

TNR Committee

June 22, 2022

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

Excused: Scott Smith

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Roll call and Welcome

17 people in attendance including Committee members.

Colony Caregiver Discussion

There are 41 registered colonies to date and paperwork has been sent to a new colony caregiver. A new colony came in since the last meeting. Doreen did a home visit and confirmed the caregiver's status and accounting of the cats under her care. A neighbor helped trap a cat at one of our colonies (#41) and colony #2 had one cat for East Coast. We have two new caretakers since the last meeting - and two more cats have received care since the last meeting both from registered caretakers. Marcus Perry reported that all is well with the colonies and had no issues to report.

Sponsor Update

No updates from Marcus; everything is going well. No news is good news. One complaint came in via email and Marcus resolved it. Marcus reported that he receives approximately 20 calls a month about cats. Perry mentioned there have been rabies reported in other towns in Ocean County. People need to know what to look for and be diligent, he said.

Sponsorship Flyer

The flyer was available at the Green Fair and is available on the TNR web page.

Veterinarian Update

Nine cats have received services from the TNR program since we first worked out the details with East Coast Veterinary Clinic in April. The TNR veterinarian contract started in March and so far, 9 cats have been neutered.

East Coast is a spay and neuter specific facility. They provide specific services including rabies vaccine and ear chip with chips we provide. 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.

The chips are registered to Brick TNR. A question was asked if the colony caregiver can be listed as a primary point of contact. The chips cannot be modified to adjust the primary contact, but a second name can be added. East Coast is working very well. John asked Joanne to total the number of cats in the spreadsheet and send to the Committee.

Issues or complaints

John said the TNR hotline is receiving calls from outside of Brick, mostly from residents of other towns asking about how to start a TNR program in their community. People also need resources and are calling us for help.

A neighbor of a Colony cat called to complain about the cats being on their property. Marcus responded and providing safe deterrent tips.

Fund-Raising/ Upcoming events

The Green Fair was held on May 2. The TNR Committee manned a table and collected \$80 in donations. The Committee had sponsorship material and educational information available for the public. Our volunteers passed out 200 TNR contact business cards. It was beneficial to talk to people sharing conversation and ideas. Lisa (volunteer) came with igloos to show people what you can do with delivery crates. It was a very nice event – there was a lot of interest in our table. John gave a big thank you to the bakers. There were 40-50 other tables. At the event; it was very well attended.

Next meeting

Wednesday, July 27 at 5:30 pm.

Public comments

A question was asked about the Rabies Clinic – John said there is one every January at Drum Point Sports Complex. CM Albanese said there are also clinics at Jackson every other Wednesday sponsored by the Ocean County Health Department. The OCHD web site lists local rabies clinics in municipalities throughout Ocean County. If you have an existing rabies certificate it's good for three years; if not, one year.

Volunteers are also handing out flyers. Doreen said there are public bulletin boards at Stop N Shop, the Post Office and the Brick branch of the Ocean County Library for our flyers. One volunteer will head over to those locations.

Doreen is putting together shelters for the winter; she encouraged people to share that with their networks so that anyone in need of a shelter can call her now before the cold weather comes.

If anyone is aware of people with colonies where every cat is not spayed and neutered please let us know because that's unacceptable. Colonies should shrink not grow, John said.

The price of cat food has gone up astronomically, even that's a benefit to the program's goal of reducing the number of feral cats by spaying and neutering.

Volunteers delivered flyers around a feeder's house. The feeder is not answering the door. John asked the volunteers to provide us with the information and we'll send Marcus over in an official capacity.

A volunteer asked a question about a problem in Keyport. She was referred to Monmouth County SPCA. People are afraid to complain because they think the cats will be put down, she said. The mission is to locate them, bring people together and assist with the costs to spay, neuter and ear chip.

One volunteer asked what happens when a cat goes to East Coast and it's sick. Shelters should have more detailed care, East Coast is a spay and neuter clinic and doesn't provide general medical care. Volunteers were told to call Doreen if they have a sick cat and she can assist. Not all vets will take feral cats. John explained that when the town gave TNR seed money to get the program started we put out a RFP for vets. No one responded. No vets want to do this program, so we're very fortunate to have East Coast. Helping sick cats is up to the caretaker. We don't want to deplete our funds for one sick cat we're focused on the mission to spay and neuter, John said.

A volunteer asked if the Township has a quota for success. The Township provided financial support and request an annual report of activity, which John submitted. The Township is supportive.

John asked Joanne Bergin to bring an accounting of the TNR rider to the next meeting. Doreen said we should look into buying traps and need about a half dozen.

Volunteers talked about getting ID cards for caretakers. John will talk to some people about this idea.

We need to solicit for more volunteers to help trap. Doreen offered to have a training class but no one took her up on it, but we can schedule it when there's interest.

John reported that the Committee is working on a Frequently Asked Questions list to go on our web site. If there are any questions that you repeatedly answer bring them to the meeting, email them in, whatever works best for you. Doreen is working on it.

Every meeting, we need to discuss flyer update in terms of marketing. Sheryl and Lisa to co-chair the flyer distribution committee. We will update the flyer to include the web site address.