



The most frequently asked question by residents that are not cat friendly is “why feed the cats”? Soon you will see small ads in the *Palm Beach Daily News* calling attention to this part of the homeless and feral cat program to explain why we feed the cats. Each week for a month an ad will be published in an attempt to educate the residents why feeding is not a luxury for the cats but is essential. Hopefully those less than cat-friendly residents will understand and stop their vocal protest.

Cat food is a tool serving three main purposes:

1. Baiting traps with an enticing food is the only hope an animal trapper has to trap an animal. PBIC has tested many “baits” before finding what works best the majority of the time and is successful in trapping these cats (not to mention the countless number of possums, foxes and raccoons). Cats are inquisitive by nature and will investigate the smell. The animal will enter the trap to eat the bait, and the trip plate drops the door of the trap confining the cat inside. The cats are then transported to the local veterinarian for sterilization and medical treatment. Without food as “bait”, any hope to trapping the cats is non-existent.
2. Volunteers and caretakers know food is their only chance to actually monitor the colonies. Monitoring means having to actually see the inhabitants who are scared and wary of humans. Monitoring is done to ensure the cats in a particular colony have been sterilized to prevent future generations of homeless cats, to observe the cats to know if any are sick or injured and in need of medical care, and to know if new cats are trying to join the colony.
3. Feeding the cats nutritious food in adequate amounts helps to bolster the cat’s natural immune system to fight diseases that plague the animals that are not pampered house pets. Malnourished cats will become sick cats, and many die needlessly simply for lack of proper nutrition. Sick cats scrounging for a meal and raiding trash containers just trying to sustain life is not the image that Palm Beach residents want to foster. The goal should be to maintain the health of the cats already in residence.
4. Sickly cats are weak and unable to not only protect themselves against predators but will be unable to hunt their number one enemy – rats and mice. Cats are at work 24/7 on this Island despite having eaten a normal diet....it’s in their DNA to hunt rodents.

QUESTION

Why Feed the Cats in Town? (It’s The Tool)

PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

David Leavitt, President of Palm Beach Island Cats, Inc. announces the appointment of two new Palm Beach residents to the Board of Directors.

Jane Grace, a resident of Palm Beach for many years, is well known in the Palm Beach charity circle for her quiet philanthropic works. She is a member of the Newport Summer Resort Committee and an enthusiastic strong supporter of animal causes, especially the Palm Beach Zoo where she serves on the Board. She has also been active in and a major supporter of the Society of Four Arts, Preservation Society of Palm Beach and the Garden Club.

Noel Settle, a native of New York, worked in Vogue Magazine's Fashion Department and studied painting, drawing and sculpture. She raised two children, joined the Junior League and chaired the Women's Committee for the Boy Scouts of America. Ms. Settle served as President and then Chairman of the Board for the Morris Museum in New Jersey for 15 years. A resident of Palm Beach for over two decades she has served on the Rehabilitation Board of Palm Beach and the Executive Committee there for over 12 years.

Other directors are Isabel Furlaud, Allen Mason, Gail Leavitt, Zelda Mason, Michael B. Harris, Leslie Moss, Harriet Martin, Marisa Vesley and Anita Lorello.

CARETAKER SPOTLIGHT



William and Judith Cooley have always supported the feral cats, and every now and then they go all out to help an animal. The story of Blossum is but one example of how much they care. She was a teenage pregnant cat abandoned on (you guessed it) Blossum Avenue where she had five kittens. Because she was a pet, she needed a home. Another volunteer offered her a home in their yard, but Blossum decided to visit the neighbors and ended up hanging around the Cooley residence. Judith immediately saw how friendly Blossum was and decided to find her a home. We're happy to report that because of Judith's involvement, Blossum now enjoys a home of her own with an owner who absolutely adores her!

MANY THANKS TO . . .

Woof Gang Bakery of Palm Beach
for allowing PBIC to have their
shipments of cat food delivered
weekly to their store, and for
allowing PBIC to inventory a supply
in their warehouse for immediate
access when needed.

WANT TO HELP?

Volunteer to help innocent animals, or think outside the box about ways you can help. Donations of goods will be much appreciated and can help support the program, too. Help care for the cats by donating something listed below – **All Donations are Tax Deductible!**

Cat food – wet and dry

Paper towels -- Trash bags

Plastic plates (black only)

Gift cards from Publix, PetsMart, Petco

Gasoline gift cards (field operations)

Call 512-4884

DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

PBIC desperately needs financial support from residents and friends NOW to continue managing the homeless and feral cats in Palm Beach!!

With 700 homeless cats in residence, PBIC must secure \$250,000 a year just to provide the basic medical care and nutrition which helps maintain the health of the animal. With the additional cats being abandoned on the Island, sterilization surgeries for the newcomers as well as the resident cats adds to the annual costs.

PBIC is extremely grateful to everyone that has made a donation, purchased a brick, dropped cash in a “jar” and attended events. But the coffers are very low again and help is urgently needed!

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Palm Beach Island Cats and Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League have teamed together to make better and wiser expenditures of donations and utilize the PAARL facility to provide a low-cost TNR package for Palm Beach’s homeless and feral cats. “We have a wonderful relationship with volunteers and employees at Peggy Adams,” said Field Director Winifred “Wink” Barber. “They truly care about these unwanted animals and treat them as if they were every bit as worthy of the care as our house pets.” The recently built clinic has state of the art equipment and dedicated and professional personnel, said President David Leavitt. “We are very happy that Mrs. Robert (Jane) Grace joined our Board of Directors. She was the generous donor to PAARL that allowed the construction of the new facility.”

CHANGE IN CATFOOD MEANS REDUCED EXPENSE BUT BETTER NUTRITION

Palm Beach Island Cats did feeding research and got a consult from a national expert to be sure we had our cats on the best food we could afford. We found a clearly better food than the one we were using and at a cheaper price. The food is Premium Edge Healthy Weight Cat Food, and we performed successful feeding tests on multiple colonies before we switched. Many colonies welcomed the change but others were not so enthusiastic. Our response was to go to an even higher quality food, Rocky Mountain Taste of the Wild (TOW). This is a highly palatable, no grain, no by-products, high protein, low carbohydrate, top of the line food that the cats obviously like. The reason for using high quality food is to maintain and improve the cats’ health to bolster their natural immune system. We are getting a very reasonable wholesale price from a distributor, and we have great hopes for this state of the art dry food.

PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011

IT ISN'T TOO LATE...

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES
WITH A LASTING MEMENTO.
ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED
BRICK TODAY!

MEMORY WALK

Groundbreaking for the memory walk to be a part of the new park on Park Avenue cannot commence until all the bricks have been donated for the walk. Bricks are \$100 each and engraved with a message of the donor's choice. Proceeds will help PBIC continue the work to control the feral and homeless cat population in Palm Beach and provide medical and surgical services to maintain healthy colonies. Call today for more information or to receive an order form. Call **512-4884** today.

JOIN PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS

www.pbislandcats.org



BECOME
OUR
FRIEND

PBIC is now on Facebook!

Everyone is urged to visit our page and become our friend. When we have 25 Facebook fans, PBIC will earn it's own URL whereby you can go directly to our page rather than go your own page and search our page or other nonprofit!

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