



THE MEOW MISSION
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL
THE HUMANE WAY

Cat Tales

Volume 3 Issue 1

Spring 2014

Warning!

Vicious FERAL cat attack!

The following page may be too explicit for some readers.
Parental guidance is suggested.

Yes, this little kitten is one of the many “feral” cats we help. As you can see, she’s anything but feral. But, since she lives outside, she is what many consider feral. We don’t like the word “feral” and this precious kitten is why—the vast majority of cats we see are warm and friendly, although, not always this friendly to strangers :) *People* have created cat overpopulation problem - by discarding their unspayed pets and it’s up to *people* to “fix” the problem. Fixing outside cats is IMPERATIVE in population control. Please educate your friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances and all you know about the necessity for TNR. If each of you were to convince one person of the tremendous need for TNR, think how many lives could be saved.



\$15 Fix a Feral Fridays!

The Month of May

\$15 includes spay/neuter, eartip, rabies & parasite treatment.

ABC Clinic by appointment only: 574.272.7729

Call today—limited space!

We've been awarded two grants for Fix-a-Feral Fridays from the Summerlee and Greg Biffle Foundations and we can't wait to start fixing cats! Call ABC today to book your appointment to fix your colony cats in the month of May for just \$15!!



Spring Cleaning?



Hard to believe that it's nearly spring with all this white stuff on the ground, but it's right around the corner. We've started collecting for our annual rummage sale, Wags to Riches, and

we're in need of donations!

Call us, we'll pick up your gently used items!

All proceeds will go towards spay/neuter surgeries for Michiana's free-roaming cats. The Meow Mission is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit, 100% of you donation is tax deductible.

Call or email for pick up: info@themeowmission.org, 574.300.3353

Wags to Riches III Rummage Sale

Mews Flash..... Trapping Update

300

You know that saying, “time flies when you’re having fun?” Well, we can say the same is true when you’re saving cats – it’s been far too long since our last newsletter!

There’s so many great things going on at the Meow Mission and we can’t wait to share them with you. First up, we’d like to tell you what’s so great about the number 300.

Back in 2011, when we first started helping cats, we didn’t trap – we spread the word about TNR and helped folks pay for the spay/neuter surgeries at ABC Clinic. We held events and sent out appeals for donations and with your help, we were able to fix 92 cats. Over that time, we received many pleas for help trapping. Many of the folks we help aren’t able to trap themselves or, are able but don’t have the equipment. With that in mind, we decided we needed to do more to help Michiana’s cats – and we did.

With generous support from our community, we were able to purchase 12 TNR specific traps. Now we were prepared to loan traps to those who were able to trap their own colonies but we still needed to get trained to do the trapping ourselves. Some of us have experience trapping our own colonies and the rest of us set out to learn from the experts – our friends at Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition (elkhartferalcats.org).



Trapping Update Continued

We tagged along and helped on trappings, and asked lots and lots of questions and received tons of great advice from this group of hard working, dedicated TNR advocates. We did lots of research and watched videos but nothing was as helpful as the years of experience ECFCC has—and we are very thankful for their help—and continued advice as we forge through the TNR waters.

We also joined Alley Cat Allies (alleycat.org) Feral Friends Network—now we're able to join a nationwide community of folks like us—people who loves these animals and are willing to fight for their right to life.

For our first trapping, we set out for 11 cats. Their caretaker was great in preparing the cats for us ahead of time – we brought out the traps a week prior and took the door off, just as we'd learned from ECFCC. . The caretaker then started feeding the cats in the traps—this is an essential preparation so the cats are not afraid to go into the traps. We asked her to withhold food the day prior (we only do this with adults—never kittens) so they'd be really hungry when we arrived to trap.

Our first trapping last summer was very successful—we brought a few extra traps as ECFCC advised us, 'just in case' and boy are we glad we did. Instead of the 11 cats we'd expected, we ended up with 13! Turns out that three of the cats looked so much alike, the caretaker thought they were the same cat!

We continued learning and trapping and before we knew it, the year was over. Remember how we told you that we fixed 92 cats? By the end of 2013 we helped spay and neuter 300 cats. Requests for help keep coming in so we expect to do even more in 2014!



