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January – March 2018

Welcome to the first quarter newsletter of 2018!

### **BOD Annual Meeting**

The Board of Directors met on Saturday, January 20 and approved the 2018 work plan and budget. Once again we are scheduling monthly fix-it days at the Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic and three Rascal Days with the Humane Society of Morrow County. We also hope to schedule a fourth Rascal Day this summer. Our trap/neuter/return program continues as well. Our goal for the year is to support 610 spay or neuter surgeries.

Serving on the Board this year are Ben Schumacher, Board Chair; Toni Metcalf-Henry, Vice Chair and Treasurer; and Cheryl Clark, Secretary. We are happy to report Toni will serve a second term after her term expires in April. Thank you to the current board for their service!

### **Crafting Continues—Indoors!**

Crafters met on February 1 at the St. Paul Parish House in Mount Vernon to cut out the ever-favorite cat toy—fleece catnip mice! The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1 from 10 am to noon and we're planning to cut out star ornaments. If you have some crafty ideas and want a relaxing time, please come join us in March. See SNACK's Facebook page and website for information about future meetings.

### **Curious about SNACK's 2017 Finances and Activities?**

Did you know, craft sales for SNACK earned the group over \$1,000? If you'd like to know more about what the group earned, received as donations, spent, and achieved in 2017, check out the website, <http://snackohio.org/2017Annual.pdf> and <http://snackohio.org/2017Financial.pdf>. We are very happy to report we supported 565 spay or neuter surgeries during 2017—only 10 short of our goal of 575.

### **The Mad Catters**

Volunteers are training again this year to participate in the OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon in Columbus on Saturday, April 28. This year, our team is the Mad Catters. We'll be posting our progress on the website and Facebook. A generous donor will match any money donated to us. Help support our athletes and the activities of SNACK. And if you'd like to participate in either the Quarter Marathon or Half Marathon, please email us at [info@snackohio.org](mailto:info@snackohio.org).

### **Rabies Vaccinations and the Indoor Cat**

Sometimes we are asked at a fix-it day clinic if an indoor-only cat REALLY needs a rabies vaccination. The answer is yes.

Rabies is a fatal disease for people or animals exposed through a bite or scratch to the saliva of a rabid animal. Rabid animals don't behave like normal animals. Sometimes a rabid animal may act overly friendly or overly aggressive. A rabid raccoon can tear a screen and come inside a house. A bat can fly inside a house through a small opening. There is also a chance an indoor-only cat may go outside and come in contact with a rabid animal. Although humans can receive a series of preventative shots for rabies, there isn't a rabies preventative for a cat who is bitten by a rabid animal. If a cat is not vaccinated and comes in contact with a rabid animal, euthanasia may be recommended. A six-month quarantine is also a possibility.

Similar consequences can occur if an indoor-only, unvaccinated cat bites someone. Bite wounds, treated by a physician are reported to a county health department. The health department may require proof of vaccination. Without this proof, a cat who is ill may be euthanized and then tested for rabies or may require a period of quarantine.

Fortunately, rabies in cats is rare and there has not been a single confirmed case of cat-to-human rabies in the U.S. in the past 40 years. But why risk your cat's well-being by not getting a rabies vaccination?

Sources: Cornell Feline Health Center and Alley Cat Allies.

### **Upcoming Events**

March 13—Nearly Pi Day Fix-it Day Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic (FVC)-Full

March 27—Rascal Day with the Humane Society of Morrow County, Marengo

April 10-- ASPCA Founding Anniversary Fix-it Day, FVC

April 28—OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon and the Mad Catters Team, Columbus

May 8—Mother's Day Fix-it Day, FVC

*I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days. -Bill Dana*

### A Final Thought

Greg Schumacher lost his four-year battle with brain cancer on November 30, 2017. Greg was a founding member of SNACK and an energetic, generous, and enthusiastic volunteer. When he served as treasurer, he tallied our income and expenditures and spent many hours determining trends in our clients and funding. Greg loved to work the fix-it days and was a skillful trapper. He was nearly always reluctant to pack up for the day—he was convinced the moment he drove away, cats would appear—we needed just “a few more minutes.”

Ben and I would like to thank everyone for their support during Greg's illness and for the generous outpouring of kindness and love when he passed away. Thank you!



### FASCINATING CAT FACTS

- △ The technical term for a cat's hairball is bezoar.
- △ A group of cats is called a “clowder.”
- △ Cats make about 100 different sounds. Dogs make only about 10.
- △ While it is commonly thought that the ancient Egyptians were the first to domesticate cats, the oldest known pet cat was recently found in a 9,500-year-old grave on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. This grave predates early Egyptian art depicting cats by 4,000 years or more.
- △ A cat usually has about 12 whiskers on each side of its face.
- △ A cat's hearing is better than a dog's; a cat can hear high-frequency sounds up to two octaves higher than a human.
- △ A cat rubs against people not only to be affectionate but also to mark out its territory with scent glands around its face. The tail area and paws also carry the cat's scent.
- △ When a family cat died in ancient Egypt, family members would mourn by shaving off their eyebrows. They also held elaborate funerals during which they drank wine and beat their breasts. The cat was embalmed with a sculpted wooden mask and the tiny mummy was placed in the family tomb or in a pet cemetery with tiny mummies of mice.
- △ Most cats give birth to a litter of between one and nine kittens. The largest known litter ever produced was 19 kittens, of which 15 survived.
- △ A cat can jump up to five times its own height in a single bound.

- △ A cat's brain is biologically more similar to a human brain than it is to a dog's. Both humans and cats have identical regions in their brains that are responsible for emotions.
- △ On average, cats spend 2/3 of every day sleeping. That means a nine-year-old cat has been awake for only three years of its life.
- △ The little tufts of hair in a cat's ear that help keep out dirt direct sounds into the ear, and insulate the ears are called “ear furnishings.”
- △ A cat lover is called an Ailurophilia (Greek: cat+lover).
- △ In Japan, cats are thought to have the power to turn into super spirits when they die. This may be because according to the Buddhist religion, the body of the cat is the temporary resting place of very spiritual people.
- △ Foods that should not be given to cats include onions, garlic, green tomatoes, raw potatoes, chocolate, grapes, and raisins. Though milk is not toxic, it can cause an upset stomach and gas. Tylenol and aspirin are extremely toxic to cats, as are many common houseplants. Feeding cats dog food or canned tuna that's for human consumption can cause malnutrition.
- △ There are up to 60 million feral cats in the United States alone.
- △ All cats have claws, and all except the cheetah sheath them when at rest.

From: <https://www.factretriever.com/cat-facts>

*I read that when cats are cuddling and kneading you, and you think it's cute, they're really just checking your vitals for weak spots.*  
~Kandyse McClure

Two of our recent spay/neuter attendants:



Tom



Kitten