

The Big Fix Homeless Cat Project – Summer 2014

(830) 896-6053 bigfixcats.com

We are a 501c3 and our work is primarily sustained from tax deductible donations. Call us at (830) 896-6053 for more information, to adopt a cat, or to become a volunteer. What type of volunteer help do we need? Foster care, trappers, telephone counselors, help in our small shelter, transportation for vet visits, and more. Your help is vitally important to our success and we thank you for your support!



Cat Quote: My human feeds me, pets me, plays with me, and loves me—it's great having a pet!

Summer brings frequent backyard BBQ's so watch out for fire with all outdoor pets. Cover grills and smokers when not in use because when they smell strongly of food, it's nearly impossible to teach a cat that they are off limits.

****URGENT**** Please spay female cats as soon as possible. Contrary to popular belief, cats do not need to have a litter of kittens before being spayed. Kittens as young as 5 months old can become pregnant, and females can be spayed as early as 2 months old. Don't wait until a female cat has a litter of unwanted kittens. Call us if you need help.

Did you know... A cat's nose has a unique pattern just like a human fingerprint.

What is the difference between a stray cat and a feral cat? A stray cat once had a home and has been abandoned or is lost, but it is a tame cat. A feral cat is born of another feral cat and often is part of a colony of feral cats. Feral cats have not had much exposure to people and are usually fearful of people and do not know how to act around them.

To view pictures (and descriptions) of our adoptable cats in need of loving homes visit:
<https://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelterid=TX1859>

Part II of our Story of "Sick Kitty", by Jay Yarbrough.

Visiting Sick Kitty for those ten nights was a pleasure, but there were drawbacks. The vacant house had last been occupied by a wheelchair bound man who had recently passed away. The empty wheelchair was still there. The place was still furnished with threadbare couches and chairs, the décor enhanced with dusty cobwebs and sprinkles of mouse droppings. Our house-calls had to be made after work, so it was always deadly dark, with a trembling flashlight as our trusty sidekick. There were stubbed out butts in smelly ashtrays on counters, and an old rotary phone was off the hook, as if in an uncompleted call to 911. To make matters worse I was currently in the middle of reading the latest Stephen King novel, "Doctor Sleep", so my imagination was working on overdrive. There was a big glass door to a side yard too dark to see, so our flashlight reflected our ghostly forms as we crept toward the back hallway. We felt a presence, and prayed it approved of ours. This hall had the only functioning light, which buzzed like a hornet once we finally reached it. It cast a dim yellow light; once it flickered out for a moment, and I clearly remember peeing a little.

But Sick Kitty seemed to welcome the help; scruffing him to poke the pill-popper in his mouth was only moderately frightening. By the sixth dose of Zeniquin he was obviously feeling better... and stronger, and the scruff became harder to hold. But Sick Kitty was now familiar with me, so we

negotiated a Non-Violence Treaty, and he reluctantly swallowed the last four pills. The last dose was Saturday night, but it was rainy and cold outside, and we wanted one more fortifying can of Friskies in his belly. So we decided Sunday would be a good day to set him free.

He seemed to know. In the light of day, he was waiting inside the crate. Before slipping the door back on, I observed that he looked bigger, stronger, and had been grooming his fur. The awful smell of the mouth ulcers was gone. We clicked the door closed and headed toward the front of the house. Passing the big glass door, the side yard was full of sunshine (and empty of ghosts). We carried him out the front door and back to the adjacent house, his old stomping grounds. Dubbing him 'Well Kitty', we swung the door open and watched him dash into the woods with a vigor he could only have dreamed of ten days earlier. We miss him, and think of him often, hoping he still feels great.

This time we witnessed our help first hand. We watched the food disappear and felt the little guy grow stronger in our very hands. We thank Big Fix, and their donors, for providing the resources to transform Sick Kitty into Well Kitty. We cherish the memory.

[If you missed Part 1 visit: http://bigfixcats.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/NewsSpring2014.pdf](http://bigfixcats.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/NewsSpring2014.pdf)

Popular cat names: Smudge, Jasper, Axel, Turbo, Blaze, Nugget, Shadow, Romeow

During the 15th Century, Pope Innocent VIII condemned cats asserting that all cats were evil and sadly thousands of cats were burned. One of the effects of this mass killing was an over-population of rats, which caused the Black Plague to take an even greater toll on the human population.

Did you know... Nearly all orange cats are males, and nearly all calico and tortoiseshell cats are females.



If you would like to donate to *The Big Fix* to help us continue our mission, or if you would like to give a donation as a generous gift, to celebrate your shared love of cats, call us at: (830) 896-6053, or mail your check to: *The Big Fix, P.O. Box 294003, Kerrville TX 78029*. In the case of a gift, in addition to your own name and address, please include the name and address and gift reason (birthday, congratulations, anniversary, etc.) for the person receiving the gift.

**Homeless Cat Project
of the Texas Hill Country**

THE BIG FIX

P.O. Box 294003, Kerrville TX 78029

