

# The Cat Story

How compassionate are you? Hear me out before you answer.

## The Situation: Cats share their lives with us

Once upon a time some 10,000 years ago, the Egyptians faced a problem — rats interfered with the building of the pyramids. The problem was solved with domesticated cats. Now you know one reason why cats became so popular and the Egyptians depended on our feline friends. As time went by, Mother Nature dealt us a challenge — cats multiply rapidly and turns what was once a heart-warming true pet relationship into a suffering-filled existence for the outcast pet and us humans.

We have among us good Samaritans, though still small in number, who care and dedicate themselves to helping the many cats in our neighborhoods that were cast aside by people who no longer would or could care for their pets — most of these castoffs became feral and produced generations of feral cats who, I hasten to add, now live among us.

That's when the friends of the cats, affectionately, respectfully, and most importantly in appreciation of their noble deeds called "cat ladies" in the neighborhood stepped in as caregivers. These ladies and some men make it their duty to scour the neighborhood and deliver food on a daily basis to the many spots where the stray cats make their home.

Their second crucial task, though not easily accomplished, consists of setting traps to capture those felines who are not sterilized and then reach into their own pockets to pay for the sterilization at a veterinary clinic. Miami's Cat Network ([www.thecatnetwork.org](http://www.thecatnetwork.org)) makes certificates available at a reasonable cost that are redeemable at a number of veterinary clinics to make the volunteers' efforts more affordable.

Not to be forgotten is the cost of the cat food. These noble ladies reach into their own pockets, made more palatable by continual watch for specials, a welcome gesture, at local pet stores.

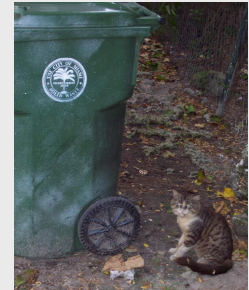
And let us not forget the time dedicated to the stray felines in the neighborhood. Of the network of volunteers (a count most probably will reach into the hundreds) in the Miami neighborhood, my personal experience lets me report the dedicated efforts of cat ladies in action (their modesty won't let them be named). Seven days a week, let it rain or shine, these dedicated angels travel to numerous feeding stations where the little creatures people once affectionately called pets wait in anticipation of a meal and the angels' labor of love. It's a welcome gesture to lower the suffering of the felines condemned to outdoor living without the security of a home.

Only a video recording can capture for public sharing the joy of these little guys who recognize the approaching car and come running for their daily meal and a loving caress. The latter is limited for a unique few, those who were once sharing a home with people and a small number whose feral state has waned through the compassionate hands and affection of the cat lady. Feral cats don't like to be petted; they won't let you get too close.

Why must we muster cruelty and even exterminate our feline friends because cats' rapid breeding rate is nature's way? Why must cats suffer from cruelty and neglect?

Don't you think we should accept responsibility for their well-being? We are the ones who domesticated them and made them the most popular pet in the world. Is extermination fair? Is it right? No! Immoral humans resort to killing for selfish reasons and lack of compassion.

*Compassion for cats has mutual benefits.*



*I am Willie and I'm feral. Do I deserve living like this?*

*The cat overpopulation solution and our moral obligation. (1) Sterilization and (2) Care*

*There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats. Albert Schweitzer*

**Let us live together and in harmony**



Cats have the same right to live in our neighborhood as you and I. Sterilization helps us control the cat population. That leaves one question: where shall they live?

Domesticated cats, they are the ones that have been someone's pet and now roam the neighborhood as a stray, are adaptable and make a good pet.

Feral cats, they were born or lived a long time in the open, are not adaptable and won't make a pet. Let's return them to where they have lived their entire life, the place that's been their home.

I appeal to your compassion to help the homeless cats and our neighborhood. Let your conscience be your guide. Tolerance is a solid platform for peace-of-mind living.

### Help us help the cats, help you, and help your neighborhood

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Get your cat sterilized. We help you, if needed, with a certificate to pay the veterinarian and free transportation to the veterinary clinic.
- Cooperate with the cat ladies and let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Volunteer your services.
- Support our efforts with a donation to help defray the expenses.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- We help you trap feral cats in your neighborhood.
- We help you sterilize, feed, and give medical care to homeless cats in your neighborhood.
- We offer information, education, and answers to your questions at our website, [www.FelineEden.org](http://www.FelineEden.org).

#### **WHAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE:**

- Please help us help the cats, help you, and help your neighborhood with your generosity and compassion.
- Make your check payable to Feline Eden Inc or donate online at [www.FelineEden.org](http://www.FelineEden.org) via the security of PayPal.
- All funds are exclusively dedicated to the welfare of the cats.



It's a matter of compassion, conscience, and tolerance. What do you think? Will you help?

## WARNING

### **The Florida Statutes Prohibit Acts of Cruelty to Animals**

Those convicted of animal cruelty are subject to a fine up to \$10,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

- F.S. 828.08 penalty for exposing poison  
828.12 acts of cruelty to animals  
828.13 abandonment of animals

Cats of our neighborhood have been cruelly and deliberately tortured and killed. Whoever has performed these horrible acts, please be advised:

### **WE ARE ON THE ALERT!**

If you are caught committing an act of cruelty to animals, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Our animals need protection.

Detectives from the Investigation Unit of the Miami-Dade Animal Services Department are also alerted about your acts of cruelty.