

# The FAACS Newsletter

Issue No. 4 Summer 2015

## Trappers Team Up for TNR Blitz

*By Carmen Dunn*

FAACS trappers typically trap alone, even when working on a large colony. Recently FAACS decided to conduct its first team trapping exercise with a neighborhood TNR blitz.

There are several neighborhoods around the CBRM known to be densely populated with free roaming cats. Some are estimated to have 100 or more within a 6 block range. It is most effective when performing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) that all cats in a colony and nearby area are fixed in one focused effort; we call this a mass trapping or a blitz. For FAACS to blitz these areas, several volunteers and significant funds need to be ear-marked.

Custom Trailer Park in Sydney includes Main Street, four side avenues and a crescent with approximately 100 residences. Historically, this neighborhood has had an ongoing issue with homeless cats. It was estimated that there were 35-50 roaming cats there, making it an ideal and affordable size for our first TNR blitz. FAACS trappers agreed that a team exercise at this location would provide good experience for



A trapper's trunk is typically stocked with gloves, traps, a transfer cage, blankets or sheets, newspaper, and cat food.

## TNR Count

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

**2,114**



larger future initiatives and plans were made to trap from June 14-17<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to this exercise, the Manager of the trailer park was contacted and made aware of our plans. He welcomed our efforts and thanked us for helping. He indicated that an overpopulation of cats has been an issue there for the past twenty years. The manager said the park and surrounding areas have been a dumping ground for unwanted cats. Contributing to the issue may be unfixed cats roaming from nearby Reeves Street and Rockcliffe Crescent where several seniors and family apartments are located.

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# Statistics

Visit our website to find the latest TNR count.

Feral and Abandoned Cat Society  
Gender & Town Statistics on Cats Receiving TNR & Veterinarian Care  
By Month, Quarter & Fiscal Year  
Reported as of June 30th, 2015

Spay/Neuter & Euthanization by Town/Area									
	Q1 Apr	Q1 May	Q1 Jun	Q1 Total	Fiscal 2016 Total	Fiscal 2015 Total	Fiscal 2014 Total	Fiscal 2013 Total	Total Since Inception
Albert Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	6
Alder Point				0	0	2	5	0	7
Ashby	1		3	4	4	26	36	3	69
Balls Creek				0	0	3	10	1	14
Birch Grove			19	19	19	3	0	4	26
Blacketts Lake	6			6	6	0	0	0	6
Bras D'or	1	3	4	8	4	1	0	0	5
Caledonia				0	0	0	11	0	11
Coxheath	1		1	2	2	17	11	6	36
Dominion				0	0	6	0	5	11
Donkin				0	0	6	5	4	15
East Bay		1	1	2	2	1	2	0	5
Edwardsville	7			7	7	0	1	0	8
Florence	4	3	1	8	8	23	0	0	31
Frenchvale				0	0	5	2	16	23
Gabarus				0	0	0	0	2	2
Gardiner Mines				0	0	0	2	1	3
Georges River				0	0	7	4	0	11
Glance Bay	13	4	7	24	24	71	60	9	164
Grand Lake RD			14	14	14	11	2	0	27
Hillside Boularderie				0	0	3	1	0	4
Howie Centre		3	2	5	5	3	0	0	8
Irish Vale				0	0	0	1	0	1
Little Bras D'or				0	0	1	0	0	1
Lingan	3	3		6	6	2	2	6	16
Little Pond		1		1	1	9	39	0	49
Long Island				0	0	0	0	7	7
Leiches Creek				0	0	2	0	0	2
Louisbourg	13			13	13	48	0	1	62
Marion Bridge		1	3	4	4	17	27	27	75
Membertou		3		3	3	0	0	0	3
Mill Creek			1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Millville	7			7	7	1	0	0	8
Mira Road			1	1	1	18	11	0	30
New Victoria				0	0	8	2	0	10
New Waterford	4	2	4	10	10	72	84	31	197
North Sydney	21	7	7	35	35	129	117	5	286
NS East Bay	1			1	1	0	0	0	1
Point Aconi		1		1	1	0	0	0	1
Point Edward				0	0	12	1	1	14
Port Morien				0	0	2	18	1	21
Reserve Mines	1		2	3	3	9	6	0	18
River Ryan				0	0	0	7	1	8
Scotchtown				0	0	7	0	0	7
Scotch Lake				0	0	3	0	0	3
South Bar	1		1	2	2	3	1	1	7
Sydney	7	4	17	28	28	95	61	61	245
Sydney Forks				0	0	0	7	0	7
Sydney Mines	52	8	12	72	72	83	81	0	236
Sydney River	1			1	1	10	3	4	18
Sydport				0	0	2	11	10	23
Tower Road				0	0	13	0	0	13
Victoria Mines				0	0	0	1	0	1
Westmount	5			5	5	4	19	6	34
Whitney Pier	4	1	3	8	8	106	72	31	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>2,114</b>



