



Palm Beach Island Cats, Inc.

P.O. Box 173 • Palm Beach, FL 33480 • 561-512-4884

NATIONAL FERAL CAT DAY 2011



October 16, 2011 ~~ NATIONAL FERAL CAT DAY

PBIC was one of 350 groups across the nation that celebrated this important day. Among the guests attending the party at Nick and Johnnie's were local Veterinarians Mary Ellen Scully and Brad Ochstein who have worked for many years improving the welfare of feral cats on the Island. Also attending were Town Council members Richard Kleid and William Diamond. Both gentlemen complimented PBIC on their successes and urged residents to support the mission of PBIC. Thanks to all our friends who came to the party!!



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Beware the Holiday Turkey

Big feasts can mean bad news for your cat's tummy. Feeding table scraps can cause stomach upset, vomiting or worse. Gnawed bones can do damage to the stomach or intestines. Plus, those extra calories add up in a small animal. It's best to keep your cats on their usual diet and leave the people food for the people!



Okay, Ralph let me 'splain it you again. You're big, I'm little; BUT!!! you're dog, I'm cat that makes me the boss. Got it ??

REPORT KITTEN OR NEW CAT SIGHTINGS

Residents are encouraged to contact PBIC by calling 561-512-4884 to report seeing new cats, and kittens, to any area on the Island. Field Operations appreciates the help of extra eyes to know where trapping is needed. Cats that are not neutered do not have an ear tipped and must be sterilized to further control the cat population in Palm Beach.

Benefits of Spaying (females)

- ~ No heat cycles means males will not be attracted
- ~ Yowling during mating seasons is eliminated
- ~ Less desire to roam
- ~ Eliminates or reduces the risk of mammary gland tumors, ovarian and/or uterine cancer, especially if done before the first heat cycle

Benefits of Neutering (males)

- ~ Reduces or eliminates risk of spraying and marking
- ~ Less desire to roam, therefore less likely to be injured in fights
- ~ Risk of testicular cancer is eliminated, and incidence of prostate disease is decreased
- ~ Decreases aggressive behavior

SAVE THE DATES



*February 21, 2012 – 264 The Grill
March 16, 2012 – Spring Cocktail Party
Plan to attend both events!*



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Why does PBIC monitor cat colonies and provide ongoing care?

Keeping track of the colony members allows PBIC to monitor the health of the cats, identify whether new cats have joined the colony that may need to be neutered, and the ongoing Trap-Neuter-Return program allows us to monitor the progress and provide back-up evidence that may be needed someday.

- **Health:** Monitoring is the best way to keep an eye on the cats' general health. Common indicators of health problems or injury include changes in behavior, changes in eating habits, dull eyes or coat, discharge from the nose or eyes, weight loss, fur loss, changes in their gait, and listlessness. A plan is in place with veterinarians for handling any health problems. When necessary, the cats are trapped and transported to the clinic for examination and treatment. Ongoing colony care can include de-worming medicines and antibiotics to care for minor health problems.
- **Flea Control:** Long-lasting topical flea control products are used when the cats are anesthetized for surgery or treatment. There are also oral flea medications that can be added to the food, but monitoring the dosage can be difficult for feral cats who share food. Colony caretakers are well trained in how to feed the cats being treated while in the field. Fleas are a natural part of life outdoors, so while volunteers can try their best to control them, fleas are not something about which excessive worrying is needed. Anyone with severe flea infestation problems should contact PBIC at 512-4884.
- **Tapeworms:** It is not uncommon for feral cat colonies to have tapeworms. The cats are treated with de-wormer when they are taken in for neutering or medical care. Tapeworms will not harm otherwise healthy cats and are not a reason to worry.
- **Record Keeping:** A medical record for each cat in every colony is a permanent record and contains a listing of vaccinations (especially rabies which is numbered individually) and any other medical procedures performed on the cat. The record also includes documentation of the cat's neuter status with date, the cat's micro-chip number along with the name of the manufacturer. Where possible, a photo of each cat is maintained with his or her record, and the photo is updated regularly as the coloring and size can change with age.

Continual monitoring of cat colonies is the only proven way to ensure the health of the cats living within a population, thereby ensuring the health of the residents and their pets. PBIC monitors the colonies on a daily basis, 365 days a year.



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THREE P'S OF PET POISONINGS

Dr. Michele Tucker was the guest speaker at the Furry Friends Health Symposium held December 7, 2011 at The Beach Club. Since 2001 Dr. Tucker has been practicing at Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists as an emergency veterinarian. In 2010 she was named Director the Florida Animal Blood and Tissue Bank. Guests heard about pills, poisons and plants that cause most of the health issues for pets visiting the emergency rooms. Following the presentation, questions from the guests were answered by the veterinarian.

Pills, poisons and plants are three common sources of toxic exposure to pets. Any time a pet is thought to have ingested or even been exposed to a toxic substance, Animal Poison Control should be contacted. The ASPCA runs a hotline that is 24 hours a day with over 30 years worth of poisonings in their database. The speaker recommended they can be contacted **at 1-888-426-4435**.

Pills

Cardiac and blood pressure medications can cause low blood pressure, weakness, collapse. Hospitalization is needed to monitor your pet. Human ADHD medication has amphetamines as the active ingredient that will cause a possible life-threatening increase in heart rate. Phenobarbital is an anti-convulsant medication with barbiturate that can cause a depressed respiratory rate and coma like behavior. An overdose requires hospitalization to monitor breathing and blood pressure.

Poisons

Applying a topical flea medication on a cat that is made for a dog can cause seizures and an increase in body temperature. The medication should be washed off and the cat evaluated by a veterinarian. The most common type of rat/mice poison will cause internal bleeding. Luckily the antidote for this is Vitamin K. Consult the veterinarian to determine a dose and strength of treatment. The chemical found in many sugar-free gums (xylitol) can cause low blood glucose in dogs leading to seizures and death. Anytime a dog eats sugar-free gum or candy, it should be seen by a veterinarian.

Plants

Sago palms are commons in South Florida. When its leaves or nuts are eaten, sudden liver failure can happen. Unfortunately there is no antidote and survival is unusual. Many lilies are extremely toxic to cats and vomiting in minor cases. Limiting exposure to lilies is the best remedy for this possible toxin. Marijuana will cause depression, vomiting, urine dribbling and staggering. Eating the dried plant is not usually fatal, but it can cause many hours of discomfort to your pet.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PUSH

Not long ago the Town Council advised us that the success of the program is also our downfall. "When everyone believed there was a problem with the cat population booming and questioned the health of the cats, they were willing to throw money at you. Now that you've got the program working very well, the residents don't see the feral cats as a problem and aren't donating like they should," one Councilman said.

The Board of Directors discussed the advice given to us, and a publicity blitz is being created to remind the residents and animal friendly individuals that a successful program requires money to continue to operate this humane program. The budget remains minimal and solely for the benefit of the animals, so Board members are underwriting the advertising. Residents can expect to see photos of some of the cats being cared for and the pictures of those that need a home with a few humorous cartoons thrown into the mix to put a smile on a face or two.

"We're glad that the residents can see PBIC is doing what it said it will do – bring the population under control while treating these unfortunate animals in the most humane manner," President David Leavitt said. "But it is imperative that donations are made in order to provide this professional, experienced level of care." A cocktail party featuring a matching donation challenge will be conducted in March which last year provided for half the annual budget. "Hopefully we can do as well if not better this Spring", Leavitt concluded.

PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS AND AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

have formed a partnership to advance the program locally in fulfilling the mission to humanely take care of the feral and homeless cats in Palm Beach.

The feral cats in Palm Beach are eating a high quality food, Rocky Mountain Taste of the Wild which is a highly palatable, no grain, no by-products, high protein, low carbohydrate, top of the line food, to maintain and improve the cats' health and help their natural immune system. We are getting a very reasonable wholesale price from a distributor and have realized a significant savings in the budget.



BE OUR
FRIEND

PBIC is on Facebook!

Everyone is urged to visit our page and become our friend. Current information about events and happenings or plans, the page is updated to keep you informed.



***If you prefer the newsletter by mail, send us your mailing address; if you like online reading, see the website or send us your e-address. pbislandcats@gmail.com
www.pbislandcats.org***

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