

Traumatized cats rescued by Cat Club

Sadie McCarthy
Staff Writer

Karin Redston, community liaison of the Cat Club, called club member Peggy Finerty early on Sunday, Feb. 23 and asked her to survey the living conditions of a trailer home out in Molalla.

Down a dead end road, located in the Forest Haven trailer park, sits a dilapidated house. Recently, the occupant died from poor health; inside the living conditions are horrific.

Garbage is piled on the floor, along the walls, on the counters and upon every surface. The carpets are saturated



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A struggling cat lies on a piece of old newspaper.

with feces, cigarettes and soil. Among the litter, skeletal remains of cats accumulate.

"I've been doing cat rescues for over two years and never came across something this bad," said Finerty.

"Peggy is not afraid of anything, that's why I asked her to check it out," said Redston. "She's the maverick of our club."

Surveying is a regular job that Finerty devotes her time to, but this occasion proved to be an emergency.

"I was told that there were nine cats that needed checking on, but it turns out there were three times that," Finerty said.

Finerty took two close friends, Dean Warden and Laura Burton - also Cat Club members, on this rescue mission with her.

"We first found about 10 cats that were trapped in a back room. Most of them weren't tamed, so it was hard to catch them because they would hide," Finerty said. "Then they were taken to temporary foster homes."

On Feb. 25, Finerty and gang journeyed back to Molalla and set live cat traps around the interior and exterior of the house.

"They work great: the cat walks into the trap to get the food and that triggers the door to close behind them." They caught six more, but say that there are more hiding.

"These cats are traumatized, and still, they are gorgeous," Redston said.

"We first found about 10 cats that were trapped in a back room."

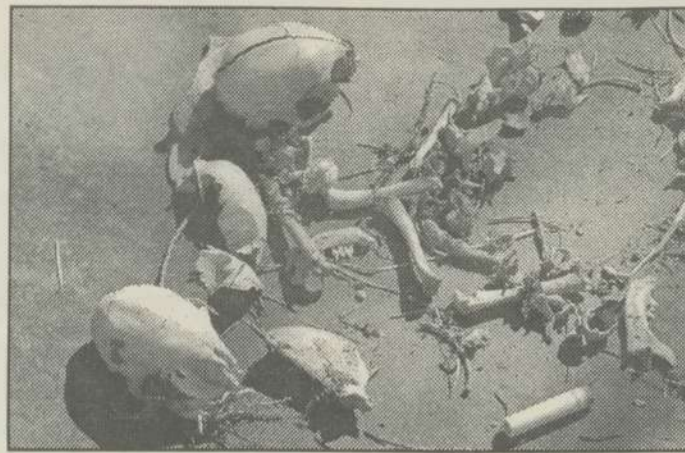
Peggy Finerty
Cat Club member

Regardless of their beauty, the neighbors had been taking matters into their own hands before the Cat Club stepped in.

"I hate them," reported the next-door neighbor. "They go through my yard all the time."

Others told Finerty that they had been shooting and poisoning the cats.

"All we know is that the owner did-



SADIE McCARTHY Clackamas Print

The skeletal remains of several cats were found amongst the garbage that filled the home at Forest Haven.

n't intend for this to get out of control, she didn't want to give up her cats. There was no one to help her...she got very ill," said Finerty.

All of the cats are going through rehabilitation, getting bathed, and immunized. Steve Milner's vet has taken in some of the cats, while PAWS (Pet Adoption West Side) has taken 10 others to the Mt. Scott Clinic for treat-

ment.

The Cat Club has set up a fundraiser, the Molalla Kitties Rescue Fund, to ensure that all the cats are properly cared for and finally sent to loving homes.

To find out how you can help, contact either Steve Milner at (503) 657-6553 or Karin Redston at (503) 650-7881.

History teacher chosen to study German demographics

Elisabeth Meyer
Feature Editor

History instructor Trish McFarland recently learned that she has been selected by the Fulbright Commission to study Germany's demographic problem.

McFarland brings a unique perspective to the group of 24 U.S. professors and researchers as one of two historians. Her academic and personal knowledge earned her a spot as the only community college professor in the group.

In June, the commission will spend three weeks in Berlin, Rostock and Frankfurt to meet with German political party leaders, public health officials, government agencies, directors of retirement homes, research institute directors and others to discuss issues facing Germany as its population ages and does not replace itself.



ELISABETH MEYER Clackamas Print

History instructor Trish McFarland is one of two historians who will join 24 U.S. professors and researchers to study Germany's demographic problem.

McFarland applied to join the commission last fall. She found information regarding the annual German Studies Seminar on the Fulbright website. The seminar focuses on population structure

this year.

"I thought, I can do this, this all fits me," she said. McFarland's research specialty is German history, and she wrote her dissertation on educational reform in 1920s Germany.

"After two years of research and a year of writing (the dissertation) you are very sick of it, you think it's terrible, and when it's behind you, you're like, 'thank God,'" she said.

McFarland's academic expertise is paying off, but she has other notable qualifications, too. She ties her interest in German history to her mother, who emigrated from Germany to the U.S. when she was 30. "Having been raised as an American with a German parent and an American parent, I'm always seeing comparisons. Apparently, I was able to convey in my proposal that I'd be able to bring that to the group."

McFarland said her proposal, which all applicants submitted to be consid-

ered for joining the commission, suggested changing immigration standards.

"Immigration is one of the possible

"I feel a little intimidated... but I'm also excited."

Trish McFarland
CCC History Instructor

answers," McFarland said. "How do you deal with a declining population? You accept more immigrants, but when you say immigration is the answer to the demographic problem, it raises new questions. What do you do when your immigrants speak different languages?

Your schools have to adapt. But nobody is talking about German women having more babies."

Unlike the U.S., said McFarland, Germany isn't used to dealing with immigrants. "We've...historically been an immigrant nation. For Germany, it's a new situation."

"We're not going just to talk about immigration," McFarland stressed. "(The other historian and I) are going to be giving historical insight."

Others selected to be in the group include another historian, sociologists, medical doctors and professors of economics, anthropology, political sciences, family studies and foreign languages.

As the only participant to be selected from a community college, McFarland feels a little pressure. "I feel a little intimidated looking at the list of participants here," McFarland said, "but I'm also excited."

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