

Paws and Claws Society

Partners in Prevention Not Destruction

2018 Annual Report

SAFER CATS ON THE BORDER – FERAL FIX FOR PA & NY

****WORKING TO DUPLICATE OUR NEW JERSEY NO-KILL SUCCESS****

A single phone call in October opened the door to a partnership between the Paws and Claws Society SAFER Program and community organizations and independent rescuers in PA and the Southern Tier of NY to eliminate cat overpopulation issues. As a result of the vaccination and testing that goes hand in hand with the spay/neuter surgery, life for cats in feral colonies will be much improved; by reducing the number of kittens produced, by improving the general health and well being of all the cats in the colonies, by reducing the stress of reproduction, and by contributing to the dramatic reduction of the spread of disease. SAFER Program for feral colonies will also help to cut caretaker management costs over time as the colony cats will no longer be producing litter after litter of kittens that have no future other than life in the colony.

SAFER “Cats on the Border” has come a long way since it began in the fall of 2015. We are excited to announce that we have provided **1422** free spays/neuters for stray or feral cats and kittens to date. In addition to spay/neuter surgery, each cat received rabies and distemper vaccinations, Felv/FIV testing, and treatment for internal and external parasites. All medical issues were addressed, including a number of life saving surgeries. Kittens and tame cats were pulled, fostered and readied for adoption to a new life. Many were transferred to PACS “Circle of Compassion” program partners in New Jersey to be placed into loving homes. Our wonderful “Circle” partners are essential to increasing kitty adoptions.

558 stray/feral cats in Rome, Pa & Nichols, NY were spayed/neutered in 2018.

CIRCLE OF COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS

The “*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” brings together groups and individuals in a coalition of animal advocates with the expectation of establishing no-kill communities in South Jersey. First introduced in 2006, the “Circle” continues to build on its initial success by expanding the circle of participants each year.

“*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” objectives are to:

1. To increase the placements of adoptable, healthy cats and dogs
2. To reduce the deaths of shelter dogs and cats
3. To reduce the number of stray/feral cats in the county via TNR and placements
4. To increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries
5. To provide appropriate medical treatment, behavior modification and/or foster care to turn sick, injured, traumatized, infant or unsocialized animals into animals ready for placement.

“Circle” partners strive to find loving, permanent homes for all adoptable animals. PACS and their Partners further pledge that adoptable animals will not be killed just because they are homeless at a time when shelters and rescues are full; they pledge to find room at the inn by widening the circle of compassion. “CIRCLE” members may include representatives from local and county government, the veterinary community, animal control officers, businesses, and individuals who work diligently on behalf of animals. PACS offers financial support to “Circle” referred animals, including treatable and/hard to place animals. Support includes reasonable medical care and/or behavior modification training necessary prior to placement.

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2018 NO-KILL ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Paws and Claws Society was again a proud supporter of the No-Kill Advocacy Center. The No Kill Advocacy Center was founded in 2004 by Nathan Winograd. Nathan had created the nation's first—and at the time, only—full-service No Kill community. There were no other national organizations exclusively dedicated to creation of a No Kill nation and certainly none with staff who had experience creating No Kill communities.

“If every animal shelter in the United States embraced the No Kill philosophy and the programs and services that make it possible, we would save nearly four million dogs and cats that are scheduled to die in shelters this year, and the year after that. It is not an impossible dream.”

CAT SPAY DAY

Paws and Claws Society, in cooperation with veterinarians and clinics in the target area, sponsored its 24th annual “Cat Spay Day” to coincide with National Spay Day on the last Tuesday in February. Coupons redeemable for free cat spay/neuter surgery were given to eligible residents. Information about the importance of spay/neuter, free rabies clinics and various humane topics was made available at coupon distribution sites.

Cat Spay Day 2018 targeted low-income residents in the community of Rome

KIND NEWS

Paws and Claws Society first offered *KIND News* in 1994 to every child enrolled in the third grade throughout Gloucester County. Later in September, 2006, Paws and Claws Society introduced a formalized program of humane education to the children of Cape May County. *KIND News*, an award-winning newspaper that teaches children respect for animals was made available monthly to more than 3,000 children enrolled in the second, third and fourth grades throughout the county. This teaching tool establishes a classroom theme of kindness, fosters compassion and responsibility, and motivates learning using the high-interest topic of animals. Responsible pet care is one of the main themes of the publication which emphasizes the importance of spay/neuter. Each issue features a KIND Club Project designed to benefit animals. The program also provides each classroom with a poster-sized calendar of humane announcements--a different one for each school day--for students to read. Many years later, the Kind News offering, is still loved and used by thousands of students and teachers.

Kind News subscriptions were again provided to every Cape May County student in grades 2,3,and 4 in 2018

SAVE A LIFE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

PACS is sometimes called upon to provide medical assistance necessary to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by illness or injury. Many times, this assistance means the difference between life and death. PACS continues to provide its Save a Life Medical Fund for needy animals in partnership with local veterinarians.

Paws and Claws Society provided more than \$13,000 in medical assistance in 2018 for 49 animals, including 2 life saving surgeries.

GIVE A LITTLE BOWL OF LOVE

2018 unfolded as another year of great economic uncertainty for many animal caretakers and their beloved pets. Paws and Claws Society continued our commitment to helping caretakers feed their pets. The need was urgent and PACS again met that need. PACS commitment to this life saving endeavor insured that struggling cat colony caretakers received the support they and their cats deserve.

Paws and Claws Society provided more than \$15,000 for pet food assistance in 2018.

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SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

"I ask for the privilege of not being born ... not to be born until you can assure me of a home and a master to protect me, and a right to live as long as I am physically able to enjoy life ... not to be born until my body is precious and men have ceased to exploit it because it is cheap and plentiful." Need we say more? Pet overpopulation is a monumental problem. Spay/Neuter is the solution.

Over the years, PACS developed and implemented many new and innovative spay/neuter programs, but PACS SAFER (Stray and Feral Eminent Rescue) Program is the one program that has saved the lives of tens of thousands of cats.

Paws and Claws Society partnered with local organizations SNIP and C.A.T.S. to spay/neuter 181 felines.

Paws and Claws Society provided \$95,000 in Capital Clinic Support to SOS and Chemung County Clinic.

SAFER (STRAY AND FERAL EMINENT RESCUE)

Stray and Feral Eminent Rescue Program is a PAWS AND CLAWS SOCIETY initiative developed and implemented under the auspices of the STAATS FOUNDATION in accord with their plan for a NO-KILL COMMUNITY in Southern New Jersey. Our "Stray and Feral Cat Assistance" program certainly epitomizes our philosophy of prevention, not destruction. The SAFER network of local rescue groups and individuals is committed to improving the quality of life for homeless and unwanted felines by providing and finding homes, assisting and educating the community, and controlling overpopulation. The SAFER network advocates compassion towards felines, community support and the belief that felines are life-long companions.

CAT LOVERS CAMPAIGN

PACS identified unchecked cat reproduction as the number one pet problem in South Jersey (actually in the country). Most of the cruelty endured by cats can be directly attributed to the failure of residents to spay/neuter their cats. These cats produce litter after litter adding to the surplus numbers of unwanted animals. Let's face it; there just aren't enough homes for all the cats being born.

Our "Cat Lovers Campaign" seeks to interrupt this reproductive cycle of cruelty at its roots; with the first cat or cats in the cat lovers' control, before the numbers get out of control. The program reaches out to residents with unaltered cats, educates them on the importance of spay/neuter and, if necessary, assists them physically and financially.

Paws and Claws Society is a 501(c)(3) Federal and New Jersey registered charity operated entirely by volunteers. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.