



Cat-Owning Homebound Seniors in Beaverton Helped by Cat Adoption Team's Cat Food Bank in Partnership with Loaves & Fishes Centers

(Oct. 13, 2009) — In an effort to assist more people and their pets, the Cat Adoption Team's Cat Food Bank is expanding to provide cat food to Meals-On-Wheels clients served by the Beaverton Loaves & Fishes Center. This pilot program brings together CAT, Loaves & Fishes Centers and Washington County Disability Aging and Veteran Services. In September, 240 pounds of cat food was delivered to 16 Beaverton Loaves & Fishes Center homebound clients who receive Meals-On-Wheels.

One senior, with three cats, answered the door to the cat food delivery volunteers and exclaimed, "This is the best thing that's happened to me all month." This pretty much sums up how all the Meals-On-Wheels clients felt about receiving the cat food.

Since opening the Portland area's first organized pet food bank in June 2008, CAT has seen a 547 percent increase in the volume of food distributed to help cat owners in financial need. The Cat Food Bank handed out almost 2,500 pounds of cat food in October. This growth is likely due to more people struggling to make ends meet. A poll recently commissioned by Northwest Area Foundation showed that 79 percent of Oregonians say they see more people in their community struggling to make ends meet.

More than a quarter of Oregonians report having problems paying for necessities and 56 percent commented that they would go to charities for help, the poll revealed. The Cat Food Bank is just one place struggling pet owners are turning to for help.

CAT's Cat Food Bank is 100 percent donation driven. Cat food (dry and canned) is donated by generous animal lovers and handed out to those in need by CAT's volunteers on the first Sunday of every month. Donors may also support the food bank fund by donating securely online. This fund is used by CAT staff to purchase food for the food bank at a discount.

With the addition of Beaverton Loaves & Fishes Center clients and an increased demand on the Cat Food Bank, donations are not sustaining the volume given out. CAT does not want to turn any qualified family away.

You can make a huge difference. Your donation to the Cat Food Bank will feed the pets of animal lovers who are struggling during the recession. They love their pets as much as you do.

- Drop off bags of dry cat food (unopened, unexpired) or cases of canned food at CAT's Sherwood shelter or one of our donation drop off locations (listed at catadoptionteam.org)
- Make a secure donation to the cat food bank fund online
- Host a food drive at your office, club, church, or school

Visit catadoptionteam.org for details about the CAT Cat Food Bank and how to make a difference with your donation.

***The Cat Adoption Team (CAT)** is the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit, feline-only shelter. CAT was the first animal shelter in Oregon with its own full service veterinary hospital on site. CAT's mission is to work with the community to save the lives of unwanted, homeless, sick, and injured cats and kittens by offering shelter, adoption, foster, hospice, spay/neuter, and veterinary services to end needless feline euthanasia. CAT will find homes for over 3,250 felines this year. As a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported charity, CAT relies on the generous support of the public and volunteers.*

14175 SW Galbreath Drive ~ Sherwood OR 97140 ~ (503) 925-8903 ~ catadoptionteam.org

*Since 1970 **Loaves & Fishes Centers** has provided a nutritional and social lifeline for seniors through 31 meal sites in Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties and Meals-On-Wheels delivery to homebound seniors. With the help of more than 7,500 volunteers, the nonprofit, nonsectarian agency now serves 5,000 meals daily and more than 1.4 million meals each year. The agency's vision is that no senior will go hungry or experience social isolation.*

7710 SW 31st Avenue ~ Portland OR 97219 ~ (503) 736-6325 ~ loavesandfishesonline.org