



Feral Cat Colonies

Decreasing numbers and increasing quality of life

by Kayce Humkey

Volume XVI,
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Society Scoop

Did you know that for every person born in the United States, 45 cats will also be born? Many of those cats are born into feral colonies, with estimates placing the number of feral cats in the United States at as many as 60 million.

A feral cat is one that is not socialized to humans, and cannot be adopted. Essentially wild animals, many will live their entire lives without direct human contact. However, feral colonies still require human monitoring to avoid overpopulation, disease, malnutrition, and conflict with human neighbors.

Simply feeding feral cats is not sufficient to meet their needs, and may even compound the problems listed above. Feeding cats that have not been spayed or neutered gives the animals energy to roam, fight, and reproduce.

The Humane Society of the United States recommends a strategy called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for the control of feral cat colonies. Following established guidelines, colony monitors (caretakers) trap the members of the colony and bring them to a participating vet or spay/neuter clinic like the one run by our Humane Society. The cats are spayed or neutered, given rabies vaccines, and treated for fleas, earmites, and any minor injuries or illness. The human monitor then keeps the cat(s) overnight while they recover from surgery and the effects of anesthesia. The cat(s) are then released in the exact location where they were trapped. Tame strays and young kittens living in the colony are sometimes adopted into homes.



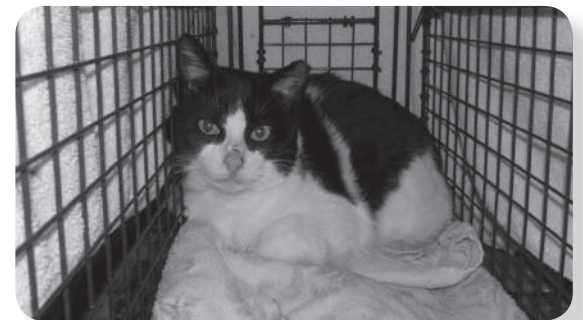
Named "Dude" by his colony caretaker, this tomcat has been lured into a drop-trap.

TNR is increasingly viewed as an alternative to trap-and-kill strategies of population control. Since colonies are usually located at a place where cats have access to necessary resources (food, water, and shelter), removing and euthanizing one or many cats can simply make room for other feral cats or kittens to take their place, the "vacuum" effect.

After a colony of cats has been subjected to TNR, caring volunteers continue to monitor the colonies. Any newcomers are trapped and sterilized as soon as they are noticed. Colonies that have undergone TNR will experience less mating-related injuries and disease. Females, who can easily have two or three litters of kittens a year, are healthier and less stressed. Vaccination reduces the chance of feral cats spreading diseases to pets or people. With TNR, populations stabilize, and decrease over time.

After applying TNR to two feral females on my street last fall (and finding homes for their kittens), I decided to combine my interest in animal welfare with my knowledge of trapping techniques, and I now volunteer to apply TNR to "problem" colonies in Nelson County. In 2013, working with the Humane Society, I've applied TNR to 27 cats in three colonies, and found adoptive homes for two "adoptable" cats. I am coordinating the effort to document and control local feral populations, and I welcome any interest in those efforts.

(Editor's note: There are many colonies of feral cats in Bardston and throughout the county, for example, behind Talbott Tavern; between Hwy 44 Auto and the Five Star on John Rowan; behind 84 Lumber on Bloomfield Rd., behind Dairy Queen, just to name a few. If you know of problem areas and would like to report them, or better yet, to help with this enormous project, please call the Humane Society at 349-2082. These colonies produce many of the unwanted cats and kittens who end up in the shelter.)



Here, Dude is recovering from surgery. The tip of his left ear was removed while he was under anesthesia. Eartipping is a universal sign that a feral cat has been sterilized and vaccinated.

