

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever does.”*

—Margaret Mead



How to Create a Grassroots Community Program to Help Feral Cats

by
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The National Feral Cat Resource

Alley Cat Allies (ACA) The national information clearinghouse and advocacy organization working to establish effective nonlethal programs, including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), as the standard method of reducing feral cat populations. ACA functions through print, video, and web-based information; workshops and conferences; and by consulting with individuals, groups, agencies, and institutions that work directly with feral cats. ACA is a 501(c)3 non-profit association based in Bethesda, Maryland, with more than 95,000 supporters. For more information, go to www.alleycat.org.

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Introduction

Grassroots organizing is an old American tradition that's still alive today in communities across the country. You read about it all the time in your hometown newspaper—a group of people working to improve the neighborhood or draw attention to a worthy cause. Starting a local grassroots program is one of the most effective things you can do to help cats and solve the problem of animal overpopulation in your own community.

And there's more good news. Grassroots organizing can be done effectively with a minimum of resources. E-mail and the Internet make it cheaper and easier than ever to reach out to others to help the animals.

At Neponset Valley Humane Society our program grew out of a meeting in 1994 with the Board of Health administrator and animal control officer in Norwood, Massachusetts. The town officials were concerned and frustrated with the problem of homeless and feral cats. What came out of that meeting was our first Cat Action Team. After that we established successful teams in several other local communities.

Our Cat Action Team program was based on the idea of citizens' action committees. The teams focused on implementing the humane management program for feral cats (as laid out

by Alley Cat Allies in their factsheets) in their target communities. In this way we'd roll the program out town by town across the area.

If you are from an established organization, you'll find that there is tremendous power and benefit to involving the community in your work on this level. In fact, this approach may be the only way we will solve the overpopulation problem, by getting individuals involved in solving it in their own neighborhood, on their own street.

If you are an individual just starting out, it can feel pretty lonely, so it's comforting to know that most successful campaigns start with one person, one dedicated, passionate individual with a good plan. Don't be discouraged if you have not yet found kindred spirits to help out. One poll found over 17.5 million Americans feeding outdoor cats; you only need to reach out to find these people in your community.

What we hope to do is give you a blueprint for creating a program to help feral cats and to motivate people in your community to support the project. This guide explains how we created the successful teams, including samples of posters, press releases and forms that we developed.

This guide is written with the assumption that an organizational structure is already in place.

If you're just getting an organization started, you'll find many valuable resources on nonprofit management, volunteerism, publicity, and fundraising in your local public library and on the Alley Cat Allies and Best Friends Animal Society websites.



Why a Community-Based Program?

We have found this community-based committee approach to have several distinct advantages:

Status: The formation of a local group enhances the status of the cats and the project.

Support: Donations, community support, and media attention are more readily given to an organized group than to an individual.

Hometown pride: Many businesses and community newspapers like to support only local causes, because that's where their customer base is.

Governmental responsiveness: Local government officials are more responsive to local residents; it's easier to make things happen on a local level than on a county or statewide level.

Crisis prevention and response: In times of trouble the group can band together to put pressure on local government bodies or others who threaten the well-being of the cats. (It's a lot quicker and easier to mobilize an existing network in a crisis, than to try to create one!)

Moral support: Solitary caregivers receive much-needed moral support from the group.

Success breeds success: This program will help build a successful foundation for expanded programs in your area. An effective program that's been implemented right in their own community makes a powerful impression on people.

Acting locally: It's easier to motivate people to address a problem that they can see in their own town. Time and money invested there have a direct effect on their own community. It's the principle of "think globally, act locally" put into practice.

Starting a Community-Based Feral Cat Program: A Step-by-Step Outline

We'll review each of these steps in greater detail:

- 1] Research and Preparation
 - Information Gathering
 - Making a Plan
 - Goals and Standards
- 2] Going Public
 - Creating Publicity
 - Planning the First Meeting
- 3] Volunteer Staff and Training
- 4] Developing Your Strengths and Rallying Support
 - Fundraising
 - Vet Care
- 5] Assessing the Problem, Implementing the Program
- 6] Putting It All Together



STEP 1: Research and Preparation

Information Gathering

Time spent on the research and planning phase will form a solid foundation for your program and will save time and prevent mistakes later.

One of the most critical success factors for any group is having well-informed leadership that can communicate information effectively to the volunteers, the media, and public officials. We recommend that the group leaders do two things to prepare themselves:

Read all the factsheets and literature from Alley Cat Allies, highlighting key points for easy future reference.

Speak with individuals who have implemented similar community-based programs. Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network can put you in touch with other successful programs. You might also want to approach leaders of other local community groups that do not focus on animal welfare but know your community and how to get things done.

Before you talk to other leaders, prepare a list of questions to ask. These might include things like: What has worked well for your group? What difficulties have you encountered and how have you handled them? How do you raise resources for the program?

Be sure to allow enough time for the information gathering and research aspect of developing your program. Your initial investment at this early stage will pay off later, saving energy and preventing problems.

Devising a Plan for Success

Assess your strengths. If you are an individual or small group of friends, assess the skills you each bring to the project. If you're part of an organization, assess what the organization can bring to the project. Decide how quickly you want to develop and expand this program. How much volunteer support do you have or could you enlist? Financial resources? Time?

Second, assess the communities in your area and select a town (or neighborhood, if you live in a larger town or city) that you feel should be your pilot program community. The factors you'll want to weigh may include current support (friends who will help, media contacts, vets, members, volunteers), need, and any potential obstacles. Remember that for your pilot program you may not want to select your most challenging community; it's important to demonstrate success and build from there.

We launched the Cat Action Teams one town at a time, while still providing assistance to individuals from other local communities who called us with feral cat problems. As a relatively young organization it was important for us to build from a position of strength, growing at a comfortable pace, rather than spreading ourselves too thinly. We put our energy into getting each town's group off to a solid start before beginning a new Cat Action Team in the next community.

Set Goals and Standards

Writing down standards and policies may sound like a boring activity, but in the long run they will prove to be invaluable in working with a group. Small groups may be able to work effectively without written goals and guidelines, but as your program grows, a lack

of written policies and forms to document your progress limits your growth. Having guidelines in writing, so that volunteers can easily refer to them, is the best way to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Your goals can be simple and limited. Having them in writing forces you to define what your group does and does not do and helps you to direct your efforts and stay on track. Adopting another organization's policies or standards may be an effective way to get your program up and running quickly.

Written materials also help to give you and your group credibility with the public, officials, and the media. Though this is a non-profit venture, you will meet with greater success if you apply professional business skills and standards to your program. If this is not your group's strong point, try to recruit a few volunteer, who have a talent for organizing, management, and writing.

We feel that the success we had in obtaining the support and endorsement of local boards of health, animal control officers, and selectmen has been due, in large part, to the substantial amount of written documentation we provided to these officials. And of course, reliability and follow-through are necessary to maintaining positive relations.

Included (in the appendix) are samples of many of the forms and handouts we have developed. You'll want to revise and adapt them to meet your needs.

STEP 2: Going Public

Once your plan is in writing you'll want to prepare for taking it to the public. Again, you do not want to scrimp on time or preparation here. Be sure that your information and handouts are accurate, attractive, and easily understandable. The first impression that you create with the local media and the public at large will be a lasting one. Make it positive!

Getting the Word Out

At last you're ready to set a date for a public meeting. Publicity is the key to success here; you don't want to throw a party and have nobody show up! If there is a supportive local vet or other appropriate person available to speak at the first meeting, that can be an added draw for the public.

In all your literature about the meeting, be sure to include the 5 W's:

1] Who: the name of the group or project and names of people known in the community who will be there. Be sure to include your contact information so that people can get in touch with you if they are interested but cannot attend. Ideally this will include an e-mail address, phone number (including the area code), and mailing address (including the city, state, and zip code) That may seem self-evident, but it's amazing how often significant information is left out.

2] What: Explain in a single sentence the purpose of the meeting and who should attend. It's advantageous to state that attendance is free. You may want to add that refreshments will be served and that donations are welcome and appreciated.

3] When: be sure to give the date and time of the meeting.

4] Where: Give the location of the meeting, including the street address. If transportation or parking will be a concern for people, be sure to include information about that as well.

5] Why: Explain, briefly, why the meeting is happening. The idea is to arouse interest, to get people to attend because it sounds interesting or important.

Before you send anything out, always have someone read your notices over who is seeing them for the first time. You'll be amazed at the things they will catch.

Last, be sure to keep it clean and simple. Avoid jargon that people may not be familiar with. Don't clutter the notice with too much information. After all, you just want to get people to the meeting, not explain the whole program.

To draw a substantial group we recommend employing all the following strategies to promote your first meeting:

News Releases: A news release announcing the new program and inviting people to the meeting should be sent to all the local media, including newspapers—large and small. Always send news releases addressed to a person (not just marked "Editor"). Call papers in advance to obtain names and start a media contact database or address list. Read your local papers to watch for the names of animal-friendly local reporters. One sympathetic person at a local paper can give your grassroots project a huge boost.

Calendar Announcement: Send a separate calendar announcement to each paper for listing in their community events section.

Local TV and Radio: Don't forget the local cable TV station and any local radio stations. Smaller radio stations are often looking for talk show guests: Why not you?

Posters: We have found poster campaigns to be an inexpensive and highly effective tool in our grassroots campaign. A simple 8 1/2" x 11" poster printed on bright colored paper with an eye-catching image of a cat will do the trick. If you have a volunteer with a color printer, it's even better to use an attractive color photo of a cat.

Distributing the posters, really getting them out there, is as important as having an attractive poster. Create a list of names and addresses of good locations and assign a volunteer to post the notices. Your list should include all the area vet clinics, groomers, public libraries, town halls, supermarket bulletin boards, pet supply stores, and popular local businesses. Always ask permission before posting notices to maintain good relations in the community.

