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July - September 2017

Not to be Missed

Our first ever SNACK-a-Palooza will take place on Saturday, October 21 from 2-5 pm at The Barn, 8480 Columbus Road, Mount Vernon. Volunteers have been hard at work planning a fun afternoon of activities, food, a 50-50 drawing, a craft show preview, and a silent auction fundraiser. Among the items for auction are four tickets to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, an autographed football from the Cleveland Browns, and merchandise, services, and gift cards from many local businesses like Lindsay's Doggie Day Spa. All monies will be used to fund SNACK's spay/neuter programs in 2018. Come out for a pleasant afternoon, enjoy a hot dog and cider and show your support for the group and for the organizations, businesses, and individuals who have generously donated to us.

Program Update

Our monthly fix-it days continue to be popular and we have now filled October 10 fix it day in honor of Global Cat Day (formerly National Feral Cat Day). The year-to-date total for fix-it days is 333: 206 spays and 127 neuters. Our trap/neuter/return program total stands at 21 with seven females spayed and 14 males neutered. The total spay/neuters since the group was organized in 2011 is over 2000!



Gambier Craft Show

The bi-monthly craft days are on summer hiatus and we hope to pick them up when the weather is a little cooler and summer chores aren't quite so numerous. We've made interesting

creations—paper beads, cork plant markers, rice bags, and catnip socks. Still on the crafting agenda are fleece mice, quilted pot holders, and gift tags and cards. Another date to highlight—the Gambier Craft Show on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Check out handsome Mr. Friendly's Buckeye spirit!

The Vacuum Effect

Recently, 250 Canadian geese were removed from the Scioto Mile in Columbus and killed. City Parks and Recreation officials explained the geese were humanely euthanized because of their aggressive behavior and health concerns about their waste. Many people

supported these actions while others saw little value in the exercise and opposed the methods used.

After the incident, the Ohio Wildlife Center issued a statement about the city's action and explained their approach and offered their solution. They wrote there was no quick fix to the geese issue. Their statement said, "Research suggests drastic termination often only re-sets the habitat for new waterfowl to fill in. Long term modification requires tactics across seasons to reach lasting environmentally sound outcomes. With our approach to educate the current population of geese to feel unsafe in these areas through trained Border Collies, boats, motion and noise mechanisms, we have achieved successful population decreases within reasonable and realistic timeframes." (<https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/geese-statement/>)

What do geese have to do with feral cats? Catching and killing cats may seem like a good idea to some people to reduce their numbers quickly. However, no matter how many cats are removed, if resources needed for their survival like food, water, shelter, remain, the population will recover to its carrying capacity. Cats remaining after a catch and kill effort will produce more kittens and at a higher survival rate, filling the habitat to capacity once again. Like the geese in Columbus, the cats will be back.

For our group, we have seen trap/neuter/return (TNR) work. The cats are humanely trapped, neutered, vaccinated for rabies, ear-tipped, and returned to their colony. No more kittens are born. The downside to TNR is that it takes time and commitment by the participants. There is no quick and easy humane fix. TNR is also now official policy for feral cats in several large cities, including Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Chicago.

Upcoming Events

- Sep 12-Nearly Fall Fix-it Day, Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic (FVC)
- Sep 26-RASCAL Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic with the Humane Society of Morrow County, Marengo
- Oct 10-Global Cat Day Fix-it Day, FVC
- Oct 21-SNACK-a-Palooza, The Barn, Mount Vernon 2-5
- Nov 14-Thanksgiving Fix-it Day, FVC

Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem. ~Winnie the Pooh

