property as an enclosure for some of our colony cats. The salvage yard where Big T's colony was located was becoming busier than it had been in the previous 10 years and we began fearing for the safety of the cats. Volunteer Deb B. put together a plan of action.

In April 2021, work began to enclose the loafing shed on the shelter property. Jeff, a volunteer at Big T's, determined that the shed needed extensive support work to make it safe, and he spent about 100 hours completing the project. Other volunteers helped with the significant project to clean out one to two feet of aged manure and wooden pallets underneath the straw that was on the floor. An outside cattery was added to the enclosure.

Before we could move Big T's cats, we learned that the Rothrock colony property was sold to a developer who wanted the cats removed on short notice. Volunteer Deb T. got to work, and enlisted the help of her sister and brother-in-law. She built the first vertical space in the Rothrock area of the loafing shed, and removed layers of hay and manure from the floor. Then she set up the cattery area outside of the shed. Work on half of the enclosure was finished, and the



Rothrock cats were moved ahead of the June 1 deadline. Big T's cats were finally housed at a second loafing shed enclosure area in 2022. Both spaces have shelving for perches, ramps to get to the shelves, beds, litter box areas, feeding areas, scratching posts, straw bales, and other cat-homey items. The residents seem to enjoy life at their new, safe home.

Of course, there's still more we'd like to do. We're hoping we can provide electricity to the two loafing shed enclosures so that we can provide heat — and maybe cooling — for the Rothrock and Big T's cats when temperatures are extreme. Electricity would also allow us to use heated bowls to keep the drinking water from freezing in the winter. Our ambitious goal is to have electricity before winter this year. Beyond that, we would like to expand the fully enclosed outdoor cattery around the loafing shed, to give the cats an even better outdoor experience.



And this brings us to the question of how you can assist the many cats and kittens in need. LFFAC runs on volunteer power and financial support, and both are necessary and appreciated. The volunteer needs are broad,

and there is probably a niche right up your alley. Cat socialization, feeding at one or more of our colonies, trapping in Longmont and the surrounding area, assisting with the seasonal work of mowing and maintaining the grounds, and much more, including thinking of LFFAC when the time comes for you to adopt a cat. Please consider joining us, won't you?



As we move forward in this, our eleventh year, we want to let our friends and volunteers know how grateful we are for your support. Your contributions of money and time (and maybe becoming an adoptive home, see Page 4) make a significant difference in the lives of community cats. We couldn't do this needed work without your help.

Esther A. Mills

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President, Board of Directors



If you'd like to subscribe to our e-newsletter please go to our website and sign up.
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/FgLTiKd/Newsletter>

If you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact us the following address.
info@longmontfriendsofcats.org.

For Adoption – Ready Now or Soon

Ready Now: Blaze; Leo and Pasha; Fritz, Willow, and Zia

<https://longmontfriendsofcats.org/adoption/>

Ready Soon: Eclipse, Augustus, Keith, Kevin, Lily



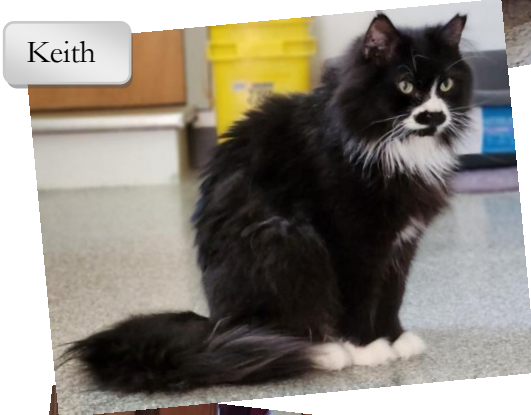
Blaze



Eclipse



Augustus



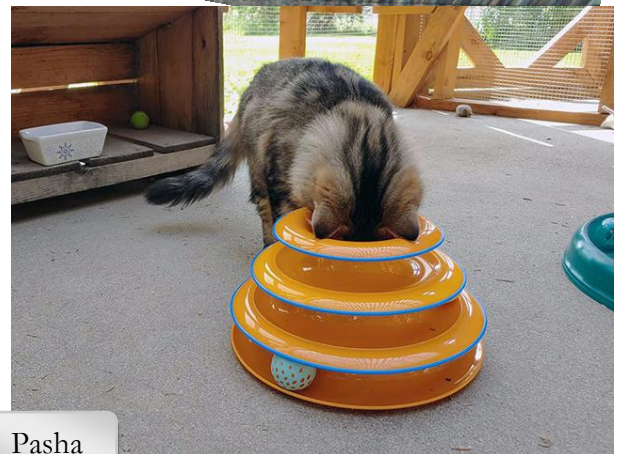
Keith



Kevin



Lily, Zia, Willow



Pasha

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