Invitations: Create a meeting notice or invitation and send it to all the folks on your organization's mailing list who reside in the community. It can be a simple postcard. Mailing list databases can be sorted by zip code so that you can target the area efficiently. If you don't have a mailing list, now is the time to start one. Be sure to send the notices to your most active volunteers, even if they live outside the target town/area. They may want to offer support to this new project or may offer to get something going in their community. Timing the arrival of the notice is important too: more than 3 weeks prior and people forget; less than 10 days before the meeting and their schedules are filled.

E-groups and listserves: Search around on the Internet and ask other animal lovers to see if you can find any animal-related e-groups that cover your area. Join them and post your meeting notice. You may also want to start your own e-group to keep people informed and involved as your project develops.

“No socially useful endeavor, no matter how nobly conceived and urgently needed, will ultimately succeed unless you can sell the idea to prospective backers. Therefore be it resolved: Whatever your program or project, it should be presented in a way that will attract attention, arouse enthusiasm, and elicit financial support.”

—Richard Beamish, *Getting the Word Out in the Fight to Save the Earth*

“Before people will act on something, such as joining a group, they need to hear, or see, about it six times.”

—Steve McQueen,
Vegetarian Union of North America



Holding a Productive Meeting

If you have effectively gotten the message out, the people will come! This is your only opportunity to make a good first impression on them.

A written meeting agenda (given to all the meeting attendees) and a strong meeting chairperson will keep the meeting on track. You want to prevent the meeting from degenerating into a series of “cute kitty stories” or “war stories.” An unproductive meeting can be the kiss of death to a young group; busy, productive people do not have time to waste.

At this first meeting it’s important to establish your credibility and to explain the program clearly and positively. Even though you want to convince people of the seriousness of this problem, be sure to speak in a positive tone. You must convince the attendees that this is a do-able project, that they can make a difference! No one wants to board a sinking ship or support a lost cause. (Remember the old adage: “Nothing succeeds like success.”)

Be sure to have a volunteer welcome all attendees and ask them to sign in so that you can record their name, mailing address, and e-mail address.

Give each attendee a

- Meeting agenda that includes your contact information.
- Handout that explains the program and invites donations and volunteers.

Have a table set up with

- Brochures or some other simple donation request forms that people can pick up for themselves or to share with others.
- A donation coin canister for spontaneous donations (you’ll also want to have one near the refreshments).

- Sign-up sheets for people who want to volunteer that provide space to indicate how they may be willing to help out and/or to list any feral cat colonies that they are aware of.
- If possible, it's ideal to hand out posters announcing the next meeting date and ask everyone to post them. We often included a trapping training session as part of our second meeting.
- Nice photos of cats your group has helped—healthy ferals in their colonies and/or cats and kittens available for adoption.

For public meetings we created a 12-minute slide presentation that introduced our program. We found that the photos helped hold the audience's attention, and the formal nature of the presentation gave us an opportunity to make our case without interruption.

The pages titled “Humane Management of Feral Cats” (in the appendix) give an overview of the Neponset Valley Humane Society program and how we promoted it to the public. We started off by explaining how the feral cat situation came about, the three common methods of dealing with feral cats, reasons the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) method is so effective, how we and others have been successful with it, and how it's done. Next we would propose starting a similar program in the audience's community. Last, we'd ask them to help, suggesting a variety of different ways they could get involved and support the program.

If you create a slide (or PowerPoint) presentation, be sure to use appealing photos of healthy, happy feral cats in their environment. Photos of upbeat volunteers working together work well too. You want to keep the images positive and, if possible, amusing or touching.

STEP 3: Volunteer Staff and Training

Appointing Leadership

Before or immediately following the first meeting it is necessary to appoint a chairperson or co-chairs to oversee the newly formed team.

It's important to recruit capable people. Many people approach volunteer recruitment by asking: “Okay, we really need someone to do this. Is anyone here willing to do this?” If you ask for a volunteer for an important task at a public meeting, the first volunteer may not be the best choice. Rather than waiting to see who volunteers, it's best to carefully select and approach the person you want to do the job. This may take a bit more time, as you'll need to get to know your volunteers, but it will result in a better fit and greater success for the group.

How can you find the right person? At your first meeting, allow some time at the end to mix and mingle while people enjoy refreshments. Asking attendees to complete the volunteer questionnaire helps a great deal, but there is no substitute for meeting people face-to-face. The meeting organizers should make an effort to fan out to connect with and learn about as many of the attendees as possible. Then, after the meeting, you can review the volunteer forms, compare notes with your colleagues, and choose who you'd like to have chair the committee. The next step is to call and let the person know that they're just the right person for the job.

Be sure to fully explain the purpose of the job and the expectations. Assigning tasks and delegating responsibility should be part of your initial discussions with the newly appointed volunteer.

Cat Action Team Volunteer Job Titles

There are many different ways that you could structure your team. Below is a list of the job titles we used. The appendix includes a short job description for each. Naturally, jobs can be combined if help is in short supply. In our case the chairperson (always a hearty soul!) ended up handling whatever jobs were not filled.

- Chairperson
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Phone Representative(s)
- Secretary
- Trapping Coordinator
- Trapping Team Volunteers
- Feeders
- Foster Care Providers

After volunteers are assigned tasks, they'll need thorough training in order to perform their role effectively. Anyone in your group who provides hands-on animal care (trapping, foster care, transport) must receive general cat health care information and complete and careful training in the care and handling of feral cats and the proper use of equipment. This should be a top priority, as you must ensure the safety and well-being of the volunteers and all animals that come under your care. All volunteers need to receive training on the organization's policies and how the program is to be implemented.

Whenever possible, it's helpful to have a new volunteer work for a while with an experienced volunteer.

STEP 4: Developing Your Strengths and Rallying Support

Fundraising

You'll need money to make things happen! Your major expense will be providing veterinary care for the cats. If you are launching this program as part of an existing organization, approach the executive director about any funding available for the project or to get approval to fundraise for it.

If you are starting from scratch, you'll have to do some serious fundraising before you begin. The public library has lots of great books available on grassroots fundraising and the price is right. The Best Friends Animal Society website offers handouts on grassroots fundraising.

You can begin to appeal to the public for donations and start to gain visibility with small, low-cost, local events and grassroots strategies—bake sales, yard sales, donation cans, and simple donation flyers. This may seem like slow going at first, but as the project continues, you'll gain momentum.

Beware of fundraising events that cost a lot of money or require a lot of energy with a low potential return. It is possible to lose money on poorly planned events. Though yours is a not-for-profit venture, fundraising definitely requires basic business skills. Do a rough budget before undertaking any fundraising event to project the expenses and estimate the potential income.

A mailing list of supporters is the foundation you want to get in place to ensure the financial stability of your organization. Fortunately there is a low-cost proven method of doing this. It's called tabling, setting up information tables at local markets and pet supply stores.

You want to be there during the stores' peak hours, and your goal should be to record the name, mailing address, and e-mail address of everyone who expresses any interest in your project. Be outgoing and engage people in friendly conversation. Be sure to have a colorful poster with appealing photos that says who you are (remember: "a picture is worth a thousand words"), informational handouts for the public, and a donation canister.

It's important to carefully maintain a database of all the names and addresses you gather while tabling. And be sure to include everyone you have helped, as well as local animal-related businesses, all your volunteers, and donors.

As you grow, so do your fundraising options. Our Cat Action Teams had success with the following events: flea markets (selling table space to vendors, charging a small admission fee to attendees), yard sales (selling donated items), cat food donation bins in local supermarkets, information tables at community events (e.g.; July 4th, First Night celebrations, etc.), adoption days at local pet supply stores, rabies vaccination clinics, bake sales, "Cans for Cats" recyclables drives, seeking in-kind donations of goods and services (not spending money is as good as raising it).

The parent organization had more volunteers and greater resources than the individual Cat Action Teams and could handle more com-

plex projects. The annual fundraising strategy included a walkathon (raised \$50,000+ each year), holiday auction, sponsor-a-cat program, quarterly newsletter, direct mail solicitation, coin canister donation program, and grant seeking.

Arranging Vet Care

While some people are working on raising resources others can focus on cultivating veterinary contacts. Veterinary care arrangements must be completely in place before the first trap is set.

If you are part of an existing organization you can usually work with its spay/neuter program to obtain veterinary care for the feral cats. If your organization does not have a spay/neuter program, you'll need to find an existing low-cost program, clinic, or sympathetic vet (or several) to work with you. Paying full-price veterinary fees is prohibitive with the high volume of cats that need to be neutered.

Contacting Alley Cat Allies, SPAY/USA, and Friends of Animals (see the resource listing) for referrals is a good place to start to locate a receptive veterinarian or clinic. Local vets may be willing to offer discount services once they understand your program. You need to find



only one willing veterinarian to start; you can always build other relationships as you grow.

Devising a reliable authorization system for vet care, keeping careful track of your expenses, and paying the veterinarians promptly are critical parts of maintaining a good reputation in the community.

Vets who have not worked with feral cats previously will need more information before embarking on this project. We highly recommend that you provide them with information available in the Resources for Veterinarians section of Alley Cat Allies' website (www.alleycat.org). Topics covered include early age spay/neuter, essential equipment for treating feral cats, eartipping protocol, surgery recovery and stress reduction instructions, the latest statistics on whether testing for FeLV and FIV is always necessary, and "Feral Cat Management," by Julie Levy, DVM.

STEP 5: Assessing the Problem and Implementing the Program

The Cat Situation

Assessing the feral cat situation in your community is the next order of business. Gather data (be sure to write it all down) on all known colonies in the target town. These statistics can prove helpful in grant proposal writing and in assessing your own progress, but they are essential in making a solid trapping plan. In addition to the written listing we would obtain a map of the town and mark the location of the colonies. If you have a computer-savvy volunteer, MapPoint works wonderfully for tracking the colonies.

