



**THE MEOW MISSION**

Trap/Neuter/Return  
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL  
THE HUMANE WAY

Volume 3 Issue 2  
Fall 2014

# Cat Tales



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

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

## 4th Annual Alleys for Alley Cats!



**Bowling Fundraiser**

**Sunday, October 12th, 12:30—2:30, Strikes & Spares, Grape Rd, Mishawaka**

Tickets: \$15/ea or \$10 with a cat food donation

*All proceeds go towards spay/neuter of Michiana's free-roaming cats.*

**Goody Bags!**

**50/50! Raffles!  
Prizes!**

Sponsored by:



Jim Dunfee & Associates  
Del Meyer, ABR  
Broker Associate

[www.ask4del.net](http://www.ask4del.net)



[www.lindascampk9.com](http://www.lindascampk9.com)

DAN BERRY  INSURANCE  
*Doing what is right*



[www.patriciaannflorist.net](http://www.patriciaannflorist.net)



**Wes Magnuson D.D.S.**  
[www.southbend-dentist.com](http://www.southbend-dentist.com)

The Meow Mission | EIN 45-3617099 | PO Box 192, Mishawaka 46546 | [themeowmission.org](http://themeowmission.org) | [info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org)



# Trapping Update

It's been a crazy summer here at Meow Mission—we've trapped every single week and show no signs of stopping. Last year, we fixed a total of 283 cats. The prior year, 88. It's just October and we've already fixed 360 cats this year and are pretty sure we'll hit 400 by year's end. We've seen more than our share of kittens, too, which is always hard – we want to rescue them all. But as you know, there just aren't enough rescue resources, so, the best thing for them is TNR. With a loving caretaker providing fresh water and food daily, a nice warm shelter, they'll lead long, healthy lives in their outdoors homes. Enjoy a small sampling of the many cats we fixed this year.



more than our share of kittens, too, which is always hard – we want to rescue them all. But as you know, there just aren't enough rescue resources, so, the best thing for them is TNR. With a loving caretaker providing fresh water and food daily, a nice warm shelter, they'll lead long, healthy lives in their outdoors homes. Enjoy a small sampling of the many cats we fixed this year.





# TNR Talk:

## Education Program

-Kylie Carter



A few months ago, I was asked if I would be interested in giving presentations as part of a new educational initiative component to the Meow Mission. We've encountered a lot of misinformed people in the local animal scene, which unfortunately leads to more unwanted kitty pregnancies, which is counterintuitive to our mission.

So a program was created, and a cute and fun, but also highly informative, PowerPoint presentation was made. The presentation was delivered first by Melissa, a Meow Mission volunteer, on July 17th, to a small group of children attending Pet Refuge's Summer Camp. It included such topics as:

- The different classifications of cats: feral, stray, free-roaming, community cats, indoor pets.
- Statistics about just how many offspring cats can produce over their lifetime if they are not spayed or neutered.
- Explanations of terminology such as TNR, the vacuum effect, colonies, colony caretakers, etc.
- What we at the Meow Mission do to help reduce the overpopulation of community cats, and thus reduce the amount of cats killed in local shelters.

The PowerPoint presentation was followed by a trapping demonstration by Jodi, using a stuffed animal cat. The campers enjoyed the cute slides, answered all the questions, and one boy in particular had a personal story to accompany many of the topics discussed. There was one girl who had an issue with community cats in her neighborhood (cats being ill, hungry, and not fixed), and she showed a great deal of interest in learning how to trap and wanting to fix the situation.

All the campers really enjoyed Jodi's trapping demonstration, and they were ecstatic to be chosen as volunteers to help with different aspects of the trapping. I really think that our presentation made an impact on these young minds.

So going forward, we are working on catering the current presentation to an older audience, and lengthening it to include more details on feline reproduction, relocation, cat diseases, success stories, and debunking myths (such as that a cat is unable to get pregnant while nursing – this is false.)

I think this educational initiative is very important to our cause at the Meow Mission, because just like the problem with teen pregnancy with humans, ignorance is one of the root causes of the problem. The more we can educate people, the better chances we have at reducing the amount of cats who enter our local shelters and don't make it out alive.

If you would like us to present to your organization or group, please contact us at 574-300-3353 or [info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org). No group is too small or too big.