## Featured Volunteers

### *Linda Quinn & Don Phillips Shelter Builders*

Linda Quinn and Don Phillips were our two chief shelter builders this past fall, winter and spring. Also helped by Carla Sandalis, these volunteers constructed 81, predominately multi-cat, wooden shelters. Countless hours were spent by Linda to gather donated materials, followed by countless hours by Don to cut the wood and complete the basic shell assemblies. Linda would then pick the shelters up from Don and transport them to her own workshop where roofing, insulation, hardware and stain were applied. Completed shelters were then delivered to locations all around the CBRM.



## Featured Volunteers

### *Deana Lloy & Anne Moffatt Fundraisers*

Deana Lloy and Anne Moffatt are both Directors for the Society and leaders in our fundraising efforts. As Chair of our Fundraising Committee, Deana has become known for her endless supply of creative ideas. Deana puts in countless hours researching, planning and working at our fundraising events. Anne Moffatt has worked tirelessly for the Society since the beginning. Anne books tables around Sydney for 50/50 ticket selling and maintains a large number of ticket locations. She is also very resourceful at gathering donations, auction items and prizes, and selling tickets to our fundraising events.



## Volunteer with us!

There are many ways to volunteer with FAACS. A list of volunteer categories can be found on our website. It may take time to find an activity that fits for you. Some of our members have created their own niches. Alicia Burke recently started a year round bottle drive to raise funds for FAACS. Joe MacDonald and Bud Tobin have designed and built transfer cages. The transfer cages take up less space than a trap during transport, are easier for our trappers to carry, and still allow the vets to sedate cats before taking them out for surgery.

*Story continued from Page 1.....*

Since 2012, the Society has been contacted by at least eight different households in Custom Trailer Park, asking for assistance with TNR, food and shelter. Within the past 12 months, two adult cats were fixed by FAACS, 11 kittens (that we are aware of) were removed and fostered by the Friends of Cape Breton's Homeless Animals and several more were taken to the SPCA shelter for adoption. In that time period, FAACS also fixed two cats from Reeves Street and four more from Rockcliffe Crescent.

The week prior to the blitz, FAACS volunteers delivered flyers to each of the 100 households. The flyers notified residents of our plans, providing educational information, and asking for cooperation in temporarily withdrawing outside food sources and keeping already fixed cats indoors.

Our trappers directly engaged with residents from four households prior to and during the mass trapping exercise. They learned that at least 16 of the roaming cats had homes and were already fixed. They also found out that some of the cats had become trap shy after one of the residents had previously trapped and released several cats while trying to catch one in particular. Most cats in the park were noted to have similar markings, and are likely related.

Three of our experienced trappers participated in the blitz including Susan Young, Sharon MacDougall and Tammy MacPherson. New trappers, Stephanie and Alicia also received training during this time.

The weather was good June 14-16th, but trapping was cancelled for the 17th due to rain and no cats in

sight. Throughout the blitz period and a subsequent follow-up visit, 14 cats were trapped for TNR. Within this number, two were found to be already fixed, so they were ear-tipped and returned and two tested positive for FIV/FelV and were humanely euthanized. Three more unfixed adult female cats are known to have been missed in the blitz and another three kittens were identified as feral, but not old enough for surgery.