Important basic facts to record on this preliminary colony listing are the location of the colony, the caregiver's name and phone number, and the approximate number of cats. You can start to collect this information at the first meeting by asking the attendees to write down information on any colony they are aware of. Train the phone representatives to document all feral cat calls, so that you can add these colonies to the list. Contact the local animal control officer and veterinarians, since they will most likely know the locations of several colonies. Obviously this is an ongoing project, but you want to obtain as complete a listing as possible at the outset.

Once the list is compiled, select one or two colonies to begin trapping efforts. Again, you do not want to spread yourself too thin. We usually start with colonies that already have dedicated feeders who will help with the program and provide ongoing care to the cats. We usually work on two or three colonies at once, with different trappers assigned to each, but the general idea is to stabilize a few colonies completely and then move on to others, building on success. As the trappers gain experience and confidence you can move on to more



challenging projects that may involve convincing a reluctant party or establishing a feeding team for a colony that has not had regular feeders previously. Setting a target date for the completion of each colony should be part of your trapping plan.

Special Note: Unfortunately, everyone does not share our concern for the well-being of the cats, so for the protection of the cats and the feeders we strive to keep the locations of all feral colonies strictly confidential.

When feeding sites have been in plain view we generally try to move them behind cover—a short distance into the woods, behind some shrubs, or around a corner. We have found that the cats adjust to these location changes very well and that keeping them from public view provides greater safety for them and reduces complaints.

STEP 6: Putting It All Together

Once your funding, veterinary care, and trapping plan are in place you are ready to roll with the program.

Though starting a Cat Action Team is initially labor intensive it's also richly rewarding. Every time you have neutered a cat it has prevented many births and has made the life of the individual cat safer and healthier. Many new people will become aware of the problem of cat overpopulation as a result of your program and some of these individuals will get involved, helping still more animals. Your program's volunteers will forge new friendships with others they have met at meetings and through their work. Your effort will not only

help many, many of the community's cats, but it will build a strong alliance of people who care about animals.

The circle of compassion that you set into motion will keep on growing.

"The combined force of a few thousand sparks makes a powerful bolt of lightning."

—Arlo Guthrie

"...One can do much, and one, and one, and one can move mountains!"

—Joan Ward-Harris



Resources

Humane Management of Feral Cats

Alley Cat Allies

7920 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 600

Bethesda, MD 20814-2525

Phone: 240-482-1980

e-mail: alleycat@alleycat.org

Website: www.alleycat.org

National resource center for nonlethal feral cat control, cat behavior, predation, rabies, health care, and policy development. Referrals to local contacts through Feral Friends Network. Outstanding factsheets explain many aspects of feral cat management. Books and videos.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Referrals

SPAY USA

Phone: 1-800-248-SPAY

Website: www.spayusa.org

Referrals to local vets and low cost programs, information on developing a local program.

Friends of Animals

Phone: 1-800-321-PETS

Website: www.friendsofanimals.org/programs/spay-neuter/index.html

Low-cost spay/neuter certificates, referrals to local vets

Nonprofit Management Information

Best Friends Animal Society

Website: www.bestfriends.org

The No More Homeless Pets section of the website provides information for humane organizations and for individuals starting local groups.

The Non-Profit Handbook

By Gary Grobman

White Hat Communications

P.O. Box 5390

Harrisburg, PA 17110-0390

Phone 717-238-3787

Website: www.whitehatcommunications.com/nphome.htm

Cat Action Team Job Descriptions and Tasks to Be Delegated

Chairperson (or Co-Chairs)

Function: Overseeing the entire Cat Action Team program for _____ (community name).

Tasks:

- Setting goals with other key team members.
- Appointing coordinators, delegating tasks, coordinating their efforts.
- Ensuring that procedures are followed and that tasks are completed in a timely fashion.
- Maintaining accurate records of the team's progress.
- Keeping the team informed on an ongoing basis, including arranging and chairing productive periodic meetings.
- Assisting with fundraising activities for the team.
- Staying informed on developments and information regarding feral cat management by reading and networking with other organizations.
- Maintaining information on the work of the team, including news clippings.
(This documentation is very helpful in convincing government officials and property owners to endorse this plan.)
- Reporting to the organization's president regarding planned activities, problems, and successes of the team.
- Spearheading major projects, such as campaigns to alert the public to problems with, or threats to the cats, enlisting the services of local vets, etc. as needed to make the program a success.
- Reviewing the monthly reports, colony listing, and tracking system forms with the president on a regular basis.

Fundraising Coordinator

Function: Raising resources for the program.

Tasks:

- Creating a fundraising plan to ensure financial resources for the program.
This plan must be approved in advance of implementation by the organization's president and the team chairperson.
- Carrying out the plan, including developing materials and organizing events.
- Maintaining clear communication with the organization's treasurer to ensure that donations are properly processed according to the organization's policies, ensuring that thank-yous are sent, etc.
- Recruiting and coordinating volunteers to assist with fundraising.

Cat Action Team Job Descriptions and Tasks to Be Delegated

Publicity

Function: Creating awareness and support for this program in the community.

Tasks:

- Writing and sending out calendar notices and news releases about events, meetings, and the committee's successes in order to publicize the program.
- Maintaining the media contact list.
- Developing a publicity plan including seeking interviews and local radio and cable TV opportunities; online outreach; creating positive publicity events, catchy slogans, a bumper-sticker, button or T-shirt campaign; or other creative ways of reaching new people and getting the issue before the public. This plan must be approved by the president and chairperson before implementation.

Phone Representatives

Function: Returning phone calls for the team.

Tasks:

- Satisfactory completion of a training session is required. Phone reps must agree to follow the policies of the organization and to handle calls in the prescribed manner.
- Returning calls and maintaining accurate records as required. (We had written guidelines for the phone reps and provided a list questions for them to ask callers in order to obtain complete and accurate information about the problem. We found that callers had differing expectations of our program and that most did not understand the difference between a homeless, tame cat and a feral cat, so the phone reps were trained to provide information and ask questions.
For example, we have found that people often call to report one stray cat that they are concerned about, but if we ask, "Are there others?" the answer is often "yes." Since our goal is to understand the scope of the problem and to be proactive for the cats, this is important information for us. We also provide placement assistance and referrals to help tame cats that are found in the process of implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return program, so our phone reps are trained to assist with this aspect of the program as well.

Cat Action Team Job Descriptions and Tasks to Be Delegated

Secretary

Function: Handling correspondence and maintaining official records for the team.

Tasks:

- Taking minutes of meetings.
- Sending out requested information to the public.
- Maintaining records, including volunteer addresses (passed on to the parent organization, on a monthly basis, to be entered into the master mailing list database).

Trapping Coordinator

Function: Creating and implementing a trapping plan, training and overseeing the trapping team(s), maintaining records.

Tasks:

- Maintaining a current listing of all identified colonies in the area.
- Creating a trapping plan, setting priorities along with the chairperson.
- Issuing spay/neuter certificates (or otherwise authorizing veterinary care, maintaining records of expenditures so as not to exceed the budget).
- Ensuring that all trappers, transporters, and feeders are trained in proper methods and policies.
- Completing monthly Cat Action Team report and colony listing forms and providing copies to the chairperson.
- Ensuring that accurate records are kept on each colony on the Alley Cat Allies Feral Cat Tracking System form. The trapping coordinator should forward a copy of these to the chairperson every six months.
- Developing a system to ensure that records of rabies tags and certificates for the cats are properly maintained.
- Developing a system for managing and keeping track of traps for loan.

Cat Action Team Job Descriptions and Tasks to Be Delegated

Trapping Team

Function: Trapping and transporting feral cats according to the committee's trapping plan. (Multiple individuals are needed for this job.)

Tasks:

- Satisfactory completion of a special training session is required.
- Trapping volunteers must agree to follow the organization's policies. It's their responsibility to see that the entire program is properly implemented, including ensuring ongoing care for the cats. It's particularly important that the well-being of the animals and the trappers' own safety be safeguarded by the trappers at all times.
- Trapping, transporting, and/or feeding the cats under the direction of the trapping coordinator.

Colony Feeders

Function: Providing ongoing care to the cats.

Tasks:

- Providing food and water to the cats daily (or on assigned days).
- Ensuring that shelter is available.
- Alerting the trapping coordinator to issues affecting the colony: health problems, newcomers, or dangers.

Foster Care Providers

Function: Providing hands-on care to animals. (Multiple families or individuals are usually needed for this job.)

Tasks:

- Providing daily care to animals in their home until permanent homes can be found. Usually this care is for either tame cats that are found in colonies or feral kittens that are young enough to be tamed and adopted out.
- Foster care providers must agree to follow all adoption and care policies of the parent organization.

Humane Management of Feral Cats (presentation)



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

16171 341 - 2675

<http://www.conejo.com/hvhs.html> Email: nvhs@conejo.com

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals

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HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF FERAL CATS

A presentation to the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
February 9, 1997

Feral cats are everywhere... Their numbers are estimated at 60 million nation wide. Wherever a source of food is available groups of cats congregate and form colonies. They can be found eating out of dumpsters behind restaurants, at apartment complexes, industrial parks, urban areas, farms and residential neighborhoods.

Where do they come from??? Feral cats are the offspring of unneutered cats that have been abandoned, or neglected pets that are allowed to breed. Kittens raised without human contact develop a natural fear of man, similar to that of wild animals. It's important to encourage people to spay and neuter their companion animals as it helps to prevent the creation of feral populations.

