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○ FALL 2006

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○ Lake County, Illinois

# Feral cat focus

BECAUSE ALLEY CATS, BARN CATS, TOMCATS, & STREET CATS NEED A DIFFERENT KIND OF CARE. —ALLEY CAT ALLIES

## Human and Animal Connections Strengthened in Lake County

Spay and Stay has received a \$10,000 grant from The Chicago Community Trust. The grant will be used to support Spay and Stay's **Kids & Cats** youth outreach program and other community engagement efforts.

Spay and Stay is a not-for-profit organization offering support, services, and community education for humane feral cat population control in Lake County. Utilizing the highly successful method of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), Spay and Stay works in partnership with local veterinarians, municipal governments, and dedicated citizens to actively and humanely reduce the Lake County feral cat population. Through its monthly high-volume spay/neuter clinics, Spay and Stay has sterilized, vaccinated, and microchipped 1620 cats to date.

The Humane Society of the United States has estimated that more than 60 million feral cats exist nationwide. It is further estimated that 15-20 thousand reside in Lake County. Spay and Stay recognizes the serious implications of this problem and strives to address related community public health issues as well as the long-term well-being of these cats.

Through this grant, The Chicago Community Trust is expressing its support of Spay and Stay's humane community work as it underscores the importance of pro-active community outreach to foster a connection between humans and animals. The generous funding from the Trust will

enable Spay and Stay to expand its educational programming geared towards responsible pet ownership, humane treatment of animals, and the importance of spay and neuter practices.

More specifically, Spay and Stay's **Kids and Cats** program has brought exciting hands-on and educational experiences to the children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County as well as the Lake County Juvenile Detention Facility, through a feral cat winter shelter building project launched in November 2005. Through this winter shelter project, the children gained understanding and compassion for this underserved and often neglected animal population while they sharpened their reading and hand coordination skills. With the assistance of The Trust, this amazing program will continue this fall.

Spay and Stay is honored by the Trust's support, and will gratefully use the grant to pursue its mission of connecting humans to animals through its successful TNR and community outreach programs.



### Humane education critical part of mission

With the generous support that Spay and Stay has received from The Chicago Community Trust, our dream of community education is being realized. Spay and Stay is well known for its TNR work, but community outreach programming is equally important to our organization's mission. Our humane sterilization efforts will not solve the enormous problem of feral cat overpopulation unless adults, children and government officials are proactively educated about responsible pet ownership and animal rights.

Chicago Community Trust has opened up a gigantic outreach doorway for Spay and Stay and we are thrilled by the challenge. Share our dream of community education by engaging our staff to come speak at your workplace, schools, religious gatherings, or anywhere that our critical humane messages can be heard. Please call **847-289-4557** to arrange for a Spay and Stay speaker.

*For more than 90 years, The Chicago Community Trust has connected the generosity of donors with the needs of the community by supporting organizations working to improve our community. With assets of \$1.5 billion, the Trust gave its billionth dollar in grants in 2006. Last year, it made more than \$81 million in grants. From strengthening community schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at [www.cct.org](http://www.cct.org).*





## ► 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](mailto:INFO@SPAYANDSTAY.ORG).

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# Views from the E.D.

I was glad to find out recently that the pace at which time seems to be speeding by isn't just a phenomenon of a mellowing baby-boomer. It seems everyone I talk with is feeling the same racing sensation, no matter what their age. Whether this is a by-product of our modern globally oriented and information-packed age or a case of mass amnesia regarding the process of stopping to smell the roses, we could all do with a little slowing down and diversion of our attention. I thought I'd share some ideas on how to help you slow down and divert your attention to the feral and stray cats in our care.

## Get ready for winter

If you are a caretaker of a feral colony, it's time to prepare for the winter, which seems to be at our doorstep. If you have a winter shelter already, fill it with fresh straw and make sure it's free of drafts.