[www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission](https://www.facebook.com/TheMeowMission)

Kylie presenting the TNR Talk  
to Pet Refuge campers  
August 4, 2014





# Sweet Chumly

## The miracle 3-legged kitty

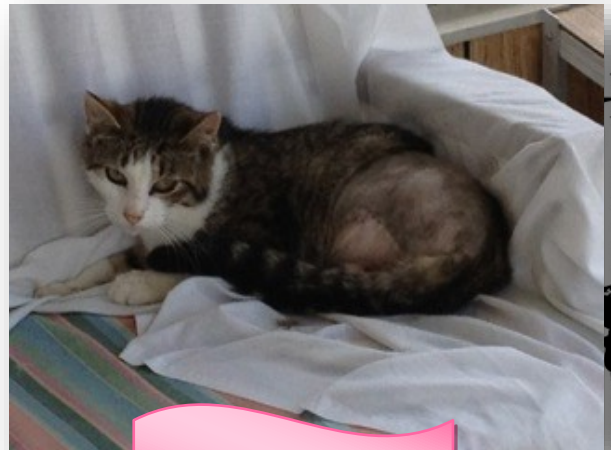
We first met Chumly's caretaker, Frank, last year when he contacted us for help trapping his colony. We helped him get his colony under control and checked in with him periodically. This past June we learned that one of the cats, Chumly, had gotten his foot stuck in a trash heap on a neighboring property. Some type of cord was wrapped around his leg and his foot was badly swollen and infected. Frank and one of our trappers tried for days to trap Chumly, all the while watching his foot get more and more infected. Finally, on Memorial Day, after hours of stalking, Chumly was caught! We rushed him in to see Dr. Kryder first thing the next morning. Dr. K took one look and said, oh, that's got to go. There was no saving Chumly's leg.



Chumly recuperating after surgery

Chumly was a young cat—barely a year old. He'd been neutered and vaccinated months before and prior to the injury, had been quite healthy. One of our biggest concerns was his quality of life with just three legs. Dr. K told us he should recover fine and do well as "dogs and cats are three legged animals with a spare." We spoke to Frank, who was willing to pay for the surgery, and we told Dr. K to go ahead with the procedure.

The surgery went very well and Chumly was able to go home. Unfortunately, Frank works long hours and wasn't able to give him the pain medication needed so one of our volunteers took him home. She put Chumly in a dog kennel with a fluffy, comfy bed, a litter box, fresh food and water. The kennel was Chumly's home for the next 10 days and in that time we learned that Chumly wasn't feral at all. After his first trapping months prior for his neuter, he became very fearful of people and the trap, but luckily, warmed right up to us.



Hanging out on the porch

Chumly had a tremendous appetite and took his pain meds well. He didn't move around much the first couple of days, but he was able to get around enough to use his litter box like a champ! Once his pain meds were gone and he became increasingly cranky, we knew he was ready to go home.

Frank brought Chumly into his enclosed porch to monitor how well he could move around before releasing him back outside. Well, it took less than a week before Chumly was purring, all snuggled up on Frank's lap. He'd found his new best friend and is now a very spoiled, happy inside cat!

*"We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace." — Albert Schweitzer*



Chumly the cuddle bug

# The Tale of Two Kitties

Two of our caretakers, JA and LS happen to live a mere 10 blocks from each other. LS had been trying for over a year to trap a kitten the neighborhood kids had named "Butterball", but he kept disappearing. On a visit at JA's, she saw a cat that looked like Butterball. She assumed that he had moved to JA's location and was relieved he was OK and taken care of.

JA had been trapping at her house for several months when she trapped a cat that matched LS's description of Butterball. She sent LS his picture and she confirmed that was the same cat—the now grown kitten, Butterball.

Butterball was taken to ABC Clinic and was neutered, vaccinated, eartipped and then returned to his outdoor home at JA's house. Both caretakers were thrilled to have finally caught the elusive kitty!

Several weeks went by when LS noticed new cats at her house. She set out some traps in hopes of TNRing them right away. She was thrilled when she trapped her first cat—except—it was Butterball. She called JA to come over and confirm it was the same cat—she couldn't tell if his ear was tipped.