In some areas small groups of cats are welcome because they help to keep the rodent population under control naturally. But when their numbers increase they become an unwelcome nuisance. Unneutered cats exhibit annoying behaviors associated with feline mating; spraying (which creates an odor), yowling and fighting. Additionally there is concern about the spread of rabies.

How can we best solve this problem?

There are 3 ways in which you can deal with feral cats;

- Leave them alone (ignore them)
- Try to exterminate them
- Humanely control them (humane management)

We'll examine each of these options;

Leaving them alone, or ignoring the cats is the most common way we deal with this problem, but it is really not a solution at all. Unchecked the cats can breed at an alarming rate. Sadly the mortality rate for feral kittens is very high, about 50% of them succumbing to treatable ailments. However enough survive to continue the cycle of breeding. As the numbers increase the problems that the unneutered cats cause for people also increase. This is not a humane solution for the cats, or the people.

Humane Management of Feral Cats (presentation)

Often regarded as a "Pest Problem", the second most common way that feral cats are dealt with is extermination. Cats are trapped and killed. This is not really the solution that it at first appears to be. Theoretically, if one could trap all of the cats and euthanize them the problem would be done with once and for all. However, this is not what ends up happening in reality.

When the cats are removed new animals move into the area to take advantage of the existing food sources and fill the void left by the cat's removal. The new cats will breed up to the capacity for the area, and the problem starts all over again. This makes trap and kill programs inefficient and not very cost effective, as the trapping and killing must be repeated periodically. This phenomenon has been documented both by studies and by records from pest removal companies. In this time of concern about rabies it is especially important to note that the resulting migrations of animals, caused by removal programs, actually speeds up the spread of disease - such as rabies - as infected animals may move into the area.

The common mistake that people make when evaluating the options for dealing with feral cats is that they compare having *these* cats around in the neighborhood to having *no* cats around...in reality you may get rid of *these* cats, but if a food source exists you will surely get *more* cats, with millions of them out there looking for resources.

I want to point out that it is under these first two policies...ignoring the cats and alternately trying to exterminate them, that the feral cat problem has grown to this present level. It's very clear that these methods are not working...and its time to implement an alternative.

This brings us to the Humane Management of feral cat colonies. This method, often called Trap /Neuter and Release has many benefits over the other two options we've covered:

- It's humane, preventing the need to kill innocent animals.
- It puts an end to the breeding of more cats.
- It prevents the spread of rabies.
- It ends annoying feline mating behaviors; spraying, fighting, yowling.
- Rodent populations which would otherwise be killed by chemical poisons or traps are kept under control naturally by the presence of the cats.
- This solution is practical and cost effective as the controlled colony defends it's territory against newcomers, preventing the migration of new animals into the area that occurs when colonies are removed.
- It eliminates the risk of trapping and accidentally euthanizing someone's pet cat, which can happen with extermination plans.
- Also feral cats often have one or more sympathetic people in any neighborhood where they exist. These individuals often strenuously resist trap and kill plans. The resistance they create causes many trapping plans

Humane Management of Feral Cats (presentation)

to fail to get all of the cats, and if cats remain the breeding continues. Additionally there are many people out there feeding cats who carefully keep the colonies existence a secret, because the only help available to them is to have the cats trapped and killed. A recent poll found 17.5 million Americans feeding stray and feral cats! These very individuals who are hiding their colony's existence and those who would resist a trap and kill plan will be your very best allies in implementing a more humane approach to solving the problem.

For the skeptical I'd like to let you know that this is not a new idea or an untried plan...this is a method that has been used with great success by growing numbers of individuals and organizations across the country and around the world. In Great Britain it is the method of choice for dealing with feral cats and has the endorsement of all the major humane organizations including the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It has been implemented by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and has the endorsement of The Fund For Animals, The Doris Day Animal League, The San Francisco SPCA, and many other animal welfare organizations in the United States, including Alley Cat Allies, a national organization dedicated to expanding the use of this kinder and gentler approach to dealing with feral cats. The 1994 Summit for Animals, attended by representatives from 42 national humane organizations, passed a landmark resolution endorsing the non-lethal control of feral cat populations. Many towns and large municipalities across the country, including San Jose, San Diego and San Mateo in California, Miami Beach and Orange County in Florida and Portland, Oregon have adopted humane management for ferals.

Here's how it works;

A successful project is always the result of advance planning; getting the permission of the property owner and assessing the suitability of the sight are important to the long term well-being of the cats.

1. Each cat is trapped live in a humane trap. The trap should be covered to minimize stress for the cat. Do not attempt to handle a feral cat as they are extremely fearful of humans and will naturally defend themselves with teeth and claws.
2. The cat is taken to a local veterinarian. It's important to work with a vet who is knowledgeable about working with feral cats. (The cat will need to be tranquilized by the veterinarian before handling.) Cats should be examined for general good health. A sampling of cats from each location should be tested for feline leukemia. Sick cats should be humanely euthanized.
3. Healthy cats should be spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies and distemper. Treatment for earmites and tapeworm should be administered as needed. It's important that the veterinarian use absorbable

Humane Management of Feral Cats (presentation)

suture material as the cat will not be able to come back for suture removal. When dealing with a larger colony it's advisable to mark the cats for identification purposes. This can be done at the time of neutering by the veterinarian using a simple technique called "ear tipping".

4. The cat should be allowed to recuperate in a warm, quiet area, we usually recommend that the vet place the feral cat back into the trap while still under the anesthesia. The covered trap is the perfect place for the cat to recuperate and this minimizes stress for everyone concerned, cats and humans, as it eliminates the need to handle the cat again.
5. To determine the best way to deal with each cat they should be evaluated by the vet or another trained individual. Tame cats can often be placed in adoptive homes and feral kittens under 8 weeks of age can usually be tamed and make wonderful pets. Cats that are feral, too fearful of humans to become house pets, are released back where they were trapped after they have fully regained consciousness, the following day for *most* cats. It's important to note that even kittens under 6 months of age can be safely neutered and returned to the colony with "early spay/neuter". This would require a veterinarian skilled in this technique.
6. The cats must be fed and monitored daily. This can be as simple as one dedicated person looking after the cats or as elaborate as having a scheduled team of volunteers. We recommend feeding the cats at daylight and removing leftover food at night to avoid attracting wildlife to the area. Shelter must be provided for the cats for the winter months. Records must be kept on each cat as they must be retrapped one year later and given an approved 3 year rabies vaccination. Any new cats that show up also need to be trapped, neutered and vaccinated.

Though the trap, neuter and release method requires some effort it is richly rewarding to those who care about animals and is an effectively long term solution to the problems associated with feral cats.

Another important and not to be overlooked aspect of keeping feral cat populations under control is encouraging the public to spay and neuter their companion animals. Our work includes an ongoing public awareness campaign about the problem of animal overpopulation.

We advocate the creation of citizen action committees in each community to review the feral cat problem locally and to implement a humane management program. We have found this volunteer-based, grassroots approach to be very effective. NVHS started such a program, the Cat Action Team of Norwood, in 1994 with the enthusiastic support of the Town of Norwood's Board of Health, ACO and the local veterinarian Dr. Tristram Carpenter of Norwood Animal

Humane Management of Feral Cats (presentation)

Hospital. The Cat Action Team of Sharon was started the following spring under the direction of Dr. Blair Barone. The Town of Foxboro Cat Action Team was launched in January 1996 with the endorsement of the town Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and the ACO. These committees have been well received by the public and are successfully implementing this program. We plan to expand the Cat Action Teams to other local communities and to share information with other organizations on how to set up a similar program in their area.

In the past 3 years NVHS has neutered over 3000 feral cats and over 1000 other companion cats from the local communities. We have received some limited grant monies for this program, but it is primarily operated on the generosity of private donors, the 14 participating area veterinarians and many, many dedicated volunteers.

We have found this humane management plan to be overwhelmingly popular, practical and effective. We're happy to share information on the program with other organizations and invite them to contact us, or Alley Cat Allies, for further information.

Thank you.



Bonney Brown
President, Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

For additional information contact:
Alley Cat Allies
P.O. Box 397, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
phone# 301-229-7890
email: alleycat@iga.apc.org
website: www.alleycat.org

Feral Cat Trapping Notes



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341 - 2675

<http://www.conejo.com/nvhs.html> Email: nvhs@conejo.com

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Feral Cat Trapping Notes

Compiled by Steve MacEachern and Arlene Brown

Observing a colony

1. Bring the following items along with you; paper, pen, binoculars, water, food, feeding paraphernalia and optionally a camera.
2. Make a list of the cats and kittens that you see. List colors, markings, approximate ages and, if possible, the sex of the cats. Choose a name for each cat. Go to the site at off hours and talk with other feeders to determine if you have seen the entire colony and if wildlife is present at the site.
3. Feed the cats every day, if possible at the same time. Never feed tuna fish or similar special treats, as this will be used later for bait in the trapping process.
4. In preparation for trapping notify neighbors of your efforts, advising them to keep their own cats indoors during your trapping time. We will be glad to provide additional literature explaining this program for you to hand out.

Items needed for trapping

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Platform operated humane trap | 5. Tuna fish or sardines, (type intended for humane consumption, not cat food) |
| 2. Towels or folded newspaper to cover the trap floor | 6. Can opener and spoon or fork |
| 3. Blanket or sheet large enough to cover the entire trap | 7. Regular food and water for feeding the remainder of the colony after the trapping session |
| 4. Plastic lid or small paper plate to hold the bait | 8. Squeeze carrier/cage (optional) |

Trapping

1. Arrange for veterinary care beforehand. Surgery should be done with absorbable sutures by a veterinarian familiar with feral cats. We can provide referrals to qualified doctors.
2. Plan your trapping session with a partner. An extra pair of hands will most always be needed. Never go alone to remote or urban trapping sites.
3. Do not do the regular feeding. Some hunger will make the bait more attractive. Planning your trapping session at the regular feeding time is often effective.

