

## Press Release: Fran the Cat found after 5 months lost!

**Fox Alaska, November 04, 2014:** Mr. Orangelito Frangelico Clyde (Fran the Cat), a semi-retired Palouse Barn Cat lost since May 30 2014, was found hanging out near a residence on High Grade Way, a couple of miles away from home (on the other side of a very busy highway) on or about October 30, and arrested several days later and lodged at the FNSB dog pound.

His arrest record was posted on the dog pound website (see copy below in **appendix A**), where it was seen Monday AM (November 3rd) by his person, Mr. Robert (who Mr. Q and Fran usually refer to as "Paw", apparently in friendly but jocular reference to his uncatlike clumsiness).

"I figured that, although the fuzzy picture of (FNSB AC inmate #A100911) looked kinda like Fran, that it would likely be another false alarm, since a couple months ago there was a 99% Fran lookalike." (see **appendix B**, below) "So I was trying to figure out how best to not make the poor Fran-lookalike kitty feel bad when I rushed over to look at him then for some reason looked disappointed" However, that preparation proved unnecessary, as this one turned out to be the real Fran - nose and chin scars, zigzag orange & white pattern, subtle spots & stripes, and white spots complete - and looking good, fluffy, and like he'd been gone 15 minutes and was found sleeping in the sun on the porch.

"We've missed him every minute from the start. I searched all over the neighborhood, woods, and beyond many times, asked many neighbors, followed up any small leads (none of which yielded anything positive), and fended off a few scam replies from the craigslist ad. I hadn't given up hoping he'd come home or get arrested somewhere, and kept the lost ads updated and maintained (see **appendices C & D**), always looked for him while out on foot or driving, continued asking around -- I even went out looking for him this past Sunday in the woods searching for tracks and calling and shaking the cat treat bag. I was starting to fear that he might not come home after all these months. I was thinking I might adopt another cat soon since there's room for two cats in our home and so many that need homes. Someone told me one thing that might magically prompt Fran's return would be to adopt another cat, and I guess I was holding onto that as a last hope also. But in the end our hope was fulfilled, and we're very lucky." R. said.

"I've been saying optimistically that if any cat can live in the wilds of Alaska for (one, two, ... five) months, dodging wild animals, dogs, ailurophobes with guns, traps, mine shafts, traffic, etc. and come home looking like he's been gone 15 minutes, it's Fran! Fran has a way of making the most unusual events seem familiar and easy" R said.

Following posting Fran's release bail and additional charges and bringing him home, R. decided to skip out of work and hang out at home with the family for the afternoon. Fran recognized home right away and is doing well and purring a lot. First thing he did at home was race upstairs to the feeding station (the upstairs one; a second downstairs station was established upon recommendation from the Cat Community in June) and ate well, drank numerous bowls of meowk, then slept on his favorite chair (and other favorite spots) interspersed with more meowk and food and a few looks out to his yard. ("He's grounded for a long time! *Maybe* I'll take him out on a leash sometime in 2015 or 2016" R. said.)

Fran is in good shape after 5 months' adventures, and at time of release was clean, fluffy & soft, bright-eyed and friendly, and 13.8 pounds. R. estimates Fran was between 16 and 18 pounds on May 30. "We'll fatten him up again no problem" R said. Though Fran had a collar with name, person's name, and telephone number at the time of disappearance, that collar—a "breakaway" model designed to minimize the danger of catching on an object—was long gone judging by the state of the fur on his neck, which showed no 'collar line'.

Mr Q, Fran's best friend, also missed Fran terribly from the start, spending much time looking all over for him in the house and yard all summer, waiting frequently for him on the porch for long hours, meowing loudly outside to call him, etc. But now he is a little unsure it's really Fran after all this time, so has been cautious, taking fast discrete sniffs now and then and watching from his kittycat cave of blankets (as is his cautions style). Authorities speculate that as he had numerous dreams about Fran following his disappearance, wants to be sure it's really Fran vs. some trickery or zombie imposter, but figure that within a week Fran'll be licking Mr. Q on the head again as before.

Mr. R. has also been looking for signs of discontinuity that would indicate this is just a dream (which had happened several times since Fran's disappearance). "Mr. Q and I still sort of worry that a side-panel will fall off Fran revealing that he's actually some sort of clever NSA drone, or we'll catch him in the night radioing in to HQ telling them with a foreign voice how foolish we are to believe it all and soon he'll seize control. But it seems to be really him." he added.

**"So let it be known that November 3rd is hereafter National Fran the Cat Day.** This is convenient as we really didn't have a birthday for him before since he gradually joined the family over a couple of months' time back in 2011. Trouble is, I always forget those dates anyway, and even if I remember them it's pretty hard to figure out how to add anything extra on to any specific cat anniversary since every day of the year is already **Cat Appreciation Day**. There's also Mr. Q day, Mr. Whiskers day, and National Cat Day, so things are covered in our home." R. stated. It remains unclear what happened that initially caused Fran to go missing, but lack of family and love is not suspected.

