

Snip ✂ pets

Volume 1, No. 1 • Winter 2005

from the
Flathead Spay & Neuter Task Force

No room in the inn at the Cat Adoption Center

The Task Force has reluctantly decided not to shelter any more cats because it is at double its capacity, according to Presi-



dent Mimi Beadles. This is particularly unfortunate with winter upon us.

About 70 cats are now looking for homes. You can help by adopting one or directing other potential owners to the Task Force.

"All the cats we have have been abandoned; these are not owner surrenders," Beadles noted.

Many of the cats came from the animal cruelty case this summer, in which a Kalispell-area woman was discovered living with 150 cats, 14 dogs and other animals. The Task Force took 33 of the cats, Beadles said, and was able to send eight to sanctuaries in other states. Four have been adopted, leaving 21 at the Cat Adoption Center.

All cats at the Center have been spayed or neutered and are current on vaccinations. They range from 8 weeks to 8 or 9 years old. About half would be suitable as pets, Beadles said, and the others would be better as barn cats and should be adopted in pairs. There is a \$25 adoption fee.

■ To adopt a cat, call 892-7387 and leave a message.



Tireless volunteer promotes Spay & Neuter Clinic goals

The Task Force is able to take good care of its four-legged charges only with the hard work of its two-legged volunteers.

Barbara Palmer is one of those dedicated people. She has been volunteering with animals for nearly 30 years, about four of them for the Task Force. She spends about 40 hours a month on Task Force activities.

"I'm always taking calls at home, running to adopt animals, working at clinics," she says. "It's a big part of my life."

What does she get out of it? "With every cat or dog that is spayed or neutered," she says, "I know that there are a few less animals that will have to be euthanized at Flathead Animal Control. I can't bear the

thought that nationwide millions of healthy, lovable dogs and cats are destroyed simply because there are not enough homes for them.

"You can build a thousand good shelters and they will be full without turning off the reproduction faucet."

During Task Force clinics, Palmer works for up to 14 hours, usually in the cat recovery room. She and other volunteers make sure the cats recover from the anesthesia, keep them warm and treat them for ear mites if needed. Feral cats who have caretakers get rabies and feline leukemia vaccinations.

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