



CatVando NFP Corp

The Scratch

Spring 2010



A kitten born today can have it's own

Kitten season is here and that means CatVando TNR efforts are doubly critical.

Kittens represent the continuous cycle of feral cats being born if left unattended.

Ellen Miles, Founder and Executive Director

This also means an additional burden to our TNR efforts for zero-growth cat colonies in our

communities.

Kittens can reproduce at 5 months. Kittens, once trapped can be altered once they reach 2 pounds and at that size they can be easily socialized into house pets. Unfortunately this means more of our resources (volunteers and money) is devoted to their care and socialization, leaving less resources for our main focus of TNR.

While cute and cuddly, kittens put us in the adoption business, which is not were we want to be especially when there are local agencies that do a good job at operating shelters.

I dream of the time when, though focused TNR efforts, shelter intake is reduced to the point that every kitten and cat taken to a shelter will not be turned away for lack of space. I dream of shelters and TNR groups collaborating in their respective specialties to facilitate zero growth of street and feral colonies.

Until that time comes you can help by,

- Watch for stays taking up residence in your neighborhood and take action
- Consider being trained in TNR
- Be a foster home
- Be a supporting member.



These cute cuddle bunnies, born in January, could have had their own kittens this fall!

CatVando has fought for the humane reduction and care of street and feral cats since being founded in 2005 and when only a few agencies in Chicago were addressing the issue.

Join us for an exciting evening—you know we always have fun!

“Art for Good”

Friday, April 9th 6—9pm

MARION STREET GALLERY

115 N. Marion Street, Oak Park, IL 60302

**Cheese, Wine & Music
Introducing 4 featured Artists**

**Win a \$100 framing gift certificate
Silent Auction and Drawing**

Cat Stats

Estimated US Cat Population

88 million pet cats

**50 - 70 million “street cats”
(ferals & strays, un-owned)**

A widely recognized and used formula for estimating feral/stray populations is

Human Population divided by 3.3 = # of Pet (owned) cats

Human Population divided by 6 = # of Street Cats (un-owned)

National studies report that 85% of owned female cats are sterilized while only 2% of feral female cats are sterilized.

Consider this—

Based on current numbers, the owned cat population produces an estimated 26 million kittens every year, while the feral/stray cat population produces an estimated 145 million kittens, most of which won't survive.



This cat lives behind an abandoned house. Part of a colony of 7, TNRd cats, he's fed by a woman who feeds 3 colonies in various locations in addition to the colony at her own home.

Yard Cat Tips:

- **Time to spruce up winter shelters—change out the straw!**
- **Keep your eyes peeled for new kittens in the area. Call for traps, call shelters for admission.**
- **Flea season is coming. Use diatomaceous earth in and around shelters and where cats hang out. Plant mint and aromatic herbs as deterrent.**
- **Watch for ringworm. Can be treated with Program (usually for fleas but administered differently) for untouchable ferals. Some say, sunlight will do the trick, but it can spread throughout a colony.**
- **Make sure cats have plenty of clean water to drink.**
- **Be kind to your neighbors—if you have a big colony, build an outdoor litter box—then compost it!**
- **Get them all TNR'd. If you know someone who has yard cats, talk to them. Give them our ‘Seeing Street Cats...’ brochure on <http://catvando.org> Assure them there's help. Then, call us.**

In Memory of our friend Eileen Neal

Eileen Neal, a great friend, who loved and appreciated the uniqueness of all animals and who was a strong advocate of TNR and CatVando passed away suddenly this March. She wrote our original petfinder descriptions in a way that described the cats personality to a “T” letting the reader ‘know’ the cats. We will remember Eileen as always smiling, with a bubbly laugh, a delightful story about one of her cats or dog, or ours, that personalized and personified the critters as the

wonderful beings they are.

Eileen doted on her pets and we'd like to find a good home, for them and for her. She left behind 3 cats and a Schipperkes dog. They were a tight family, intertwined and delighted by their own interactions and company.

Please visit <http://petfinder.com> and visit the “Neal” cats. Consider giving just one a home or you can have a built in family and take all 4!

Featured Volunteers



Mike Smith started volunteering in November 2009 and we just don't know how we got along without him.

