

TOWNSHIP OF BRICK

OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE ROAD, BRICK, N.J. 08723

Lisa Crate, Mayor

TNR Committee

Township Council:

Heather deJong - President
Andrea Zapcic - Vice President
Perry Albanese
Derrick T. Ambrosino
Vince Minichino
Marianna Pontoriero
Melissa Travers

John Talty, Chair
732-262-1079
jtalty@twp.brick.nj.us
www.twp.brick.nj.us

To: Mayor Lisa Crate
Council Members

From: John Talty, TNR Chair

Re: TNR Annual Report

Date: July 5, 2023

The Brick Township TNR Program has made a lot of progress since reconvening in January 2021. Much thanks to the Mayor and Township Council for your support getting this Committee re-established and thanks to the municipal staff that provide support and guidance.

In accordance with Township Code 98-57 *Management of Feral Cats*, the TNR Committee is providing this status report.

There are 7 active committee members including myself as Chair. They are: Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Dailey, Doreen Gesslein, JoAnne Lambusta, Jessica Christiana (Animal Control Officer from A-Academy), and Police Officer Scott Smith. Joanne Bergin serves as the Committee Secretary.

The Committee met monthly (with rare exception) in 2021, 2022 and into 2023. Working with municipal staff, we developed a TNR Link on the Township's web page under Boards and Committees. Here, we posted meeting agendas, minutes and notices of upcoming events and activities. We also have developed several fact sheets on important topics.

As a Committee, we worked hard in our first year to connect with Colony Caregivers and include them at the table as we discussed this program's strengths, weaknesses and priorities. Earlier this year, we conducted significant outreach to secure Caretaker Agreements, Liability Waivers, and Colony Caretaker Status Reports. This helps us formalize the program, identify ways we can provide assistance, and also dialogue with people who may be caring for cats outside of this program

At this time, there are 56 colonies registered as participants in the Brick TNR Program, with a total of 310 cats. The number of cats that went through the Brick RNR Program and were spayed/neutered/microchipped is 93. The number of colonies has grown since our last report – not because the feral cat community is growing, but rather, because colony caregivers are getting more comfortable with this program and trust that its intent is to care for feral cats, while providing support

for their caregivers. Those efforts should naturally lead to a reduction in the Township's feral cat community.

The Committee's goal for 2023 was to secure a veterinarian to provide services so that feral cats can be trapped, neutered and then returned to the colony caregivers who will provide ongoing care. The Committee also established a goal to ear tip each feral cat, provide a rabies vaccine and get an identification chip. Those goals were accomplished and we now have an ongoing relationship with East Coast Veterinary Clinic to take care of cats trapped under this program. It is important to note, that ONLY approved colony caregivers are eligible for TNR-funded veterinary services. To be an approved colony, the caregivers provide consent to the "colony caregivers rules" as outlined in the ordinance establishing this committee. Home visits occur and confirmation of the caregiver's environment for the cats is secured.

The Committee also was able to purchase cat traps to help efforts to trap feral cats for the purpose of providing veterinary care.

When the Township first asked us to reconvene and get this important program back up and running, we did so with a \$10,000 line item in the municipal budget (TNR Rider Account). In this, our third year, we have not asked for a replenishment of the funds; instead, we have worked hard to fund raise to help offset our expenses. Our current balance in the TNR Rider is \$6,546.73 – after buying traps, ear chips and providing veterinary care to 89 cats.

Another goal last year was to be more visible with the public and to conduct fund-raising that will help us provide more direct support to colony caregivers. To that end, we have done very well. We developed sponsor opportunities to use when requesting donations. For example, a \$50 donation might provide for a cat to be neutered and ear tipped, a \$25 donation might provide for food and \$75 might provide for a shelter to protect feral cats in inclement weather. The Committee has done community outreach, hosting a table at the Township's annual Green Fair, Blessing of the Pets at St. Paul's Church, Hollywoof at the BlueClaws stadium, and will be hosting a table at National Night Out Against Crime. The Committee held successful fund-raising efforts selling 50/50 raffle tickets at Summerfest and Fall Fest.

Our Committee is getting a lot of recognition locally, with other municipalities interested in starting TNR Programs. We met with Toms River to give them an overview of how we established this Committee and the work we do and have received calls from other municipalities for input and advice.

In 2023, we hope to provide support for our colony caregivers by hosting a cat donation drive at Town Hall. Once we secure the bins, we will be asked for time on the donation rotation for Town Hall. Our colony caregivers have asked for assistance with supplies, and we want to support them as much as possible.



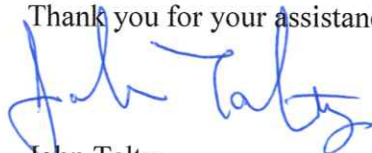
www.facebook.com/BrickTwpNJGovernment



@TownshipofBrick

Again, we thank the Mayor & Council for your ongoing support and remain committed to the Township's feral cat community caregivers. We meet monthly on Wednesday evenings at Town Hall – the meetings are posted on <https://www.bricktownship.net/boards-commissions/trap-neuter-release-tnr-committee/>. Please feel free to come by and share in the hard work being done for our feral cat community and their caregivers.

Thank you for your assistance,



John Talty
TNR Chairman



www.facebook.com/BrickTwpNJGovernment



@TownshipofBrick