Elevate it off the ground so it stays warmer. If you still need a shelter, we have some of the heavy-duty Styrofoam Meowhouses left. All you'll need to do is let us know that you need one, come pick it up, and give it a couple of coats of outdoor paint before you fill it with straw and offer it to your ferals. If you're handy, we also have instructions on our website for building a snug wooden shelter. Maybe you could make an extra shelter and donate it to Spay and Stay so we could make it available for caretakers who may not be able to get one made.



## Visit new website and stay informed

Maybe you'd like to get updated on feral cat issues and the work of Spay and Stay here in Lake County. Maybe you just want to understand some of the terms connected with TNR. We have a brand new website, chock full of news, ideas, and information on feral cats and the issues and programs surrounding their humane management. Read all about the new site on *page 3* of this newsletter, then give [www.spayandstay.org](http://www.spayandstay.org) a visit and plan to spend some time learning more about how we can all work together to help these homeless cats.

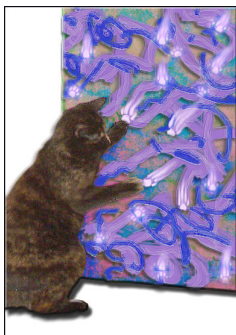


## Chill out with some fine feline artwork

Our annual feline art exhibit and silent auction, **PiCATsso**, is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2006. If you have a budding feline artist, now's the time to support their creative passion. Bring your friends and plan for a fun night of beautiful artwork, wine, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and a jam-packed silent auction all in the beautiful setting of historic Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake. (*See pages 4-5 for more details.*)

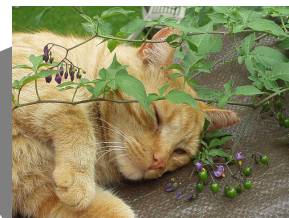
I hope you enjoy this issue of *Feral Cat Focus* and that you can slow down enough to savor our beautiful fall season.

Sandra Kooper, Executive Director 



# Purrs and headbutts

Spay and Stay gets so much help in so many ways from our dedicated volunteers and supporters. We are especially grateful to the following people whose generous financial support helps us serve these special cats:



## MeowHouse Sponsors

Muriel Provenzano with Michele and Stacie Freda and Karen Bush *in memory of Buggy*

## Special Thanks to our Grantors

The Chicago Community Trust

## Purrfect Friends

Paul Adler  
Margie Becker  
Ellen Perry Berkeley  
Cynthia Deen  
Nancy DeSecki  
Michele Frampton  
Serena Fried  
Gretchen Gabriel  
Denise Grogan  
Elaine Hall  
Dorothy Haymes  
Lucy Johnson  
Grace Knox  
Pattie Kolasinski

Sandra Kooper  
Theresa Kraemer  
Jeff and Cindy Kukkola  
Catherine Laas  
Margaret Maczulski  
Nancy Kravicisin McClain  
Roger Muellemann  
April Louise Nemrava  
Eleanor Pocius  
Karen Lee Popiel  
Jayne Sheehan  
Felicia Sobie  
Dr. Laurie Swanson  
Elaine Tighe



## Can you help us make their dreams come true?

Spay and Stay is seeking qualified Board members to join our team. In addition to a passion for humane feral cat management through TNR, we are looking for professionals with experience in the following areas: Finance, Public Relations, Legal Expertise, Government and Community Relations.

If you think you may have what we need, we'd love to explore the possibility further. Contact Sandra Kooper at 847-289-4557 or by email at [skooper@spayandstay.org](mailto:skooper@spayandstay.org)

Spay and Stay's Calico-colored TNR wristband is now available.



Support TNR.  
Keep a calico on your wrist!

Call 847-289-4557 to order: \$2 each.



▶ WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SPAY AND STAY'S SECOND ANNUAL FELINE ART EXHIBIT AND FUNDRAISER, PICATSSO, ON NOVEMBER 3, 2006. SEE PAGES 4-5 FOR MORE DETAILS.