Feral Cat Trapping Notes

4. Put the towel or folded newspapers on the floor of the trap to cover the platform (release mechanism) and the mesh floor of the trap.
5. Place the bait on the plastic lid and place it at the end furthest from the trap entry. Make a trail of small mounds of the bait that lead into the trap.
6. Set the trap and wait. Do not leave visual range, but watch at a distance that is not disturbing to the cats. Never leave a trap unattended.
7. Covering all but the door opening to the trap often gives the best results, (make sure that the cover will not obstruct the door closing). If the cats remain nervous and will not enter the trap you may try uncovering the back end, or leaving the entire trap uncovered.
8. As soon as the cat is trapped, quickly cover the entire trap with the blanket or sheet to calm and quiet the animal.
9. You may transfer the animal to a squeeze carrier if you are planning to trap additional cats, otherwise the cat should remain in the trap which functions as a carrier. Keep the trap or squeeze carrier covered during transit. Most vets prefer that the cat be delivered in the trap or a squeeze carrier as the wire mesh makes it easier for them to safely administer a tranquilizing injection to the cat. A plastic cat carrier makes it more difficult for the vet and more stressful for the cat.
11. Don't forget to feed the other animals before you leave the site with the trapped animals.
12. Record the cat's vital statistics and, if possible, take a picture of the cat in the trap to help with future identification. Keeping a file or album with the cats photos, description, sex, approximate age, dates of trapping and vaccinations are important. We recommend using the Alley Cat Allies Colony Tracking System form, which we can provide for you.

Release

In good weather most males and females can be released the following day. As feral cats experience stress while in captivity they should not be held longer than necessary. In extremely cold weather or if there have been any surgical complications they may need to be kept for a few days before release.

If you have any questions or need further advice on trapping, identification procedures or taming and placing feral kittens please contact us.

**Neponset Valley Humane Society
P.O. Box 609, Canton, MA 02021
617-341-2675**

Revised 6/96 B.Brown

Letter to the Board of Selectmen



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

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<http://www.conejo.com/nvhs.html> Email: nvhs@conejo.com

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals

Canine Friends · Cat Action Teams · Walk for Animals

May 1996

Board of Selectmen
Town of Foxboro
40 South St.
Foxboro, MA 02035

Dear Donald J. Schmidt, Chairman, Michael J. Coppola, Asst. Chair, and Gerald R. Rodman,

It has come to my attention that you will be considering plans to control the town's feral cat population at your upcoming meeting on December 12th. As we have many active members from Foxboro, and have a very positive working relationship with Foxboro Animal Hospital, I wanted to contact you about this issue.

I am writing to share our success with an alternative, humane method of dealing with the problem and to offer our assistance. We employ the trap neuter release method with great success in many local communities. (I've enclosed a large notebook of information and articles from area papers on our program and other similar programs across the country.)

Not only is the trap-neuter-release method more humane and acceptable to the public than euthanasia, but it is cost efficient and effective. With traditional removal plans new cats migrate into the area to fill the void, requiring repeated exterminations. Also it's important to realize, in this time of concern about rabies, that the resulting migrations of new animals into areas where cats have been removed often serves to speed up the spread of the disease. With humane management the cats numbers are stabilized. As the cats are vaccinated against rabies, their presence helps to create an immune barrier.

The Board of Health in the Town of Norwood Massachusetts contacted us last fall about their feral cat problem. As a result of this partnership a citizens committee was formed, called the Cat Action Team of Norwood. We train volunteers from the community to humanely trap the cats and work with local veterinarians who offer discount rates on neutering and vaccinating these cats. To date this group has neutered over 150 feral cats from the town of Norwood and tamed and placed many kittens into adoptive homes.

Letter to the Board of Selectmen

This spring we founded the Cat Action Team of Sharon, which has also been very active and successful in controlling the problem in their town, neutering over 120 felines to date.

I urge you to contact Phyllis Boucher at the Board of Health in Norwood, Dr. Tristram Carpenter or Dr. Elizabeth Essex at Norwood Animal Hospital, Diane Malcolmson ACO of Sharon, or Bernice Leonard of the Sharon Advocate for their feedback on our program. (I have provided their phone numbers for you.)

We also have a strong working relationship with Dr. Best and the staff at the Foxboro Animal Hospital. They have neutered hundreds of feral cats in conjunction with our programs us over the past 3 years. Additionally we work with 11 other area veterinary clinics that provide reduced cost care to feral cats and other needy animals through NVHS.

In the towns of Sharon and Norwood the program is run without any cost to the taxpayers. The Town of Norwood provides free meeting space for the group in their Civic Center. Donations from area businesses and residents support the program. NVHS holds an annual Walk for Animals that raised over \$50,000.00 last spring, much of which is allocated for feral cat veterinary care. Additionally we have received grants from the Ahimsa Foundation for the past 3 years for our feral cat programs, the most recent grant was received last month for \$5000.00. Our program has been recognized by many other humane organizations and has been the subject of many positive newspaper articles.

It important to realize that the trap-neuter-release program we employ is not new; It's the method of choice in England, endorsed by all the major humane organizations there. In the US it's employed by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in Grafton (MA), The San Francisco SPCA (CA), The Doris Day Animal League (NY), Forgotten Felines & The Sonoma County Humane Society (CA), National Pet Alliance (CA) . Progressive Animals Welfare Society (WA). The Alliance for Animals in Boston (MA), Animal Umbrella (MA), Just Cats Inc. Mansfield (MA), PAWS of Martha's Vineyard (MA) and countless other organizations across the country, including Alley Cat Allies, the national clearing house for information on feral cat management. Many larger municipalities have also recently chosen this method of humane control over euthanasia; San Jose, San Diego and Santa Rosa CA, Miami Beach FL & Hampton Beach NH, to name a few.

We have a 12 minute slide presentation that explains the problem of feral cats and the pros and cons of the different ways they can be dealt with. We look forward to the opportunity to make this presentation to the Board of Selectmen, and to answer any questions you may have at the upcoming meeting. Also we are offering to oversee the formation of a citizens committee; the Cat Action Team of Foxboro, to implement this program in your community and offer support to your ACO, Paulette.

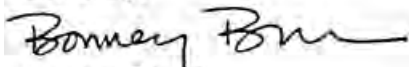
Val Beatty, President of Just Cats Inc. in Mansfield has offered to provide some financial support for spaying and neutering Foxboro feral cats in conjunction with this program.

Letter to the Board of Selectmen

In the event that you are unfamiliar with NVHS I have enclosed information about our organization. NVHS is a charitable non-profit, 501(c)(3) federally tax-exempt organization.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance. You may use my home phone # 617-344-3874 to reach me, but please do not give it out to the public. The public is invited to contact us anytime at our main number; 617-341-2675 or at our PO box address.

Sincerely,



Bonney Brown
President/Executive Director

Phone contacts;

- Phyllis Boucher, Board of Health Norwood 617-762-1240
- Dr. Tris Carpenter & Dr. Elizabeth Essex, Norwood Animal Hospital
617-769-3011
- Bernice Leonard, The Sharon Advocate 617-784-2131
- Diane Malcolmson, ACO Sharon 617-784-1513

attachments;

overview of program (5 pages)

documentation (152 pages)

cc; Ms. Paulette Tuunanen ACO Foxboro, Ms. Sandi Ruscetta

Selectmen's Meeting Notice (sent to local members)

IMPORTANT NOTICE;
TO ALL FOXBORO RESIDENTS
WHO CARE ABOUT
STRAY AND FERAL CATS.



The fate of the towns many homeless, stray and feral cats will be determined at the December 12th meeting of the Foxboro Board of Selectmen.

The Neponset Valley Humane Society is urging the implementation of a humane management plan for the town's feral cats, as opposed to euthanasia.

Your support at this meeting is greatly needed!!!

WHEN: next Tuesday December 12, 1995
8:00 PM (Please try to arrive early! We'll be there at 7:30)
WHERE: the Foxboro Town Hall
40 South Street
Board of Selectmen's meeting

Please register your support for our humane management program and your opposition to mass euthanasia by calling the selectmen's office at;

508 - 543 - 1200

or writing to them;

The Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, 40 South Street,
Foxboro MA. 02035

Attn: Donald J. Schmidt, Chairman, Michael J.
Coppola, Asst. Chair, & Gerald R. Rodman

(Please call or write even if you can attend....)

But it's *especially* important to call or write, if you cannot attend!)

Your support WILL make a difference!!!

For more information please call us;



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021
(617) 341 - 2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

Calendar Listing Notice



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341 - 2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

CALENDAR LISTING NOTICE:

FOR IMMEDIATE & CONTINUING RELEASE;

January 5, 1996

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT;

Bonney Brown, (617) 344-3874 President, N.V.H.S.

Paulette Tuunanen, (508) 384-21477, A.C.O. Town of Foxboro

Val Beatty, (508) 339-6717, President, Just Cats

Dr. Blair Barone (617) 784-9037, Vice-President N.V.H.S., CAT Sharon

* * * * *

First meeting of a citizen's action committee to help stray and feral cats in the
Town of Foxboro

January 29, 1996, Monday

at the Town Hall, 40 South Street, Foxboro

7:00 PM

This meeting is free of charge and open to anyone who would like to learn more
about this project or get involved.

Bonney Brown, President of NVHS will make a slide presentation on the subject,
Paulette Tuunanen, Foxboro Animal Control Officer and Val Beatty, President of
Just Cats, will also address the meeting.

For more information contact Neponset Valley Humane Society at (617) 341-
2675, P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA 02021-0609 OR Paulette Tuunanen at (508)
384-2477.

