

TNR Committee

April 27, 2022

Attendees: Members: John Talty (Chair), Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Daley, Doreen Gesslein, Jo Anne Lambusta, Marcus Perry (A-Academy), Scott Smith

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Roll call and Welcome

Eighteen people in attendance including Committee members.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

Marcus Perry reported that all is well with the colonies and had no issues to report.

There are 35 active, registered caregivers and we hope to have more register within the next few months. Colony 53 just signed up with 3 cats. The home owner is a nurse and is not available for trapping. Doreen is helping her trap. Colony 51 is a new caretaker – we did 7 cats for her this month. Out of 7, 3 were pregnant and one was nursing. A nursing mother with kittens!

Kitten season started and we're getting lots of calls ton that. Rescues are getting bombarded right now.

Doreen also reported that people are taking feral cats to East Coast (members of Brick TNR are not part of the problem). This is not part of our contract with East Coast. If someone needs to bring a cat to East Coast to be euthanized, they need to call ahead to make sure they can accommodate them. If not, red Bank Emergency Vet (open 24/7) or People for Animals in Robbinsville both do compassionate euthanasia at a minimal fee.

Our message is: If you join you have to fix. We can't help people who feed only without fixing.

Sponsor Update

Some people just want to ground feed and we don't want to see donated funds or taxpayer money used to help people who are not colony caregivers. They're responsible people providing care, but if we help them there won't be money for the caregivers that follow the TNR program. We don't want to run out of money. We can consider sending our people on the mailing list asking for donations to get money back into the rider account.

If people are in a position to spay and neuter community cats that they want to take care of, they should help.

Everyone should be asked if they can contribute and accept whatever amount they can afford.

Sponsorship Flyer

Ed has created a beautiful flyer. It will be posted on the web site and unveiled at the Green Fair. Sponsorships and donations are a way to help us sustain the program. The flyer encourages sponsorships for all of the activities we do for the feral cat colony community.

Veterinarian Update

The veterinarian is East Coast in Toms River, a spay and neuter specific facility. They provide specific services including rabies and distemper vaccine, ear chip and microchip which Brick TNR provides. If you haven't seen the facility, it's people who know what they're doing and move efficiently through the day. The Committee anguished over getting a vet, most don't want to spay or neuter feral cats and it can be cost prohibitive if doing them in high volumes. This is their specialty and they do it very well. We are happy to have them as close by as Toms River to help facilitate this program. East Coast is one of the few walk-in clinics in Ocean County. Most places you have to make an appointment which is almost impossible with TNR.

Issues or complaints

People are grabbing kittens and not going after the moms - that's a big no-no. If you need traps or help trapping, call and ask for help. Two people here helped trap seven cats in the past month. As soon as the mom brings those kittens in we have to place them in a home or they become TNR'd. Top of the priority list to trap them.

Pyometra is an infection in the uterus on female cats. Two cases were confirmed at East Coast this month. The cat appears to be pregnant, but when they go to provide service realize it's not that, it's an illness. Spayed females don't get this ailment.

Upcoming events

The Green Fair is on May 21 and we will have a table for TNR. This is one way for us to share information, accept donations, maybe sell baked goods. The hours are 10 am to 2 pm and it will be held at Havens Farm on Herbertsville Road. We'll have sponsorship material and educational information. We'll offer baked goods and accept donations/sponsorships. Looking for volunteers to help staff the TNR table. The more the merrier.

Next meeting

Wednesday, May 18 (just before the Green Fair) at 5:30 pm.

Doreen made a flyer with emergency vet resources that we will post on the TNR web site.

Public comments

A question was asked on the number of new cat colonies – 3 new colonies since the last meeting, with 7 cats from one location. One backyard at a time.

That being said, the more people that know the better.

Doreen presented our banner that she had made. “To love a feral is to love without condition,.” It says.

A member of the public asked about a volunteer list – John advised to call the hotline and indicate what services you want to offer. One member offered to hand out flyers. John also said we’re taking volunteers to work at the Green Fair table.