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# Using the web to help more homeless cats

Whether you want to find out how many registered caretakers we have in our program or how to build an inexpensive winter cat shelter, you can find this and much more on Spay and Stay's newly redesigned and information-packed website.

According to the web's designer, Sandra Kooper, Spay and Stay's new site was created, "to be a work-in-process so it stays fresh and alive with constantly updated information as it brings the latest local and national TNR

news to the reader." It is important for a broad-based audience since it holds information for the TNR novice as well as the seasoned caretaker. A new addition to the site is the **Terminology** page, which defines the language of TNR in an easy-to-understand and searchable format.



We've also added information just for caretakers, which can be accessed through the **Resource** page. This includes the forms needed to become a registered caretaker, guidelines on proper colony management, helpful tips on dealing with neighborhood nuisance issues, health information on feral cats, information on kitten socialization, and viewpoints on feral cats and predation.

We will keep you updated on TNR news, in addition to making **Feral Cat Focus**, Spay and Stay's quarterly newsletter, available for you to view

online. You can also get all the details on our upcoming events, including access to online ticket purchase through PayPal, event registration forms, if needed, instructions, directions and much more.


We also give you **quick and easy access** to free and low-cost Lake County-based spay neuter programs for your owned pets, as well as links to many No-Kill shelters in our area, just in case you're looking for a pet and can help give a home to a shelter animal.

## Lost and found

We have been investigating ways to help people whose cats get out of the house and become lost. We want to reunite these cats with their owners, but, more importantly, we want to make sure these cats don't end up becoming another homeless cat on the street, possibly adding to the population if they have not been neutered.

## The adventure begins here.



We have an **army of registered and trained caretakers** already in place in our communities. If they could be our eyes on the street and give us a description of any new cats that try to join their colonies, with approximate dates of arrival, perhaps we can match up a lost cat with a "found" cat and use our web site as the tool to make these descriptions available to people looking for lost pets. There would be lots of bugs to work out in such a system, but if it could keep even a few lost cats from becoming feral, it would be worth it. 

## 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.*

FALL2006





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

# Amazing feline artwork highlights festive evening

Spay and Stay's second annual feline art exhibit and fund raiser, **PiCATsso**, is scheduled for Friday night, November 3, 2006. What a great way to celebrate the end of the work week! Bring your friends, bring your family, and don't forget your co-workers. Everyone is invited to share in the fun and festivities of this gala evening event.

The PiCATsso feline art theme was the brilliant idea of a couple of pet cats who wanted to help secure a better life for their brothers and sisters who spend their lives on the streets of our communities. These pet cats knew they had a lot of passion for this cause and, coupled with their incredible creative talent, they set out to express themselves with vibrant color and sometimes flamboyant paw-strokes in an effort to raise funds for spay/neuter. They believed that putting a stop to the breeding on the streets could have the most positive and long-lasting effect on the well-being of our communities' street cats. And, so it has!



## Your cat may just have talent!

We are seeking entries to the feline art exhibit. Spay and Stay's website has full, easy-to follow, and safe painting instructions for you and your feline painter.

Just download a **Registration Form** from Spay and Stay's website, include a short biography and photo of your kitty artist, and mail it back to Spay and Stay.

Your cat's artwork will then be entered into the PiCATsso

**We need your kitty's artwork!**

Visit [www.spayandstay.org](http://www.spayandstay.org) for complete feline painting instructions and registration form.

exhibit. You will receive instructions for delivery of your artwork after we receive your registration form.

A panel of Chicago area artists and art critics will be judging the feline masterpieces. All artwork will be due the week before the November 3 event, so mail in your registration forms now and your feline artists can join other fine creative kitties who are helping improve the lives of feral and stray cats in Lake County.

## Tickets available online

The flyer on *page 5* outlines ticket prices and details for ordering. Get your tickets now and save \$10 off the "at the door" price.

