



Community Cats News

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

Winter 2022—2023

www.communitycatstnr.org

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

Open your Heart and Home

. . . . to one or more felines in need.

Mason County Animal Control is asking the community to help with the overcrowding situation that has become critical during the summer months. Perhaps it stems from Covid or the current economic situation, that has resulted in more cats (and dogs) being relinquished by their owners. Cats unlawfully abandoned by their owners have also helped to swell the homeless cat population.

Animal rescue groups in Mason County, including Lakeshore Animal Friends, Mason County Paws Humane Society and Mason County Mutts have also reported an overwhelming increase in the number of cats they have taken in. In spite of amazing successes by these groups, the need for more help from the community to provide loving homes for these cats (and dogs) is crucial. They also are seeking families that will consider fostering cats and kittens until a permanent home can be found. Contact information for them is on page 3.

The mission of Community Cats TNR is to work with caregivers who are providing food, water and shelter to the homeless, abandoned, free-roaming, feral cats that are unlikely to be adopted and need to be trapped to get them to a veterinary clinic. Both Country Veterinary Clinic PC and Animal Hospital of Ludington do their upmost to provide appointments for TNR surgeries. Whenever we come across friendly cats or kittens that could be adopted, we make every effort to coordinate with Lakeshore Animal Friends and Mason County Paws Humane Society to transfer to their care if they have space.

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. We have ended 2022 with a total of 1,359 cats TNRd since 2012. Based upon a very conservative estimate calculating only the reproductive rate of the females, we have so far prevented the birth of at least 302,000 unwanted kittens!

Meet Tony

Tony, a handsome male Siamese, was part of a rescue colony and was TNRd on September 14, 2022. He went to Mason County Paws Humane Society and is waiting for his permanent family.



Tony, Community Cat No. 1,300, is shown with Dr. Crystal McConnell and Surgical Technicians Jessica Winn and Mandi Bates at Country Veterinary Clinic PC.



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)**

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.”

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. Interior will be filled with straw.

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.

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. Community Cats TNR volunteers have built numerous Alley Cat shelters during the past ten 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.



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

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED:

- * 1/2 INCH PLYWOOD (DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FULL SHEETS)
 - * RIGID "BLUE BOARD" INSULATION—1/4", 1/2", 1" AND 2"
 - * 50 AND 30 GALLON STORAGE BINS
- AND VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD THEM!!!**

THANK YOU STEVE, BUD, MONA, CLAUDIA, BOB AND RICHARD for volunteering and building cat shelters. They are at various locations throughout the County keeping cats warm and dry!

IN MEMORIUM

Community Cats TNR remembers those who loved and cared for cats, and thanks family and friends for contributions in 2022 honoring their memory:

Wayne Bailey	Billie Kelley
Lucy & Sparky	Bill Gainn
Rita Yeck	Darlene Warden
Bill Sielski	Jasper, Dandelion &
Douglas Weinert	Elizabeth

Did you know that . . .

The average cat can sprint up to 20 miles an hour.

Cats can shimmy through tight spaces because their collarbone is free-floating.

Cats can jump to five or six times their own height due to super strong back legs.

Cats' ears can swivel up to 180 degrees because they have 32 muscles in each ear.

Cats have better peripheral vision than humans.

Cats can "see" in the dark with their whiskers.

Cats fall to the ground like parachutes because they glide and their spines are more flexible than the human spine.

ANIMAL GROUPS COLLABORATE TO SAVE HOMELESS CATS

Tony (cat # 1,300) is one of nineteen cats and kittens, mostly Siamese and Siamese mix saved from a desperate future following the death of their caregiver. She had socialized and cared for these cats that now were facing a winter outdoors with no food, water or shelter and an abundance of predators.

Community Cats TNR led the effort to capture the cats and get them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Lakeshore Animal Friends and Mason County Paws Humane Society partnered to get the cats into foster care and find permanent homes for them.

Although these rescued cats are not feral, they had become homeless and in need of adoption to new homes. Community Cats TNR, Mason County Paws Humane Society and Lakeshore Animal Friends frequently collaborate in the many situations where friendly kittens and/or cats are taken by the two rescue groups to foster and adopt, and remaining outdoor "feral" cats are trapped, neutered, and returned to the caregiver for continued care.

As we go to print, all but five of these cats have been adopted. Check their Facebook pages for information on these and many other cats available for adoption.

CONTACT US AND THEM

Community Cats TNR, PO Box 384, Ludington, MI 49431
www.communitycatstnr.org
Facebook.com/communitycatstnr
(231) 845-7888 or (231) 843-4641 or (231) 843-9312

Mason County Animal Control, 305 N. Meyers Rd, Ludington, MI 49431
Enter masoncountyanimalcontrol on url line then click on facebook
231-843-8644
(pets listed on Petfinder.org)

Lakeshore Animal Friends, PO Box 503, Ludington, MI 49431
Facebook.com/LAFfriends
www.lakeshoreanimalfriends.com
231-794-7328
(pets listed on Petfinder.org)

Mason County Paws Humane Society, PO Box 132, Scottville, MI 49454
www.masoncountypaws.org
Email: paws@masoncountypaws.org
Facebook.com/masoncountypaws
231-757-9219
(pets listed on Petfinder.org)

Mason County Mutts
Facebook.com/Masoncountymutts
231-794-2757
(pets listed on Petfinder.org)

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.



Notice any cats around with ears that look a little different? Ear tipping identifies cats that have been TNRd and vaccinated.

Thank You to . . .

An anonymous foundation that awarded a grant again in 2022 to assist with the cost of spay and neuter.

To the Thompson Family Foundation for a very generous financial donation.

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 Dan and Laura, Steve and Patti, Claudia, Vicki, Traci and caregivers for patiently and humanely trapping and transporting cats.

To all who made direct and memorial monetary donations, donations of cat food at Shop N Save/Family Fare, donations of building materials and straw for shelters, donations of a huge variety of items for the annual yard sale, and especially all those caregivers who continue to feed, water and shelter homeless cats.

Special thanks to Claudia, Sharon, Jyl, Joanne and Ruth Ann for feeding some special TNR cats that have no dedicated caregiver.

Oh, no, I think she is pregnant!

A cat pregnancy lasts about 9 weeks. The average litter size is four-five and there's roughly an hour between the birth of each kitten. A female can easily go into heat at about five months of age, and is capable of having four litters per year. In this area, we find that two litters a year is typical, usually in April/May and August/September. Kittens are weaned at about six weeks of age but will continue to nurse as long as momma allows.

For a great publication with pictures to help determine the age of a kitten, visit the Community Cats TNR website and find "Kitten Care" under the FAQ tab. Then click on the link to Alley Cat Allies to Cat Care/Kittens/How to Determine a Kitten's Age.