



Community Cats News

Community Cats TNR
P. O. Box 384
Ludington, MI 49431

Winter 2017—2018

www.communitycatstnr.org

A humane Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to reduce the number of homeless cats

Milestone # 700 in 2017!

Community Cats TNR has Trap-Neutered-Returned 740 homeless, feral, free-roaming cats as of mid-November, 2017. As Community Cats TNR begins its sixth year of operation, our goal, with your support, is to continue to help the many caregivers reduce the number of “community cats” in their neighborhoods.

Community cat #700, a young soft brown tortoiseshell female, was spayed by Dr. Laura Waldo of Country Veterinary Clinic PC on September 1, 2017. It is believed she once had a family, but was left behind when they moved. She had survived a cold winter then rewarded her new caregivers with six kittens in the spring.

Caregivers who regularly provide food, water and shelter for homeless cats are providing a valuable service in their neighborhoods. Besides caring about the humane treatment of homeless animals, they make it possible for Community Cats TNR to help control the population growth in and around the neighborhood. By establishing a regular feeding schedule, they can determine which cats are homeless and can make it possible to humanely trap the cats.

The organization focuses on homeless cats that need to be trapped for safe handling and transport to the veterinary clinic. People who are caring for friendly strays are encouraged to arrange for surgery with their own veterinarian and to contact www.fixingfurryfriends.org to secure a spay/neuter certificate to pay for a portion of the cost. Another outstanding community service is the low-cost male neutering clinic, “Last Tango for Tom” provided each spring by Animal Hospital of Ludington. Those who have free-roaming, feral, unsocialized cats that need to be trapped may call 845-7888 or 843-9312 for more information.

Community Cats TNR does not assist with surgery costs for pet cats and is not equipped to handle rescue situations.

Cat # 700, asleep in the arms of Tangella Christmas, LVT, is a young torti female, spayed by Dr. Laura Waldo DVM, at the Country Veterinary Clinic P.C. on September 1, 2017.



Bits and Tips

Kitten season is at a peak from April through September. The offspring of homeless cats face a very uncertain future and are at the mercy of cold weather, predators, and starvation. For information about what to do if you find kittens, visit www.communitycatstnr.org and click on the Kitten Care tab for a link to the Alley Cat website. The site provides a comprehensive guide for caring for kittens, and an excellent progression link illustrating their age and growth.

It is important to provide the homeless cats with nutritious cat food. They need to consume more food in the winter to increase caloric intake. Fresh water is extremely essential, and hard to get, especially in the winter.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

Homeless, free-roaming, abandoned, feral cats are:

- Humanely trapped by trained caregivers and volunteers.
- Transported to veterinary clinic
- Given a health check, parasite treatment, rabies and distemper vaccines
- Spayed or neutered
- Left ear tipped for identification
- Returned to colony to continue their better quality of life.

THE NEED FOR SHELTER



Every year, the Community Cats TNR newsletter stresses the need for winter cat shelters! Winter is brutal for homeless cats. They need help throughout the winter months to find shelter that provides them protection from cold and wet weather. Without a good shelter, cats may become ill, and may suffer from frostbite on their ears, nose and paws.



A view of the interior of the Alley Cat winter cat shelter plan displaying double insulated walls, insulation under vinyl flooring and wind guard.

There are many ideas and designs available for winter cat shelters, but all good designs share two qualities: strong insulation and minimal air space. The insulation is needed to trap the cats' body heat. Minimal air space is necessary so that cold air doesn't fill the empty space and chill the cats. Straw is the best insulating material to use inside the shelter. Blankets or towels will become wet, will freeze and draw body heat away from the cats. Cats will cozy or burrow into straw and keep their body heat from escaping.

Allowing cats an entrance into an outbuilding will provide excellent protection from the elements, especially if you also add one or more small corners of straw, perhaps in a storage bin, wood or cardboard box, under a tarp, etc.

Visit www.alleycat.org or www.bestfriends.org, or www.neighborhoodcats.org and www.communitycatstnr.org for ideas and information on how to build shelters.



A view of one finished Alley Cat shelter with rubber roof next to large totes of similar size ready to be constructed.

Community Cats TNR volunteers have built numerous Alley Cat shelters during the past five years. Donations of 1/2" exterior plywood, luan or paneling, insulation board and fiberglass insulation, exterior latex paint in a "camouflage color," and 50 and 33 gallon storage bins are needed.

THE REQUEST FOR SHELTERS, ALREADY BUILT, HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR. IF YOU CAN DONATE SOME OF YOUR TIME TO BUILD ONE OR MORE SHELTERS NOW OR IN THE FUTURE—WE NEED YOU!

