



Issue No. 5 Fall 2015



FAACS officially launched its TNR program on November 5, 2012. This fall marks 3 years of service to our community!

TNR Count

Total number of cats that have received veterinarian care through our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.

2,360

Abandonment

When Responsibility Shifts to Others

By Carmen Dunn

When a cat is abandoned, there can be tragic consequences if it does not find its way to a food source and shelter. If the cat makes its way into the lives of caring people, the responsibility for its wellbeing shifts, imposing upon the new caretaker(s). This can be stressful, time consuming and financially challenging.

I recently spoke with two of our members to learn about their experiences with taking responsibility for stray and abandoned cats in their neighborhoods.

Lori MacMullin lives in the Marion Bridge area and first noticed a strange cat hanging around her yard this past spring. She does not know where it came from for certain, but suspects it may have strayed as a kitten from a nearby property. The cat was quite thin, so Lori’s family began to feed it. It wasn’t friendly enough to touch, but came close when food was put out. A regular feeding routine was established, and in time, the family noticed the cat spending a lot of time under their pool deck.

FERAL CAT DAY!



Head Trapper, Susan Young

Volunteer, Brian MacDougall

October 16th was National Feral Cat Day. To celebrate, the Nova Scotia SPCA Cape Breton Branch Veterinary Hospital hosted a free spay/neuter day and food drive for FAACS. Hospital staff volunteered their time as FAACS volunteers brought in a total of 41 cats for free services!

One evening Lori went underneath and there she found five adorable, fluffy, hissy kittens. They were already a few weeks old. Although she was excited to find the kittens, she was also nervous about what their future might hold. In her mind, “There was only one option – to take care of their needs and find them good, permanent homes.” Lori contacted the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society, receiving advice from Head Trapper Susan Young on how to care for and socialize the kittens, and when to trap the mother to be spayed.

.....Story continued on Page 3

Statistics

Visit our website to find the latest TNR count.

Feral and Abandoned Cat Society Cats Receiving TNR & Veterinarian Care Reported as of September 30th, 2015

| Spay/Neuter & Euthanization by Town/Area | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q2 | Q2 | Q2 | Q2 | Fiscal | Fiscal | Fiscal | Fiscal | Total |
| | Apr | May | Jun | Total | Jul | Aug | Sep | Total | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | Since |
| | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Inception | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albert Bridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Alder Point | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| Ashby | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 17 | 21 | 26 | 36 | 3 | 86 |
| Balls Creek | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 14 |
| Birch Grove | | | 19 | 19 | | | 6 | 6 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 32 |
| Blacketts Lake | 6 | | | 6 | | | | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Boisdale | | | | 0 | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Bras D'or | 1 | | 3 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Bridgeport | | | | 0 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Caledonia | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Coxheath | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 11 | 6 | 40 |
| Dominion | | | | 0 | 4 | 7 | | 11 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 22 |
| Donkin | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 15 |
| Dutch Brook | | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| East Bay | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Edwardsville | 7 | | | 7 | | | | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Florence | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 20 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Frenchvale | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 23 |
| Gabarus | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Gardiner Mines | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Georges River | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 11 |
| Glace Bay | 13 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 16 | 40 | 71 | 60 | 9 | 180 |
| Grand Lake Road | | | 14 | 14 | 1 | | 5 | 6 | 20 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 33 |
| Hillside Boularderie | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Howie Centre | | 3 | 2 | 5 | | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Irish Vale | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Juniper Mtn | | | | 0 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Little Bras D'or | | | | 0 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Lingan | 3 | 3 | | 6 | | | | 0 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 16 |
| Little Pond | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 9 | 39 | 0 | 50 |
| Long Island | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Leiches Creek | | | | 0 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Louisbourg | 13 | | | 13 | | | | 0 | 13 | 48 | 0 | 1 | 62 |
| Marion Bridge | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 18 | | 8 | 26 | 30 | 17 | 27 | 27 | 101 |
| Membertou | | 3 | | 3 | | | | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Mill Creek | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Millville | 7 | | | 7 | | | | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Mira Road | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 0 | 1 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 30 |
| New Victoria | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| New Waterford | 4 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 72 | 84 | 31 | 206 |
| North Sydney | 21 | 7 | 7 | 35 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 46 | 129 | 117 | 5 | 297 |
| NS East Bay | 1 | | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Point Aconi | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Point Edward | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Port Morien | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 1 | 21 |
| Reserve Mines | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 19 |
| River Ryan | | | | 0 | | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 22 |
| Scotchtown | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Scotch Lake | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| South Bar | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 5 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Sydney | 7 | 4 | 17 | 28 | 16 | 9 | 15 | 40 | 68 | 95 | 61 | 61 | 285 |
| Sydney Forks | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Sydney Mines | 52 | 8 | 12 | 72 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 93 | 83 | 81 | 0 | 257 |
| Sydney River | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 0 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 18 |
| Sydpport | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 23 |
| Tower Road | | | | 0 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Victoria Mines | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Westmount | 5 | | | 5 | 2 | 1 | | 3 | 8 | 4 | 19 | 6 | 37 |
| Whitney Pier | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 26 | 34 | 106 | 72 | 31 | 243 |
| Total | 153 | 42 | 102 | 297 | 95 | 55 | 96 | 246 | 543 | 846 | 727 | 244 | 2360 |