Flashlights at many angles were used and no eartip was noticed although it can be very difficult to detect an eartip when a cat is in a trap—especially when the cat is thrashing around! Both felt he looked like Butterball and even took pictures to compare. Both cats were predominantly white with dark gray spots—the spots were almost identical! Both cats were similar in size and a little beat up (as many unaltered "Tom" cats tend to be).

Rather than risk letting go an unaltered cat, they went ahead and took him to ABC Clinic where he was found without an eartip and was definitely unaltered. Butterball #2 was fixed, vaccinated, eartipped and released back at LS's where they still can't tell the difference between the two!



**Butterball #1**



**Butterball #2**

*"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."*

— Abraham Lincoln



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

*"Way down deep, we're all motivated by the same urges. Cats have the courage to live by them."*

- Jim Davis



# Volunteer Spotlight: *Annalee*

**Do you have any pets?** I have two cats. They are my babies!

**What do you do for Meow Mission?** I assist with site visits/trappings and I also help with our events.

**How long have you volunteered with Meow Mission?** About a year

**Why did you choose to volunteer for Meow Mission?** I came across The Meow Mission on the internet and decided that I really liked their objective. I love animal shelters, and everything they do, but with The Meow Mission, we are actually being proactive and getting to the root of the overpopulation problem.

**Give us an idea of what a typical day volunteering is like?** On a day of trapping, we meet at our site and set up the necessary number of traps. Each trap holds some yummy smelling tuna that will help lure the cats in. Then we wait. There's a lot of patience involved in what we do and sometimes it can be very tricky. Cats are smart! As the traps begin to snap shut, we rush in, scoop them up and take them to the vehicle we will use for transporting. Once we trap as many cats as we are able, we take them to the animal clinic to be spayed/neutered. It's such a good feeling to end the day knowing that we're controlling the feral cat population, one cat at a time! :)

**What do you like about volunteering for Meow Mission?** Animals are my passion. Specifically cats. So I couldn't possibly think of a better way to volunteer my time.

**Why is TNR an important issue to you?** TNR is an important issue to me because as I stated earlier, it is truly getting to the core of the problem. So many cats are being euthanized in overcrowded shelters every day. Which is honestly one of the most heart breaking things for me to think of. TNR is really making a break through and I hope more and more organizations will adopt it.

**What do you do when you're not volunteering?** When I'm not volunteering, I do have a full time job. But aside from that, I like to spend time with my friends, family and boyfriend. I enjoy playing tennis and going to the beach as well.

**What has been the most rewarding, touching, or memorable experience for you?** The most rewarding, touching AND memorable experience for me was during my very first trapping. It was so cold outside. Below zero I believe. And we trapped a litter of kittens (plus many more). When we got them to the animal clinic, one of the kittens was making a horrible crying sound. She was wet, cold and very malnourished. One of the volunteers agreed to take care of her overnight but we weren't sure that she would make it. I went home that night SO upset and did a whole lot of praying. To make a long story short, the kitty did make it through the night and we were able to find her a permanent home. Overall, it was a very scary, but very rewarding couple of days for me!



*-continued*

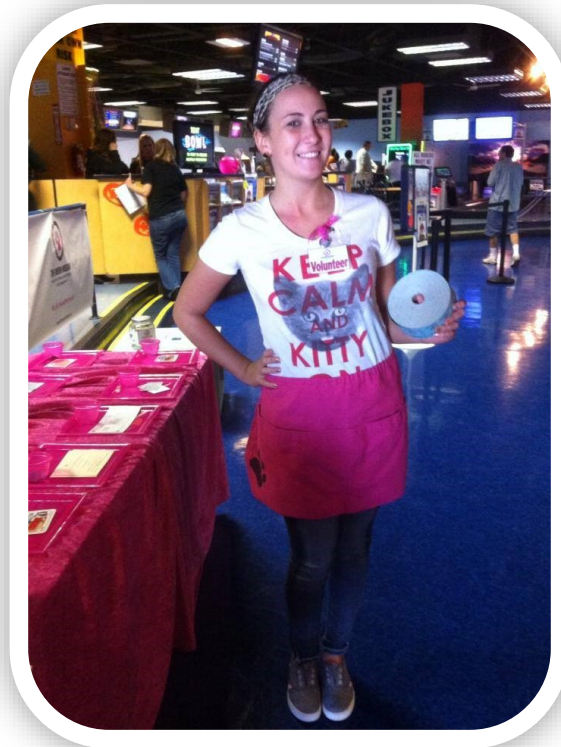
**What has been the biggest challenge for you volunteering?** The biggest challenge for me is that I have a very hard time seeing animals struggling. Whether it be that they're cold, or hungry or mistreated. As I'm sure many others do as well. Unfortunately, in order to help them, you sometimes have to witness their pain too. I think with The Meow Mission, there are many more success stories than non, but it's still part of our job to be prepared for anything.

