

[On the front line] Rescuing the unwanted

Border Animal Rescue is on a mission to save, neuter neglected pets

By R.J. Cohn

They're the frontline of an endless effort to save dogs and cats that have been left for dead, abandoned or abused, a passionately-dedicated group of volunteers who will go anywhere to help Cochise County's unwanted.

Despite limited funds that come solely from donations and a handful of grants, what Border Animal Rescue (BAR) has accomplished since 1998 when the nonprofit group started has been miraculous.

The network of BAR's unpaid volunteers has been like a Hail Mary heave in the night for dogs almost on their last breaths and untreated, free-roaming cats continuously breeding throughout the county.

"It's definitely heartbreaking at times, but that's why we're here doing this," said 10-year volunteer David Kelso. "We're trying to make a better life and outcome for these pets."

BAR has done that and more.

In the last five years, BAR has managed to save an incredible 3,360 cats and dogs – 93% of which were felines – through



Volunteers David Kelso, Mary Anne Behnke (center) and Claire Peachey stand by two traps they set at a Sierra Vista home that will attract a group of feral cats that infiltrated the property. PHOTOS BY MONIQUE VARGAS