

Short Subjects

Friends of Felines at George Mason U.

FAIRFAX, VA.—Cat lovers at George Mason University have formed a rescue organization to deal with the burgeoning population of strays on campus.

Joan Ziembra, an administrator here, started the Mason Cat Coalition in 1995. About 200 feral and stray cats roam the George Mason campus, she says.

She blames the problem on students, many of whom, she says, let their pets go at the end of the school year.

So far, the coalition's 80 members have trapped 19 cats and have had them spayed or neutered. The group has released the animals back onto the campus and tried to keep them fed. "A lot of places try to solve the problem by bringing in animal-control units that will euthanize the cats," Ms. Ziembra says. "That's not what we do. We find homes for socialized cats, and let the rest go and monitor the populations."

Half of the captured cats were tame enough to be adopted. Laura Massie (right), a campus employee, adopted Ginger.



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