**One thing that would surprise someone to learn about me is...** I was an all conference tennis player in high school.

**Why would you encourage others to volunteer with us?** I would encourage others to volunteer with us because we are helping a very good cause and bettering the lives of so many cats. It's a great feeling! :)



Annalee releasing a spayed and vaccinated cat. Doesn't the kitty look relieved?



Annalee selling tickets to our awesome raffle items at last year's Alleys for Alley Cats bowling fundraiser



**THE MEOW MISSION**

Trap/Neuter/Return  
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL  
THE HUMANE WAY



## Keeping Community Cats Warm, Dry & Hydrated this Winter

Temperatures are dropping—are you prepared for winter? Cats need hydration year round—not just the warm months. Heated water bowls are a great way to keep the water from freezing and are surprisingly affordable—you can find them at WalMart for under \$15.

Shelters are very important for outside cats as well. Our volunteers held several shelter build days and put together shelters for community cats.



Made from 2" R10 rigid foam insulation (highly resistant to moisture and retains long term R value) The cats' shelter will be warmer and cozier with loose insulating material inside. The material must be dry and loose, so that the cats can burrow into and underneath it. Straw is best. The worst are blankets, towels or folded newspaper. Because the cats can only lie on top of these materials, they actually draw out body heat and defeat the purpose. Hay, because it's moist, can become moldy and some cats are reportedly allergic to hay and can develop nasal sores. But do keep in mind, if you use insulating materials, you must be able to change them regularly in order to ensure they stay dry.

Shelters are \$40 completely assembled and painted or \$50 with shingles. Both come with straw.

We've seen all kinds of innovative shelters for cats, too. Some are as simple as using a rubber tote, fill with foam and straw, and you have a quick, easy shelter. Another option is a Styrofoam cooler—these make great shelters!



You can also use plastic to make a curtain over the door to keep the wind and water out



This shelter was made out of a cooler  
steaks were shipped in. A hole was cut out  
and boards were put below to keep it off of  
the cold, frozen ground



A step by step on making a rubber tote  
shelter.



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

# Bake Sale!

**Saturday, October 11th, 10am—2pm**

**Kroger—Ireland Road, South Bend**

**(across from TGIFridays)**

Please come out and purchase some goodies for a great cause — all proceeds go towards spaying and neutering of Michiana's free-roaming cats.

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

574-300-3353



## Our first bake sale!

Please drop in and pick up a special decadent dessert for yourself and your family! You deserve a treat! If you'd like to donate something scrumptious, please bring it to Kroger's by 9:00am



Did you know a way to help us raise money is by donating your used printer cartridges and cell phones? We'll take any kind of printer cartridge and any kind of cell phone. We send them to a recycling center - where they're recycled and resold—and they send us money. It's a win-win! Contact us for pick up or drop off ([info@themeowmission.org](mailto:info@themeowmission.org) | 574-300-3353)

*Help us recycle, so they don't have to*

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





## THE MEOW MISSION

PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL  
THE HUMANE WAY

# \$15 Fix a Feral!

## The Month of October

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

ABC Clinic by appointment only: 574.272.7729. ABC is closed this week to allow for the move to South Bend but they are taking appointments so do call today—limited space!

We've been awarded two grants for Fix-a-Feral from the Summerlee and the Gus Hawthorne Foundations! Call ABC today to book your appointment to fix your colony cats in the month of October for just \$15 and we'll pay the rest!



## Trapped 2 Feral Cats



## Neutered Both

mememaker.net

## [ WISH LIST ]

- ◇ Recycling Items: Aluminum Cans, Used Printer Cartridges, Cell Phones
- ◇ Tuna
- ◇ Cat Food
- ◇ Puppy Pads
- ◇ Towels
- ◇ Bleach, Laundry Detergent
- ◇ Rummage Sale Donations