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Tributes

In Memory

William "Brad" Arms, given by Becky Hayden
Mary Buntain, given by Drs. Lisa and David Woody and Staff at Bardstown Eye Care Center
Alan Centers, given by Gary and Teresa Clifton
Betty Clark, given by Joseph Patrick and Rose Marie Taylor
Bruce Dahl, Phil and Lynne Bowling, Linda Brady, Joanne Johnson, Susan Muir, Davis Huston, R.E. Sutherland, Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust, Kentucky Home Bank, Hibbs & Associates, PLLC
Miss "Jo" Donahue, given by Brenda and Butch Moore
Cindy Ethington, given by Joan Altman
Ann Mackin Ewing, given by Roger Ewing
Catherine Faust, given by Vicki Beck
Mindy Filiatreau, given by Lisa Cissell
William D. Gallaher, given by Mardi Jones
Gramma, given by Laura Lawson
Margaret S. Hagan, given by Jane Hagan, Peggy Hagan, and Max Howard
Judy Johnson, given by Joe Johnson and Diane Thompson
Karen Laird, given by Stephen Campbell
Clara Majors, given by Steve and Janine Auslander
Jackie Mattingly, given by Joe and Janice Carter, and Edgar and Mary Jo Abell
William Mattingly, given by Sharon Clark and Conway-Heaton Automotive Center
Joy Dunn Miller, given by Kelly and Beth Corbett
Betty Nadai, given by Michael T. Sewell, M.D. and office staff
David Newcomb, given by Jackie Newcomb
Jamie O'Daniel, given by Benny and Sara O'Daniel, Patricia Jenkins, Bardstown Florist and Gifts
Wandola Perkins, given by Joe and Joyce Rogers
Mary Phelps, given by Jim Phelps
Glen Richardson, given by Joseph Patrick and Rose Marie Taylor
Calvin Robertson, given by Kimberly Bow
Lonnie Russell, given by Judy and Jeff Reynolds
Albert Shewmaker, given by Sandy Noe
Lora Faye Smith, given by Rebecca Hopkins
Larry Stein, given by Bardstown Animal Clinic
Vivian Talbott, given by Anne Arnold
Carol Travis, given by Joseph Patrick and Rose Marie Taylor
Kevin Vittitow, given by Martha Reed
Freda Wallace, given by Carol Hawkins
Tom Williams, given by Ben and Libby Burr
Don Perkins, gifts contributed to the Don Perkins Memorial Fund for Indigent Animals
 given by Deborah Perkins, Becky Meloan, Linda Akers, Sam Thomas Clements and James Warner
Baby Girl, given by Sarah Bradford, Trudi Maish, and Bonnie McMillen
Bandit, given by Mike Sims
Boone, given by Bonnie McMillen, Mary Jo Abell, Trudi Maish, Jane Hagan, and Sarah Bradford
Brak, given by Becky and Patrick Hayden
Bear, given by Betty McGirk
Benji, given by Larry Williams
Bo, given by Bonnie Cecil
Bruno, given by Phyllis Baugh
Bullseye and B.J., given by Joan and Randy Bramel
Courageous Gallant Swain, given by Mary Nancy Todd
Cyril and Roxie, given by Deborah and Gary Parsons
Daisy Doodle King (2/2/99-11/9/12)
Downey, Picnic, and All Pets we have loved and lost, given by William Smith
Hollye, given by Betty Martin

November 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

My Dog, Jake, given by Martha Nest
Lady, given by Juanita Parrott
Lady and Annie, given by Rebecca and Dan Biggs
Lily, given by Jeff Schroeder, D.M.D.
Marty, given by Jenny Boone
Max, Molly, Pepper, Maggie, Albert, Lexie and Sadie, given by Mary J. Scott
Millie Durbin, given by Jane Durbin
My Beloved Bassets, Blue, Murphy and Cletus, given by Mardi Jones
My Three Beautiful Pekingese, given by Rebecca Hopkins
Oscar, given by Lori and Gary Boblitt
Phoebe Gant, given by Judy and Jeff Reynolds
Polly, given by Donna Boekley
Ramses, Osiris, Cleopatra, and Isis, given by Charles and Ramona Parrish
Randy and Buttons Greene, given by Jean and Sonny Greene
Rascal and Spanky, given by Sandy Noe
Rascal Amberg, given by Anne Arnold
Rocky, given by Kathy Jones
Romeo, given by Mark and Martha Fouraker
Sammy, given by Mary Jo Abell
Snickers, Best Dog in the World, given by Kristy Milchick
Stryper, given by Richard Krinke, Jr.
Tucker, a faithful friend, given by Martha Reed
Victoria, given by Ed and Linda Goepper
Weezie, given by Sharron Blincoe
Zoey Spalding, given by Bonnie McMillen and Trudi Maish

