



► WE MUST STERILIZE STREET CATS TO ENSURE THAT SHELTER CATS GET ADOPTED 1



► CARETAKERS PREPARE FOR WINTER COLONY MANAGEMENT 3



► ILLINOIS ADOPTS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SPAY/NEUTER LEGISLATION REGARDING FERAL CATS IN THE NATION 5

○ FALL 2005

○ SPAY AND STAY

○ Lake County, Illinois

Feral cat *focus*

WE WILL KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE HOMELESS CATS.

The No-Kill sheltering model can only be achieved when shelters and animal control agencies stop accepting feral cats to be destroyed as unadoptable, and implement TNR as the accepted method of feral cat control. -Declaration of the No Kill Movement of the United States

TNR insures success of no-kill shelter model


The debate continues on the pros and cons of the Trap-Neuter-Return model as a means of feral cat population control. Those in the field—the caretakers who manage the feral colonies—can see first-hand that the model works. The birth rate of spring, summer, and fall litters has greatly diminished or stopped completely in their managed colonies.

Stopping the birth rate of unwanted kittens on the streets of our communities has a direct impact on the adoption efforts at our local shelters. As long as kittens keep streaming into our local shelters and animal control agencies, the current feline residents, some of which may have lived

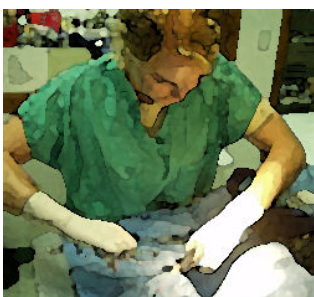
there for years, are not getting adopted, or may be killed to make room for incoming litters.

There is a growing shelter model which promotes a no-kill philosophy. No adoptable cat or dog is to be euthanized to make room for incoming animals. To insure that this model succeeds, the flow of cats and kittens from the streets of our communities must be stopped. One local shelter recently said that they get approximately 60% of their kittens from feral colonies. Trapping and killing feral cats as a means of population control has not worked. Trap-neuter-return is an innovative, successful and humane




method for stopping the birth of kittens on the streets. 

To learn more about the Declaration of the No Kill Movement visit www.nokilldeclaration.org.



LET THE NUMBERS TALK

To date, Spay and Stay has sterilized 1,363 feral, stray, and barn cats in Lake County. Of these, 729 were female and 634 were male. If we do a conservative estimate at the number of kittens that would have been born to these females in one season, we realize that approximately 5,832 kittens were not born on the streets this year alone. That number does not account for any secondary litters that would have been born to the offspring of these 729 females, who could have started breeding as early as six months of age. TNR has an immediate impact on the number of cats on the streets. 



► SEND US YOUR STORIES

WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES WITH OUR READERS. TELL US ABOUT YOUR COLONY. HOW HAS STERILIZATION IMPACTED YOUR COLONY? HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY OF YOUR CATS ADOPTED AFTER BEING STERILIZED AND RETURNED TO YOUR COLONY? E-MAIL YOUR STORY AND PHOTOS TO: INFO@SPAYANDSTAY.ORG.

○ FALL 2005

○ SPAY AND STAY

○ Page 2

President's Corner



Dr. Lauren Risley, Spay and Stay's new President, examines an anesthetized cat prior to surgery at its November spay day. Each cat is checked for injuries or wounds so it can be treated appropriately.

Happy Holidays!!!

The snow flurries are falling as I write this – it's hard to believe that winter has begun. And as it gets colder outside our furry friends need our help. Just a few basics can help them stay strong through cold winter days and nights. They need food, fresh water and shelter. Fortunately there are some lovely people in Lake County that are providing just that.

At our November 13 Spay Day I met a whole bunch of great people and good-looking cats in a rainbow of furry cat colors. There were some tiny balls of fluff that are being socialized and may soon find homes.

And there were big sturdy cats that seem well adjusted to life in the outdoors. The impressive part is that every cat has a name. And every cat looked healthy and well fed. How awesome is it to find such compassion in this day and age. We had:

- 4 wonderful teams of volunteers to get the cats anesthetized, ear-tipped, microchipped, vaccinated, and prepped for surgery
- 4 fabulous vets that made sure all 52 cats were spayed or neutered
- A team that made sure the cats were dewormed, defleaed, and treated for earmites while ensuring recovery was smooth and uneventful
- A dedicated team that cleaned out all the traps and watched over the recuperating cats before giving them back to their caregivers.



