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April - June 2018

Welcome to the second quarter SNACK newsletter!

We're off to a great start this year in our spay/neuter programs! So far, we have supported 94 spays and 61 neuters in our Fix-it Day program. In March, we worked with the Humane Society of Morrow County and the Rascal Mobile Unit for a Rascal Day and had 47 cats in for spay (28 cats) or neuter (19 cats) surgery. We have served 111 clients from 6 counties during the fix-it days.

In early April, the Ohio Pet Fund awarded \$2,000 to the organization for our 2018 trap/neuter/return program. We have been slowed somewhat this year by cold, wet weather. Our year-to-date total is 13 spays and eight neuters. We have worked in five projects and counties represented are Knox and Delaware.

Since SNACK started in 2011, the group has supported spay or neuter surgery for 2,770 cats. We expect to reach the 3000<sup>th</sup> cat in late summer. An amazing feat!

**Volunteers, take a bow!** Organizations like SNACK are unable to continue without the generosity, time, and talent of volunteers. Each year, the Independent Sector measures the value of volunteer time. The 2018 survey indicated the value of volunteer time nationally at \$24.69 per hour. See <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/>

**Save the Date!** SNACK-a-Palooza 2 Silent Auction is scheduled for Saturday July 14 from 2 to 5 pm at The Barn in Mount Vernon OH. We'll feature live artist, James Hatfield, delicious food, and fantastic auction items. As the day approaches, we'll be highlighting some of the fun auction items we have. Don't miss out!

**We have a new look!** As technology has progressed and mobile applications have become more commonplace, the Board decided that it was time to streamline the website. The new site can be updated quickly and easily and doesn't require special coding. While some of us miss the old website, the reality was few people were looking at some of the pages and articles. Thank you, Ann D, for taking lead on the update and spending countless hours coding and organizing our old website.

#### **OhioHealth Half- and Quarter Marathon Update**

The Mad Catters (Toni, Ann, and Rita) walked the quarter marathon on Saturday, April 28 in downtown Columbus. We finished with a time of 1 hour and 42 minutes for 6.55 miles. More importantly, with the generous match, we raised over \$1,000 for the spay/neuter programs. Thank you!

#### **Best Practices for Feeding and Care of Community Cats**

We often hear colony caregivers remarking about raccoons, ants, and other unwanted visitors at their feeding stations. Alley Cat Allies, a national organization, has helpful tips for colony caregivers, especially when it comes to feeding. They suggest:

- Remove any uneaten food within 30 minutes. Leaving food overnight can attract insects and wildlife.

**TIP:** If the cats usually eat all of the food within 15 minutes, try putting out a bit more. If there is consistently food remaining after 30 minutes, try putting out less.

- Provide fresh water.

**TIP:** In the summer, provide lots of water to prevent dehydration. During the winter, try wider, deeper bowls to prevent water from freezing.

- Choose one place to feed and keep it clean. We recommend creating a 'feeding station' for all food dishes.

**TIP:** You can feed on disposable plates or bowls but be sure to throw them away or recycle immediately after use.

- Deter Insects by building a "moat" around food bowls. Place bowls in a tray filled with about an inch of water or use ant-proof bowls.

For more information, see

[www.alleycat.org/resources/best-practices-community-cat-colony-care/](http://www.alleycat.org/resources/best-practices-community-cat-colony-care/)

*If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.*  
Booker T. Washington

#### **Upcoming Events**

June 7-Crafting at Ariel-Foundation Park, Kiwanis Pavilion, 10 am – noon

June 12-Nearly Father's Day Fix-it Day, Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic (FVC)

June 26-Rascal Day with the Humane Society of Morrow County

July 10-Fix-it Day (FVC)

August 14-Fix-it Day (FVC)



Beautiful, calm tortie from TNR project, waiting for her surgery.

What greater gift  
than the love of a cat.  
—Charles Dickens