Come see us at ABC's Spay 5K—we'll be selling our handmade and stuffed with love pet beds and one of a kind cat toys. All proceeds go to spay/neuter Michiana's free-roaming cats.

Saturday, April 19th , 10am , St. Patrick's Park

National Feral Cat Day

Wednesday, October 16th 2013

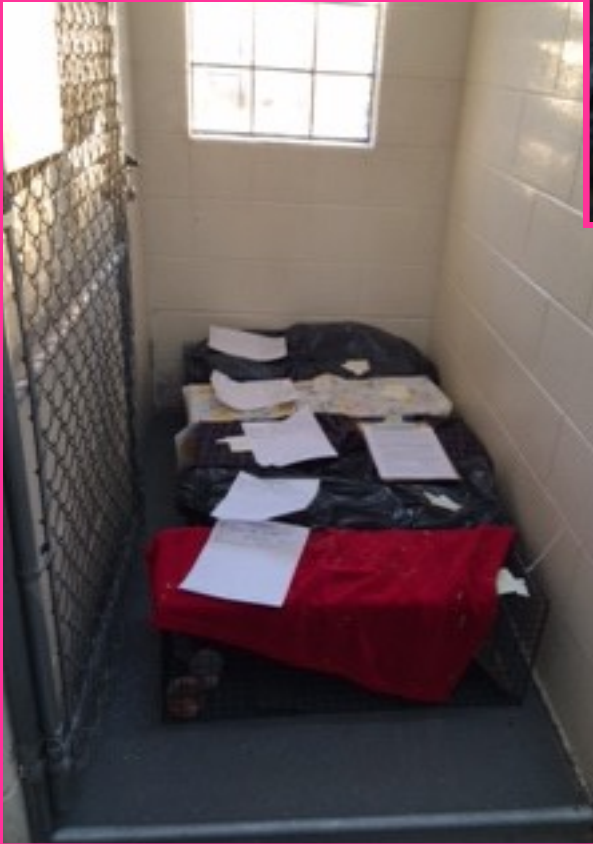
October 16th brings National Feral Cat Day—the single most important day for promoting TNR. We'd worked hard all year to raise enough money to offer another "Get Your \$15 Fix " day in celebration of, and, with the help of Kryder Veterinary Clinic, we made it happen! Dr. Kryder and his crack staff fixed 50 of Michiana's free-roaming cats for us and only charged the caretakers \$15! Thanks to your help we were able to pay the balance. Fox 28 news even picked up the story for us and interviewed Dr. Kryder.



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NFCD @ Kryder





Cats came in carriers and traps—all awaiting their surgeries



Fox 28 interview with Dr. K



Have You Heard?

TNR is one step closer in South Bend to becoming the preferred method over animal control's current catch and kill methodology.

By Melissa Fruscione



The South Bend Common Council is considering replacing the current animal law, Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code. The new proposal balances the humane care of animals with public safety and property rights protecting both the two-legged and four-legged residents of the City. The proposed law focuses on responsible pet ownership through spaying/neutering animals, adding clear universal leash laws, eliminating breed discriminatory language, tethering restrictions, and trap neuter return (TNR).

Under the current law, free-roaming outdoor cats are considered owned after they are fed just a handful of times. Proving ownership under the current law is problematic and places licensing requirements and pet limit restrictions on colony care takers. Under the current law, a free-roaming cat is always considered at-large. When the South Bend Animal Care and Control picks up an at-large free-roaming cat they believe is feral, that animal is often euthanized immediately. We believe this practice is inhumane and an ineffective use of taxpayer dollars.