In Honor

Mary Jo Abell, given by Rhodie Wheeler
Judy Cooke and Mike Sewell, given by Barb Sowers
Lee and Rich Evans, for their 50th anniversary, given by Mardeth Jones
Jane Hagan, given by Jo Ann and Fred Allen
Peggy Hagan, on her birthday, given by Jane Hagan
Judith Mitchell, given by Deborah Perkins
Megan Moss and Scott Salathe, in honor of their wedding, given by Ben and Libby Burr
Cathy Newton, given by Nancy Tietge
Gregg and Karen Oliver, given by Jim and Darlene Pack
Deborah Perkins, D.V.M., given by Judith Mitchell
Penny Chesser Spalding, given by Vicky Pulliam
Trudy Sutherland, given by Gail Hart
Bear and Sally, given by Gretchen Smith
Bob, Twitter, and Twinkle, given by Linda Brady
Bruiser, given by Donna Mitzner
Maggie, given by Kim and Dave Branscom
Molly, given by Ginny Thomas
Quinn, given by Aubrey Gibson
Rosie Hall, given by Janice Hall
Sparky, given by Larry and Nancy Clawson
For the great work done at the Humane Society, given by Phil and Janet Parrott

Dippin'
Dogs
2013

Make a splash at Dippin' Dogs
2013. The event is planned for
August 17!

More information to come.

Why Pets are Good For Children

by Deborah Perkins, D.V.M.

Most of us recall special moments with a childhood pet. Maybe it was when we were alone and there was the nudge of a wet nose to remind us someone understood. Maybe it was when we sneaked morsels of food off the dinner plate to the dog waiting under the chair so Mom thought we cleaned up our liver or peas. Maybe it was our first experience with death.

The benefits of growing up with pets are many:

- Feeding and caring for pets teach children responsibility.
- The unconditional affection from pets boosts a child's self esteem.
- Children with pets tend to have better immunity to allergies and asthma.
- Pets teach children impulse control and social skills.
- Bonding with pets reduces anxiety and loneliness. Pets offer comfort when children are upset.
- Children learn the value of a living being. Perceiving the pets have feelings teaches children compassion and empathy.
- Playing with pets improves creativity and may encourage exercise and outdoor activities.



McKenna Raybourne and Benjamin

Choose a pet whose temperament matches that of the child. You do not want an overly exuberant animal for a reserved child. Be mindful of how you react to the pet as your child will mimic you. If you are impatient or scold a pet harshly, your child will, too. You can delegate some simple caretaking to children, such as filling a water bowl, but it is not entirely up to the child to be responsible for medical treatments, housebreaking, confinement and protection from other animals and hazards. A pet is a family commitment for the duration of the pet's life.

Dealing with Pet Allergies

by Jenny Bewley

I have always been an animal lover – my husband not so much. When he asked me to marry him, I told him I came with baggage – a dog and two cats. He took us all. As the years passed, so did the pets. They all enjoyed life to ripe old ages. But, I eventually found myself without a pet for the first time I could remember. Our house was for sale and we were planning a move to Bardstown, so I felt we shouldn't get another pet during the turmoil of building a house and moving. After moving, I found myself with a broken ankle and on crutches. I was having enough trouble moving around without having to negotiate around an animal.



Winston and Michael read the paper

After the first of the year, I realized the time had come for a new family member. We contacted the Nelson County Animal Shelter in hopes of finding the "perfect" pet for our lives – and we did. Enter Winston the cat. Even my husband was smitten with Winston's personality. He walked straight to my husband as if to say "take me home – I'm the one".

We left the Shelter with cat and treats in tow. We both spent the evening making a big fuss over our new friend. But, as the evening progressed, my husband's eyes began to swell. By bedtime they were nearly swollen shut and he was miserable. It seemed that he was allergic to Winston. I alerted the Shelter the next morning of the situation and said we might have to return our cat. My husband asked that we give it a couple days to see what happened. Luckily, we did just that. The swelling subsided and my husband apparently "adjusted" to having a cat in the house. Washing his hands after petting the cat is the only precaution he takes. But, so far, there have been no more allergic reactions.

I would encourage anyone having an allergic reaction (that is not life threatening) to "give it a couple days". Perhaps you will adjust as my husband did. Had we returned Winston that second day, we would be without a great pet. He does have one problem, though. He thinks he is in charge of the household.

Special Thanks

The Humane Society is sincerely grateful to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who have donated in various ways between November 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013.

- AARP, Nelson County Chapter
- Bardstown High School Staff
- Bardstown Mills
- Brown and Company, CPA's
- Boone's Abattoir
- Buzick's Lumber
- Chemco Federal Credit Union
- Emily Beavers and Friends
- Frances Cohen, who gave up birthday gifts for the animals
- Gabby's Consignments
- Girl Scout Troop 550, for 550 pounds of cat litter
- Mrs. Hatfield's Fourth Grade Class at Foster Heights
- JT's Consignments
- Keystone Cinemas
- Kroger Company, for allowing us to keep a "collection wagon" at their store
- My Old Kentucky Home Homemakers Club
- Parkway Baptist Church
- Resp-A-Care
- St. Gregory School
- Lucas Shain, who organized Paws for the Cause
- Tractor Supply
- Wal-Mart, for providing us with much needed pet food and supplies

Our heartfelt thanks to
Trim Masters Charitable Foundation,
 for yet another generous grant.

