



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**General public:**      [www.ForeclosureCats.org](http://www.ForeclosureCats.org)

Foster forms, donation instructions, photos

## **Sixty (60) cats abandoned at foreclosed house** *Local rescues have May 21 deadline to save lives, help community*

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 15, 2007 - An evicted man walked away from his home in the East End, not telling anyone about the 60 or more cats and kittens trapped inside without food, water or medical attention. Three small rescue groups with minimal resources and no shelter facility have brought 30 cats to safety in foster homes, and are now calling on other area rescues, and the community, to help.

Funding and experienced fosters are needed to save the 30 remaining cats before a May 21 deadline.

The deadline represents an extension offered by the bank and the sheriff's office, which were originally scheduled to clear out all property and lock the home on May 8. That process will trap some cats in the house to starve, and drive many out into the neighborhood during the frightening clearing of the house. This action would result in overpopulation of animals, many of them sick, that the community would have to deal with for years.

The bank and the sheriff's office, recognizing these negative impacts on both the animals and the community, provided the extension to give the rescuers more time to get the cats to safety. Most of the area shelters are already overwhelmed, at the peak of "kitten season" (most litters are born in the spring and fall). Help needed:

- **Experienced foster homes**, ideally, including experience with feral or semi-feral cats. While most are turning out to be tame, the cats are frightened and need time to settle down. Some will need antibiotics and other medicines.
- **Donations:** A grant from United Animal Nations is expected. This will help cover only a portion of the most urgent medical expenses, but not all, and no spay, neuter, vaccines or other routine care. The rescues estimate an additional \$5,000 - 6,000 must be raised

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## Fact Sheet

- Go to [www.ForeclosureCats.org](http://www.ForeclosureCats.org) for more details, pictures, to foster, adopt, or donate.
- Three rescue groups involved: Pet Alliance, Save Our Strays, and Silver Bells Rescue.
- Having brought 30 cats to safety in temporary foster homes, including tapping other area rescues for available space, the options for these rescues have been exhausted. More foster homes and an additional \$5,000 to \$6,000 are needed.
- Without help from the community, cats remaining at the site, many desperately needing medical care, will either be euthanized, or escape into the neighborhoods to join millions of homeless animals, reproducing as part of a nationwide pet overpopulation crisis.
- Due to overcrowding, two county animal shelters alone in southwest Ohio were forced to euthanize over 8,000 healthy cats (over 80% of all received) in 2005.

### How people can help the abandoned cats and kittens

- **Foster homes** experienced with cats, including frightened or semi-feral cats, are desperately needed for temporary placement so that we can bring the cats remaining at the house to safety, before it is cleared and locked.
- **Donations** for routine vet care and additional medical issues caused by neglect.
- **Spread the word** about this urgent situation with a May 21, 2007 deadline.
- **Adopters** for the cats as they are altered, vaccinated, tested, and observed long enough to ensure good matches in new homes. Some of the cats will have permanent injuries, including damaged eyes or blindness.

### Community education needed:

- This situation could have been avoided if the guardian of the cats had asked for help from rescue groups in the Cincinnati area. Most shelters and many veterinary hospitals have contacts for area rescues, and Internet searches yield rescue information for specific breeds and situations, for example
- **Spay and Neuter** could have prevented the rapid multiplication of what most likely started with two or three unaltered cats. Low-cost spay-neuter options are available, as well as financial assistance.
- **Veterinary Care** for upper respiratory illness (common cold) that was probably minor at the start, could have been treated easily and inexpensively but has escalated to pneumonia, blindness, and other serious conditions for some cats.
- **Reaching out early** to rescue groups when the guardian of the cats realized he would not be able to stay in his home, would have added months to any deadline for these cats versus having less than 2 weeks to save them.



## FAX

To: Bob Morford, WCPO Channel 9/ABC, 721-7717

Re: Foreclosure cats, May 21 deadline

3 pp: Cover, Release, Fact sheet

Bob, per my voicemail, we are small rescue groups trying to help these abandoned animals and the neighborhood. Hope you can help us get some assistance from the community.

Many thanks

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