Story continued from Page 1.....

“One by one we were able to catch all but one of the kittens when they were about 6 weeks old.” “My daughter Lindsay set up a make shift nursery in our garage.” The family focussed on socializing the kittens and finding new homes for them. Fortunately, through friends, loving homes were found.

After her spay surgery, the mother cat would not stay in the garage, preferring to live outdoors and remain with the male kitten that had eluded capture. A wooden shelter was set up for the male kitten who was named “Chip” and the mother cat who was named “Dale”. Chip and Dale are gradually becoming friendlier and Chip will soon be ready to be neutered. Lori shared that “They will always have a home with us and if they decide to come indoors that’s okay too!”



Four fluffy kittens snuggling in the temporary nursery inside the MacMullin’s garage.

Photo by Lori MacMullin

Mary Young is a senior who lives in the Little Pond area. She currently cares for a colony of 12 feral and semi-feral cats. “I have always had a way with animals”, she shared, along with the names of each of the colony cats including Ma, OJ, Danson, Grey Lady, Itch, Big Foot, Tyson, Bubba, Sonny, Ziggy, and two more.

When asked how the colony came to be, Mary said that a pregnant female cat showed up several years ago, so she began feeding her. The cat had her kittens and over time, four more litters were born.

Many of the kittens were taken to the SPCA to be adopted. Over the years several ferals came and went, and an occasional stray or abandoned cat arrived and stayed, until the colony grew to 14 cats. Mary was not in a financial position to have the cats fixed.

A few years ago, when Mary learned that FAACS had been formed, she immediately sought assistance with having the colony cats spayed and neutered. Mary helped with trapping from her colony and from another nearby. “FAACS fixed all of them,” Mary shared, “as well as another colony of 7 cats down the road.”

When asked what the hardest part has been about caring for her colony, Mary said, “When something happens to them, like if they get sick, I can’t just treat them, because they can’t or won’t be handled.” Mary indicated that affording food, medication and vet care for the outdoor cats is a struggle on top of the costs to care for her indoor cats.

And then there is the stress of keeping the cats safe. Mary does her “patrols” every night, chasing off raccoons and has occasionally encountered predators stalking the cats. She says “I take it hard when something happens to them,” adding “As long as I am alive, I will take care of these cats and I have plans in place in case I die.”



Cats from Mary’s colony wait outside her door for supper to be served.

These two are skittish when approached.

What does it take to be a Colony Caretaker?

Becoming a colony caretaker, whether it is in your own backyard or at another location, involves great commitment to routine, strong observation skills, and believe it or not, good people skills too!

Basic care for feral cat colonies involves:

- Conducting Trap-Neuter-Return.
- Providing daily food and water.
- Providing warm, dry, safe shelter.
- Monitoring the colony population and providing ongoing health care.
- Helping cats and people to coexist through education and respectful relations.
- Planning for substitute colony care. Who will care for your cats when you cannot?

For a comprehensive guide to being a colony caretaker, you can download a Colony Care Guide from the Alley Cat Allies website at www.alleycat.org.



FAACS recently completed a 2-day team trapping effort in Louisbourg. With the help of four volunteers, an entire colony of 12 cats was trapped, fixed and returned.

The colony has a caretaker to provide regular food and shelter.