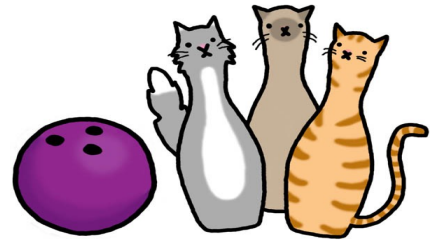
For the past year, a special committee led by Councilwoman Valerie Schey, has drafted a replacement for Chapter 5. The proposed language was modeled after Fort Wayne's animal control laws. Under the new provisions, the term feral cat is eliminated and replaced with free-roaming cats (pre-spay/neuter) or community cats (post spay/neuter). Free-roaming and community cats are no longer considered owned and are not at large. TNR is encouraged because altered community cats are healthier, less likely to roam, less likely to fight, and less likely to spray than unaltered cats. They are easily identifiable by their ear tip. TNR is the only humane way to control the community cat population. SBACC will work with colony caretakers and organizations like The Meow Mission to ensure free-roaming cats and community cats are not picked-up by animal control officers. This can save both lives and taxpayer resources.

Additionally, the State Legislature is also considering making changes regarding feral cats. Current state law prohibits domestic animals or house pets from running at large or creating a public nuisance within a mobile home community. New language has been proposed to amend this law to exclude feral cats.

Learn more about the proposed changes to Chapter 5. Please show your support for TNR today by contacting the Common Council at ccouncil@southbendin.gov. Your opinion matters!

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 re-shaped the environment to suit our needs, at a great cost to the other species that share our ecosystem. -www.alleycat.org

3rd Annual Alleys for Alley Cats our Best Yet!



A very special thanks to all our sponsors—including event sponsors, Del and Nancy Meyer of Weichert Realty—for helping make our 3rd annual bowling fundraiser the most successful to date! We **DOUBLED** last year's event—**enough to fix 50 cats!** Thank you, Michiana!



Jim Dunfee & Associates

Del Meyer, ABR
Broker Associate

Our event sponsor:

Del and Nancy Meyer

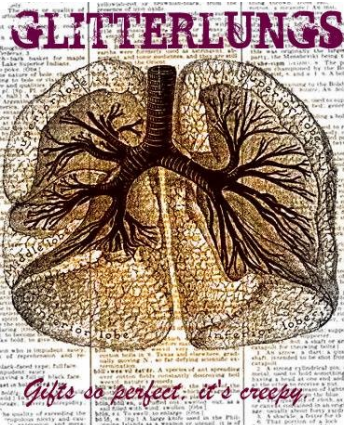
www.Ask4Del.net

574.299.9368



Wes Magnuson D.D.S.

www.southbend-dentist.com
1331 Chimes Blvd., 574.232.2047



ELIA'S
MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE



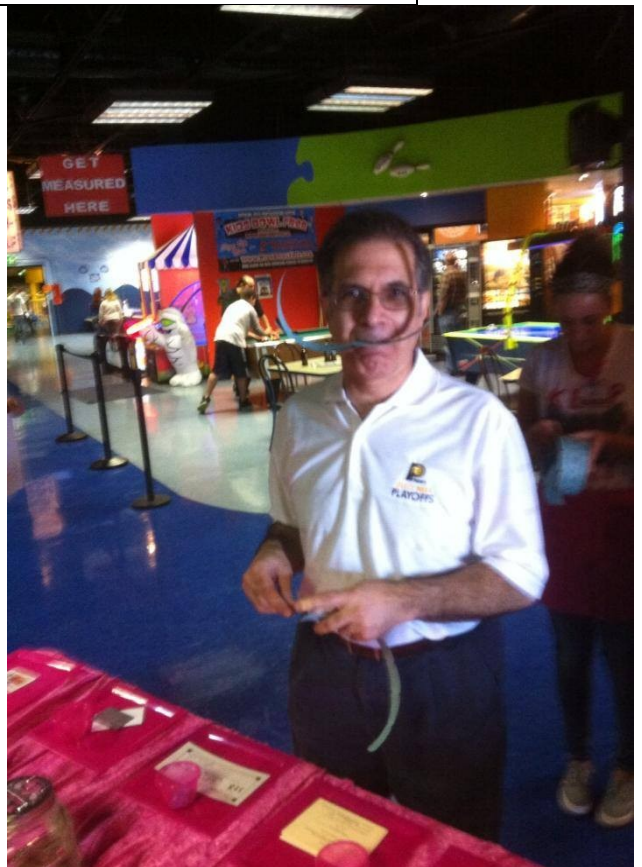
3rd Annual Alleys for Alley Cats



Kylie and Dianne's smiling faces greeted all our guests at our registration table