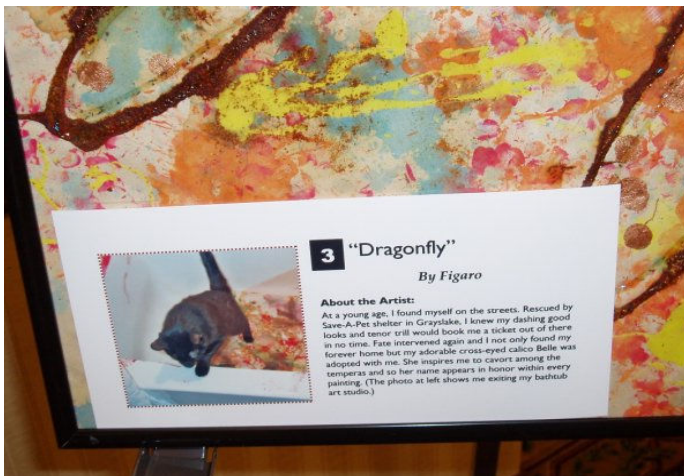
**Can't wait to see YOU at PiCATsso! Meow!**

## Can you help us hand out flyers?

We have included a copy of the flyer for PiCATsso on *page 5* of this newsletter. If you can make copies of the flyer and hand them out to your friends and family, and put them in businesses and shops around your town, we can invite even more folks to help us help the homeless cats.

Just give us a call if you can help **847-289-4557** so we know which towns you will be able to cover.

*Thanks from the PiCATsso Event Committee!*



**Each feline masterpiece will be accompanied by the artist's photograph and biography. These stories are a real treat to read as you find out what "moves" these creative souls!**



This year, PiCATsso artists will come from all walks of life, including representatives from some of our local animal shelters. Come and see how life in a shelter, or maybe even in a cage, has not dampened the spirits of these indomitable survivors. Read their stories of strength and courage while you experience the hope they express in their artwork that, someday, they will be living in a loving home, curled in a warm lap, perhaps the lap of someone who saw their painting at PiCATsso!



FELINE ART EXHIBIT  
2006



# SPAY AND STAY

# PiCATsso

**PiCATsso is Spay and Stay's annual fundraising art exhibit where feline artists display their creative talents to benefit Lake County's feral and stray cats.**

*When the Muse inspires a feline artist, the result is a colorful masterpiece filled with mystery, exuberance, and a fine sense of paw-strokes.*

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE  
AT [www.spayandstay.org](http://www.spayandstay.org)**

Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and musical entertainment throughout the evening as you place your bids on the fabulous silent auction items and enjoy the incredible feline paintings. A cash bar will be available.

**WHEN:** Friday, November 3, 2006  
**WHERE:** Byron Colby Barn, Grayslake  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
Doors and art gallery open  
Silent auction bidding begins  
8:30 p.m.  
Live Auction of feline artwork



**Tickets are \$40 pre-event  
and \$50 at the door.**

**Registered caretakers will be  
admitted for \$35 per person,  
2 person limit. See website for  
more details.**

**J**oin us as we  
unveil these  
feline mas-  
terpieces at  
PiCATsso 2006.

All feline paintings  
will be available for  
purchase through a  
**LIVE AUCTION**  
beginning at 8:30 p.m.

There will also  
be a **raffle** for  
a **50/50 cash  
pot**, so plan to  
put your luck to  
work and join  
in on the fun.  
You could win  
half the kitty!



If you have a **FELINE ARTIST**,  
visit our website for details on  
how to enter their masterpiece  
into PiCATsso. Paintings will be  
due the week before the event.







# ► Support Spay and Stay

There are many ways to give.

## Cats have dreams and so do we!

Here's our **WISH LIST**. Call for details, if you can help:

- Projector for laptop presentations
- Printer cartridges
- Office supplies
- Bags of dry cat food
- Paper towels
- Depends underpads (30" X 36")
- Large bath towels



## 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.

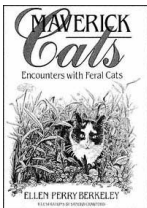
## Help us sterilize more cats AND protect the environment!