"Now, besides settling back in and getting him a new collar and name tag, the only thing that remains is to mark all of the lost cat notices **"FOUND"** to give people who may be in the same situation hope, he added.

*Update Nov. 15: Things are exactly back to normal in all regards, and Mr. Q and Fran are as happy as can be. Purrs and loud sounds of chasing and playing are heard all hours day and night (especially ca. 04:00-06:00)! Fran persuaded R to let him go outside (within 2 weeks of return), and he's been happily hunting his favorite old spots near home. He caught a big fat mouse on the 16<sup>th</sup> after several dedicated hours patiently waiting in position, and was allowed to eat it inside the house in celebration (just this once).*

**Appendix A: A copy of his FNSB Dog Pound arrest report:**



**This CAT - ID#A100911**

I am a neutered male, orange and white Domestic Shorthair.

The finder thinks I am about 4 years old.

I was found by someone on Oct 30, 2014.

This information was refreshed 33 minutes ago and may not represent all of the animals at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Control.

**Shelter Staff made the following comments about this animal:**

This animal has been found by a citizen. If you think this is your animal, please contact FNSB Animal Control at 459-1451 or [acontrol@fnsb.us](mailto:acontrol@fnsb.us). Ask for information about animal ID number A100911

**Appendix B: the Fran lookalike of September 25:**

**GARFIELD** Domestic Short Hair • Adult • Male • Large



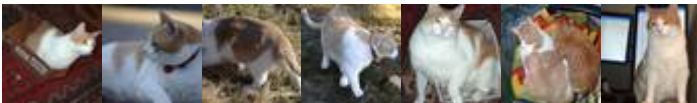
[Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Control](#) 2408 Davis Road at Peger Fairbanks, AK 99701

Pet ID: A100123 • Spayed/Neutered

*(**Not the real Fran** - note the slightly different zigzag side pattern despite the very Franian smile. This - adorable - 99% Fran lookalike was adopted within days anyway, so somebody's now got their Fran too!)*

**Appendix C: One of the two Craigslist ads that were placed (in lost & found and in pets)**  
[<http://fairbanks.craigslist.org/laf/4685810101.html>]:

**Lost orange & white cat near skyridge (fairbanks-Fox)**



([google map](#)) ([yahoo map](#))

LOST CAT: Missing since Friday May 30 2014, but smart enough to maybe be 'living wild' in area and hoping he'll come out of the woods now that fall's here.

He may have been seen in the area this fall hanging out with a big black cat!

Lost from Hawkeye Downs Rd. (off Skyridge Rd.)

Orange & white fixed male cat; appx. 18lbs, former barn cat, friendly but maybe timid. Loud meower, good hunter, smart. Scared of dogs.

Was wearing red patterned collar and orange name tag with name and contact info. May be missing collar now but a report in early october includes the collar and tag.

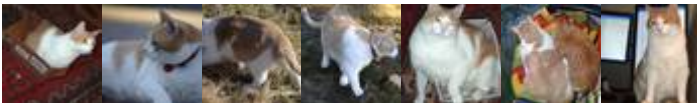
His name is Fran and we miss him! Please call with any information; reward if found! Free beer, whatever you want.

907 750 6I95 - phone is best as I only get email at work, can also get text messages on phone.

post id: 4685810101 updated: 26 days ago

**Appendix D: The refined Craigslist ad after he was found:**

**FOUND after 5 months! lost orange & white cat near skyridge**



FOUND SAFE!! Fran was found about a mile and a half from home by good citizens who turned him in to the dog pound, and another who alerted me even before I saw the listing myself!

So don't lose hope, lost pet searchers, after 5 months and 3 days my cat came home!

Thanks to all who looked, sent tips, etc.

No thanks and curses to the several russian scammers, etc. who tried to use this announcement to defraud me.

/love, Fran and his family

post id: 4685810101 posted: a month ago updated: 2 days ago

# LOST CAT

Friday May 30 2014

**387 Hawkeye Downs Rd.** (off Skyridge)

Orange & white fixed male cat

Was wearing red patterned collar and orange name tag with contact

His name is **Fran**

Please call!

**907 750 6195**



**Appendix F:** pictures used in the lost cat ads; may be used for press purposes:



**(left side profile)**



**(right side profile)**



**(left side flank view)**



**(with Mr. Q; top view; note Fran's zigzag pattern and subtle orange spots & stripes & white spots)**



**(komputer regulator overlord)**



(cannot fit in all box sizes but may try anyway)



**(and will do so elegantly, eventually)**



**(4-in-1 image set 1)**



(4-in-1 image set 2)

See [ <http://rj1.us/cat/> ] for more Fran and cat photos.