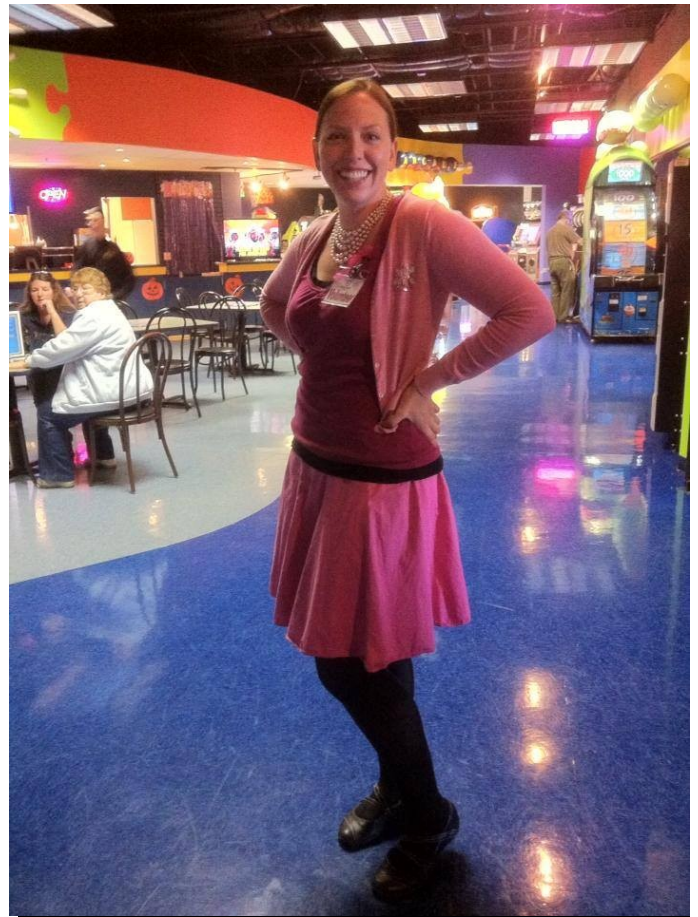


And the fun begins!





Annalee selling tickets for our Fantastic raffle items



Kylie has "Meow" Spirit—modeling our signature colors, pink and black



Joy and Ed checking out some great raffles

And the winners are...



Turkey
Winner



Door Prize
Winner



Strikes for
Strays
Winner



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How You Can Help

Sponsor a Spay

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

___\$35 for one cat ___\$70 for 2 cats ___\$140 for 1 litter ___\$ other

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

Purina Weight Circle Program: Save Your Circles!

Purina has a great savings opportunity called the Weight Circle Program. We save the circles—found on bags of Purina cat food—and send them in to Purina who then sends us rebate checks we use to buy cat food for our Meow Munchies food program. If you buy Purina cat food, please save your weight circles for us. Every little bit helps. You can mail them to us at PO Box 192, Mishawaka 46546



Meow Munchies



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

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. Won't you help by donating cat food today?

Donation Drop Spots and Hours:

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

Mishawaka: Martin's Pawmart, 306 N Bittersweet **New** spot!
211 W. 16th Street, 46544, 24hrs/7days

South Bend: Pet Refuge, 4626 S Burnett Dr, 46614,
M-F 10:00am-3:00pm

For Pets Sake, 3023 W. Mishawaka Ave., M-F 7:30am-1:00pm,
Saturday 7:30-11:00am

Furry Friends & More, 52670 Primrose Road, 24hrs/7 days

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

In Memory

Dianne Aker

April 24, 1943—January 28, 2014



It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that Meow Mission says goodbye to one of our founding members, Dianne Aker. Dianne was instrumental in every part of our group. As a founding board member, she helped write our by-laws, and attended all our meetings and events. There was no project that was too big or too small, she was always there to pitch in and work as hard and as long as it took. She was the part of our backbone and will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace, Dianne, we love you and miss you.