

Community Cats News

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

Winter 2025—2026

www.communitycatstnr.org

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

A Banner Year!

So far in 2025, Community Cats TNR has trap-neuter-returned 193 cats. Since October, 2012 when the program started, 1,874 homeless cats have been TNRd, resulting in the birth of approximately 408,000 fewer unwanted kittens.

On April 4, 2025, cat #1,700 was spayed. He is a handsome black dude being cared for in the City of Ludington.

On August 21, 2025 cat #1,800 was neutered. She is a gray and white tabby feline resident of Scottville who has made her home with caregivers who make sure she has food, fresh water and shelter for the upcoming winter.

There have been a number of sad stories throughout the year, including cats with infected bite wounds, fractured legs or paws, mammary cancer, and upper respiratory infections.

But happy endings for all but two saved by veterinary care and gentle care during recovery. This especially includes Cocoa, a big Himalayan male who dragged himself into a trap in January. A trip to the clinic revealed both front and back legs were fractured. After eight months of physical therapy, he gained enough healing and strength to support himself on his hind leg so that his front leg could be amputated. He is now happily recovering from surgery in his new home.

Life can be very dangerous for an outdoor cat. Just staying alive can be a challenge. They face hunger, dehydration, freezing temperatures, cars, predators, and even unkind humans.

Our thanks to the many, many caregivers who go out of their way to provide nutritious cat food, fresh water, and warm and safe shelter for the cats that come to them for help. They go one step further by contacting Community Cats TNR and other area animal groups to get the entire cat colony spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

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

Meet Goblin



Goblin is cat #1,800. She got her name because she gobbles her food—always anxious to eat! After she was spayed and vaccinated, she was returned to her home in Scottville and reunited with her young kitten family.

Meet Blackie

Cat #1,700 cradled in the arms of Dr. Alex Alvarado, and Vet Techs Emma and Bri at the Country Veterinary Clinic.



And this is Cocoa the miracle cat



Saved by a joint effort of Community Cats TNR, Lakeshore Animal Friends and Fixing Furry Friends, and the President of Fixing Furry Friends who provided top-notch physical therapy to save his life.

Visit our website: 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.”

BECAUSE IT IS SO IMPORTANT!!!

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 or www.bestfriends.org, or www.neighborhoodcats.org and 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 thirteen 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, RICHARD AND BILL for volunteering and building cat shelters. They are at various locations throughout the County keeping cats warm and dry!

IN MEMORIUM

Community Cats TNR remembers those who loved and cared for cats, and thanks family and friends for contributions in 2025 honoring their memory:

Dan Tanis	Carole Strall
Billie Kelley	Tom Waters
Sallie Carto	Connie Rossman
Barbara Bahr	Ruth Frazier
Rich Shereda	Linda Jankowski
Kathleen Biteman	Wayne Bailey
Bill Guinn	Lucy & Pogo
Grace	Sadie and Annie

Did you know that. . .

There are visual clues that can help you tell the difference between male and female cats. Generally, male cats are a bit larger and more muscular than their female counterparts, especially if they haven't been neutered. Their heads tend to be broader and more robust, while females usually have softer, more rounded features. These traits stand out more in adult cats, but they can be subtle in kittens.

As a general rule, a calico cat is a female and an orange cat is a male.

DAN TANIS



Community Cats TNR has lost one of its most truly devoted volunteers to the mission to improve the quality of life for homeless cats.

Dan Tanis passed away on May 3, 2025, having served as President of Community Cats TNR since its inception in 2012. Dan did it all. He met with caregivers to assess the colony of cats in their care, trapped, transported, and cared for cats before and after surgery. Dan and his wife, Laura gently cared for an untold number of cats as they recovered from surgery.

Dan led the organization as it grew, worked tirelessly on fundraisers, sanitized and maintained traps, spent hours patiently watching a set trap and waiting for that reluctant cat to finally enter the trap. Most of all, he served as a vocal community advocate for the plight of homeless and abandoned cats. Dan's contribution as an animal advocate has been immeasurable. He is missed by the many caregivers and volunteers of Community Cats TNR who had the pleasure of working with him throughout the past 13 years.

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

Always needed!! Spay/neuter and vaccines cost a lot! To donate using a credit card, go to www.nfoggive.org and complete the form provided by Netword for Good.

Thank You to . . .

Our 2025 veterinary partner—the doctors and staff of Country Veterinary Clinic. Without their help, support, and professional expertise, Community Cats TNR would not exist.

To the ladies of Women Who Care who chose to support CCTNR with their donations in February and to the anonymous family foundation once again providing a grant.

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 huge 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.

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.

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

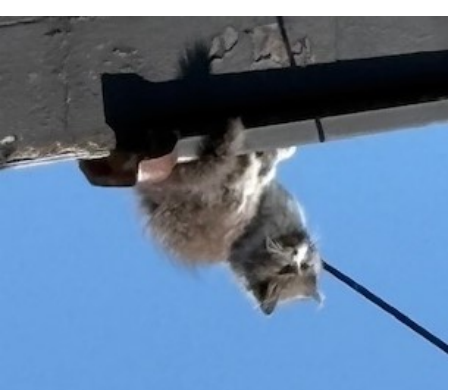
(Community Cats TNR is a 501c3 public charity. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.)

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.

RUFUS



RUFUS THE ROOFER

During the hot days of July, 2025, Rufus the kitten got himself in a bit of a pickle. Climbing a power pole and jumping onto a roof seemed like a lot of fun at first. But, then, Rufus didn't want to shinny down the power pole to get down again. Instead, he sat on the ledge of the roof and cried for Momma.

A couple of humans tried to coax him to the pole, but that was just too scary. So, up went a ladder, but the roof was too unsafe for people. Then a TNR trap was set with enticing food, but nope, he was having no part of that either. Then a wide board was placed to a lower roof, but that didn't interest him at all. Finally, a long plank was angled through a hole in the roof.

Nope, obviously not falling for any of those tricks. So, the humans gave in and made sure he had food and water.

After a week of causing a number of humans a lot of worry and frustration, he suddenly was back on the ground with his Mom and sisters.

Pretty likely that his Mom ordered him to slide down the plank or she was going to come up there and give him "what for."

Rufus and his two sisters went to Country Veterinary Clinic for health check, spay/neuter, vaccines and parasite treatment, then to a new indoor home with lots of love and toys, but no roof to climb.

Important for you to know

Community Cats TNR, Fixing Furry Friends, and Lakeshore Animal Friends work together constantly to help pet owners and colony caregivers get their cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

CCTNR focuses on the homeless cats that need to be trapped (231-845-7888). LAF sponsors a low cost clinic once a month in Ludington (231-794-7328), and FFF provides certificates to help with cost. In addition, the President and Secretary of FFF transport cats from Mason and surrounding counties to down-state clinics (231-301-0114). (Over 1,100 cats transported so far in 2025).