



THE RATKAJ FOUNDATION FOR CATS

2024 Newsletter

As we continue to develop our foundation, we focused our time this year in a variety of ways...

The Nobody's Cats Foundation

Camp Hill, PA

www.nobodyscats.org

The Nobody's Cats Foundation promotes the adoption of Trap Neuter Return (TNR) as the preferred strategy for humanely stabilizing and reducing free-roaming domestic feline populations in south-central PA. This approach prevents suffering among the cats, protects public health, reduces stress on wildlife, and enables communities to redirect desperately needed resources elsewhere. Since inception in 2012, this organization has performed TNR services for over 55,000 cats.

The Nobody's Cats Foundation has been instrumental in our success of local TNR efforts. We are so grateful for the resources they offer to the community, their willingness to educate on the TNR process and their kindness to both the cats they care for and the caregivers of those cats. In 2024, we were able to sponsor spay/neuter surgeries and other critical services for 12 needy cats. In addition, we have begun volunteering at their facility the second Saturday of each month by performing administrative tasks that support their mission.

Find Toby in PA

www.findtobyinpa.org

Find Toby in PA's mission is to reunite pets with their family. Since 2016, this organization has helped reunite 25,000+ pets in central PA and Northern MD. They provide support 365 days a year and is 100% volunteer run. Find Toby in PA provides support via a Facebook page of the same name. The page is monitored and messages are responded to from 8:00am to 10:00pm every single day of the year.

In addition, they have a team of field volunteers who help with posting flyers, following up on sightings, setting traps and trail cameras to help reunite lost pets.

Christine began volunteering with Find Toby in PA in July as a virtual volunteer staffing their Facebook page by creating posts and providing support along with tried and true tips to those who have lost or found a pet. The volunteers of Find Toby in PA are kindred spirits and it's an honor to be part of their team.



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Kitten Season

Kitten season is a particularly challenging time for animal rescue organizations. A cat can get pregnant as early as four months and it is possible for a cat to birth five litters in a given year. While this is rare, most cats will produce a litter one to three times a year with an average of four cats per litter.

We were proud to support the following rescues with kitten food donations this year:

Cocoa Kitties - Hershey, PA - cocoakitties.org

Harrisburg Animal Rescue Team - Harrisburg, PA - www.hart-harrisburganimalrescueteam.org

Perry County Animal Rescue, Inc. (PCoAR) - Millerstown, PA - <http://www.perrycountyanimalrescue.org/>

Paw Points

Paw Points is a website (www.pawpointsrewards.com) that rewards everyday cat related purchases. Paw Points are earned for the purchase of cat litter, food or treats by uploading your receipts to their website. Points can then be used to redeem seasonal prizes or donations to shelters. We were fortunate to donate our accumulated points equal to 23,523 to **Furry Friends Network** - Boiling Springs, PA - furryfriendsnetwork.org. This point donation resulted in 560 pounds of cat litter for this rescue.

Hurricane Helene

The impact of Hurricane Helene was devastating. As we watched the hardship and destruction of this violent storm from the comfort of our home, we couldn't even begin to imagine having to live through such an event. We became aware of **Sister Kitten Animal Rescue** in Maggie Valley, NC (www.sisterkitten.org), an organization that rescues and rehomes abandoned and neglected animals, provide trap-neuter-return (TNR) as well as support, education and assistance to community cat caregivers, maintain animals in foster care for adoption, provide veterinary care for sick animals, and promote community animal welfare. We chose to assist them with a financial donation and have been following their efforts in animal rescue and relief efforts. The hearts of this team and their determination to rescue and reunite pets lost in the aftermath of the hurricane is simply amazing.



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Community Cats

As we engage with other organizations who support animal welfare, we believe that the biggest need within our community is related to Trap Neuter Return (TNR). In the United States, it's estimated that 60 to 100 million cats live on the street without a home. TNR is universally acknowledged as the primary tool for reducing the overpopulation of domestic felines. Moving forward efforts related to TNR will be our primary focus.

River Bend Community Cats Colony - Enola, PA

We currently have four cats who utilize our screened in porch and yard as their home. We feed them, provide shelter and interact with them daily. Their names are Mama Calico, Baby Calico, Baby Grey and Tortie. In addition, we provide support as needed to eight other cats who are primarily cared for by our wonderful neighbors.

Pine Grove Road Community Cats Colony - Gardners, PA

Chestnut Street Community Cats Colony - Camp Hill, PA

We appreciate the opportunity to provide support to the cats and caretakers of these two colonies to ensure all cats have the best possible chance for a safe and happy life.

Education

We've spent time educating ourselves this past year on the issues surrounding cats via online conferences and workshops. Christine is now certified as a Surrender Prevention Specialist (What to do rather than surrendering a pet who may be having behavioral issues) and a Return-to-Home Specialist (How to reunite with a pet who may have gotten lost).

2025

We are excited for the future and the opportunities in store to help cats in need. We have many ideas and are looking forward to Dave's retirement within the next few months, so that we have more time to dedicate to these ideas. We are in the process of creating a website and anticipate activity on social media platforms in an effort to expand our vision. If interested in contributing to our foundation, please mail a check to 537 Halyard Way, Enola, PA 17025. We appreciate your support and so do the cats! Dave and Christine