

## **DATAW ISLAND FELINE FOUNDATION, INC ANNUAL MAY NEWSLETTER 2017**

The post May 2016 year began very quietly with standard feral feeding and tracking at the various stations and homes. The usual July picnic at the gazebo was not held. We learned our able board member, Rich Kocher, would be leaving Dataw permanently in late winter. Thanks, Rich, for your service on the board.

Pool construction continued disrupting feeding at the tennis courts/pool feeder. We learned Slick relocated to the Odingsell Colony permanently and Peanut roves Locust Fence and back areas of ICE, while Mini remains loyal to the tennis feeder. Roberta has worked the newly purchased replacement motion sensor camera, which has given her fits: she retired from this task in early spring and we're reaching out for someone to take over camera duty. Through her efforts we learned Slick does make some night time appearances and, of course, so do raccoons, crows, squirrels, rabbits, and the occasional opossum. The feral count remained stable according to Dory and Pat.

This past fall Beaufort County Animal Shelter (BCAS) recognized DIFF with an official Feral Cat colony permit. Stephanie Brumley presented the award in early fall. BCAS has identified, by GPS, all Dataw feral cat colony and feeding areas. In case of emergency, as with Matthew, BCAS employees deploy to colonies to ascertain cats are in good health and fed.

The annual board of directors meeting was held February 2, 2017. Board was elected and remain: Dale Martin, Executive Director; Pat Ashton, Co Executive Director; Tom Hurley, Treasurer; Roberta Gunderson, Secretary; Fred Houle, Head Trapper and Inventory Manager and Beverley Porter, Community Catlison. In May, Sandy Hatcher agreed to join the board at large. Roberta Gunderson proposed joining with Tabby House, as part of our outreach program for a joint benefit at the Community Center November 6. The proposal met with approval.

Again, Dory Ingram's Lucy and Roxy hosted our annual tea February 16 at their lovely home. Louise Biedermann, a volunteer from Tabby House, as the guest speaker, filled us in on the role of volunteers at the facility. Attendees brought an incredible array of delectable appetizers. Susan Adams surprised Dory with a special thank you gift presented on a sled and unveiled by Bob Adams and Neville Patterson (see attached pictures of the tea; thank you Tom Hurley). Lively discussion abounded throughout the late afternoon gathering.

Then the excitement began this month: out of the blue came the rumor there was a cat feeding on Island Circle East, and lo and behold it was Zina, missing a couple years from around the corner on Reeve Court, mother of K1 (Daisy) and K2 (Donny). See the accompanying story written by Roberta Gunderson complete with photos of Zena. Amazing, these feral cats!

Mid May presented a dilemma of an ailing resident who could no longer care for her Siamese darling. An island wide email was sent in search of a willing adopter, and

within two minutes Jackson had a new loving home. In fact, there were two responders in that time frame.

We look forward to our July picnic with the most capable Claudia Peebles at the helm and the elegant "Fur Ball" extravaganza benefit at the Community Center November 6, for DIFF and Tabby House headed by Roberta Gunderson, Melinda Smyth, and Dory Ingram.

And, please, if any of you volunteers would like to offer your services for newsletter writing, website refreshing or camera duties, please let a board member know. Thanks!

Addendum to the Newsletter:

In response to the following DIFF 5/24 plea on the Datawnet, we found a forever home for Jackson with Jan Perry (plus, during that phone call the Schmidts called also to adopt) within 2 minutes. DIFF is ever grateful for the kindness of the residents on this beautiful island.

Dear Neighbors,

We are hoping that somebody will respond to our deep need for help. Jan Copley is fighting a serious illness and is not able to care for her beloved cat, Jackson. Jackson is a 10-year-old Siamese who has a loving temperament and likes nothing better than to jump into a lap for a nap (well, he likes to jump into anything for a nap, actually). He used to be an inside/outside cat, kept safe with the Copleys' electric fence, but he now is content to snuggle inside the house. He has a sweet temperament and is absolutely beautiful. He is up to date on all his checkups and shots. If anybody on Dataw feels able to give this sweet boy a loving home, it would ease Jan's mind very much, and it would give you an especially nice feline companion. Please respond to Dale Martin if you feel this message is speaking to you. [vacdale3555@gmail.com](mailto:vacdale3555@gmail.com) or 843 838 6081.