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July - September 2018

Welcome to the third quarter SNACK newsletter!

### Program Update

Our year-to-date statistics are 209 cats spayed and 152 cats neutered. For fix-it and Rascal days, we have supported 308 surgeries. The total for our Trap/Neuter/Return program is 53. Since 2011 when the group was formed, we have supported the sterilization of 2907 cats. We expect to reach 3K cats in late September. This number of cats is equivalent to the intake for about 100 fix-it days or 60 Rascal days! We're planning a celebration to mark this milestone—details will follow.

### Revisions on the Way

2018 has been a very busy year for the TNR program. Volunteers have worked on 13 different projects in Delaware, Knox, Richland, and Morrow counties. It's great the word is getting out and cats' lives are being saved through our efforts. When the season is over, we're going to take a close look and see if we can improve the application process and program for 2019.

### Welcome New Volunteer

Welcome Gwen T! Gwen moved to Ohio from Florida about three years ago. She's an animal lover and has cats, a dog, and a parrot. She also has a wealth of animal welfare experience and has worked with animal rescue, adoption and TNR. Gwen has helped us so far with trap/neuter/return and crafting. Welcome, Gwen!

### Announcing Network Partnership

SNACK is now a Best Friends Network partner. The Best Friends Network is a national network of shelters, rescue groups and other animal welfare organizations that are committed to saving the lives of homeless pets through effective adoption, spay/neuter and intake prevention programs. The network was built on Best Friends Animal Society's belief that collaboration is a key to ending killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters.

### FUNraising

SNACK-a-Palooza 2 was held on Saturday, July 14 at the Barn in Mount Vernon. Thank you to the generous

organizations and individuals who provided our auction items. Thank you to those who attended and bid; the Board of Directors; artist James Hatfield; Vonda M for the delicious food; and volunteers Marty, Brady, and Alyssa for their invaluable help. Special thanks to the entire Clark family for pitching in. We made about \$800 and funds raised will be used for our trap/neuter/return program and our fix-it day clinics.

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. Coretta Scott King

### Does It Help to Spay or Neuter Just One Cat?

In short, yes. Here are the top 10 reasons to spay or neuter your cat (Adapted from WebMD ([pets.webmd.com/reasons-spay-neuter-pet](http://pets.webmd.com/reasons-spay-neuter-pet)):

**Your female cat will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal for about 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.

**Neutering provides major health benefits for your male.** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male cat prevents testicular cancer.

**Your spayed female won't go into heat.** While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently-sometimes all over the house!

**Your male cat is not as likely to roam.** An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! Once kitty is free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

**Your neutered male will be much better behaved.** Neutered cats focus their attention on their human families. In contrast, unneutered cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggressive behaviors can be avoided by early neutering.

**Spaying or neutering will NOT make your cat fat.** Don't use that excuse! Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds-not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

**It is highly cost-effective.** The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It's also cheaper than the cost of treatment when your tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray or gets hit by a car!

**Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.** Stray animals pose a problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and be a nuisance. Spaying and neutering reduces the number of animals on the streets.

**Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth.** Letting your pet produce offspring you are not keeping is not a good lesson for your children—especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are many books and videos that teach children about birth in a more responsible way.

**Spaying and neutering help fight pet overpopulation.** Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. For our group, this is our number one reason!

Perhaps one reason we are fascinated by cats is because such a small animal can contain so much independence, dignity, and freedom of spirit. Unlike the dog, the cat's personality is never bet on a human's. He demands acceptance on his own terms.  
Lloyd Alexander

#### **Upcoming Events:**

August 14, Back-to-School Fix-it Day, Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic (FVC)

August 16, Crafting, Ariel-Foundation Park, Kiwanis Pavilion, 10-noon.

August 19, BOD Meeting, Donato's Sunbury, 1 pm

September 11, Patriot Day, Fix-it Day, FVC

September 15, Strutt Your Mutt, Humane Society of Richland County, 10-3 pm, Richland Co.

Fairgrounds (SNACK volunteers will staff a booth.)

September 25-Rascal Day with the Humane Society of Morrow County, Marengo

October 12-Autumn fix-it Day, FVC

Photo of rescued kitten, Echo, who enjoys hanging from a ficus tree (she also loves hiding in the branches of the Christmas trees)!



There is truly not a single quality of the cat that man should not seek to emulate to improve. - Carl van Vechten

