



**THE MEOW MISSION**  
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL  
THE HUMANE WAY

# Cat Tales

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2012

## Welcome to our first newsletter!

Next month will be our one year anniversary so we thought it was definitely time for a newsletter. We started 2011 with a bang with our first annual, Alleys for Alley Cats—a day of bowling, contests, raffles, trapping demonstrations, and the best Polish dinners on the west side! Bowler's Country Club on Pine Road in South Bend was such a great place for our event, we asked them if they'd have us again and they happily accepted.

Next up, we darn near wore our paws off; we cut, sewed, and stuffed our special hand-made pet beds for Pet Refuge's Holiday Bazaar at Juday Creek Golf Course Clubhouse. We'll be there again this year—December 1st from 9-2 so be sure to stop by.

It was nice to take a few weeks off to enjoy the holidays and spend time with our (somewhat neglected) families and friends. Come January, it was back to work - writing our bylaws and weeding through all the red tape involved in registering with the government. We were rewarded with our official 501c3 non-profit status in early 2012.

We welcomed the spring time with our first trivia night —Meow on Main. We had a lot of fun, raised much needed funds, and enjoyed the scrumptious cuisine offered by Main Street Grille.

It's been a great year, we met some great people, helped the kitties, and had fun while doing so. Thank you to all those that came out to support us and help us with our mission—to end the needless killing of healthy cats.

PO Box 192  
Mishawaka, IN 46546

[www.themeowmission.org](http://www.themeowmission.org)  
[info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org)



# Wags to Riches Rummage Sale

**The Meow Mission's 1st Annual Rummage Sale!**

**Friday and Saturday,  
September 28th & 29th: 8-4**

**1503 Kensington Place (Reverewood), Mishawaka**

- Treadmill with Incline
- Recumbent exercise bike
- Antique mirror, radio, crocks, & milk jugs
- Dressers
- 'Etager'e—metal & wood
- Scrapbook supplies: Stampin' Up-stamps, inks, accessories-some never used!
- Modern, barely worn plus-sized clothes
- Mad-Hatter chair
- Duncan Phyfe table & 6 chairs
- Modern medicine cabinets & décor
- Nice gun cabinet
- Pink rocking easy chair
- Brio Train sets
- FAO Schwartz playsets
- Mini Roller Coaster
- Lamps
- Build-a-Bear
- Dollhouse & dollhouse furniture new in boxes!
- Wine, martini, and shot glasses
- Modern wall art & decor
- Musical décor
- Jewelry armoire
- Recent books, Spanish dictionaries, & text-books
- Nice purses
- Nice, large wire shelves
- Luggage, gym bags
- Nice couch
- Decorative baskets
- Fancy shower curtain, towels, rugs
- New toiletries
- Tools

***All Proceeds go towards spay/neuter surgeries for  
Michiana's free-roaming cats***

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# Get Your \$15 Fix!



## ABC Clinic

Pet Refuge Animal  
Birth Control Clinic

**Fix-a-Feral Friday**  
**October 12, 2012**

**ABC Clinic will fix your feral  
cat for just \$15!**

We've been working our tails off all year in order to get enough funds to be able to offer our first "Get Your \$15 Fix" - a low-cost spay/neuter day for Michiana's free-roaming cats. Dr. Hatch and her staff at ABC are dedicating Friday, October 12th to fixing 50 feral cats for us! We posted our event on our and Pet Refuge's Facebook page and within **two days** our 50 appointments were booked! WOW! And, we keep getting calls from folks wanting to take advantage of the promotion! We knew there's a tremendous need to help out Michiana's colony caretakers and this sure does prove it! Some of these folks are caring for a dozen or more cats and really need the help. We hate to turn them down, but we just don't have enough funds to help everyone that needs it. Won't you consider sponsoring a spay today? Donations can be made via Paypal on our website ([www.themeowmission.org](http://www.themeowmission.org)), or sent to us at PO Box 192, Mishawaka, 46546. The Meow Mission and Michiana's cats say thanks!



**[www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission](http://www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission)**

Cats have lived outdoors for more than 10,000 years—they are a natural part of the landscape. Today, they live healthy lives outdoors and play important roles in the ecosystem—as they did thousands of years ago and as all domestic cats are biologically adapted to do. What has changed in that time is how people have reshaped the environment to suit our needs, at a great cost to the other species that share our ecosystem. -[www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)



## Meow Munchies



## Feed a Feral. Save a Life. It's that simple.

We've volunteered with other area animal groups and we know first hand that there are some great, well-meaning folks out there that want to take care of our community cats. Unfortunately, many families can't afford to provide the cats the consistent meals they so desperately need. As the days get shorter and cooler, it takes more nourishment to keep outside cats warm and healthy.

Our main mission is to spay/neuter as many cats as we possibly can—we know this is incredibly important, yet we also know many of those cats go hungry and are forced to roam further looking for food. The more cats roam, the less chance they have of returning safely. With this in mind, we decided to start a food program, Meow Munchies, for Michiana's free-roaming cats. We're collecting food and donations to keep our kitties from going hungry. We have donation drop spots in Granger, Mishawaka, and South Bend. Won't you help by dropping off a bag of food today?