Pictured is one of the cats with a freshly tipped ear.

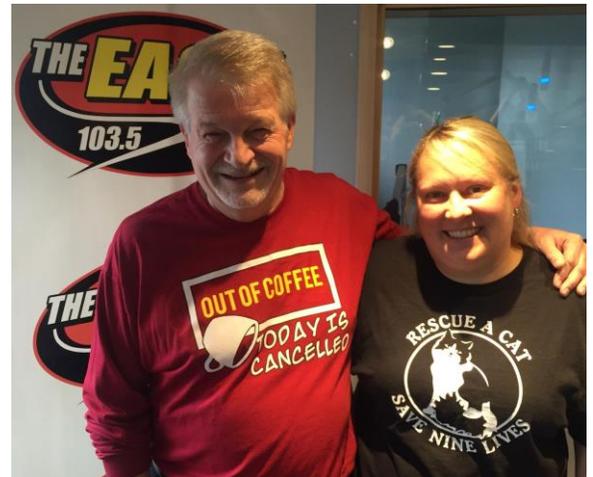
Photo by Deana Lloy

FAACS IN THE MEDIA



FAACS Vice President, Deana Lloy (left) attracted media attention in August with the launch of the Catwalk Show of Art call for artists. The concept was researched by Lloy and customized to our area with input from the artist community at the Centre for Craft and Design. In October, artists of various ages and talents submitted their ideas for decorating the cats. Meanwhile, a call for sponsors remains open into early November as Deana has set a goal for FAACS to showcase 30 cats in the summer of 2016.

FAACS President, Carmen Dunn (pictured right with Morning Host, Jay Bedford) launched a public radio education campaign called “Cat Chat” in July. With sponsorship from local businesses, an ad promoting the importance of spaying and neutering pets was recorded for 103.5 the Eagle, where Dunn was also a guest on Wednesday mornings to discuss topics such as TNR, abandonment, and local options for spay or neuter services. The Eagle continues to be a great supporter of our organization. Meanwhile, the “Cat Chat” concept has now gone to print, as Dunn recently launched a monthly column in the Cape Breton Community Post.



FAACS volunteers, Stephanie Pachok and Alicia Burke (left) were photographed by reporter Sherry Mulley MacDonald while selling 50/50 tickets this summer at the flea market in Coxheath arena. In September, their picture appeared in the Chronicle Herald’s Cape Breton Star paper, along with an extensive article about FAACS.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FAACS receives a variety of community support. Featured are businesses and individuals who have recently contributed to our organization in their own special ways.

FAACS members Shaun Zwarun and Audrey Firth, who work at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, donated their personal time and culinary and hospitality talents, to offer up a scrumptious raffle prize. The Executive Chef Dinner for 10 raffle was hugely successful, with the winner drawn the night of our Country Explosion event. Scotiabank graciously matched the revenue generated from the raffle making the fundraiser doubly successful!

Members of the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre sales team have all recently joined non-profit community groups. Sales Associate April Cluett joined FAACS as a member, and volunteered with our Country Explosion event committee.



Valmac Realty recently adopted FAACS as a charity, helping to promote and financially support our Trap-Neuter-Return and shelter building activities. During the summer, FAACS volunteers, Valmac Broker Valerie MacDougall and realtor, Sheila O'Neil-McKinnon, teamed up to decorate a float with FAACS shelters and banners. The float was entered into parades in Sydney and Sydney Mines. FAACS volunteers enjoyed participating in the parades as a way to increase public exposure.

Thanks to Manager Brent Kerr, Home Depot has become a regular monthly donor of building supplies for the construction of wooden cat shelters. Pictured left is a truck load of supplies received in September. Each sheet of plywood builds one large multi-cat shelter. Building activities slowed in the summer but are now well underway leading into the colder months of the year.



EXECUTIVE CHEF DINNER FOR 10

\$500 VALUE

WIN a 5-course meal prepared by an Executive Chef with full dinner service and clean-up!

