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January – March 2017

Welcome to the first SNACK newsletter of 2017!

At the annual board of directors' meeting in January, we said good-bye to board members, Sue Horn and Laurie Wright. Sue was a founding member of SNACK, Inc. in 2011 and served 6 years on the board as chair. Laurie served three years, most recently, as the group's secretary. Thank you, Sue and Laurie, for your dedication and service.

We welcomed new board member, Ben Schumacher. Ben works as an electrician apprentice and brings youthful energy and enthusiasm to the group. Welcome, Ben!

The board elected the following officers for 2017:

Ben Schumacher, Chair
Cheryl Clark, Co-Chair and Secretary
Toni Metcalf-Henry, Treasurer

In other news, the board approved the 2016 treasurer's report and the new 2017 budget. Again this year, we are planning monthly fix-it days at the Fredericktown Vet Clinic and three low-cost spay days with the Humane Society of Morrow County and the Rascal Mobile Unit.

We Did It! At the January 10 New Year's Fix-it Day, we surpassed the 2000 cat mark for spay/neuter surgery! While this is an accomplishment, it's humbling to consider this:

- A female cat can start having kittens as early as six months.
- The average mature female cat can have three litters with a total of 12 kittens per year; 10.2 kittens surviving of which 4.7 are female.
- The average litter size is four kittens. There is a 20% annual mortality ratio with a rate of 30% in feral populations.
- Approximately 35% of owned and stray cats are spayed.

Under this scenario, one breeding female cat and her offspring will have 79 kittens in year three and 67 will survive! No matter how one does the math, there are too many cats/kittens and too few homes. Responsible pet owners should spay or neuter their cats!

(Source: <http://calculate-this.com/420000-kittens-unspayed-cat-kitten-calculator>)

Trap/Neuter/Return Volunteers Needed

It's winter but before long, we will hear from people who are feeding outdoor, feral and strays cats and want help in managing their colony through our trap/neuter/return

program. Volunteers are needed to help with trapping and transportation to and from the vet clinic in Fredericktown. Training is provided, we work in pairs, and try to match volunteers to a project close to their home. Trapping is usually on a weekday morning. If you are interested, please email info@snackohio.org or call 614-371-8996. A long-term commitment is not necessary.



One of our success stories, this semi-feral cat is one of 10 left behind by renters. Neighbors have assumed the care of these cats and with SNACK's help, were able to do a TNR on this male and a female. More TNR is planned!

Quilt Drawing Update

Tickets are available for the beautiful, handmade cat quilt. The drawing is set for Sunday, April 30, in Mount Vernon at the Ariel-Foundation Park, Kiwanis Pavilion at 4 pm. Tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5 and can be obtained by sending a check or money order to SNACK, Inc., P.O. Box 121, Sunbury, OH 43074 or by going to www.snackohio.org and purchasing the tickets through PayPal. Tickets will be mailed to you. Tickets are also available at Fredericktown Vet Clinic during their normal office hours. Proceeds will help us to fund our spay/neuter programs this year—don't miss your chance!



Coming Events

February 28, World Spay Day
March 14, Pi Day Fix-it Day, Fredericktown Vet Clinic
March 28, RASCAL Day with the Humane Society of Morrow Co., Marengo
April 11, National Pet Day Fix-it Day, FVC
April 30, Quilt Opportunity Drawing, Ariel-Foundation Park, Kiwanis Pavilion, 4 pm
May 9, Mother's Day Fix-it Day, FVC 

Cats are absolute individuals, with their own ideas about everything, including the people they own.
John Dingman, American writer