

# Community Cats News

Community Cats TNR  
P. O. Box 384  
Ludington, MI 49431

Winter 2024—2025

[www.communitycatstnr.org](http://www.communitycatstnr.org)

A humane Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to reduce the number of homeless cats

## Another Successful Year

So far in 2024, Community Cats TNR has trap-neuter-returned 161 cats. Since October, 2012 when the program started, 1,677 homeless cats have been TNRd, resulting in the birth of approximately 365,000 fewer unwanted kittens.

It is typical in our Michigan locality for a free-roaming, feral female to have two litters of kittens a year. She struggles constantly to keep herself and her kittens well fed, warm and protected. An average litter is usually 5-6 kittens, and way too often, only half or less survive. They suffer and die from cold, starvation and predators.

Getting these female cats spayed ends that potential suffering for kittens, but also for the mom cat who may be malnourished herself, and has to be on guard at all times to protect herself and her family.

As volunteers with Community Cats TNR work with cat colony caregivers to help them spay and neuter all of their outdoor cats, we see many heartbreaking situations that cause pain and suffering for cats and great sadness for the caregivers.

But—we also experience wonderful success stories as the cats thrive and enjoy a more relaxed and healthier life after being spayed (female) or neutered (male). We see caregivers interact with the cats, enjoy their antics and companionship, and do everything in their power to make sure their cats have nutritious food, plenty of clean water, and warm, safe shelter.

And best of all, it is so rewarding to see cats or kittens invited inside because they have learned to trust their humans and have become a full-fledged member of the family.

Plus, it is even more rewarding to hear the caregivers share stories about how much caring for and loving these cats has enriched their lives.

If a hungry, forlorn cat shows up on your porch this winter, please help her survive!

## Meet Vizzy



*Vizzy is the 1,600th cat TNRd by Community Cats TNR. She is a regal charcoal gray beauty who shares her outdoor home with her sister. She is one of the lucky ones who has become an indoor/outdoor cat who totally enjoys her time on the enclosed porch plus her time outside chasing butterflies.*

## Annual Garage Sale

This little bear (looks like a kitty?) greeted shoppers at the annual garage sale held in August in the 4-H building at the Western Michigan Fairgrounds. The sale offered a huge variety of good used items donated by many supporters. This is our major fundraiser and is scheduled again for August 15 and 16 and August 22 and 23 in 2025. Mark your calendar!



*The mission of Community Cats TNR is to work with caregivers who are providing food, water and shelter to the homeless, abandoned, free-roaming, feral cats that are unlikely to be adopted and need to be humanely trapped to get them to a veterinary clinic.*

**Visit our website: [www.communitycatstnr.org](http://www.communitycatstnr.org)**

**Like us on [facebook/communitycatstnr](https://www.facebook.com/communitycatstnr)**

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

## THE NEED FOR SHELTER

Every year, the Community Cats TNR newsletter stresses the need for winter cat shelters! Winter is brutal for homeless cats. They need help throughout the winter months to find shelter that provides them protection from cold and wet weather. Without a good shelter, cats may become ill, and may suffer from frostbite on their ears, nose and paws.



A view of the interior of the Alley Cat winter cat shelter plan displaying double insulated walls, insulation under vinyl flooring and wind guard. Interior will be filled with straw.

There are many ideas and designs available for winter cat shelters, but all good designs share two qualities: strong insulation and minimal air space. The insulation is needed to trap the cats' body heat. Minimal air space is necessary so that cold air doesn't fill the empty space and chill the cats. Straw is the best insulating material to use inside the shelter. Blankets or towels will become wet, will freeze and draw body heat away from the cats. Cats will cozy or burrow into straw and keep their body heat from escaping.

Visit [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) or [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org), or [www.neighborhoodcats.org](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org) and [www.communitycatstnr.org](http://www.communitycatstnr.org) for ideas and information on how to build shelters. Community Cats TNR volunteers have built numerous Alley Cat shelters during the past twelve years. Donations of 1/2" exterior plywood, luan or paneling, insulation board and fiberglass insulation, exterior latex paint in a "camouflage color," 50 and 30 gallon storage bins and insulated coolers are needed.



A view of one finished Alley Cat shelter with rubber roof next to large totes of similar size ready to be constructed.

### RIGHT NOW, WE NEED:

- \* 1/2 INCH PLYWOOD (DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FULL SHEETS)
- \* RIGID "BLUE BOARD" INSULATION—1/4", 1/2", 1" AND 2"
- \* 50 AND 30 GALLON STORAGE BINS AND INSULATED COOLERS AND VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD THEM!!!

**THANK YOU STEVE, BUD, MONA, CLAUDIA, BOB AND RICHARD** for volunteering and building cat shelters. They are at various locations throughout the County keeping cats warm and dry!

### IN MEMORIAM

Community Cats TNR remembers those who loved and cared for cats, and thanks family and friends for contributions in 2024 honoring their memory:

Nancy Nielsen	Donald V. Miller
Billie Kelley	Bob Tanis
Bonnie Carto	Peggy Gasparas
Rommie MacDonald	Ruby & Casey Kelley
Sara Ostrander Shao	Beloved Medea
Nora McKiddie	

### Did you know that. . .

While cats have superior night vision, they cannot see in absolute darkness. Just like humans, they require some light to see. In pitch-black conditions, cats rely heavily on their other senses, such as hearing and smell, to navigate their environment. Their whiskers also play a pivotal role in detecting nearby objects and changes in airflow. So, if you're wondering, "Do cats like the dark?"—they can certainly manage well in low light, but they still need some light to see.

