



Community Cats News

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

Winter 2019—2020

www.communitycatstnr.org

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

2019 TNR Success Stories

So far in 2019, over 100 cats have been TNRd. This number is actually lower than the annual total from the previous six years and would indicate that trap-neuter-return is making measurable progress. Even so, there is a never-ending reproductive rate in the homeless, free-roaming feral cat population that keeps Community Cats TNR very busy every year.

The homeless cat population typically begins reproductive efforts starting in February, because it seems that every female is having kittens in April! Community Cats TNR has a policy of suspending trap-neuter-return during the cold months of winter. We believe it is cruel and harmful to subject the cats to the stress of winter weather and surgery at the same time. As early as possible, usually in March, we work with our partner veterinary clinics to TNR as many females as possible. We continue TNR throughout the spring and summer months, and again TNR as many in the fall as possible before cold weather arrives.

As of mid-November, 2019 Community Cats TNR has Trap-Neuter-Returned 989 homeless, feral, free-roaming cats. Based upon a very conservative estimate calculating only the reproductive rate of the females, we have so far prevented the birth of at least 223,000 unwanted kittens!

Working with the other local animal groups in Mason and Manistee Counties, we have helped to trap a number of kittens to go to foster or permanent homes. It is especially gratifying to the caregivers and volunteers when a cat or kitten has an opportunity for a better life.

Visit our website: www.communitycatstnr.org

Like us on facebook

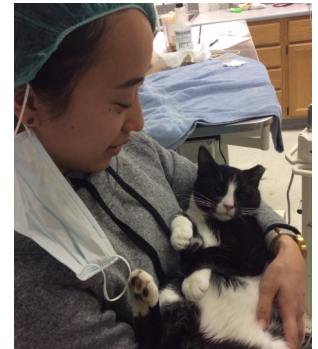
“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Community Cat No. 900 asleep in the arms of Chika Akiyama, Veterinary Assistant at the Animal Hospital of Ludington.

The cat, a young black and white male, was neutered by Dr. Stephen Paxton, DVM of the Animal Hospital of Ludington on April 11, 2019.

(Notice the left year-tipped)



Benefits of Petting a Cat

Although the majority of free-roaming, homeless cats avoid human contact, the November, 2019 newsletter published by the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine reported on the following benefits of petting a cat:

- ◆ Reduces loneliness
- ◆ Reduces or relieves depression
- ◆ Reduces anxiety
- ◆ Lowers blood pressure
- ◆ Stimulates memories in patients with dementia
- ◆ Stimulates interactions for patients with autism
- ◆ Provides a sense of security for patients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3759577)

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.

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 new idea recently suggested is to stack old dry/clean tires, cut a hole (about 6" x 6") toward the bottom, put a rain proof roof across the top and put a lot of straw inside.

Community Cats TNR volunteers have built numerous Alley Cat shelters during the past seven 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 30 gallon storage bins are needed.

THE REQUEST FOR SHELTERS, ALREADY BUILT, HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR. RIGHT NOW, WE NEED:

- * 1/2 INCH PLYWOOD (DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FULL SHEETS)
- * RIGID "BLUE BOARD" INSULATION—1/4", 1/2" AND 1"
- * VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD SHELTERS

PLEASE CALL 845-7888 IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS!!!!



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



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

IN MEMORIUM

Community Cats TNR remembers those who loved and cared for cats, and thanks family and friends for contributions in 2019 honoring their memory:

Joe Thibert	Patricia Dunn Ferraro
Leola Masten	Bobbie Maclean
William Lokovich	Jerry Linstrom
Billie Kelley	Stonewall Stone
Susan Smallwood	Agnes Pettit

Did you know . . .

That dropping a cat off in the country in site of a barn is unlawful? It is abandonment. It is cruel. It is unfair to the people who find the cat and try to save it from starvation and probable injury.

Cats are territorial. A cat in a new location is usually rejected by other cats, doesn't know where to go to eat and drink, doesn't know about predators, doesn't know where to hide, and tries to cross fields, roads, rivers, and miles to find its way back home before starvation, dehydration, infection, or frost bite takes over.

PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THIS TO STOP!

The Story of Francis-also known as Patch

Francis is a feral male cat who showed up in late summer at a remote farmhouse in the country. His caregivers, who love animals, immediately started to feed him and provide fresh water.

When it came time for his caregivers to move into town for the winter months, they were distressed about leaving Francis behind, with nobody to care for him. The nearest farm was nearly a mile away and there was no guarantee that he would go there, and if somebody there would feed him. Hunting for food in the winter is extremely difficult.

Community Cats TNR was able to trap Francis just before the first snow set in. He went to Country Veterinary Clinic where he was neutered, given vaccines for rabies and distemper, treated for parasites, fleas and ticks, given pain medication, and his left ear was tipped.

The next challenge for his caregivers and CCTNR was to find a suitable place for relocation. Francis obviously couldn't go back to the farm.

Thanks to a member of the caregiver's family, Francis is now in a safe, warm location and is beginning to trust his new caregivers and is working on becoming less feral.

Again, a result that is so gratifying to the caregivers and volunteers who have probably saved another life.

Local donations Help So Many

This time of the year we all are bombarded by requests for donations for a huge number of non-profit organizations that provide invaluable service in so many different ways.

Your donations to local organizations allow you to see first hand how your money is being used and how it enriches the lives of your friends and neighbors.

The volunteers working throughout Mason County to improve the lives of animals and the people who care for them use their funds wisely and truly appreciate your support. Please consider supporting these groups with donations, and even more importantly, your time as a volunteer:

- * Community Cats TNR, PO Box 384, Ludington, MI 49431
- * Fixing Furry Friends, PO Box 221, Scottville, MI 49454
- * Mason County PAWS, PO Box 132, Scottville, MI 49454
- * Lakeshore Animal Friends, PO Box 503, Ludington, MI 49431
- * Mason County Mutts, PO Box 74, Ludington, MI 49431



Francis inside his trap

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.

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.

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Upcoming events

DINNER AT PIZZA HUT!

Wednesday, Dec 11 from 4:00 to 7:45 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 12, 2020 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 to . . .

An anonymous donor foundation that awarded a grant in 2019 to supplement donations of food for caregivers needing help with food.

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.

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.

Special thanks to John for donating the use of his building on North Jebavy for our annual yard/garage sale, to supporters who donated sale items, and volunteers who worked to make this a very successful three-weekend garage sale. Also, kudos to Lorna for rescuing and rehoming a number of cats in dire need, and to Richard, Bud, and Mona for building winter cat shelters.

Food Donations

An important mission of the Community Cats TNR program is to help caregivers feed their homeless cat colonies. A cat food donation box is available throughout the year in the entrance at Shop N Save. There is always a need for more food and your donations are very much appreciated! Purina Complete dry food in the blue bag is a favorite, but all kinds, dry and canned, are delivered promptly wherever needed.

Volunteers Needed

CCTNR is looking for a couple of volunteers who can trap, transport and care for cats before and after surgery. This is the heart and soul of the operation. It requires a strong caring for the well-being of the cats, a determination to keep them as stress free as possible, a vehicle large enough to transport five traps, a temperature controlled space inside the home, garage or basement for care in traps, and a good deal of flexible time. Please call 845-7888 to learn more.