SAMPLE MENU

Amuse Bouche
Goat cheese polenta medallions with pico de gallo
Pan-seared Digby sea scallops with a roasted red pepper relish
Open-faced Mabou lamb burger on a rosemary bread with feta aioli

Soup
Charred corn chowder with butter poached lobster, pea shoots and garlic chives

Salad
Valley apple and roast beet salad with a Gouda and candied pecan strudel finished with a maple pommery dressing

Main Course
Pan-broasted Aggy Bay halibut with a carrot lemongrass beurre blanc, Himalayan rice jambalaya and zucchini fritters

Dessert
Phyllo-wrapped cheesecake with an apple cinnamon coulis and house made sour cream ice cream



Executive Chef, Shaun Zwarun

TICKETS \$2 EACH OR THREE FOR \$5
Draw Date: September 25, 2015 @ Membertou Trade & Convention Centre
Prize valid until December 30, 2015
Not valid on December 24-25, 2015



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Fundraising is critical to operating our Trap-Neuter-Return program. Your support of FAACS fundraising activities and events helps us to keep spaying and neutering!



These 4 Legs Matter
...Light the Pedway
Tues, Nov 24, 2015
Membertou Trade & Convention Centre
7:00-9:00PM

Bid on four-legged, uniquely refurbished pieces of furniture and purchase a special FAACS Christmas ornament. This event will include the official unveiling of the FAACS tartan designed and sponsored by Deana Lloy and Red Label Kilts & Tartan Design. All ornaments will be adorned with the new FAACS tartan!



Catwalk Show of Art

Coming to the CBRM in the Summer of 2016, this visual awareness campaign about TNR and cat overpopulation will take the community by storm! For more information, e-mail dlloy@bellaliant.net and join our Catwalk Show of Art Facebook event page.



Country Explosion 2015
 A profit of \$12,000 was raised from this year's event! Thank you to our sponsors including Scotiabank, Centre for Distance Education, Membertou Trade & Convention Centre, 103.5 the Eagle, Majestic Entertainment, and the Cape Breton Post, as well as supporting sponsor Cabresto Ridge Equestrian Centre and entertainment by the Michael Lloyd Band and Linda Campbell's line dancers.



The stick horse races were a fun activity added to this year's event.

COUNTRY EXPLOSION!
A night of country entertainment in support of the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society

Prizes for longest ride!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015
 MEMBERTOU TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTRE

GENERAL ADMISSION \$25
 RESERVED TABLES OF 8 \$200 | 19 YRS+
 DOORS 7:00PM | LINE DANCING WITH
 LINDA CAMPBELL 7:30PM | MECHANICAL BULL 8:00PM
 MICHAEL LLOYD BAND 9:00PM | DJ MAJESTIC 10:00PM

Fundraising Fun: Sleazebait Auction | Texas Mickey Toss
 Mechanical Bull | Mystery Poker Chips
 Staghorse Races & Horse Auction

Scotiabank | CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION
 FAACS | CABRESTO RIDGE | CAPE BRETON POST | MAJESTIC

JOIN THE COUNTRY EXPLOSION! EVENT PAGE ON FACEBOOK

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE MTCC BOX OFFICE AT 30 MAILLARD STREET, SYDNEY, NS
 OR BY CALLING 539-2300 MON-FRI 10AM TO 6PM

YEAR ROUND BOTTLE DRIVE



If you live in the Sydney Area and would like to donate refundable bottles to support our Trap-Neuter-Return program, please contact Alicia Burke at aliciaburke@hotmail.com



WEDDING FAVOURS For Felines

Not sure what to have as wedding favours on your special day?

Support animals in need by contributing toward the spay or neuter of homeless cats, and your problem is solved!

Donate to the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society in lieu of traditional wedding favours and we will provide table cards for your reception.

Your guests will appreciate a donation made in their honour.



Sample Front of Card



Sample Inside Message

In celebration of our love for all creatures, great and small, a donation has been made in your honour to the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society.

Thank you for sharing our wedding day!

Bride & Groom
February 22, 2015

OR

In lieu of favours, a donation has been made in your honour to the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society.

Thank you for sharing our wedding day!

Bride & Groom
February 22, 2015



Members' Meetings

FAACS Members meet once a month to report on our TNR program results and discuss our various volunteer committee activities.

Upcoming meetings are currently scheduled for 6:30pm Nov 16th & Dec 14th at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre.

View the calendar on our website for a listing of all meetings and events scheduled for the Society.

Cat Humour



Why don't cats play poker in the jungle?

Too many cheetahs!

Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of yarn?

She had a litter of mittens!