And last, but not least, all our many, many donors and volunteers who contribute year after year. We couldn't survive without you. Every gift, no matter how small is appreciated. If we have omitted anyone, we apologize—it doesn't mean we aren't grateful!

Bland Hardison Bequest Received

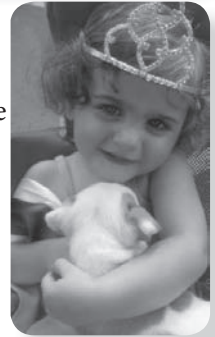
Every county in Kentucky, including ours, received a generous \$1,432 bequest from the estate of Bland C. Hardison, a Muhlenberg County dairy farmer who died in 2008. His widow described him as a "compassionate man who loved animals," and he left specific directions for his donations to be used for each county's animal shelter/control program.

Beautiful People

We want to thank two groups of kind and generous young ladies who hosted beauty pageants to benefit the Humane Society. Pictured below are the participants of All Around Beauties, directed by Valene Harless. They collected over 1,000 items plus donations including \$100 in pennies collected by the girls. The Humanitarian Title went to 3 year old Savannah Gati.



At right is Jaycee, of the Queen of the Commonwealth Organization which is part of a nationwide, community-service oriented pageant. The goal of their program is to have their titleholders and volunteers donate 1,000 hours of community service each year, providing assistance to many worthy causes.



Mrs. Briney's Public Speaking Class at Nelson County High School, led by Sierra Bellah, Spencer Chowning, and Marilyn Rogers, raised \$200 for the Humane Society by preparing a luncheon for faculty members who made donations.

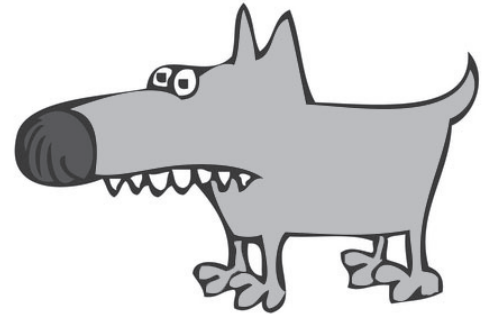
Dog Bite Prevention

In May, two different organizations sponsor Dog Bite Prevention weeks—the Humane Society of the United States (May 12-18, 2013) and the American Veterinary Medical Association. Every year, over 4 million people in our country will be bitten by a dog, and 800,000 of those bites are severe enough to require medical treatment. The majority of injuries occur in children, and according to the ASPCA, 50% of all children will be bitten before their 12th birthday, usually by a dog belonging to their own family, friends or a neighbor.

Printed below is the ASPCA's "Bite Prevention Safety Pledge." Please share it with a child, parent, or teacher. Please contact us if you need a Spanish version of the pledge.

I pledge that:

- I will not stare into a dog's eyes.
- I will not tease dogs behind fences.
- I will not go near dogs chained up in yards.
- I will not touch a dog I see loose (off-leash) outside.
- If I see a loose dog, I will tell an adult immediately.
- I will not run and scream if a loose dog comes near me.
- I will stand very still (like a tree), and will be very quiet if a dog comes near me.
- I will not touch or play with a dog while he or she is eating.
- I will not touch a dog when he or she is sleeping.
- I will only pet a dog if I have received permission from the dog's owner.
- Then I will ask permission of the dog by letting him sniff my closed hand.



For more information and for an activity sheet for children, visit <http://www.asPCA.org/>.

WISH LIST

- MONETARY GIFTS, always preferred . . . because we have such limited storage and because it can be used for veterinary supplies and other specialized items
- Pet food (Purina, Pedigree, Iams or Science dry food)
- Cat litter, clay or clumping
- Towels, washrags, blankets, sheets, pillow cases
- Liquid laundry detergent (must be HE type) and bleach
- Paper towels, cotton balls, Q-tips
- 13 gallon kitchen garbage bags
- Furnace filters (20 x 20 x 1 and 20 x 16 x 1)
- Printer ink (Canon 240/241)
- Scotch tape refills, white out liquid
- Postage stamps and post-it notes
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Tractor Supply, Kroger, or Target for needed supplies
- Gift cards for gasoline to drive pets transferred to distant breed rescue or other placement organization

Receptionist Volunteer Help Needed

We always need adult volunteers to sit at the front desk to answer phones and to greet and assist customers coming in the front door. Our public hours are:

10-4 Monday through Friday
10-2 on Saturday

You can work the entire day, or just part of it.
For more information, call 349-2082.





