



PAWPRINTS

www.thecathouse.org

February, 2002 Volume 5



CATS AND KITTENS EVERYWHERE!

Our third active year in cat rescue has been a succession of pregnant cats and unwanted kittens. Our only shelter is the adoption center in our local PetsMart. One of the rules for using the center is that all the cats must be neutered or spayed. When we find ourselves in this situation we look for foster homes.

Foster homes come in many varieties-- those who take moms-to-be, experience the birth and happily see the kittens in good homes - neutered and spayed, of course. Some are willing to bottle feed the really little ones and some feel more comfortable with the older kittens.

One thing most of our foster homes have in common is they usually

Have cats of their own. When we do place a cat / kitten with a foster home we do all we can to insure it is healthy. But we usually advise people to keep their own cats separate, especially if the new arrivals are too young to test for some diseases.

We ask our fosters to provide food, shelter and socialization. The Cat House will take care of any authorized medical expenses.

Fostering can be an opportunity to experience kittenhood again and again and again without increasing your own number of cats. Call The Cat House hotline at 441-9593 if this job appeals to you.



These two cuties, Dora and Einstein were found abandoned in front of a local pet store this winter. We guessed their age to be four weeks old. Their foster home kept them isolated from her cats for 5 weeks until they could be tested for feline leukemia. She was really happy they passed the test. Now to find a person who walks on water



Nebraska Alley Cat Alliance (NEACA) by Angela Cox

From the moment it was a mere idea, in May of 2000, about 70 wild cats and their offspring have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated for health, and released into the same area never to breed again (or were adopted into loving homes). At the

same time, more than 100 community members have been educated on feral cats, what they are and how to prevent their occurrence and their perpetuation, as well as the importance of spaying and neutering. How exciting it is to

see our goal, to be a community resource, being accomplished; and our mission, *to promote the humane care of Lincoln's stray and feral cat populations*, being carried out.

We knew we were starting off on "the right paw" when, after

many attempts, a mama cat who needed to be caught before she gave birth walked straight into a trap while I was waiting just a few feet away. The screams of joy could be heard in a ten-mile radius I know. She was one of the first cats to be helped by Nebraska Alley Cat Alliance and as you read earlier, the numbers have not ceased coming, or should I say the people have not ceased calling. The help many of these feral or stray cats receive is largely due to two groups of people.

The caring community members who make a call to us, asking for help, whether it be financial help, or help with how to go about trapping their own feral and stray populations. The cats would not get the help or healthcare they need to live longer and happier lives without the care and concern of their "caretakers." These are the people I wish to give much of the credit to for preventing the births of thousands of feral cats and for caring for the "wildlife" in their backyards. **You** are true angels. The second group of people I wish to give another portion of the credit to are those who generously donate to The Cat House project Nebraska Alley Cat Alliance. This group of people makes the project available and effective. Thank you for your contributions. **You** are true angels.