Spay and Stay volunteers Wilma Berger and Nancy DeSecki keep a close eye on the cats as they wait for surgery. After the cats have been sterilized and vaccinated, they go to a special recovery room before being returned to their clean traps.

Thank you to everyone. Our goal is to help Lake County manage the overpopulation of cats with compassion and care. If you'd like to help cats in your town or village, we're here to help. There are several ways you can get involved:

1. If you are a caregiver, please make sure your cats are spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Call our office for information on booking surgery.
2. Maybe you have carpentry skills and would be willing to help kids make a MeowHouse (see page 3 for details) – we'll help find kitties that need shelter.
3. You could donate \$50 and we'll put your name on a MeowHouse (see page 4 for details)!
4. Send in \$25 to sponsor a cat to be spayed or neutered, ear-tipped, receive rabies and distemper vaccinations, get treated for parasites, and get antibiotics.
5. Participate in our Kids for Cats program (see page 6).



Dr. Deni Ianakov (left) from Green Tree Animal Hospital in Libertyville, and Dr. Robina Walker (right) from the Chicago Cat Clinic regularly help at Spay and Stay's high-volume clinics. They are shown here spaying two female cats.

Please don't wait – the kitties need you now.

Have a warm, happy & peaceful holiday season! 🐾



Lauren Risley, DVM

Dr. Risley brings special leadership skills and veterinary background to Spay and Stay. She is Senior Veterinarian at Abbott Animal Health in Gurnee. We are thrilled to have her on our team.

You can make sure the work continues

Talk with your attorney about including Spay and Stay in your will by making a charitable bequest. Your love of cats will help ensure that the work of humanely controlling the population of feral and stray cats in Lake County will continue. We can't stop until we know no more unwanted litters of kittens are being born on the streets.





▶ REGISTERED CARETAKERS DONATE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO INSURE THAT THE CATS THAT MUST REMAIN IN THEIR OUTDOOR HOMES HAVE THE BEST OF CARE BY SUPPLYING FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER ALL YEAR LONG.

○ FALL 2005

○ SPAY AND STAY


○ Page 3

Spay and Stay hosts first Feral Fur Bowl

Stay tuned for Spay and Stay's next spectacular fundraising event, Feral Fur Bowl, to take place in Spring 2006. This wonderful day will provide businesses, corporations, individuals, families, and students with a fun-filled day of unlimited bowling while making a difference in the lives of feral cats and the

communities they live in. We are currently seeking corporate or individual Lane Sponsors.



Find out more about this wonderful opportunity to help us stop "littering" by contacting Spay and Stay's Director of Development at 847-289-4557. 

REMEMBER TO WINTERIZE

With the cold weather fast approaching, all colony managers need to focus on preparing the cats for winter. Even though predictions for our area seem to be saying our winter will be of average snowfall and slightly below average temperatures, we all know how fickle Mother Nature can be in the Midwest.

Like other wildlife in our area, feral cats grow incredibly thick coats to help protect them from the cold. However, no matter how thick, if their coat gets wet, it is easy for the cat to lose body heat. To prevent this, it is important to make sure all colony members have access to a shelter which is both wind and water proof. The shelter is also a place where colony members can share a space and help keep each other warm. Spay and Stay has directions for easy-to-make winter shelters on its website:


www.spayandstay.org. Alley Cat Allies also links to directions for a great sturdy and insulated shelter shown here: www.alleycat.org.



We are building winter shelters for caretakers who need them. See MEOW-HOUSE sponsorship on page 3, and KIDS FOR CATS story on page 4.

It is also very important to make sure the cats have access to plenty of good food and water. In the winter months, this means a dry kibble rather than canned food, which can freeze. If the cats are waiting for food, you can feed canned food since it will be eaten quickly. To protect the food from the elements, place it in a covered shelter like a Styrofoam box with one side cut out.

Since dry food is the food of choice in the winter months, it is essential to provide access to water. If you feed your colony at a regular time, make sure you put out plenty of water just before the cats arrive so it won't freeze. Unless you have a heater for your water dish, you won't be able to leave the water out overnight. Remember, hot water freezes faster than cold water because it evaporates faster. So, start out with cold water. Neighborhood Cats has put together a great web page with tips for winter feeding. Check it out at: www.neighborhoodcats.org/info/preventing.htm

It's especially important to keep a close eye on colony members during the winter months to make sure you notice injuries or illness. If a cat becomes injured or ill, make sure it gets proper veterinary care so it is strong enough to withstand the additional stresses of the winter months. 