**THINKGREEN.** That's the environmental fund-raising program that will help Spay and Stay earn valuable funds and protect the environment by collecting used printer cartridges and cell phones. On top of the funds we can collect, **THINKGREEN** will sponsor the planting of a tree on our behalf through American Forest. More places for our kitties to climb! If you have old cell phones or printer cartridges, give us a call at 847-289-4557 and we'll let you know how to get them to us.



## Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats

Author Ellen Perry Berkeley is making her expanded and updated edition of *Maverick Cats* available through Spay and Stay in order to benefit the cats of Spay and Stay.



*Maverick Cats*, which is on *Cat Fancy's* list of "100 Great Moments for 20th Century Cats," is the only comprehensive volume

on the domestic cat gone wild and includes the very latest efforts and research in the field.

- More fascinating information from scientists around the world
- More touching stories from the author's hillside in Vermont
- Personalized copies

**\$4.00 of very book purchased through this offer from the author will go directly to Spay and Stay.**

Just fill out and send in form on right.

**YES!** I'd love to learn more about cats. Send me your book, *Maverick Cats*.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Maverick Cats* @ \$14.95 each

I understand that this price includes all postage and handling. **TOTAL INCLUDED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, ST, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Autograph only ☐ Autograph and inscribe personally to: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Ellen Perry Berkeley and send to Box 311, Shaftsbury, VT 05262

Please send \$4.00 per book purchased to Spay and Stay, P.O. Box 484, Gurnee, IL 60031



► "THE SHELTERS HAVE BEEN OPEN TO TNR BECAUSE THEY REALIZE STERILIZING FERALS DIRECTLY AFFECTS THEIR INTAKE AND TURN-AWAY NUMBERS."

-DEB CASSIDY, VOLUNTEER

## Volunteer's passion and diverse talents benefit the cats

Deb Cassidy has been volunteering with Spay and Stay for almost three years now. She felt the mission of Spay and Stay fit with her strong belief that animals who suffer, especially those who don't have their basic needs met, need help, and that is exactly what Deb, along with an army of volunteer caretakers are doing by having homeless feral and stray cats sterilized and cared for.

Along with Deb's incredible enthusiasm, she brings creativity, passion, and a non-stop commitment to thinking outside the box when it comes to finding ways to help feral and stray cats. Deb is also a photographer and writer and loves being able to use her skills to spread the word about humane treatment for homeless cats.

The list of ways Deb has combined her passion and skills to help Spay and Stay and our communities' homeless cats is long and varied. Deb collects donated cat food from Save-A-Pet and other shelters and organizations to distribute to colony caretakers. She has tried her hand at carpentry and built several winter shelters to also give to caretakers who need warm housing for their colony, and constructed a 5 x 5 x 6 foot holding cage for six

ferals that had to be relocated to new colonies. She also helped the new caretakers set up homing cages to help the cats adjust to their new location. Unafraid of getting down-and-dirty, Deb also often finds herself on the streets helping trap and transport cats to spay days.

Those of us who know Deb are aware

of her dynamic personality which has come in handy on several occasions. Deb has gone out into the community to help neighbors resolve disputes regarding feral cats. She has a way of really listening to both sides of a problem, and offers solutions that help not only the humans involved in the misunderstanding, but also the cats.

### DEB TALKS ABOUT HER SPAY DAY EXPERIENCE.

*It's so wonderful to be there at the clinic with this amazing group of intelligent, dedicated and warm volunteers getting down to what it's all about—getting the cats fixed and fixed up. We're directly improving their lives. Plus, I get to clean out their ears!*

Deb has also offered her ideas, artistic talent, and energy to help make several of Spay and Stay's fundraisers successful events. However, hands down, Deb admits that her most favorite volunteer duty is participating in Spay and Stay's high-volume spay days. She has been our Recovery Station team leader and oversees the final hands-on work with the cats after surgery so that they are treated and monitored safely.

