

**CW: There is a very graphic image embedded at the end of this document.**

### **Community Cats on PG&E Lot**

The injured cats are part of a “feral” colony located in the Dogpatch district at Illinois and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Not all of these cats are actually feral—many were abandoned and could be adoptable. The cats have been TNRd as part of the SFSPCA “Community Cats” program. Their primary caregivers over many years are Robert Shipman and Sylvia Ortiz.

The location in question encompasses a PG&E worksite / parking lot. It appears to be part of a construction site—heavy machinery, shipping containers, cars, trucks, construction materials, etc.

This is a GoogleMaps picture of part of the lot. The lot is currently inaccessible from Illinois, due to a chain-link fence across the entirety of 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a lot of Jersey barriers and other construction equipment currently at the location.

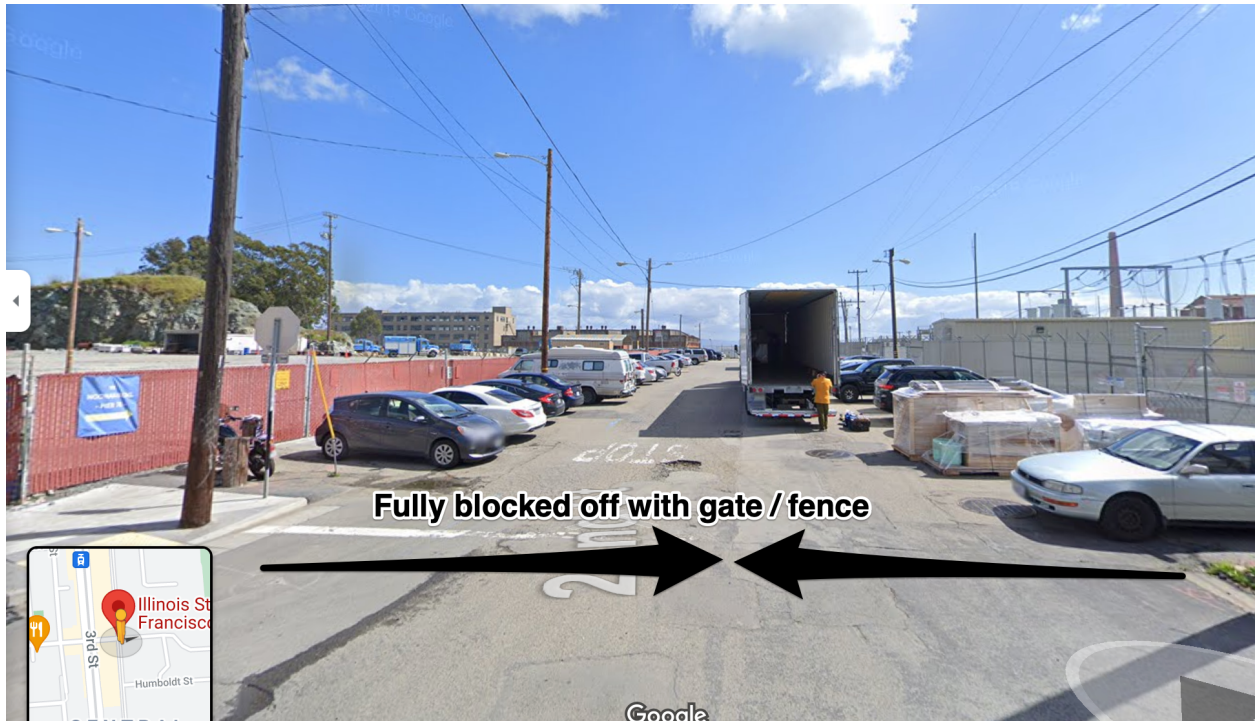


Image screenshot from GoogleMaps street view, 7/2/21



Image screenshot from GoogleMaps street view, 7/2/21

The fencing is a variable mix of chain-link, slats, and metal bars. Looks like there is also some barbed wire along at least part of the fence.



Part of photo taken from inside the lot during walkthrough on 7/2/21.

There are several other colonies in the area and feeding stations at other locations, including 23<sup>rd</sup> and closer to the waterfront.

### **Known Injured Cats**

**Two-Step 1** – missing right rear leg, rescued and rehomed in 2020

**Grayson** – missing right rear leg, rescued on 4/17/21, living with Sylvia and Robert

**Mabel** – missing right rear leg, still on property

**Two-Step 2 (Twooey)** – missing 2 legs, still on property

N.B.: According to verbal reports, raccoons with identical injuries have been spotted on the property.

### **Rough Event Timeline**

This timeline does not encompass the full chain of events, including NextDoor posts, other social media, and multiple emails, phone calls, and meetings between various parties.