Not all residents were cooperative. One household insisted on putting out food, even though we asked them to refrain to improve our chances of trapping all cats. Also, the three female cats that were "missed" were deliberately held inside one of the homes so they could not be trapped. The cats are semi-feral and have recently produced litters of kittens. Volunteers tried unsuccessfully to reason with the resident that having the cats spayed was in the best interest of the cats and the neighborhood. Perhaps the resident will have a change of heart over time as FAACS continues to monitor the park.

Some residents took great interest in what we were doing and even helped to trap a couple of the hard to catch cats. These same residents have offered to keep our volunteers informed if any new cats arrive in the area.

Following the blitz, flyers were delivered to thank the residents for their cooperation. The trappers agreed that the experience gained from this initiative was invaluable and they enjoyed the opportunity for a team exercise.

## Members' Meetings

FAACS Members meet once a month to report on our TNR program results and to discuss our various volunteer committee activities. Anyone from the public is welcome to attend.

Upcoming meetings are currently scheduled as follows:

Aug 10th, Sep 14th, and Oct 19th at 6:30pm at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre  
Visit our website for a listing of all meetings and events scheduled for the Society.



# FAACS VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



FAACS hosted a Yard Sale & BBQ on June 7<sup>th</sup> raising \$2,007. Volunteers also put on a BBQ for a Pow Wow at the Fortress of Louisbourg on June 20<sup>th</sup> raising \$710.





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT



FAACS is grateful to receive support from businesses, groups and individuals in a variety of ways. Three \$1000 donations were received recently with one each from RBC Glace Bay, RBC North Sydney and Nestle Purina Petcare.

Pictured top left is volunteer Alicia Burke (centre) with residents of MacGillivray Guest Home who donated cat food and \$300 cash from bottles and donations. Top middle is Sarah Reid, who made and sold 47 necklaces, and donated the full \$950 raised to FAACS. Top right is Hannah Rudderham presenting volunteer Susan Young (right) with \$651.50 raised from a Rock-a-thon where she rocked all day in a rocking chair at Mayflower Mall. On the right are the K-Kids from Harbourside Elementary School who raised \$363.25 for FAACS from a book sale at their school. Bottom right are students from Bras d'Or Elementary School who gathered donations of cat food. Bottom middle is a truckload of shelter building supplies donated by Home Depot. Bottom left, volunteer Pauline Hennessey (right) raised \$900 by selling raffle tickets on a basket of cat goodies donated by Jeanne MacDonald.





# 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 year round. If you would like to volunteer for any of our events, contact our Fundraising Chair Deana Lloyd.

## Upcoming Events

- Sun, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> Just for Cats Film Fest
- Fri, Sep 25th Country Explosion
- Sat, Oct 24th Car Rally
- Tue, Nov 24th These 4 Legs Matter Auction & Christmas Ornament Sale



## May Card Game

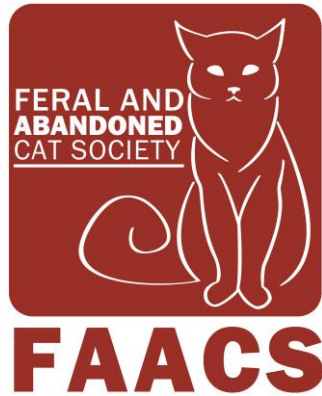
Anne Moffatt organized a card game fundraiser for May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Pensioner's Club in Sydney. \$1,501 was raised thanks to the hard work and hustle of our volunteers that day!

## Volunteers Needed!



The monthly 50/50 draw is a key fundraiser that helps to pay for our veterinary bills. We have started a contact list for volunteers willing to sit at tables to sell the tickets at various locations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Anne Moffatt at amoffatt@ns.sympatico.ca





## **TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN**

Prevent unwanted litters of kittens

Stabilize homeless cat populations

Improve quality of life

**[WWW.FAACS.CA](http://WWW.FAACS.CA)**