### Deb's view on TNR

Deb feels strongly that, "until there are enough loving homes for every cat, TNR makes perfect sense. I've seen it work. I've seen the lives of ferals improve with TNR." Deb has worked at several shelters and has seen the burden the non-stop flow of kittens coming from unsterilized owned cats, as well as homeless feral and stray cats, has had on these facilities. She is aware that easing the burden felt by these shelters starts with controlling the feral and stray cat population, and that controlling this overpopulation in a humane way not only works better than euthanasia, it makes us better people if we solve this problem in a responsible and compassionate way.

### You can do big things as a volunteer

Deb shares that her experience working with Spay and Stay has been very good. "You wouldn't believe the positive energy and support everyone gets from this group. It's a solid, dedicated group eager to welcome new members. It's very exciting to brainstorm new ideas



*Deb poses with Pretty Face, a former feral who is now, as you can see, very fond of cuddling.*

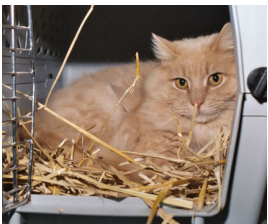
and come up with solutions to the challenges we face. Things happen very fast here. We have a problem, and then we work on a solution, and then things change—sometimes big things!

Deb also shares that she feels very grateful to have found Spay and Stay at a time when TNR is becoming more and more accepted as a humane and effective method for population control of feral and stray cats. She feels the work she is doing with Spay and Stay is appreciated and directly affects the lives of the cats she is trying to help.

*I've never done anything before that I've felt so good about.*

**-Deb Cassidy**

**Thank you, Deb! We are the ones who are grateful for your participation in the work of Spay and Stay. Every cat you help makes us all proud of what we are able to do.**



*Dusty adjusts to his new home in the snug homing cage prepared by Deb. Dusty was part of a group of four cats that had to be relocated after their caretaker moved away and the new homeowners wanted the cats removed.*



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Gurnee, IL 60031

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## BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

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

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandra Kooper

### STAFF

Michelle Frampton  
Director of Development  
Beth Voss  
Program Assistant

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Pierro, Acting President  
Sharon Myer, Secretary  
Paul Adler  
Sandra Kooper

### ADVISORY BOARD

Richard Speck, DVM

[www.spayandstay.org](http://www.spayandstay.org)  
847-289-4557

○ FALL 2006


○ SPAY AND STAY

# National Feral Cat Day is kick-off for year-long campaign

In an effort to promote Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) as the “smart, ethical way to reduce feral cat populations,” Alley Cat Allies, the national feral cat resource, is kicking off a year-long awareness and education campaign on National Feral Cat Day, October 16.

The strength and momentum behind the TNR movement has been getting a deserved boost through the support of national agencies like Alley Cat Allies and other organizations, including:

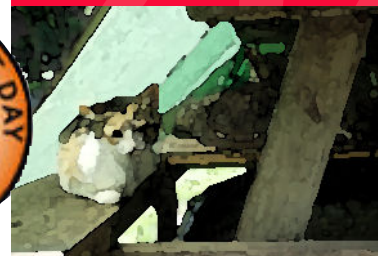
- Humane Society of the United States
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Cat Fanciers' Association
- The Institute for Animals and Society: *The Animals' Platform*
- No Kill Solutions
- Petfinder
- PetSmart Charities
- Richmond, VA, SPCA
- San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

If you'd like to help educate your neighbors, your family, your classroom, or your civic group about feral cats and TNR, visit Alley Cat Allies' website at [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) and download some of their great promotional literature. If you'd like to find out more about advances in humane feral cat management in Lake County, visit Spay and Stay's website: [www.spayandstay.org](http://www.spayandstay.org). 



- The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights

## 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.