

## **TNR Committee**

**August 30, 2023**

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

Scribe: Joanne Bergin

### Confirm quorum and welcome

### Colony Caregiver Update and discussion

Doreen provided an update. Twenty-one adult cats have been TNR'd since July, and 13 kittens and 1 adult cat went to a rescue organization for home placement. The Program has three new colony caregivers. Three colonies are done, meaning their colony has expired, and there were no new cats – that's exactly what the program is intended to do.

Currently, there are 58 caretakers with 316 registered cats.

Chairman Talty asked how this compared to last year. Doreen reported that in 2022 the program TNR'd 63 cats. To date for 2023, the Program 54 TNR'd 54 cats. In total, the program has TNR'd 117 cats since the group started.

The TNR program has 4 cat traps we purchased to help trap cats. Colony caregivers with feral cats in need of spay or neuter and rabies vaccine are provided with a trap and given assistance trapping if needed. The colony caregiver is responsible to take the cat to the vet used by the TNR program.

### Status of 2023 follow-up mailing for additional information on colonies

A mailing went out to all colony caregivers asking them to specifically list the number of cats in their colonies, the sex of those cats, clarification if they are fixed and clarification if they are chipped. The responses have been coming in with more handed in tonight. The data will be compiled on the TNR colony list and shared at next month's meeting. Also, Doreen will continue to directly contact any colony caregiver that did not reply.

### Sponsor update - Doreen Gesslein

Doreen has no issues to report. The colony caregivers are doing very well and the new ones coming in are getting the support they need to ensure the feral cats in their care are TNR'd.

Chairman Talty introduced Zack Prawdzinski, the Township's Animal Control officer. Zack has taken over in Brick after A-Academy experienced some staffing changes. Zack said that he loves animals and has been very busy lately and is looking forward to working with the Committee.

#### Veterinarian Update

East Coast Spay Clinic continues to do a great job providing care for feral cats in our Program and throughout Ocean County. Doreen has a great working relationship with the vet and staff and they charge us a reasonable, discounted rate.

#### Annual Report

The TNR annual report was completed and submitted to the Township Council as required by ordinance. A copy of the report was emailed to the Committee. Chairman Talty requested that the report also be posted on the TNR web page.

#### Issues or complaints

Zack reported he has been working on a complaint on North Lake Shore Drive. The resident there has 4 cats that are ear tipped and brought in two more fosters. There are another six cats that frequent the area. A neighbor is complaining that the cats are out of control. Zack asked the resident if she wanted help trapping the new ones to take to a shelter for fostering. The resident has not responded. Doreen and Zack will both follow up.

Mayor Crate received a complaint from a neighbor on East End. There are two houses that are feeding feral cats, but are not part of an approved colony. The complainant said that the house is abandoned and was foreclosed. The resident who used to live there goes back each day to feed the cats. Zack and Doreen are following up.

Doreen also received a complaint about feral cats on Barra Street. This issue is improving thanks to assistance provided by committee volunteers.

Chairman Talty said, on behalf of the Committee and all colony caregivers, thanks to all of the colony caregivers for all that they do to help keep feral cats cared for and safe.

#### TNR Hotline calls/emails

Chairman Talty reported that he spoke with the Mayor of Bay Head, who is interested in learning more about our TNR Program. Chairman Talty provided all the information the Mayor needs to get a program up and running in Bay Head. The Chairman encouraged Mayor Curtis to have a follow-up meeting with the "subject experts" involved in TNR. The most important aspect is the need to have a group of volunteers committed to the cause who are willing to put the time in on this initiative.

### Update on TNR Rider Account Balance

Chairman Talty reported that there is \$10,250.76 balance in the TNR Rider including \$5,000 from Summerfest 50/50 raffle proceeds.

Chairman Talty explained that the Committee is very focused on what our money is spent on. For example, the Committee has purchased cat traps, microchips, veterinarian costs to spay and neuter and the vaccinations. We only spend money on activities that are specific to our name: Trap, Neuter and Release. We're spending money on the things that matter: spaying and neutering. We use the money to achieve the organization's goals, he said. The cat traps were a great investment. We have 4 Brick TNR traps that get lent out for no more than one week.

### 2023 Events:

#### *Blessing of the Animals October 21*

TNR had a table last year to help spread the word about the Committee and what good work it does. The event is held at St. Paul's Church. John asked for any volunteers interested in helping to let us know before the next meeting.

### Donation Bins

September is the month assigned to Brick TNR for donations at Town Hall. Flyers will be posted on the collection bins listing the items needed.

### *Public*

A relatively new colony caregiver asked for help getting her cats to East Coast. She can trap but can't transport to Toms River because of her work schedule. Volunteers from the public offered to help. She has a total of 11 cats.

### Next meeting Date:

Wednesday, October 11 at 5:30 pm