



Island Cats Newsletter

OCTOBER 31, 2009

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10



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The Board of Directors will meet in November at the home of President Allen Mason, date and time to be announced. A quorum can be attained via attendance, teleconference or proxy.

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ISLAND CATS DEFINES HOMELESS CATS

Feral cat ... what's that?

- A feral cat is a wild animal, not to be confused with stray and free-roaming cats that are, or once were, someone's pet.
- Feral cats are afraid of humans and do their very best to keep away from people.
- A feral cat cannot be safely held or picked-up and must be trapped in order to transport them. Sometimes, after a relationship is long established, caregivers can touch a feral cat but cannot actually pick it up.
- Some feral cats have a notch while others may have a straight slice of their left ear missing. This is called an "ear-tip" or "cropped ear" done before the cat is returned outdoors. Veterinarians use this nationally recognized ear tip as a permanent marker to distinguish that the cat is spayed or neutered.

What's Trap Neuter & Return? (TNR)

- Trap, Neuter, and Return is the most effective and humane way to manage the feral cat overpopulation and many of the problem behaviors that can make feral cats difficult neighbors like spraying, mating, and fighting.
- The first step is to trap the feral cats using humane traps. Residents can call Island Cats about proper use of a trap or borrowing traps for use.
- Once trapped, the cat can be taken to a veterinary clinic for spay and neuter surgeries. At most clinics, the cats also receive vaccinations, an ear-tip, and a general health check. Island Cats also immunizes the cats against disease, micro-chips and tests for Feline Leukemia and FIV. *Note: Not all clinics work with feral cats.*
- Finally, once the cat has recovered from surgery, the cat is returned back to the original trapping site where the cats will live out their lives in good health and will be fed and monitored.

**NATIONAL FERAL CAT
DAY IN PALM BEACH
October 16, 2009**

The special day began with the proclamation signed by Mayor Jack McDonald designating October 16 National Feral Cat Day in Palm Beach. Educational literature was distributed in town in an ongoing effort to inform our residents about the cats living in our midst and tell how they are managed.



Drs. Scully and Ochstein

The Party at McCarty's was also a bartenders contest with celebrities Drs. Mary Ellen Scully and Brad Ochstein serving up smiles and hospitality. Also present, honorary bartenders Mr. Solomon Hurwitz and Mrs. Gertrude Maxwell Hurwitz who also serves as Honorary Chairman of Island Cats.

There were prizes and a raffle to add fun and excitement. Party goers agreed it was a really fun party and swear they won't miss an Island Cats event.

A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can exponentially produce 420,000 offspring over a seven-year period, and the overpopulation problem carries a hefty price tag. Statewide, more than \$50 million (largely from taxes) is spent by animal control agencies and shelters for cat-related expenses. By comparison, Island Cats is a bargain!

In response to this staggering problem, Island Cats is an organization that traps and spays/neuters feral cats, then returns them to their caretakers. This service is provided to the community at greatly discounted prices by licensed veterinarians with one goal in mind: reducing the number of homeless and unwanted cats. The program is, however, dependent on donations and grants to continue the necessary work.

Studies have proven that trap-neuter-release is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat colonies with the least possible cost to local governments and residents while providing the best life for the animals themselves. Spaying/neutering homeless cats:

- Stabilizes the population at manageable levels
- Eliminates annoying behaviors associated with mating
- Is humane to the animals and fosters compassion by residents in the neighborhoods
- Less costly and more effective than repeated attempts at extermination --- costs for repeatedly trapping and killing feral colonies are far higher than promoting stable, non-breeding colonies in the same location. Vacated areas are soon filled by other cats who start the breeding process over again

A lame cat is better than a swift horse when rats infest the palace.
unknown proverb

ISLAND CATS

endorses and practices TNR and is at work 24/7, 365 days a year adding to the total number of feral cats being spayed or neutered in Palm Beach. When you see the Field Operations members and volunteers, tell them thank you for a job being done well!



Stop Outdoor Cats from Marking

To stop outdoor cats from marking your belongings, you must first clean them with more than plain soap and water. You will need to use an enzymatic cleaner or one of the formulas sold in local pet stores designed to remove odors. Next, treat the area with a citrus scented solution. Cats do not like the smell of lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruits or tangerines. You can use a potpourri oil, fruit rinds or peels and even citrus scented cleaners. This citrus scented solution must be re-applied after rain, and/or the scent dissipates.