Press Release



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341-2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

PRESS RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE;

January 5, 1996

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT;

Bonney Brown, (617) 344-3874 President, N.V.H.S.

Paulette Tuunanen, (508) 384-2477, A.C.O. Town of Foxboro

Val Beatty, (508) 339-6717, President, Just Cats

Dr. Blair Barone (617) 784-9037, Vice President N.V.H.S., CAT Sharon

* * * * *

CITIZENS ACTION COMMITTEE FORMS TO DEAL WITH FOXBORO'S STRAY & FERAL CATS

The first meeting of the newly formed Cat Action Team of Foxboro is scheduled to take place on January 29th. The group hopes to address the problem of stray and feral cats within the town of Foxboro.

"The program will be modeled after other successful humane management programs" says Neponset Valley Humane Society President, Bonney Brown. "In 1994 we started the Cat Action Team of Norwood, which is now successfully implementing a trap/neuter/release program for feral cats in their town. Last April, Dr. Blair Barone launched the Cat Action Team of Sharon. We hope that Foxboro residents will be interested in doing the same for their homeless felines."

At this first meeting Brown will make a slide presentation to Foxboro residents, on feral cats and the methods of dealing with them. The program was launched last month after the Board of Selectmen endorsed that plan at their December 12th meeting. Paulette Tuunanen, Foxboro Animal Control Officer, will also

Press Release

address the group. Tuunanen and Foxboro resident Sandi Ruscetta were instrumental in bringing the need for this program to light.

Neponset Valley Humane Society, a Canton based non-profit organization will provide \$1000.00 from a grant they received from the Ahimsa Foundation toward neutering and veterinary care for Foxboro feral cats. Val Beatty, President of Just Cats a non-profit group from Mansfield, will also address the meeting and has offered her support to the program, pledging that Just Cats will also provide \$1000.00 toward neutering Foxboro's homeless cats. Both organizations work with the Foxboro Animal Hospital and NVHS works with 11 other local veterinary clinics including; Norfolk County Veterinary Services in Walpole, Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Wrentham, and Sharon Veterinary Clinic.

The objectives of the Cat Action Team of Foxboro will include bringing the town's feral cat population under control and creating awareness in the community about the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals. Volunteers are needed, both for direct work with cats and for handling phone calls and paper work, as well as developing fundraising and educational programs.

The first meeting of the Cat Action Team of Foxboro will be held on Monday, January 29th at the Town Hall, 40 South Street in Foxboro at 7:00 PM and is open to anyone who would like to learn more about this program. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to get involved you may contact Bonney Brown at (617) 341-2675 or Paulette Tuunanen at 508-384-2477 or write to Neponset Valley Humane Society at P.O. Box 609 Canton MA 02021-0609.

First Committee Meeting Notice (sent to members)

Attention Foxboro Residents who care about stray and feral cats !



Special Meeting;

Date; January 29 ,1996 (Monday)

Time; 7:00 PM

*Place; Foxboro Town Hall, 40 South St.
The Selectmen's Meeting Room*

Please Join Us! *Your help is needed to make our plan a success.*

The meeting will include;

- A slide presentation explaining methods for dealing with feral cats and introducing a humane alternative
- Information on the problem of stray and feral cats within Foxboro
- Residents will be provided with an opportunity to discuss this problem

Speakers will include;

- Val Beatty, President of Just Cats Inc.
- Bonney Brown, President of Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.
- Paulette Tuunanen, Animal Control Officer, Town of Foxboro
- Dr. Blair Barone & Delores LaDisa, Cat Action Teams of Sharon & Norwood

The Goal of the meeting is;

The formation of a citizens committee, The Cat Action Team of Foxboro, to implement a program to manage the towns feral cat population. The group will be chaired by a Foxboro resident and will function as a committee of the Neponset Valley Humane Society. Volunteers are needed!



This meeting is sponsored by;

The Neponset Valley Humane Society Inc.

a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping animals!

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA 02021-0609, (617) 341-2675

If you are unable to attend, but still want to help out please leave a message for Bonney at 617-341-2675.

First Committee Meeting Poster

**Attention;
Foxboro Residents
who care
about stray
and
feral cats !**



Special Meeting;

Date; January 29 ,1996 (Monday)
Time; 7:00 PM
Place; Foxboro Town Hall, 40 South St.
The Selectmen's Meeting Room

Please Join Us!

For more information call; 617-341-2675



Neponset Valley Humane Society Inc.

A non-profit organization, dedicated to helping animals!

First Committee Meeting Agenda



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341 - 2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

AGENDA

Cat Action Team of Foxboro

a project of the Neponset Valley Humane Society

January 29, 1996 Foxboro Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room 7:00 PM

- Opening and Introduction
- Slide presentation on the Humane Management of Feral Cats;
Bonney Brown, *President of the Neponset Valley Humane Society Inc.*
- Comments;
Paulette Tuunanen, *Animal Control Officer, Town of Foxboro*
- Feral cat projects in the local communities;
Dr. Blair Barone, *Chair of the Cat Action Team of Sharon*
Delores LaDisa, *Chair of the Cat Action Team of Norwood*
- Support for Foxboro project;
Val Beatty, *President of Just Cats Inc.*
- Starting the Cat Action Team of Foxboro
Bonney Brown, *President of the Neponset Valley Humane Society Inc.*
- Question and Answer Period
B. Barone, V. Beatty, B. Brown, D. LaDisa, P. Tuunanen
- Closing

Join us for refreshments after the meeting!

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you would like to receive information on future NVHS and Cat Action Team meetings and events be sure to sign up on the mailing list OR complete a Cat Action Team Volunteer Sheet

WALK FOR ANIMALS May 19, 1995 (Sunday) Borderland State Park
Massapoag Ave on the Sharon Easton Town Line. *Proceeds from this event will help to benefit the Cat Action Team of Foxboro! We hope you'll join us!*

NVHS wishes to extend special thanks to the Ahimsa Foundation which has generously provided funding for our Cat Action Team Programs.

Second Meeting Notice (sent to members)

Attention Foxboro Residents who care about stray and feral cats !



Meeting of newly formed Cat Action Team of Foxboro;

Date; March 12, 1996 (Tuesday)

Time; 7:00 PM

*Place; Foxboro Town Hall, 40 South St.
The Selectmen's Meeting Room*

Please Join Us! *Your help is needed to make our plan a success.*

The meeting will include;

- Planning to implement feral cat program in Foxboro.
- Trapping training and an overview of the humane management program.
- Information from experienced volunteers.

The Goal of the meeting is;

The formation of a citizens committee, The Cat Action Team of Foxboro, to implement a program to manage the towns feral cat population. The group will be chaired by a Foxboro resident and will function as a committee of the Neponset Valley Humane Society. Volunteers are needed!



This meeting is sponsored by;

The Neponset Valley Humane Society Inc.

a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping animals!

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA 02021-0609, (617) 341-2675

If you are unable to attend, but still want to help out please leave a message for Bonney at 617-341-2675.

Second Meeting Agenda



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341 - 2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

CAT ACTION TEAM OF FOXBORO

MARCH 12, 1996

7:00 PM, FOXBORO TOWN HALL

First Committee Meeting

Agenda

Opening & Introductions

Bonney Brown, President, NVHS

Val Beatty, President, Just Cats

Paulette Tuunanen, ACO, Foxboro

Review of Program and Policies

- selection of committee officers,
- policies, authority & accountability,
- record keeping, spay/neuter certificates,
- fundraising,
- assessing town feral population,
- developing trapping plan & team, follow through.

Trapping Training Session

If you would like to receive information on future NVHS and Cat Action Team events and meetings please be sure to sign up on our mailing list.

The Walk for Animals

May 19th Sunday,
Borderland State Park, Sharon

Volunteers are needed!

Donation Flyer

The Cat Action Team of Sharon



A community project of the
Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

a non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals

- A community based resource for helping homeless and feral cats.
- Implementing a humane management program to control the feral cat population within the town of Sharon.
- Sponsoring educational programs for the public.
- Working toward ending the pet overpopulation problem in Sharon through encouraging the spaying and neutering of companion animals and feral cats.

"What is a feral cat?"

Feral cats are the offspring of unneutered abandoned cats or neglected pets. Raised without human contact these cats are extremely fearful of people. Wherever a source of food is available groups of cats congregate and form colonies. They can be found eating out of dumpsters, at apartment complexes, industrial parks, urban areas, farms and residential neighborhoods. Their numbers are estimated at 60 million nation wide.

The Cat Action Team of

Sharon is a group of dedicated volunteers working within the community to solve this problem. This humane management program is modeled after many other successful trap-neuter-release programs for feral cats from across the U.S. and England. Ideally there would be a loving home for every cat. Until this goal is achieved the Cat Action Team will be there for Sharon's homeless and feral cats!

Your donations to NVHS for the Cat Action Team of Sharon will enable us to provide:

- Veterinary care, vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery for homeless and feral cats from the town of Sharon.
- Food and ongoing care for humanely managed feral cat colonies.
- Placement Assistance for abandoned and homeless cats from Sharon.
- Educational material to encourage spaying and neutering of companion animals and feral cats.

Yes, I would like to support NVHS's Cat Action Team of Sharon!

___\$15 ___\$25 ___\$35 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___Other___

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Neponset Valley Humane Society
Send to; CAT Sharon, c/o NVHS, P.O. Box 609, Canton, MA 02021-0609

Thank-you for your tax deductible donation!

Please call me, I may be interested in volunteering. Phone # _____

Neponset Valley Humane Society is a charitable, non-profit organization working to create awareness and support within the community for the humane treatment of all animals. We operate a shelter and growing network of foster homes for animals. No animal is euthanized because their time to find a home has run out! We provide spay/neuter assistance, placement and adoption services for unwanted animals, sponsor educational programs and provide free information to the public. We need your support to continue our work.
For more information call us at 617-341-2675.



I need a Loving Home !



"My name is Bernie"

My name is Bernie. I'm a beautiful grey shorthaired tabby cat. I am about 1-1/2 years old, neutered, vaccinated, and feline leukemia and FIV negative. I'm a bit shy at first, but I'm very affectionate. I was a stray cat trying to make it outside on my own. I would love to have a home of my own. I really love other cats, and would like to go to a home with at least one other cat.



If you would like to take Bernie into your heart and home, call
Neponset Valley Humane Society
(617) 341-2675

Neponset Valley
Humane Society
My name is Bernie
(617) 341-2675

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Newsletter Sample

[Monthly Newsletter to the volunteers of the Cat Action Team of Sharon,
a project of the Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.
Compiled by Dr. Blair Barone, CAT Sharon Co-Chair]

C.A.T. of Sharon's *The Cat's Meow*

May 1, 1996

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPECIAL PEOPLE

The 3rd Walk For Animals was a big success. Congratulations Jeanette. Thanks to Don and Celine Tetrault and Randi Simons for helping out on the day of the walk.

The first fund raiser yard sale for C.A.T. of Sharon was a big success. We made \$544.09. This translates into 10 cats can now be neutered/spayed and vaccinated. Thanks to Sheldon "Spike" Small, Marilyn Leventhal, Don Tetrault, Gail Clayman and Lois Dole for helping out on the day of the sale. Thank you to those of you who made donations to the yard sale.

Thanks to Rory, Kevin and Mary O'Dwyer; Don and Celine Tetrault; and Amy, David, Randi and Mark Beckerman for socializing kittens. Thank you very much for your time and loving care. Without your help, these kittens may have never had a chance to get a home. On behalf of the kittens, thank you.

Thank goes to Jeanette Kelly for doing an outstanding job with coordinating the spay/neuter program.

Thanks goes to Heidi Goldblatt for coordinating the placement of CAT of Sharon adoptable cats/kittens into Kitty City at Pet World on Route 1. To date, no cats have been placed there since we have successfully adopted them out.

Thanks goes to Suzanne Peyton for overseeing the Sharon Shaw's food donation bin.

Thanks to Gail Clayman for posting fliers for this months meeting.

Thanks to Jeanette Kelly for overseeing the Shaw's Canton food donation bin.

Special thanks to the following individuals for feeding our ferals: Lynn Morgan, Marilyn Leventhal, Suzanne Peyton, Jeanette Kelly, Bunny Parilla, Ruth Slaney, Mary and Millie, Judy from Four Seasons Hair Salon, Jim and Bernice Leonard, Paul Pensyl, Heidi and David Goldblatt, Randi Beckerman, Joyce Baker, Don and Celine Tetrault, Steve and Carol Brown, and Ruth Essex and Alice Nutting.

SPAY/NEUTERING

Since our last meeting on May 1st, only 3 cats have been spay/neutered (-females and -males). This brings the grand total of homeless cats that have been spay/neutered since the beginning of this year to 46 (21 males and 22 females). Thanks to all of you who have assisted with trapping and donations to make this possible. Remember to take pictures of the cats for our photo album, as well as for our records. If you need assistance with getting a picture taken, please call Jeanette or myself. Thank you.

ADOPTIONS

During the past month, 8 kittens have been adopted! There will be many others available in the next few weeks. Please help to spread the word (and help post kitten adoption fliers) that we have them.

Newsletter Sample

ADOPTIONS

During the past month, two cats, Elliot and Peewee, and 4 kittens have been adopted. Thanks to Kathy A'Hearn for assisting with this. There are 14 kittens that will be available over the next few weeks. Please help to spread the word that we have them.

IN MEMORY

During the past month, tragically there have been several ferals that have been hit by cars. Teddy, one of Don and Celine Tetrault's, Blackie Jr. from the Sharon Square colony, King Henry from the Bay Road/Berio colonie, and one from Bunny Parilla's colonie in Sharon Heights.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WALK FOR ANIMALS is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th. The Walk for Animals is NVHS's largest fund raiser. You can help with this by contacting Jeanette Kelly to volunteer your time, as well as to walk to raise money. If you are unable to walk, but would like to sponsor someone else, please let Jeanette know that too.

The 4th of July CAT of Sharon Bake Sale at the Lake is on. It is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3rd. All interested in helping with baking and coordination of this event, please let Heidi Goldblatt, coordinator for the bake sale (784-0864) know.

There will be four fund raiser yard sales this summer for C.A.T. So clean out your attics, and get your friends to do the same. The dates will be announced soon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A CAT of Sharon volunteer is needed to coordinate the 4th of July Bake Sale at the lake on Wednesday, July 3rd.

Kitten season is here. Any volunteer who is interested in socializing the kittens, please let me, Blair, know. Please be on the lookout for kittens.

CAT of Sharon will have four Saturday yard sales this summer. Dates to be announced. Volunteer help will be needed. It's always a fun time.

CAT of Sharon is proud to have our own Jeanette Kelly serving as Coordinator for the Walk For Animals. She could use a little help from us making phone calls. If you have some time to help, please call Jeanette at 784-0764.

**** Those of you feeding ferals may want to consider purchasing for your colony a water dispenser. This will help to make sure that the cats have fresh water during the hot, summer months.**

**** Remember that Don Tetrault has feral condos. The latest models have a feeding station and an insulated sleeping area in one! Don also has play equipment for cats including scratching posts. They make wonderful gift ideas. And all profit goes to benefit C.A.T. of Sharon. Thanks Don.**

Next CAT meeting: Wednesday, May 29, 1996 at 7:30 at the Sharon Public Library.

On behalf of all the homeless cats, thanks for all that you do to help. It's making a difference.

Volunteer Sheet

CAT ACTION TEAM OF FOXBORO VOLUNTEER SHEET

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ Zip_____

Phone # days_____

Phone # eves_____

I'm Interested In;

_____ Serving on the CAT of Foxboro Committee, to review feral cat problem in Foxboro and implement a humane management plan.

_____ Attending a trapping training session

_____ Help with phone and/or paper work

_____ Help with fundraising for CAT of Foxboro

_____ Help in other ways;_____

_____ I'm willing to Chair the CAT Action Team of Foxboro, or head up one of it's committees.

_____ There is a feral cat colony in Foxboro. Location:_____

Approximate number of cats_____ Are they being fed?_____

_____ There is a feral cat colony in Foxboro. Location:_____

Approximate number of cats_____ Are they being fed?_____

You may list additional colonies and other comments on the back.

Monthly Report

CAT ACTION TEAM MONTHLY REPORT TOWN _____

MONTH _____ YEAR _____

Colonies in progress or completed this month;

1. Colony location _____

estimated total number of cats _____ kittens (under 5 months) _____

cats neutered this month _____ cats remaining to be neutered _____

number of kittens removed from colony _____

number of tame adults removed from the colony _____

notes;

2. Colony location _____

estimated total number of cats _____ kittens (under 5 months) _____

cats neutered this month _____ cats remaining to be neutered _____

number of kittens removed from colony _____

number of tame adults removed from the colony _____

notes;

3. Colony location _____

estimated total number of cats _____ kittens (under 5 months) _____

cats neutered this month _____ cats remaining to be neutered _____

number of kittens removed from colony _____

number of tame adults removed from the colony _____

notes;

Use a second sheet if you are working on more than 3 colonies.

Adoption/Foster Care;

Total number adopted out this month; cats _____ kittens _____
(send in completed adoption contracts)

Total number in foster homes ; cats _____ kittens _____
(send ADOPTABLE ANIMAL INFO. SHEET for each new foster cat/litter of kittens)

Special Cases;

Brief description of any cats receiving special care or treatment, any story of special note should be written up on the back or on a separate sheet.

Listing of Colonies

LISTING OF COLONIES; TOWN_____

MONTH _____ YEAR _____

PLEASE LIST ALL COLONIES THAT HAVE COME TO YOUR ATTENTION;

You do not need to list colonies that have been previously listed, only ad new ones that have come to your attention within the last month.

Location/street address

est # of cats

contact person & phone #

[illegible]

Trap/Carrier Loan Agreement



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 609 Canton, MA. 02021

(617) 341 - 2675

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals.

Trap/Carrier Loan Agreement

The Neponset Valley Humane Society (NVHS) hereby agrees to lend the trap/carrier specified below to the person whose name and signature appears below. By signing this agreement, I, the borrower of the trap, agree that:

1. The trap/carrier will not to be left outside unattended at any time.
2. The trap/carrier will be stored in a safe, secure place.
3. The trap will not to be allowed to get wet, as moisture in the form of rain snow or other water will rust and damage the trap.
4. The trap/carrier will not be loaned or given to any third party, other than temporarily to the veterinarian treating the animal.
5. The trap will be returned in the condition which it was received, reasonable wear and tear excepted.
6. I will pay NVHS the replacement value of this trap if it is lost, stolen or damaged while in my possession.
7. I will return the trap to NVHS by_____

Date_____Signature_____

Name (printed)_____Address_____

Town_____Phone#days (____)_____eves (____)_____

Auto registration #_____OR other ID_____

Item(s) borrowed;

___ Medium trap (value \$68) ___ Large trap (value \$82)
___ Small carrier (value \$ 20) ___ Medium carrier (value \$35)
___ Large carrier (value \$50)
___ Other_____value \$_____
___ Other_____value \$_____

Deposit received:_____Date_____ (refunded upon the return of above listed item(s))

Authorized NVHS representative's signature_____

Items returned date_____condition_____

Receiving signature of NVHS representative_____

Deposit returned date_____check #_____

Foster Care Agreement



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 609 .. Canton, MA 02021 .. (617) 341-2675

