

## Support testimony – SF 1935

The following are profiles of just a few of the many abandoned or surrendered declawed cats that Basils Cradle has taken in over the years.

Fergus-

I became aware of Fergus after he had been brought to Minneapolis Animal Care & Control. He had been rescued from being attacked by a dog and seriously injured, suffering deep bite wounds to his face, missing fur, and and torn skin. He was an emaciated senior cat around 15 years old, with bad teeth, front declawed, and he had no way to defend himself. He was also an untreated diabetic. MACC found his owners, called them, and were told that they had left him outside to roam and did not want him back. He was scheduled for euthanasia, but I was able to intervene and bring him to the sanctuary. The following are photos of him the day after I brought him home.







Over the next year Fergus slowly recovered, his diabetes was managed, and he had to be given the medication buprenorphine for the rest of his life because of chronic pain he suffered from being declawed.

Here is Fergus three months later:



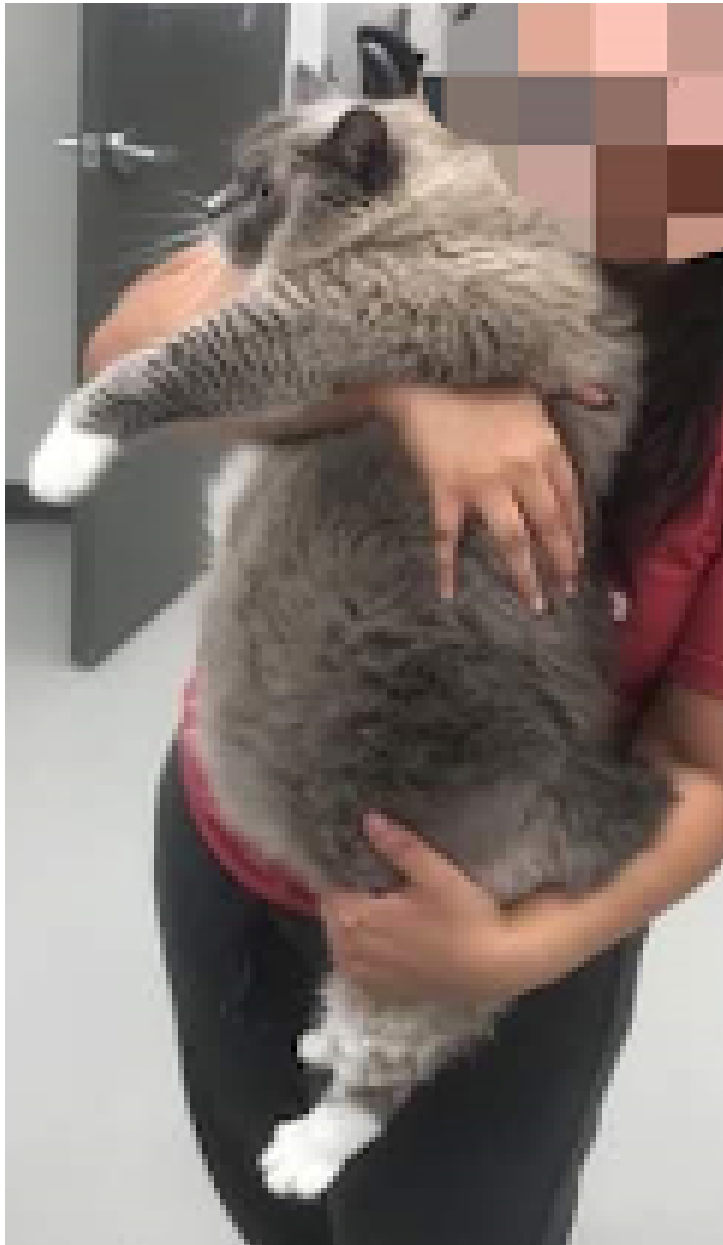
Fergus nine months later:



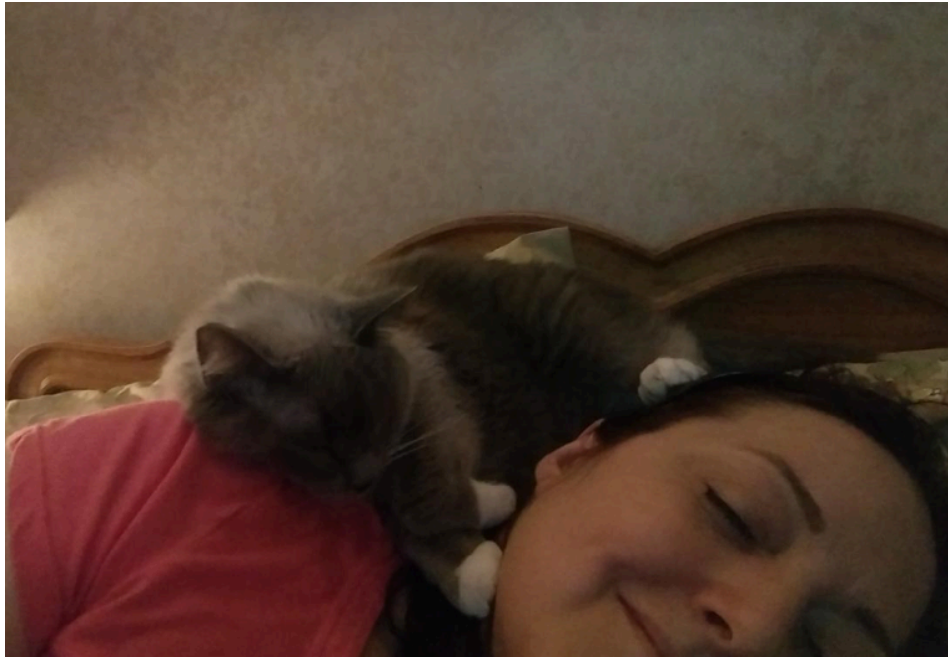
NeNe:

NeNe was declawed when she was young, and after the procedure she began to urinate in her home everywhere but the litter box. Her frustrated owners chose to deal with the problem by putting her in a 2x3 wire kennel with food and a litter box, and this is where she remained for about 1.5 years until someone convinced them to surrender her to a rescue. During that time she ballooned from a normal sized cat to over 22 lbs, and was so obese she struggled to walk. When I became aware of her I immediately took her into my sanctuary. It took about a year and a half to get her weight down to 8.5 lbs, and longer to resolve her peeing issues, which were in part helped by the addition of Prozac, and twice daily buprenorphine shots for her painful declawed feet, both of which she receives to this day.

NeNe at time of rescue:



NeNe 18 months later:





Stella:

Stella was scheduled to be killed at the Golden Valley Humane Society after she was surrendered to them by her owner, then twice adopted and twice returned because she was peeing everywhere. The vet record from her previous owner and the GVHS outline her tragic situation that developed after she was declawed. Note that the vet that declawed Stella was the same vet that was "ok with euthanizing" Stella and her brother. I don't know what the ultimate fate of her brother was.

Before surrender: Vet record:

10/27/2016 C	AO	Comments - Tech - Closed Oct 31/2016 10/27/2016 16:53 Comments: Mrs brought the cats in and stated she wants Stella and Leo euthanized because she cannot deal with them anymore. KS brought them into the comfort room and spoke with KD who said we will not euthanize the cats because we had not seen them for urine issues (she looked at Stella's recent history). After going back into the room with KS, AO explained that because we had not seen the cats for urine issues we would not be able to euthanize without an exam done on each of them to rule out any possible issues. Mrs stated that she has spoken with PT about these issues and it was her impression she could just bring them in to be put down. AO and KS went to speak with PT. Per PT AO asked O if she is willing to bring them to the humane society or Animal Ark instead of euthanasia. Mrs was very frustrated that we wouldn't just euthanize them. She stated she was under the impression that when she has had enough just bring them in and we'll put them down for her. I explained that PT is ok with euthanizing she just asked if O would be at all willing to bring them to the humane society or a different rescue to give them another chance. Mrs did not want to do this because they could live in a kennel until they found a home and she just wants them euthanized today. Mrs didn't understand why we would question the euthanasia of 4yr old cats when she was under the impression we would just take care of them for her so I re-explained that we PT is ok with euthanizing but wanted to check to see if they could be giving another chance. O picked that cats up in their carrier and stated she will just have to figure something else out then and walked out. ao
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Humane Society Record:

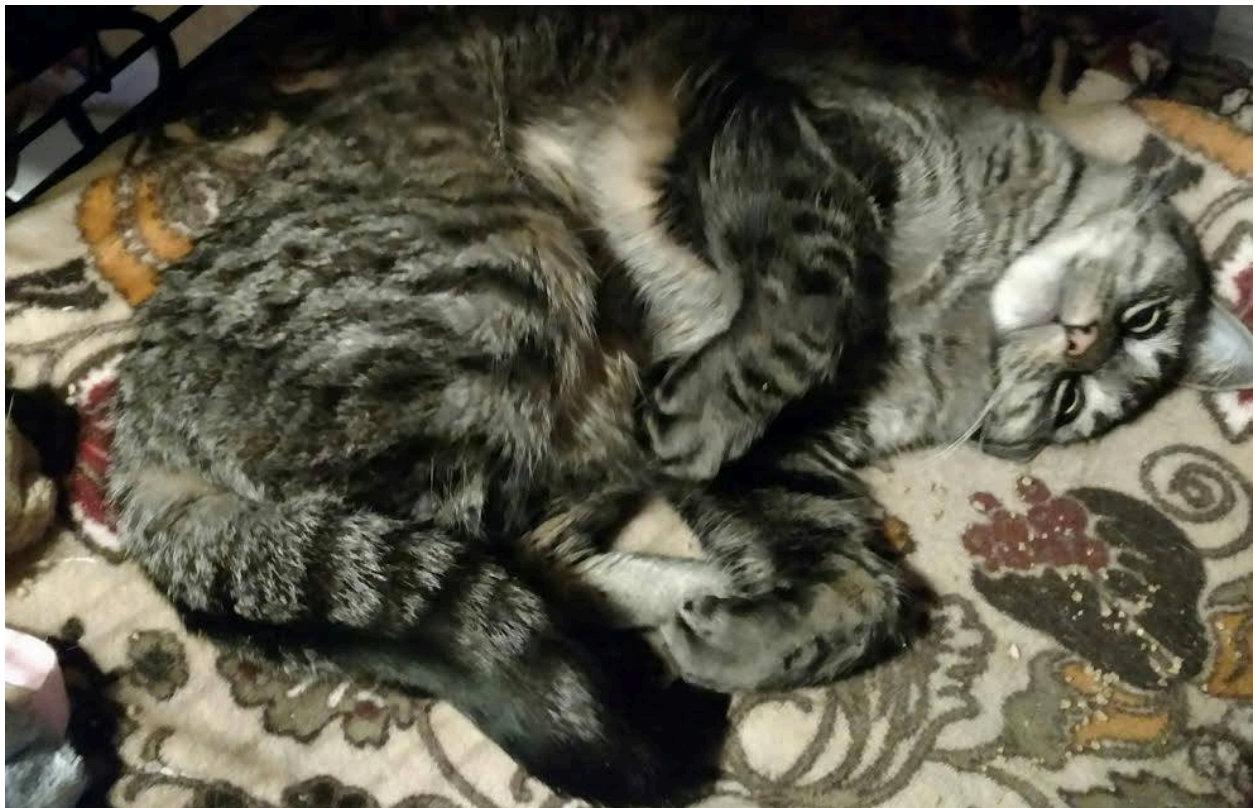
Rescue needed by 10am Wed → **Execution date**

Name  
Stella  
Breed  
Domestic shorthair  
Sex/Sterilization Status  
Spayed female  
Age  
4 yrs  
Weight (pounds)  
5.88 pounds  
Declawed (felines)  
Yes, front paws  
Reason Not Placeable  
Behavior: Stella has been surrendered to us twice for not using the litterbox and we are not able to handle her in shelter, so she is not suitable for adoption. She was offered to the Barn Cat program and returned for litterbox issues and was not picked up the second time around.  
Home History/Info  
Stella was surrendered to us originally for defecating and urinating outside of the litterbox since she was 1 year old. Tried correcting with different litters and pheromones with no success. Her original owner notes that Stella was very shy and would hide with new guest, hiss, and swat. Good with people she knew. After being adopted out to the Barn Cats program, she was returned for not using the litterbox again and the surrender said that she could not have that in her garage. The surrender said that Stella had been very friendly and no other health/behavior issues were noted.

I pulled Stella from GVHS. This is her when I went to pick her up, frightened and morose.



Upon getting her home to the sanctuary, she was immediately given pain medication and within an hour she was a completely different cat, relaxed and enjoying petting.



Stella had to be put on Prozac and buprenorphine injections and continues to receive these medications to this day due to chronic pain. She did have surgery to try to mitigate some of the damage caused by being declawed, but unfortunately the original surgery was terribly done, irreversibly damaging her front paws, and due to this she was only partially helped by salvage surgery.

Fergus, NeNe and Stella are just three examples of the millions of cats in the US that have suffered lasting, painful damage and potential surrender to, and death at shelters due to the very real physical and unwanted behavioral issues that result from being declawed. Declawing offers no medical benefits to cats and is done solely for the convenience of the owner. I urge you to vote in favor of the bill to ban the inhumane practice of declawing cats. This legislation is not only a crucial step toward protecting the welfare of our pets but also aligns with growing ethical standards in animal care. Please vote yes on SF1935 and ban this procedure.