Mike comes three days a week and does a variety of chores to keep everything clean and tidy as well as socializes with the cats that we have in need of permanent homes. He gladly does just about anything he's asked to do. **We Love You Mike!**



Kalli Agoglossakis came to CatVando because she wanted to put her BS in Biology into practice. She has become expert in the art of trapping and TNR aftercare, has fostered cats and fills many shoes at CatVando. She's one of our all 'round gals.

Kalli got real hands on when CatVando stepped in to work with Henry, The Elderly Cat Hoarder. **We Love You Kalli!**

St Pat's Parade in Forest Park March 6, 2009



Lots of fun was had
by all
Join us for the 4th of
July Parade



Henry's Story

Last November, CatVando got a call from the Franklin Park Health Department. One of their residents called to say he '**had too many cats and he couldn't take it any more**'. His wife feed cats in their driveway; 10 years ago a new neighbor moved in and started trapping and killing the cats so she let them in to protect them. Henry was 79 at the time. One by one he took them to the vet. He missed a few, kittens were born and he lost control. A year and a half ago his wife went into a facility for dementia. Henry's been caring for the growing population of cats since then. He fed one-16# bag of Purina or Meow Mix and 12-18 cans of Friskies a day. He had two litter boxes that he cleaned numerous times a day. He estimated that he had 30 cats, we removed 40. He's 89 now and an amazing man.

Our initial assessment was difficult for many reasons.



The stench and unhealthy air.

While the house is neat and free of clutter, with very few piles of poop, the cats sprayed everything solid. We saw a place where cats went between

the foundation and drywall. Given the number of years they were there and the small (comparatively) number of cats, some surely found their final resting place between those walls. Metal appliances, but for the stove, were rusted. Floors were stained with urine and old poop. Anything material was shredded. It's a very unhealthy atmosphere.

However, the stench isn't the worst part, nor the labor intensive work. The worst thing is that in **most hoarding situations, there is no place for the cats.** Most cats are 'house ferals' – accustomed to only the few people they live with; they aren't adoptable and there aren't enough businesses or farms to take them. Shelters can't take them because their not adoptable. Sanctuaries are few and far between and there's no point in moving cats from one crowded place to another.



In our initial announcement, we indicated we might have to kill these cats if we didn't have any place for them. A thought abhorrent to us but we knew Henry and the cats needed help. We called dozens of shelters and groups to

see if there was a place for them. We had an offer to take three from one lonely shelter – otherwise, everyone was full and had no place to home unadoptable cats.



Another reason few animal organizations will touch a hoarding situation is because the needs of the cats that come out of the house. Malnourishment, stress from overcrowding, hoarded cats generally have depressed immune systems and

require veterinary care, good food, special supplements and lots of TLC are care to become healthy.

Henry's cats, had a variety of problems which included upper respiratory infections, eye infections, periodontal disease, ophthalmic herpes (requiring surgical removal of one eye in one cat). Some had alopecia (hair loss) and depressed immune systems. The last litter out of the house, born in January, had neurological problems akin to Cerebellum Hyperplasia (CH). The CH babies required testing, medicine, special supplements and visits to a specialist with a whole new set of needs - physical therapy and adaptive devices. **And yet they are incredible – the worst one neurologically, has the strongest spirit.**



In the end, we didn't have to kill any of the cats. We'd planned on returning 5-6, we returned 12. The house can support that many cats and when Henry passes, they'll pass on to his son. Due to disease during the project, 16 cats didn't survive. One of the adoptable cats has found a new home and 12 are now ready for adoption and can soon be found on <http://petfinder.com>. They'll also be accompanying us to adoption events in the coming months.

All are healthy, with lush coats and improved immune systems. One still needs a couple of teeth pulled – her initial surgery was 4 hours and there was no time to remove them. All but 2 are friendly and accustomed to strangers. Two out of 4 of the CH babies will even be ready in 2 weeks. They'll all still need a good diet and depending on their issues, supplements to continue to thrive but are wonderful loving cats with long healthy lives ahead of them. We will continue to check in with Henry and the cats we returned to him to make sure all are doing well.