IN MEMORIAM

Community Cats TNR remembers those who loved and cared for cats, and thanks family and friends for contributions honoring their memory:

Bessie Johnston
Princess & Ittybitty
Russell Collins
Patrick O'Brien
Jack Hogenson
Bob & Vernita Allard
Mae Snow
Chuck Clark
Bud Washer
Catherine Zimmerman

Pete VonSprecken
Jean Ereon
Paul Butterfield
Tom Blough
Lorraine Motyka
Georgia Parsons
Sue Birtwhistle
Roger Pollock
Clarence Gregones
Anne Broderick

Billy Sielski
Mary Courtright
Sylvia Keely
Robert Alexander
Billie Kelley
Richard Kowatch
Honora Gustafson
Bob Shuman
Don Downing Sr.
Lucy-fur & Lily

Helping Cats and Dogs

In every corner of Mason County, there are animals at risk, especially cats. In a perfect world, every friendly stray, unwanted pet, abused or abandoned pet would be guided into a new, caring home. Animal Control has limited space and limited time to allow for adoption before euthansia becomes necessary.

First and foremost, you can be a lifesaver for your special four-legged friends by adopting and providing a safe, loving, caring home for them. That means giving them enough attention, making sure that they have good food, fresh water, proper shelter, and veterinary care. Veterinary care needs to include spay and neuter to prevent the birth of unwanted animals.

Mason County has groups of dedicated volunteers trying hard to help save and find homes for abandoned and unwanted pets.

Lakeshore Animal Friends supports Mason County Animal Control by providing spay/neuter certificates for cats and dogs adopted from Animal Control. They work to find foster and forever homes so that every pet has a happy ending.

Fixing Furry Friends provides certificates to Mason County residents to help with some of the cost of spaying and neutering their companion animals. If you have a dog or cat (or stray cat that you can handle), visit www.fixingfurryfriends.org and fill out an application for a spay/neuter certificate.

Second Chance Humane Society has been organized to seek the establishment of a no-kill shelter and network in Mason County—an intake shelter for at-risk animals, a network of foster homes and adoption into new and caring homes. Their Board is actively seeking a shelter location and foster homes.

Mason County Mutts provides assistance at Mason County Animal Control and supports projects to make the area more dog friendly. (231-794-2757)

Mason County Animal Advocates is in the process of establishment and has become involved this year in rescuing and fostering at-risk animals.

Mason County Animal Control (843-8644), Lakeshore Animal Friends (845-5550), Second Chance Humane Society (757-9219), and Mason County Animal Advocates (231-239-3326) all have foster cats and kittens needing new homes. If you can help any of them by adopting or fostering cats or kittens, please contact them today!

Each of these organizations have volunteers who are passionate about saving and improving the lives of cats and helping the community of pet owners and caregivers of homeless cats. They all encourage more volunteers to come forward, especially to foster and/or adopt. Help is always needed with fundraisers, and donations are vital to keeping them all doing what they do best!

The success of the Community Cats TNR program relies upon donations and memorial contributions. Please consider making a donation today! Make check payable to COMMUNITY CATS TNR and mail to P. O. Box 384, Ludington, MI 49431 *THANK YOU!*

YES—I CAN HELP!

Name

Address

Phone Number

Comments

(Community Cats TNR is a 501c3 public charity. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Christmas shopping on Amazon?

Use the following link and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Community Cats TNR!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3759577>

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Upcoming events

DINNER AT PIZZA HUT!

Wednesday, Dec 13 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm—Pizza Hut fundraiser and bake sale. Pizza Hut will

donate 10% of proceeds on eat

in, carry out and delivery!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER!

Come to our next meeting:

Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Book Mark, 201 S. Rath

Avenue, Ludington.

Find us during the Friday Night

Live events next summer and

look for our annual yard sale in August or September.

Thank you!

Community Cats TNR gratefully acknowledges a \$500 grant award from Community Foundation of Mason County.

We also extend our thanks to an Anonymous donor foundation that has awarded two grants of \$1,000 each during 2017. These funds have made it possible for Community Cats TNR to spay/neuter additional cats and provide flea/earmite, pain medications, and antibiotics as needed.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bud and Mona Johnson for the many hours invested during the past five years building winter cat shelters.

Our appreciation to our veterinary partners—the doctors and staff of Country Veterinary Clinic, PC and Animal Hospital of Ludington. Without their help, support, and professional expertise, Community Cats TNR would not exist.

Our sincere thanks to all who made direct and memorial donations, donations of cat food at Shop N Save, donations of building materials for shelters, donations of time and baked goods to help with fundraisers, and especially all those caregivers who continue to feed, water and shelter homeless cats.

Why spay or neuter?

An unsplayed female cat, her mate, and their offspring producing an average of 2.8 surviving kittens per litter at a rate of two litters a year adds up quickly.

- 1 year: 12 cats
- 2 years: 67 cats
- 3 years: 376 cats
- 4 years: 2107 cats
- 5 years: 11801 cats
- 6 years: 66,088 cats
- 7 years: 370,092 cats
- 8 years: 2,072,514 cats
- 9 years: 11,606,077 cats

Spaying or neutering one cat saves many lives.