Moth Balls Outdoors Deter Digging

An old trick of deterring outdoor cats from digging or marking in your garden is to sprinkle several moth balls throughout, or put a few mothballs in a cheesecloth pouch and hang in the garden. NOTE: This is **not recommended** for organic gardeners or people with allergies or asthma or a hyper sensitivity to moth balls.

Citrus Rinds Are Protectors in Soil

Bury citrus rinds in the soil of your house plants to keep cats from digging. All citrus rinds are unpopular with felines. This also works for outdoor gardens as well to prevent the neighborhood cats from treating it as the

MEET THE GREAT FIELD OPERATIONS TEAM



Winifred "Wink" Barber, Director; Damian and Jackie Viduarre, Feeding Team Leaders

FUNDRAISING KICKS-OFF

At the October 16 party, Island Cats announced the idea of a fundraising campaign whereby the expenses of this town serving program for homeless cat management could be equally shared by residents without overwhelming anyone's budget. In order to secure the necessary amount, Directors and volunteers will begin looking for 2,000 people who care to donate at least \$100 – what it takes to meet the anticipated expenses of \$200,000 per year. According to statistics, Palm Beach has 8,000 full time residents, and realistically it only takes one-fourth of that population to help achieve the goal. The residents returning to the Island for the Winter season will also be asked to help reach the needed total of this campaign.

Funds are used to pay for sterilization surgeries, vaccines and immunizations as well as various medical needs must be attended as they arise. Nutrition and the delivery system are mandatory to help the cats maintain their natural immune system to fight natural disease and are costly. Cats are not wildlife and cannot survive without human help, and Island Cats is in the field providing that help for them.

Please help by sending a check for at least \$100 to Island Cats at P.O. Box 332, Palm Beach, FL 33480, or go to the website at www.island-cats.org to donate by credit card. Your donations are needed now, so please don't wait until tomorrow to help.

Island Cats Now On Facebook!

Island Cats has a Facebook thanks to a "fan" -- simply go to Facebook.com and type Island Cats in the search box. Sign up as a fan, and remember to check often for current news!

litter box. Be aware, however, that the rinds will break down into the soil (composting) so you will need to replace them from time to time.

Repellents

Repellents and devices designed to startle the cat "in the act" will work best to condition him to avoid the area. Never use poisons. Not only is poisoning animals inhumane and illegal, it's not an effective solution to the problem. Poisons will only rid you of one pest, but won't deter any others. You'd have no way of knowing or controlling what, or who, might find and ingest the poisonous substance.

For areas where cats want to dig, ornamental pebbles may be an effective deterrent. Avoid those that are round and smooth as they make a great cat bed. Rocks or pebbles should be firmly secured into the dirt or mulched area so they can't be easily moved or overturned. Small gauge chicken wire can also be buried under a light layer of dirt or mulch, and may even restrain some weeds. The sharp pebbles and/or rough wire will be uncomfortable to soft paws.

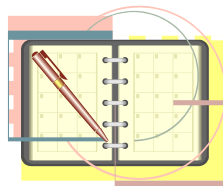
Island Cats offers a couple of different devices to deter cats from entering property where they are not wanted. Call 689-2287 and ask for information about their Scarecrow or sonic devices.

Candidates for Adoption

Choose me...no, choose me...please!
They all want good homes!



Currently in foster care are several cuties that want forever homes. They love to play and are so full of life they are irresistible! These loving little kittens all want love, and they will certainly give their hearts to their new family if given the chance. Each youngster is up to date with their vaccinations and immunizations needed for a healthy life, and if adopted before they are age appropriate to be sterilized, an appointment will be scheduled for the procedure to be done. There is no adoption fee, but a donation to offset the cost of their medical care will be gratefully accepted.



SAVE THE DATE!

January 15 - Amici's - Bartender Contest

A party filled with fun and prizes - Expect some surprises to add to the enjoyment of the evening.

February 10 - Chesterfield Hotel - Purrfect Pawty, Silent Auction

Guaranteed to be one of the season's most talked about parties... this is the one you certainly don't want to miss.