### Donation Drop Spots and Hours:

**(Look for the Hot Pink Donation Bins/Barrels)**

**Granger:** ABC Clinic, 12692 Sandy Drive, M-F 7:00am-5:30pm

**Mishawaka:** 1503 Kensington Place 46544, 24hrs/7days

**Pet Refuge,** 2300 W 6th Street 46544, M-F 10:00am-3:00pm

**South Bend:** 4115 Kennedy Drive 46614, 24hrs/7days

Or call or email for pick up: 574-300-3353/info@themeowmission.org

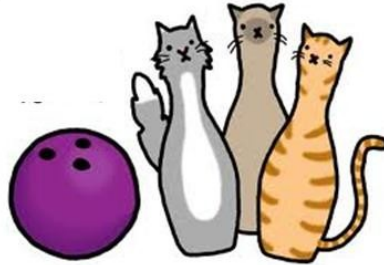
To qualify for Meow Munchies, all cats must be spayed and neutered, or in the process of, and be provided quality colony care. No food will be provided to any unaltered cats.





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# Alleys for Alley Cats!



Join Us for Our 2nd Annual National Feral Cat Day Bowl-A-Thon!

**Sunday, Oct 14th**

**1:00—4:00 pm**

Bowlers Country Club, 55839 Pine Road (Route 2 exit off the US 20 Bypass)

\$15 or \$10 with cat food donation


Tickets may be purchased ahead of time or at the event. Bowling includes 3 games. Shoe rental available.

- Contests!
- Prizes!
- 50/50 Raffle!
- Tip Boards!

**Polish Dinner!**  
**Best on the West Side!**

Just \$13 for Chicken, Sausage, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Noodles, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Roll & Butter. **Dinner tickets must be purchased two weeks in advance.** Carryout available.

**Sponsored by:**



## **Bunk & Biscuit**

**A Luxury All-Suite, All-Inclusive Pet Retreat**  
**Boarding, Daycare, and Spa**  
**A Quiet Place to Stay and Play**  
**1740 W. Bertrand Rd. Niles, MI 49120**  
**269-684-BUNK**



Reserve your tickets today by calling 574.300.3353 or emailing [info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org).  
Proceeds go to spay neuter surgeries at ABC Clinic for free-roaming cats.



Handsome Chilly

As you know, we dedicate our efforts towards fixing feral cats,. When we were approached by a colony caretaker that had tamed two kittens and even found homes for them, we just couldn't say no!

We decided that since they started out as feral, we'd go ahead and fix them and send them onto their new home.

Chilly was caught first, quite easily we're told. His caretaker brought him inside and placed him in a kennel to keep him feeling safe and secure. Once he acclimated to being inside, he went to ABC Clinic for neutering. Chilly's sister, Sissy, was a bit more of a challenge and took two additional weeks before she was trusting enough to be held. Her caretaker didn't give up on her, though, and we were able to get her spayed at ABC. She joined Chilly at their new home.

As you can see, these two once feral kittens have become quite accustomed to their new



Cutie-pie Sissy



Here's our friend Amy's, supermodel, Daisy, enjoying one of our hand-made cat beds. Doesn't she look comfortable??!



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# Sponsor a Spay

Your \$35 donation will provide a sterilization surgery for one free-roaming cat and *prevent the additional 3,200 kittens produced.*

Stray female cats start cycling when they are 4-6 months old, or as soon as the days are long enough. January and February are the start of the kitten season, with the litters born in March and April. These cats have an average of 2.1 litters per year of 4.25 kittens. 42% of the kittens will die by the age of two months of natural causes. Many more will end up at the shelter. Those who escape early death and the shelter go on to be prolific bearers of kittens over their short lifespan of approximately three years.

Taking the mortality into account, along with birth and death rates, the average stray female will have 5.25 litters in her lifetime, encompassing 22.3 kittens. At age two months there should be 12.9 survivors, roughly six females and seven males (at maturity, roughly 2/3 of the stray cat population is male(6), due to the high mortality of females during first pregnancy and birth), which will decrease to four females over time. These six females will go on to have their 22 surviving kittens each. Realistically, over 12 years, one un-spayed female, with all her un-spayed female offspring, reasonably can be expected to be responsible for **over 3200 kittens if there is no human intervention.** -<http://www.feralcat.com/feral-tr.html>

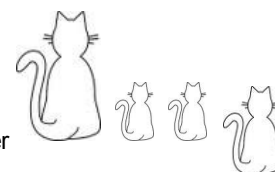
*Yes! I want to help!*

Name	
Street Address	
Zip Code	Phone
Email	

\_\_\_\_ \$ 35 for one cat



\_\_\_\_ \$ 140 for one litter



\_\_\_\_ \$ 35/month sponsorship for one cat

Make checks payable to "the Meow Mission" and mail to PO Box 192, Mishawaka 46546 or donate with your credit card via PayPal on our website:

[www.themeowmission.org](http://www.themeowmission.org)