At some point in 2020 – a cat with identical injury, “Two-Step-1,” was rescued from the property and placed in a home. Other cats with identical injuries were identified.

3/31/21 – ACC received a complaint from Sylvia Ortiz: "R/P believes someone is setting leg traps for raccoons on PG&E but getting cats instead. Four with severed legs in last year with one still on PG&E property." ACOs went out to look, but were unable to make contact with anyone and didn't see any cats.

4/1/21 – Sylvia sent video of limping cats to ACC (Deb Campbell) and made an appt to meet with an ACO onsite.

ACO report: 04/01/21 19:01 We met with Sylvia and were unable to catch any cats. [Sylvia] showed us the injured cats. There is one on the right side of the PG&E prop and one on the left. There have been others with injuries as well. Appears to be right rear on all and there is one cat missing 2 legs. Need to 87 with PG&E and see if there is a potential source of injuries and discuss setting traps to get the two with newest injuries. There would need to be 1 trap set on either side since [Sylvia] said the cats stay on their sides. [Sylvia] to email photos and vet records to dispatch. [Sylvia] has not seen leg trap on any of the cats and the injuries do not appear to be what a claw trap would do. DS30/VN31"

4/2/21 – ACC contacted (VM and text) the possible property manager (Dan) to set up trapping program.

4/3/21 – ACC heard back from Dan, it's not property under his jurisdiction. He recommended ACC contact PG&E or Brookfield. ACOs went to the location and were unable to make contact with anyone.

4/5/21 – ACO went to the location and was unable to make contact with anyone.

4/5/21 – Sylvia made contact over text with PG&E representatives.

4/6/21 – ACO went out, spoke to staff at construction site and PG&E, no one knows how the cats are being injured. She set 3 traps, two on PG&E property, one by the SPCA feeding station.

4/7/21 – ACO checked the traps, released the wildlife caught, restocked with canned food.

4/8/21 – ACO checked the traps, released the wildlife caught, restocked with canned food.

4/9/21 – ACO checked the traps, released the wildlife caught, pulled traps (deducing the cats would not go into the traps). [Sylvia] said that she would attempt trapping using a drop trap.

4/15/21 – Sylvia contacted ACC to say that she had caught one of the cats (Grayson) and would take them home for care.

4/17/21 – Sylvia reported that Grayson's leg had fallen off while being handled and she brought ACC the leg to examine.

4/19/21 – Dismembered leg examined by ACC vet staff.

S: Vet evaluation of dismembered distal extremity. Injured cat is not presently at ACC.

O: Distal RPL. Transverse fractures of distal tibia and fibula with desiccated tissue near fracture site. No skin lesions on foot, no paw pad lesions

Radiographs of distal RPL revealed normal bone structures distal to the fracture. No metallic foreign materials were seen.

A: Fractured R tibia and fibula, likely due to trauma.

5/5/21 – Sylvia signed waiver and application for access to the construction site.

5/11/21 – PG&E sent decline to Sylvia.

5/13/21 – Sylvia appealed the decline by email and did not hear back.

6/21/21 – Sylvia / Robert posted about the situation on NextDoor, resulting in a concentrated social media effort to bring awareness to the situation. Due to this effort and individual actions, Channel 7 news covered the story, speaking to Sylvia and also fellow caregiver / friend Gina Donato.

6/22/21 – Channel 7 news story aired at 11pm / website: <https://abc7news.com/feral-cats-injured-san-francisco-sf-pge-yard/10822556/>

6/23/21 – Gina began Change.org petition.

6/24/21 – Commissioner Ozernoy was apprised of the situation and began to gather information for the 7/8/21 Commission meeting.

Between 6/24/21 and 7/1/21, there was a concentrated effort between multiple parties to come to an agreement to allow trappers onto the PG&E property. PG&E, ACC, District 10



Supervisor Walton's office, and individual trappers were all involved. SFSPCA offered to assist as well.

7/2 – Experienced outside trappers met with PG&E representatives onsite. A proactive plan for moving forward has been confirmed. The new trappers have placed drop traps in the yard to get the cats acclimated and will have access to the yard to do the actual trapping. PG&E employees with experience in trapping will assist in the trapping.

Links:

- Channel 7 news story article / embedded video: <https://abc7news.com/feral-cats-injured-san-francisco-sf-pge-yard/10822556/>
- Channel 7 news story video: <https://abc7news.com/video/embed/?pid=10822682>
- Change.org petition: <https://www.change.org/p/pacific-gas-and-electric-company-pg-e-is-holding-injured-cats-hostage-in-need-of-medical-care>
- Video: injured cats in PG&E yard: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/567977690>

Graphic image of cat's (Grayson) severed right distal limb:

