

South  
Middleton  
Community  
Cats



# SM Community Cat Connection

New Year 2026

## Winter Weather Tips For Cats

Finishing up this newsletter on arguably the coldest weekend in awhile, so this feels especially relevant. As you **prepare for the storm**, make sure you're helping neighbors with their colonies if they need it. Does snow need to be removed? Is there any heavy lifting required, and can the caretakers do it on their own?

There are lots of great resources on the web about how to **make your own winter shelters**, and we've found that using "*Hot Hands*" warming packets under a metal bowl could be helpful in keeping water from freezing. If your cats are coming at the same time everyday, it'll be easier to **warm their wet food** and provide it to them before it freezes.

*Check out more helpful tips at [alleycat.org/WinterTips](http://alleycat.org/WinterTips)*

**PROVIDE OUTDOOR SHELTERS**  
Shelters keep cats safe and warm.  
Be sure to use straw (not hay) for insulation.

**MOVE SNOW AWAY FROM SHELTERS**  
Don't let the cats get snowed in.

**GIVE CATS EXTRA FOOD AND WATER**  
Make sure wet food and water doesn't freeze by serving them in insulated containers.

**BE MINDFUL OF HAZARDS**  
Antifreeze, salt, and chemical-melting products are toxic to cats.

**CHECK YOUR CAR BEFORE DRIVING**  
For warmth, cats may hide under your hood or around the tires.

 Alley Cat Allies [alleycat.org/WinterTips](http://alleycat.org/WinterTips)

## A Microchip Without Registration is Useless

SMCC invested in a microchip scanner last year to help reunite any cats we catch that are not known to be part of a regular colony. If you would like us to scan a cat who is visiting you, **drop us a line!**

Remember, it's not enough to simply get the microchip, it **must also be registered**.

[PetKey.Org](http://PetKey.Org) will help you register or look up a chip. Benefits of chips:



- Permanent Identification
- Increased chances of reuniting with lost pets
- Proof of ownership in disputes
- No maintenance required
- Travel and Relocation

# Stories From The Street

## A One-Eyed Cat Named Wink

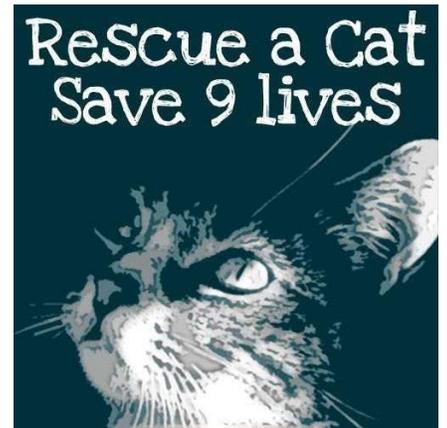
Occasionally, we come across cats with medical needs that exceed our expertise and mission of TNR. That happened in November. The ongoing part of TNR is that caretakers who have used our services keep a watch out for new cats entering their colonies. So, we weren't shocked when we got the call that a new, small kitty had shown up at a feeding station.

Upon pick up, we noticed that well... what was supposed to be on the inside, had made its way to the outside. We called the clinic coordinator and asked if the vet would stay longer to perform an **enucleation of his eye**, so long as he was healthy enough to recover. Partial costs for the surgery were covered by the *\*Merl Medical Grant* we established in 2025.

Wink came through his surgery with flying colors, and moved in to recover with us, wearing a cone and enjoying the comforts of medicine and wet food with soft blankets to snuggle. During this time, **he showed an inclination to be friendly**, so knowing we could not return a one-eyed cat to the outside, we began the process of socializing him.

We are pleased to share that with the **help of Furry Friends Network**, Wink not only made a full recovery, became the bestest boy, and found placement in a quiet home with a feline friend named Knox!

*\*Donations to the Merl Medical Grant in specific are always accepted*



*What do you do when you have cats who can't be returned to their previous home?*

*What do you do when you find a litter of kittens while TNRing?*

**Glad you asked. We panic.**

Because every rescue we contact is full. They simply don't have any fosters.

**What it means to foster a cat...**

- Fostering offers **short term care** for a cat who isn't ready for adoption yet.
- It's a **temporary commitment** in a low-stress environment that helps them show their true colors.

Fostering **eases overcrowding** in shelters, and **ensures successful adoptions** as cat parents can match prospective adopters to personalities.

**ALL COSTS AND SUPPLIES COVERED!!**



## Feline Leukemia (FeLV)

### Symptoms of FeLV

- Pale gums
- Yellow color in the mouth and whites of eyes
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Bladder, skin, or upper respiratory infections
- Weight loss and/or loss of appetite
- Poor coat condition
- Progressive weakness and lethargy
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Breathing difficulty
- Reproductive problems like sterility in unspayed female cats
- Stomatitis – Oral disease that includes ulceration of gingiva

About 30% of the cat population is at risk for this virus, which is **transmitted most often from a queen (mother cat) to her kittens**. The most susceptible groups of cats are very old or very young, or those who already have a compromised immune system. **TNR can virtually eliminate the virus from a colony immediately**, as there will be no new litters to spread the disease. Cats with a FeLV diagnosis live a **shorter lifespan of less than 3 years**, but some can live much longer if adopted into a loving environment. The virus does not live long outside a cat's body, and only affects cats. The prevalence of FeLV has **decreased over the last 25 years** because of vaccines and reliable tests.

## Remembering a Legend

*Christine Arnold 1956=2026*

**Christine Arnold** single handedly brought her vision of a better life for community cats to life with the founding of the **Nobody's Cats Foundation** in Camp Hill. It's because of her that SMCC was created and the residents of South Middleton Township have access to TNR vouchers. She worked tirelessly to educate the public and advocate for those who had no voice. She spent the last year holding educational seminars for us and residents, and taught us so much about TNR. Her last wish was to make sure the mission of TNCF continues, and we intend to honor it as best we can. She will be missed.



A heart-felt Thank You, to our most recent supporters from Giving Tuesday to Amazon Wish List items!

Melissa F.	Stephanie N.	Lisa and Robert L.
Elizabeth G.	Bobbie V.	Teresa P.
Allison V.	Debbie K.	Paula Gapp.
Tracey H.	John R.	D. Green
Terri M.	Paula L.	Ken M.
Susan N.	Cynthia T.	

And a reminder about our wish lists!



amazon

Both can be found by visiting our webpage under "donate"

# Locked and Loaded for our 2026 Seminars

We are so thankful for the use of the **South Middleton Township meeting room** to hold our seminars again this year. Their partnership is invaluable. **All seminars start at 6:30 pm and are FREE**, however, we encourage you to **sign up to hold your space**.

You can use the QR code to the right to be taken to our website events page to find the session you want, or you can navigate to Facebook and find them on our **EVENTS** tab.



Free TNR Basics courses for 2026! Come learn how you can be part of the solution in making a better life for our community cats. Participation in the class satisfies eligibility for township-sponsored vouchers for your colony. Visit [www.SMCCats.com](http://www.SMCCats.com) for more information.

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. All start at 6:30pm and are held at the Township Municipal Building meeting room.

## SMCC Food Drive

January 2 - January 30

520 Park Drive Boiling Springs

Drop off new, bagged or  
canned cat food

SMCC is collecting cat food  
donations to help supply  
food for community cats to  
help them through the  
winter.



We are in the thick of it with donations from **Tractor Supply - Carlisle** and **Chewy** to kick us off! **All donations go directly to colony caretakers** who may need a little extra for their kitties to bulk up this winter!

This year, in addition to the drop off location at the *South Middleton Township building*, we encourage you to **visit our Chewy and Amazon wish lists** to have product sent directly to us. If you do, **PLEASE be sure to include a gift receipt so we can thank you properly!**

## Do you have a passion to volunteer for a Non-Profit?

### Board of Directors

Suzanne Shriner - President/Treasurer  
Janelle LaMaster - Vice President  
Bonnie Holtry - Secretary



We are looking to **add members to our board** who want to lead committees or help us shape the future of South Middleton Community Cats.

If that's you, reach out!

[SMCommunityCats@gmail.com](mailto:SMCommunityCats@gmail.com)

## Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics

Whether your cat is indoor, outdoor, or a mixture of both, they are still at risk of contracting diseases from their environments, and other animals. Most TNR clinics include vaccinating against Rabies (required by PA law for cats 3mo+) and FeLV/FIV to return them healthier than before.

To find low-cost vaccination clinics for indoor or friendly community cats, please follow us on FB or view our Events page on our website.



Why should my cat get vaccinations?

The Vetting Zoo – thevettingzoo.com  
Tractor Supply Carlisle – Some Sat 4pm  
Tractor Supply Dillsburg – All Sun 4pm

Have you visited our website?

[www.smccats.com](http://www.smccats.com)

## Random reflections on one year as an organization...

- Kitten season never ends
- Education is KEY
- People are generally willing to help
- Our township is incredible to work with
- There are never enough fosters/homes
- Working with other rescues is imperative
- More resources are available than people know
- People still don't understand why TNR is needed
- Volunteers are crucial to success
- Mackerel is the superior bait
- Sewing cute trap covers is a waste of time and effort
- The snap of the trap is addicting
- Trapping in winter is best
- Most people don't register their microchips
- "Lost" unaltered indoor cats get out to "look for love"
- Most trapped cats just chill out
- Fundraisers are fun to create
- There is always something new to learn
- Everyone traps differently

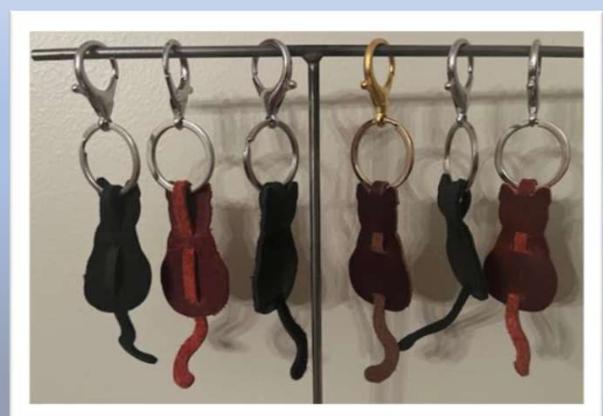
## Volunteer Opportunities!

### Immediate needs:

- We will be canvassing neighborhoods in South Middleton as well as some trailer parks and could use volunteers to hang door hangers.
- Yard Sale (next year!) planner/coordinator

And as always, we need volunteers who want to learn to trap, or do pre-post surgery care.

Email [SMCommunityCats@gmail.com](mailto:SMCommunityCats@gmail.com) for more info



### Limited Fundraiser

18 hand-made leather cat keychains!!

\$10 ea

Send us an email or FB message.