A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping animals

Foster Care Agreement

The animal(s) described below (and their offspring) are the property of the Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

- The humane society will provide veterinary care for the animal(s).
- If the animals is in need of veterinary attention, shows any signs of illness, is lost or injured the caregiver agrees to contact one of the people listed below immediately.
- If the caregiver is unable, or no longer wants to care for the animal(s) they agree to contact one of the people below immediately. NVHS agrees to remove the animal(s) from the premises at your request, as soon as possible.
- The caregiver agrees to provide food on a daily basis, and fresh water and a litter box at all times.
- The caregiver agrees to keep the animal(s) indoors at all times. Dogs must be leashed when out of the house at all times. Cats must be transported in a carrier. In the event that the animal(s) get loose, the caregiver agrees to contact NVHS at once.
- The caregiver agrees that a representative from the humane society may call to see how the animal(s) is(are) doing and arrange to visit.
- The caregiver agrees that the NVHS contact people listed below may remove the animal(s) at any time for veterinary care, or for other purposes.
- The caregiver agrees not to allow the animal(s) to be removed from the premises, and not to give or adopt the animal(s) or any of its offspring to any third party without prior approval from one of the contact people listed below.
- The caregiver agrees that the adoption of the animal(s) into a permanent home will be handled by NVHS. Anyone interested in adopting the animal(s) will be referred to the contact people below.
- Everyone in the household knows about and agrees to having the animal(s) in the home.
- Other terms: _____

Foster Care Agreement

- I understand the terms of the preceding agreement, and agree that it is in the best interest of the animal(s). I will abide by all of the conditions stipulated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address where animal(s) will be kept: _____

Telephone: _____ AR#: _____

Person responsible for daily care: _____

Where the animal(s) will be kept in the home: _____

Signature of NVHS Representative: _____

Neponset Valley Humane Society contact persons:

For Emergency situations, only when above people are not available:

Andy Kisseloff or Inez Stein (617) 762-5371

Veterinarian who has been responsible for this animal's care:

Telephone: _____

Description of animal #1

Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Species: _____ Breed/Type: _____

Color: _____ Markings: _____

New name: _____ NVHS file: _____

Other notes: _____

Description of animal #2

Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Species: _____ Breed/Type: _____

Color: _____ Markings: _____

New name: _____ NVHS file: _____

Other notes: _____

Feline Adoption Agreement



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

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A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping animals

Cat's Name: _____ Owner's Name: _____ Date: _____
Breed: _____ Color: _____ Markings: _____
Sex: _____ Age: _____ NVHS File: _____
Other description: _____

Feline Adoption Agreement

- I agree that I will HAVE THE CAT SPAYED/NEUTERED at the appropriate time. At six months of age, or as advised by your Veterinarian. The estimated date for _____'s spay/neuter surgery is _____.
- I agree that THE CAT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED OUTSIDE unless she will be leashed on a safe cat harness in a safe enclosed cat run or cat-proofed fenced yard. Hazards in the form of other animals, disease, insect pests, poisons, cars, cruel or thoughtless people, or becoming lost or stolen are more likely to confront your cat outdoors. Your cat can live a fulfilling, longer and healthier life without running free outdoors. You will save yourself and your cat a lot of heartache! (Never leave an unsupervised cat leashed; as they may become entangled, strangle or be attacked by other animals. If you are interested we would be glad to provide free information on constructing a cat enclosure or cat-proofing an existing fence.)
- I agree to see that the cat WILL HAVE ANNUAL VETERINARY CHECKUPS AND BE KEPT CURRENT ON ALL VACCINATIONS. Emergency care will be provided if needed.
- I agree that the cat WILL NOT BE DECLAWED. Declawing is the equivalent of having the first digit of each of your fingers amputated. It is a very painful and traumatic experience for the cat and completely unnecessary. Proper training, providing an acceptable scratching post or log, and regularly clipping the claws will keep Kitty from scratching on the furniture.
- EVERYONE IN MY HOME KNOWS ABOUT AND AGREES TO ACCEPT THIS CAT INTO THE HOUSEHOLD.
- I agree that if at any point in time I CAN NOT KEEP THIS CAT I WILL RETURN HIM TO NVHS, and not pass him on to any third party. Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc. agrees to accept this animal back at any time, no questions asked.

Feline Adoption Agreement

- ♦ I understand that a representative of NVHS will be calling and may arrange to come to visit and check on _____.
- ♦ I understand that the shelter has a right to inspect the animal's home, and that an agent of NVHS may take re-possession of the pet, if at the discretion of the agent, the animal is not properly treated or cared for, OR if any provisions of this contract have been violated.
- ♦ I am comfortable with all of the conditions of this agreement, and agree that they are in the best interest of the cat. I agree to abide by all of the conditions listed above with regard to this cat.

Feel free to call us at any time with questions about your new pet. We will be happy to help you out in any way we can.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ AR#: _____

NVHS Representative: _____

Adoption Fee: _____

Spay/Neuter Deposit: _____

Required by state law, and refundable upon proof of spay/neuter surgery (certificate signed by a licensed Veterinarian).

Total received: _____

NVHS follow up

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Medical Record (for adoptable cats)



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

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(617) 341 - 2675

<http://www.conejo.com/nvhs.html> Email: nvhs@conejo.com

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals

Canine Friends • Cat Action Teams • Walk for Animals

Medical Record feline _____ canine _____ other _____

Name _____

Birth Date _____ approx _____ exact _____

Sex: Male / Female Spayed / Neutered

Description: DSH DLH Breed _____

Color _____ Markings _____

Date Arrived _____

History:

Veterinarian _____

spay/neuter surgery _____

FelV test (feline only) _____ results: Pos Neg

FIV test (feline only) _____ results: Pos Neg

heartworm test (canine only) _____ results: Pos Neg

rabies vaccination _____ tag # _____ due _____

distemper / annual vaccination _____ due _____

other vaccinations _____

routine worming _____

illness, treatments:

other notes:

location: _____

adoption date _____ adopted by _____

Feral Cat Relocation Agreement and Cat Record



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A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping animals

Site Name: _____	Date: _____
Site Address: _____	
Cats' Location on Site: _____	
Owner/Manager's Name: _____	
Owner/Manager's Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	
Primary Caregiver's Name: _____	
Telephone: _____	

Feral Cat Relocation Agreement

- ♦ Individual cats covered under this agreement will be specified on a separate sheet fully describing the animal.
- ♦ I understand that **THE CATS ARE FERAL, FEARFUL OF HUMANS, AND MAY NEVER TAME OR BE ABLE TO BE HANDLED BY HUMANS.** I understand that I am providing the cats a permanent home at the site specified above, and will feed and monitor the cats' health daily.
- ♦ I understand that the cats have been spayed or neutered, are in good health, and negative for Feline Leukemia, and will be Rabies and FVCRP (Distemper) vaccinated; **AT THE TIME OF PLACEMENT.**
- ♦ I agree to see that the cats **WILL BE KEPT CURRENT ON ALL VACCINATIONS.** NVHS personnel will assist, where possible, in re-trapping for re-vaccination.
- ♦ I agree that **ALL RELOCATED CATS WILL RECEIVE FOOD AND WATER DAILY.** I will provide fresh water at all times, and 1 to 1-1/2 cups dry feline diet and 3 oz. canned food, per cat, per day.

_____ will be responsible for daily feeding.
- ♦ I understand and agree that each cat must be caged or held in an enclosure for three to four weeks at the new site to acclimate and identify with its new location before release. I understand that the cats must receive daily care, food, water and the provision and daily cleaning of a litter box and shelter.

_____ will be responsible for daily feeding and monitoring.

Feral Cat Relocation Agreement and Cat Record

- I agree to contact NVHS if there is any change in the cats' circumstances, or if any of the cats become ill, injured or missing.
- I agree that a representative of NVHS may come to visit and check on the well-being of the cats, and take repossession of the animals if, in their judgment, any aspect of this contract is not maintained.
- I am comfortable with all of the conditions of this agreement, and agree that they are in the best interest of the cats. I understand that these cats are dependent upon me for their daily care and well being. I agree to abide by all of the conditions listed above with regard to these cats.

Feel free to call us at any time with questions. We will be happy to help you out in any way we can.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

NVHS follow up:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Feral Cat Relocation Agreement and Cat Record



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A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping animals

Site Name: _____ Date: _____
Site Address: _____
Cats' Location on Site: _____
Owner/Manager's Name: _____
Owner/Manager's Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Primary Caregiver's Name: _____
Telephone: _____

Feral Cat Record

Name: _____ File # _____
Birthdate: _____ ☐ approximate ☐ exact
Description: Color: _____ Markings: _____
Breed: _____ Ear Tag #: _____
Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Spayed/Neutered Ear Tip: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Medical History: FIV test date: _____ ☐ Pos ☐ Neg
FeLV test date: _____ ☐ Pos ☐ Neg
Rabies date: _____ Rabies Tag #: _____
Distemper date: _____
S/N date: _____
NVHS Veterinarian: _____
Other notes: _____

I agree to abide by all of the conditions of the *Feral Cat Relocation Agreement* between myself and Neponset Valley Humane Society with regards to this cat.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed Name: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____

Generic Follow-up Sheet



Neponset Valley Humane Society, Inc.

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NVHS Generic Follow-up Sheet

☐ Adoption ☐ Foster ☐ Relocation ☐ Colony ☐ Other _____

Owner / Care-giver / Manager: _____

Telephone: _____ Times to Reach: _____

Animal Name or Site Name: _____ NVHS File: _____

Species: ☐ Feline ☐ Canine ☐ Other _____ Breed: _____

Color: _____ Markings: _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Spay/Neutered

Other description: _____

NVHS follow up:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes:

Date: _____ By: _____

Notes: