

TNR Committee

February 1, 2023

Attendees: Members: Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Daley, Doreen Gesslein, Marcus Perry (A-Academy), Scott Smith

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

Excused: John Talty, Jo Anne Lambusta

Roll Call and Welcome

14 people in attendance including Committee members.

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

New colony caregivers signed up: Melissa and Terry who live off Adamston Road.

Doreen reported that since the last meeting we have 3 new caretakers that signed on to the program. TNR Committee members and volunteers have trapped 16 cats since September. Additionally, since April, 27 cats have been spayed or neutered and 21 kittens were placed into rescues, were fostered or adopted. It's important to note that these feral cats were socialized and now have a home.

2023 Renewal Mailing

The Chairman's letter requesting the colonies provide updated information on their colony for the new year has gone out, with 8 responses received to date.

Sponsor Update

Marcus reported that everything is fine with our sponsors. We might be getting a new colony in the development on 88 by the WaWa. Volunteers are helping trap. January and February are very quiet months.

Veterinarian Update – ear tips and TNR activities

East Coast Vet is still doing ear tips, microchips and vaccinations. All ferals are getting fixed, vaccinated, ear chips, and microchips.

Total 2022: 63 cats trapped and fixed throughout our program not including 21 kittens that went into rescues.

Issues or complaints

Officer Scott Smith provided the following update. The Police Department is taking the role of humane police officers and moving it under the Detective Bureau. They will be much more consistent with enforcing the Township code, specifically the stipulation on the number of pets someone can have - no more than four. Unlicensed kennel complaints are referred to the Ocean County Board of Health. There was a recent complaint about a licensed kennel that is not a shelter or a rescue – this is a resident on Gloucester. She wasn't even registered as a colony. She compliant now.

Toms River TNR update

John and Joanne met with Maria Maruca, the Human Services Director in Toms River, and Dave Matthews, the new ACO in charge of the Toms River Animal Shelter. Toms River is considering starting a TNR Program. John shared the ordinance establishing the Committee and how well it has worked for Brick. He shared the process for registering as a colony, the services provided to colony caregivers by the Township Program, and the success in reducing the number of feral cats in our colonies. An active committee is key, he said, and should include a diverse mix of backgrounds. They liked the Committee's investment in attending community events and said the Shelter does that as well at Toms River events including Night Our Against Crime.

New cat traps

Last meeting, we voted on spending some money to purchase traps. Joanne was asked to confirm with the CO in regards to the number of traps ordered. Joanne was also asked if we could get inventory tags from John Lolla (Township buildings & grounds).

Doreen has an agreement template to share with the Committee to use when lending out traps. That agreement also requires a security deposit.

TNR Hotline calls/emails

A resident on Bay Laurel Avenue called to say she saw a cat in a trap and wanted to know if it was part of our Program. She recognized the cat and let it go. She was advised that leaving a cat unattended in a trap is not allowed and to contact the Police Department or Animal Control if the trap is used again.

Update on TNR Rider account balance

The account balance in the TNR rider as of today is \$9,502.65.

2023Events

Green Fair May 20, 2023

Night Out Against Crime August 1, 2023

Scott suggested a table near the field where the demonstrations are held.

Next meeting date is March 15 public meeting at 5:30

Public comment:

One attendee asked if there was food donations or low-cost food available for colony caregivers. Scott explained that this Committee does not offer those services as we lack the capability to store food. He and Doreen provided resources on places that offer low-cost food.

A member reported Animal Welfare Association offers \$20 spay and ear chips. They have 13 vets associated with them. It's down in South Jersey. One member shared her research on other organizations.

A new member said she has 4 cats and wants to know where to bring them. She was advised to use East Coast Vet in Toms River. Doreen explained that East Coast Vet only does TNR on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays as a walk-in; they keep them overnight and should be picked up the next morning. It's good to hold the cat for 2 days inside if it's a female, she advised. Males can be released, but you have to be more careful with the girls.

Anyone interested in trapping a feral cat can reach out to Doreen and others on the committee if there are reservations. Get some assistance from volunteers, she said.

Susan had a colony of 6, she's now down to 1 and she feels bad because the cat is on his own. She has a large shelter and she's offering that to someone who needs one. In 2016, her cat got his rabies and distemper. She wondered what should she do - should he be re-trapped or vaccinated. Doreen said it's almost impossible to re-trap a feral cat. So, the shots are one and done. Catherine has had cats for 20 years and never re-vaccinated one. 3 years is just a recommendation.

Another member reported that Brick TNR got a shout out in the APP for our program in a story about Freehold's new ordinance.