HELP US STOP THE LITTERING

With your support, Spay and Stay can reduce the overpopulation of cats in Lake County through sterilization and humane management of feral and stray cats. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of thousands of cats.



PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ |

REMEMBER FERAL AND STRAY CATS IN YOUR WILL:

- ☐ I am interested in receiving information about including Spay and Stay in my estate planning.

Spay and Stay is a 501c3 organization and your contributions are fully tax deductible. For more information contact us at 847-289-4557.

Here's my information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
E-Mail address _____

*Please make your check out to **Spay and Stay** and send to:
P.O. Box 484, Gurnee, Illinois 60031.*



► Support Spay and Stay

There are many ways to give.

Become a MEOWHOUSE sponsor

For a donation of \$50 or more, you can sponsor a winter **MEOWHOUSE**, Spay and Stay's wooden shelter for feral cats. A nameplate will be engraved

with your name and affixed to the winter shelters that are being made available to feral cat colony caretakers throughout the county (*see stories on pages 3 and 6*). Just complete this form and send it in to become a **MEOWHOUSE** sponsor.



I'd like to sponsor a feral cat MEOWHOUSE
PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Engrave this name: _____

Please make checks payable to Spay and Stay.



► Need a unique gift? Want to honor a friend or special pet? Consider having their name engraved on the **MEOWHOUSE** nameplate. We will send you a special acknowledgement of your gift to give to your friend.

Donations are deductible under section 501(c)3 of the IRS code.

Ensure the future

We would be honored to work with you and your financial advisor to explore ways to include Spay and Stay's feral cats in your charitable giving plans.

Outright Gifts

Use the form on Page 3 to make a direct donation to Spay and Stay.

Bequests

Ask your attorney to include a charitable bequest to Spay and Stay in your will.

Retirement Plan Beneficiary

You can ensure the continued success of TNR by naming Spay and Stay as a beneficiary of your retirement plan(s).

Please contact Spay and Stay's Director of Development at 847-289-4557 if you have any questions regarding planned giving.

► Join the CAT-A-MONTH Club

As a **Cat-A-Month Club** member, your gift of love and support will help sterilize a feral cat each month of the year. Through your kindness, one cat per month will learn what it's like to live a peaceful life, free from constant breeding.

You can send one check for \$300, or \$25 per month to support the spay or neuter of one feral or stray cat each month. Just complete this form and send it in with your life supporting donation.

I'd like to help more cats live better lives by becoming a CAT-A-MONTH Club Member

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT:

- ☐ Here's my full year's support of \$300.
- ☐ I'd prefer to help monthly. Here's \$25 for the first month.

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to Spay and Stay.

Please send a copy of this newsletter to my cat loving friend

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

F2005

Mail this form to:

SPAY AND STAY

P.O. Box 484

Gurnee, IL 60031



► NEW PROGRAMS AND INNOVATIVE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCES ARE HELPING FERAL CAT CARETAKERS AND HUMANE ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESS THE OVERPOPULATION OF FERAL CATS.

○ FALL 2005

○ SPAY AND STAY

○ Page 5

Illinois becomes first state to help fund sterilization of feral cats

Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed HB-315 into law on August 22, 2005, in an effort to control the cat and dog population in Illinois. Ledy

Van Kavage of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the law is “the most progressive spay/neuter legislation regarding feral cats in the nation.”

The Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act, also known as


Anna’s Bill, could generate as much as \$2.5 million for spaying, neutering, and vaccinating cats and dogs belonging to low-income residents in the state.

In addition to its impact on the sterilization of pet cats and dogs, the new law recognizes that feral cats are a population that also needs to be spayed/neutered. The new law supports the sterilization of feral cats through financial assistance. It also states that feral cat caretakers are not considered “owners” of the feral cats they are managing, which ensures that they will not be charged with abandonment when they return the cats to their colonies after sterilization.

County and municipal governments, which may have been reluctant to adopt TNR because of li-

ability concerns, can now rest easy with HB-315 in place. The new law protects government entities which adopt TNR by saying, “Any municipality or political subdivision allowing feral cat colonies and trap, sterilize, and return programs to help control cat overpopulation shall be immune from criminal liability and shall not be civilly liable, except for willful and wanton misconduct, for damages that may result from a feral cat.”

This bill goes a long way to help legitimize TNR as an effective and humane method for feral cat population control.