Meet Bernice

A couple of years ago, Bernice injured her ankle. She walked on the top of her bent over paw. By the time we trapped her (we needed a drop trap—this is about as close as she would come to our regular traps), her bones had fused together. The ankle had become badly infected and needed to be amputated. She now lives at the home of her outside caretaker and is now a healthy and happy 3 legged cat!

Henry's Story Continued from page 4.

Our costs to date are about \$4,000 to get Henry's situation under control and of course that doesn't include the food, litter and supplements for Henry's cats that are in our care and up for adoption. This amounts to about \$75 a week until they're adopted.

We are proud in knowing that we were the solution for Henry though in retrospect, we shouldn't have because of the stress, financial expense and the time taken away from our TNR mission.

Unfortunately there are many more Henry's in our communities and the only resource is the local health department and/or animal control, which as we all know would capture and destroy the cats.

The only long term solution is TNR to reduce to zero street and feral cats colonies and in doing so, shelter intake will be reduced leaving room for the intake of those that are adoptable.

Please consider helping us with the financial expense of incurred with Henry's cats. Whatever you can give is appreciated and please indicate your donation is for Henry's cats.

Details of the project with Henry's Cats can be found starting last November—warning—graphic material. <http://catvando.blogspot.com>

Ilisa, once almost bald, depressed and emaciated—now lush, happy and healthy and ready for her forever home.



Calendar of Events

**April 3, Franklin Park Library,
TNR workshop**

**April 9, ART FOR GOOD
See box on 1st page**

**April 24, Maywood Prairie Path Clean Up
-CatVando booth and info**

**April 30 - May 2, PetSmart, Broadview
Huge Adoption Event**

**Purrr—fect Garage Sale
May 15**

336 N. Austin Blvd.Oak Park

Please call to donate by April 7, our May sale. Call Zarema at 708-263-3497 for details. Furniture also wanted (call Sue at 708-488-8993).

May 15, Adoption Event
Elmhurst Animal Care, 850 Riverside Drive (off 83 north of Roosevelt)

CatVando Board of Directors

Ellen Miles, Executive Director

Eric Tucker, Secretary

Sue Bohnstengel, Treasurer, Publicity

Zarema Aribeva, Feline Wellness, Adoption Coordinator

Stephanie Skrine

Jeanne Friedell



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CatVando NFP Corp is a Cook
County Sponsoring Agency

Membership Renewal Time

CatVando is solely supported by donations. Thanks to you, CatVando can continue its mission to TNR cats living in the streets. Together we can make a difference and prevent kittens being born without anyplace but the streets to go.

With your support we can:

- Sponsor Spay/Neuter, vaccination and medical fees for those who can't afford it
- Purchase traps and supplies
- Train on the fine art of TNR
- Scholarship colony caregivers with food/medical care when needed

Basic Level-\$20 Supporter level-\$50 Benefactor-\$100 Angel-\$500
\$ _____ other

CatVando Mission
To assist individuals and community to humanely and effectively care for and reduce street cats and to teach respect for life.
To educate the community on the importance of TNR and spaying and neutering their house pets.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Wish List

- Litter—clumping and non clumping—nothing with perfume (Sam's Club All Natural Litter Clean for clumping)
- Cat food, Meow Mix & Friskies for street cats and Sirius Cooks for kittens—they'll know.
- Bleach, Sol U Mel, Sol U Guard, Tough n Tender
- Flat Screen Computer Monitor
- New Computer with Microsoft Office
- Thick sheets and large towels for trap covers
- newspaper for traps
- 45 more traps & 6 forks (\$65 each trap \$15 each fork)

Volunteers Needed

- **Kitty Buddies**
- **Cage & Trap Cleaning**
- **Spay/Neuter after care**
- **Data Entry**
- **Office Skills**
- **Someone with Carpenter & Electrical skills**
- **Transport to and from Treehouse**
- **Morning worker—Tues, Wed, Sat & Sun 9-12**
- **Someone to work our petfinder.com account**

There are approximately 45 cats and dogs for every person born.

Only 1 out of 10 dogs born ever get a home.

Only 1 out of 12 cats born ever find a home.

Approximately 800 dogs & cats are KILLED each HOUR in the United States, because there are not enough homes for them!

Please SPAY and NEUTER!

Looking for a pet, think rescue instead of buying from a breeder or a pet store!