In complete darkness, cats use their acute sense of hearing to detect sounds that might indicate prey or danger. Their sense of smell is also incredibly sharp, helping them identify familiar scents and navigate their surroundings. Additionally, an upset cat might display heightened sensitivity, using every available sense to stay alert and safe in the dark.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Community Cats TNR, Fixing Furry Friends, and Lakeshore Animal Friends work together constantly to help pet owners and caregivers provide for their feline friends.

Community Cats TNR is the organization to call if you are a caregiver for homeless, free-roaming or feral cats. If you can't safely pick up a cat and put her in a carrier for a trip to the clinic for spay/neuter, call 231-845-7888.

But, if you have a friendly outdoor cat (or your indoor pet) there are other options. The ideal option is to make an appointment with your own veterinarian so you can establish a doctor/patient relationship for your pet and get a thorough exam and total on-going care.

Parkdale Animal Hospital in Manistee has a program to neuter friendly males once a week for \$40 including rabies vaccination. Other vaccinations can be arranged at an additional cost.

Lakeshore Animal Friends hosts a spay/neuter clinic once a month with a visiting veterinarian and staff. For more information call 231-794-7328.

Fixing Furry Friends will issue a spay/neuter certificate for both dogs and cats to help with some of the cost. Go to [www.fixingfurryfriends.com](http://www.fixingfurryfriends.com) to complete the request for a certificate or call 231-301-0441 for more information.

ANOTHER RESOURCE

C-Snip in Grand Rapids operates a low cost spay/neuter clinic. Scheduling and transportation for cats from Mason, Manistee, and Oceana Counties can be arranged by calling 231-301-0114.

FOOD DONATIONS

Community Cats TNR continues to seek donations of cat food at Family Fare plus monetary donations earmarked for food purchases so that we can continue to assist the caregivers that we serve with enough food to keep their cat colonies well-fed and healthy.

MONETARY DONATIONS

West Shore Bank offers a program to make it easy for their customers to donate directly to a local charity. Look for the Giving Center on your digital banking dashboard. Then Explore Giving Center, See Recommended Charities, Find a US Charity, enter Community Cats TNR, then click on Community Cats TNR Ludington, Choose an Amount, and Give to Charity.

To donate using a credit card, go to [www.nfoggive.org](http://www.nfoggive.org) and complete the form provided by Netword for Good.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WISH LIST

Community Cats TNR is on the Community Foundation Wish List for the purchase of replacement traps. We are requesting help in the amount of \$459 to purchase 3 traps, or \$925 to purchase 6 traps. For information about the Wish List, go to [www.mason-foundation.org](http://www.mason-foundation.org), find Community Wish Lists at the bottom of the page, click on the Under \$500 or \$500-\$1,500 and find the listing under Health and Human Services. Donor Advised Funds or direct funding to PO Box 384 , Ludington is suggested.

The success of the Community Cats TNR program relies upon donations and memorial contributions. Please consider making a donation today! Make check payable to COMMUNITY CATS TNR and mail to P. O. Box 384, Ludington, MI 49431 *THANK YOU!*

YES—I CAN HELP!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

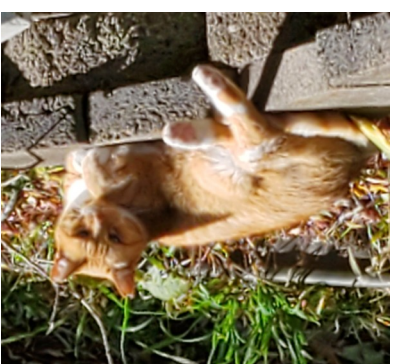
(Community Cats TNR is a 501c3 public charity. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

Homeless, free-roaming, abandoned, feral cats are:

- Humanely trapped by trained caregivers and volunteers.
- Transported to veterinary clinic
- Given a health check, parasite treatment, rabies and distemper vaccines
- Spayed or neutered
- Left ear tipped for identification
- Returned to colony to continue their better quality of life.

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THIS IS FLASH  
She was TNR'd in 2014. Got her name because if she saw a human looking at her, she was gone in a Flash. Now she lives a comfortable outdoor life and loves attention!

## Thoughts of a Feral

I sit beneath the bushes as she fills my dish each day,  
I only venture out to eat when she has gone away,  
I know it will upset her when I turn away and hide,  
As every day she tries her best to get me by her side.  
I wish that I could let her know that I don't want to run,  
And hope that she will understand it's nothing that SHE'S done.  
I'd like to have her stroke me and pat my weary head,  
But fear will overcome and I'll run and hide instead.  
For all the kindly people who feed the strays each day,  
I pray the Lord will care for them as they have cared for me.

*(By Annette Easdon)*

## Thank You to . . .

To our 2024 veterinary partner—the doctors and staff of Country Veterinary Clinic. Without their help, support, and professional expertise, Community Cats TNR would not exist.

To all who made direct and memorial monetary donations, donations of cat food at Family Fare, donations of building materials and straw for shelters, donations of a hugh variety of items for the annual garage sale, to the many volunteers who help trap and care for cats before and after surgery, to the dedicated volunteers who work so hard in August to make the garage sale a success, and especially all those caregivers who continue to feed, water and shelter homeless cats.

## Fresh water

Free-roaming cats have a real struggle finding fresh, clean water, especially during the winter. Maintaining proper hydration is critical to their overall health. For your pet cats and the outdoor cats, provide clean water daily and wash the bowls frequently. During the winter, a heated water bowl is ideal.