You can view a complete copy of the ordinance on the Illinois General Assembly’s website at: www.ilga.gov/legislation 

HSUS develops resources to help feral cats

In a shift from its previous stand on feral cats, the Humane Society of the United States is developing new programs to help communities manage feral cat colonies. It is collaborating with Neighborhood Cats, a New York City based TNR organization, to issue a new statement supporting Trap-Neuter-Return programs. It is also creating two online courses, one for feral cat caretakers, and one for animal shelters and adoption groups through Humane Society University. Most importantly, it is creating support materials for handling obstacles to feral cats management, which will help organizations like Spay and Stay do its work more effectively.

To read HSUS’s current statement on free-roaming cats, visit their website at: www.hsus.org. 



Dr. David McKenna from the Animal Hospital of West Lake Forest brings his amazing veterinary skills to the cats served by Spay and Stay.

IndyFeral takes lead with updated ordinance and innovative program

More and more communities are addressing feral cat management issues with innovative animal control ordinances. The City of Indianapolis, Indiana, recently approved changes to their county animal control ordinance which officially sanctions Trap-Neuter-Return as their community’s method for humanely controlling the unowned, free-roaming cat population in their area.

The changes were made after


months of collaborative efforts between IndyFeral, Indianapolis Animal Care & Control, and the City of Indianapolis Prosecutor’s Office. IndyFeral is a non-profit humane organization that supports TNR and colony management assistance for unowned and free-roaming stray and feral cats in Central Indiana.

The ordinance not only recognizes TNR, it also emphasizes the importance of responsible management

of unowned, free-roaming cat colonies. Its goals are to reduce the population of free-roaming cats while improving the quality of life for these “cast-off” cats.

IndyFeral also has an innovative program designed to address cat related nuisance issues. The program is called the Good Neighbor Program. Through this program, IndyFeral acts as a mediator in situations where cats have become a source of contention among busi-

nesses or neighbors. IndyFeral does an on-site assessment, and may suggest cat deterrents or colony restructuring, if the deterrents are unsuccessful. In many cases, this saves the lives of the cats, which may otherwise be picked up by animal control and euthanized because they are unadoptable.

You can read a copy of the ordinance and more about the Good Neighbor Program by visiting IndyFeral’s website at www.indyferal.org. 



Outreach program brings kids and cats together

Spay and Stay is launching an exciting new program in conjunction with various children's agencies throughout the county. The program, **Kids for Cats**, is being designed to bring life-altering

opportunities to children in need as they help us help the cats. projects where they can develop skills and build self-esteem. As the program develops, participants will also have the opportunity to be exposed to potential careers in the veterinary medical field by assisting at Spay and Stay's high-volume spay/neuter clinics.

As an introduction to the issues surrounding feral and stray cats, Spay and Stay is inviting organizations to engage its children in a hands-on winter shelter building project.

There are many caretakers throughout the county that are caring for colonies of feral and stray cats. Throughout the year,

these citizens provide food, water, and warm, dry shelter for the cold winter months. Extra thick Styrofoam shelters that will be built through the **Kids for Cats** program will be made available to all caretakers for free. A minimal fee will be charged for insulated wooden shelters.

*If your children's organization is interested in participating in the **Kids for Cats** program, please contact Spay and Stay at 847-289-4557. If you are a carpenter who likes working with kids, we could use your help. We also need donations of building supplies for the shelters. Please call for details.*

The therapeutic benefits of working with animals is well documented.

By helping homeless cats that have been abandoned or lost, children will be involved in pro-



P. O. Box 484
Gurnee, IL 60031

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Spay and neuter your pets.
Keep your cats safe at home.
Do not abandon your pets.

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Sandra Kooper

STAFF

Michelle Frampton
Director of Development
Beth Voss
Program Assistant

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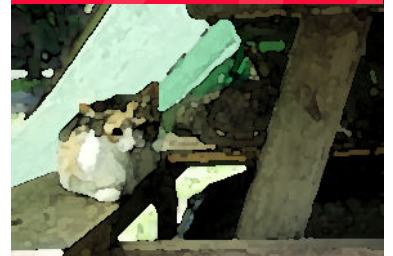
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www.spayandstay.org
847-289-4557

THE HUMANE SOLUTION: Living better without litters



Spay and Stay is a non-profit organization dedicated to working with compassionate individuals and local governments to humanely control the growth of the feral cat population in Lake County, IL.

Through humane education and outreach programs, Spay and Stay works to ensure long-term solutions to the source of feral cats: unaltered, free-roaming and/or abandoned domestic cats.