

by Lois Miner

We have a lot to be proud of at the Clatsop County Spay and Neuter Association. After two and a half years of operating a no-kill shelter for cats and kittens we have received our one thousandth resident, a black longhair, mellow, altered tom of such size we have named him "Consolidated Freightways."

In the two and a half years that we have been in operation we have adopted out almost eight hundred cats. Our purpose as a nonprofit organization is to promote spaying and neutering of cats and dogs, to educate the public about animal care, and to offer assistance to anyone who needs help with their pets. Our services have been greatly enhanced in our effort to ensure a healthy cat to a safe environment with a satisfied owner. We offer first and second three-way vaccination, worming, ear cleaning and claw clipping, free spay or neuter, free grooming within five days of adoption, free veterinarian visit within ten days of adoption, leukemia test and vaccination and any subsequent leukemia vaccinations that fall due while the cat is sheltered. The fee for all of the above is twenty dollars.

Spay and neuter weeks at fifty percent off the usual price have been approved by county veterinarians once again and will be held the first two weeks of February. Fifty percent coupons can be purchased at Bach N' Rock in Astoria during these weeks at the following prices: dog spay, \$25; dog neuter, \$20; cat spay, \$20; and cat neuter, \$10. These prices are standardized during these special two weeks and will not change regardless of the size of the animal or problems involved in the operations. For low income situations, additional assistance is available upon request.

In the past year we have received consistent donations of food from the Hervin Corporation (Blue Mountain Pet Foods) and Kal Kan Company through the cooperation of Fred Meyers Recycling Center in Portland. Not only does this enable us to feed comfortably all shelter animals without straining our budget but it has enabled us to at last offer our Senior Citizen and Low Income Pet Food Bank to those who need to participate, free of charge. Anyone in Clatsop County who needs food for their pets can apply through Bach N' Rock. Currently we are dropping approximately ten cases of food at specific locations every three or four weeks.

You might like to know what our experience has been regarding the psychological stages of adjustment your pet goes through when you bring in into a shelter:

1. Complacent, patient, like I've been to the vet's, I suppose I have to put up with this now.
2. Nervous, sometimes hyper nervous, sometimes growling, biting and general attacking, like, okay I'm here but don't touch me, and who are all these other pet smells?
3. Stress and lack of trust — refusing to eat or use the litter box, and hunching in a corner.



THE 1000TH KITTY

4. Depression, when it realizes its owner is not returning, possibly leading to illness.

5. Adjustment — at this point, hopefully our special care will win over our charge, indicated by eating, using litter box, cleaning itself, although still aloof to other cats in the shelter.

6. Reaching out for affection. Arguing with other cats is a healthy sign, although if it gets too rambunctious it must occasionally be caged to avoid injuries.

7. Territory establishment (even if a small spot).

8. Playing with other pets, joining in a feed dish.

9. Throwing itself upon visitors with an "adopt me" attitude, which is usually what happens.

Not all pets go through these stages or exactly the same, but we have noticed a definite pattern similar to them.

Some die. They cannot adjust to their owner being gone, nor to the other changes they must endure. Fortunately this is a very small minority. Many of these unfortunates are the wild or very shy, unsocial ones. However this is not the rule either, and we proudly show visitors "Catalina" as one of those who should not have but did make it. As she tears around the house playing with imaginary mice, we explain how she came to us from the local animal shelter, formerly known as the dog pound. She could only be managed by a long stick with a lasso at one end, and we housed her in a small cage, where we took our lives in our hands just to put food inside. She growled and snarled and we were unable to vaccinate her, clip her nails or examine her for several weeks. When we finally were able to get ahold of her, she was found to have leukemia, which is in cats as AIDS is in humans. She was pregnant and miscarried her four babies, and she came down with an upper respiratory infection. She came to us in March of 1984. We were able to spay her the following June. And finally, in July of 1985 she became our special wide-eyed calico, passed off her leukemia and tested negative. She still has that slightly wild look in her eyes, but it is reserved for strangers and only for a short time.

Lois Miner is the director of the Clatsop County Spay and Neuter Association. She lives in Astoria.

Top cat am I
Whose cat are you?
Well, welcome home
How do you do
Let me show my place to you
The rules are clean
Since I live here
You toe the line
And we'll be fine
I eat first you stand in line
The floor is yours
The bed is mine
If you go out
You take your chance
The yard's already
Been enhanced
By me, it's mine
As all things here
Know my mew
But we'll be near
Before we're through

— Lois Miner



Lazy Susan Cafe

A Specialty Breakfast & Lunch Restaurant
Coaster Square Cannon Beach



BILL'S TAVERN

Cannon Beach, Oregon

WINE



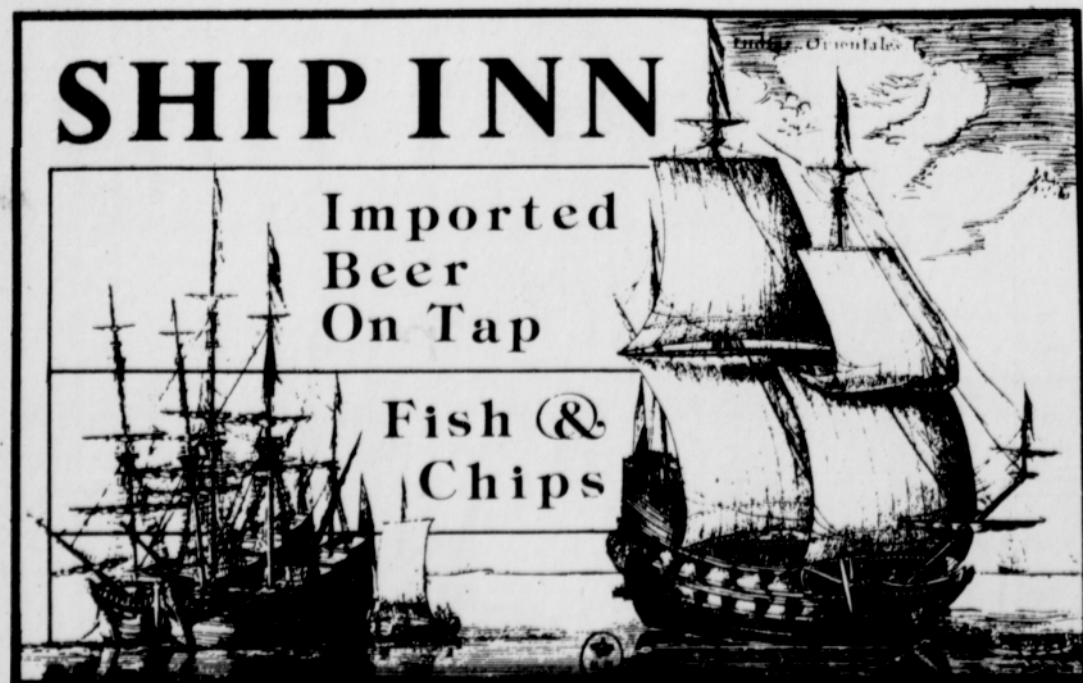
Laurel's Wineshop

263 N. HEMLOCK, CANNON BEACH 436-1666

SHIP INN

Imported
Beer
On Tap

Fish &
Chips



WE'RE NO.1 ON 2 ST., ASTORIA

325-0033



Take your Valentine out to dinner



The Brass Lantern
Restaurant
in cannon beach