Ways to Give

Come visit us or send a gift by mail to:

Humane Society of Nelson County
2391 New Haven Road
Bardstown, KY 40004



(Please use the donation envelope printed in this newsletter)

- Make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. An acknowledgement card will be promptly sent to the family or to the person being honored.
- Make a secure gift on-line at www.ncanimalservices.org. Click on "Donations" in the left sidebar to use PayPal. All major credit cards are accepted.
- Set up an automatic electronic withdrawal from your checking account. Use the authorization form below.
- Make the Humane Society a beneficiary of your will or life insurance policy.
- Consider a charitable gift annuity.
- Bring out supplies for our animals (see wish list in this newsletter).
- Consignment donations:
 - Gabby's, 200 East John Rowan Blvd., Bardstown, 331-9002 • Clothing
 - J.T.'s Consignments, 222 N. 3rd Street, Bardstown, 349-6837 • Clothing
 - Traders Mall, Booth 37 (near Wal-Mart on Hwy 245, in Corvin's Flooring Building), 3465 John Rowan Blvd., 348-7474 • Home decor, books, furniture, and clothing for babies, DVDs, toys, etc., in good condition.

If you have questions about what to donate, call 349-2082

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

Organization Name: Humane Society of Nelson County Tax ID No. 61-1266246

I (we) authorize the Humane Society of Nelson County (HSNC) to initiate credit and/or debit entries into my (our) **Checking** **Savings** account (select one) indicated below, and the depository named below, hereinafter called BANK, to debit and/or credit the same such amount, and if necessary, to initiate an adjustment entry for an entry in error.

BANK NAME _____	BRANCH _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
TRANSIT/ABA No. _____	ACCOUNT No. _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until HSNC and BANK have received written notification from me (or either one of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford HSNC and BANK a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

DATE _____ **AMOUNT TO DEBIT EACH MONTH** \$ _____

SIGNATURE _____

IMPORTANT! You must attach a voided check to this form. Mail to:
Humane Society of Nelson County, 2391 New Haven Road, Bardstown, KY 40004

An Appeal To Breeders

by Judy Cooke, Shelter Director



If you breed dogs for fun or profit, please stop, at least for a while, or at least decrease the number of litters you have your dogs produce each year. If you're thinking of allowing your dog to breed, please don't start. Our county shelter, like most in the south-eastern United States, is overwhelmed with unwanted dogs and puppies, of every kind.

Consider these numbers received in the Nelson County Shelter in 2012: 1,637 dogs and puppies were received and 694 of them were adopted through us or Barktown, or transferred to breed rescue or other placement organizations; 257 were reclaimed by their owners. Those are the lucky "live release" dogs. Because we are an open admission shelter and don't turn away any dogs or cats brought in from Nelson County, we received an overwhelming number that resulted in over 700 being euthanized for lack of good homes.

The most common breeds received were, in order of decreasing frequency: beagles and Labradors, mixed and purebred, about 200 each; pit bulls, 100; shepherds and terrier mixes, 100 each. Beyond the most common breeds, we receive a surprising number of large purebreds, like Boxers, Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, and Great Pyrenees, and even many smaller purebreds, especially Chihuahuas, Jack Russells, Shih-tzus, and Pomeranians. In all, about 60 different breeds were received. The likelihood of finding a new home goes down with larger sized dogs and common breeds, and up with small popular breeds. Rare breeds, even if large, are often transferred to breed rescue organizations which operate on a national scale.

While increasing adoptions helps a small amount, and makes everyone feel good, there is a saying among sheltering professionals that "you can't adopt your way out of this problem." There simply are not enough good homes for the number of companion animals being born every year.

It may be time for Nelson County to follow the example of other communities by requiring owners who breed pets for profit to purchase a breeder's license, at a significantly higher price than the usual pet license. This would place more responsibility on the people who contribute most to the problem of surplus animals that end up in county shelters at the taxpayers' expense, and would possibly discourage owners of smaller breeding operations. Most breeders believe that the purebreds they sell don't end up in shelters. Maybe not, but unless they spay/neuter puppies before release to new owners, some of the dogs they sold, and many of the mixed breed offspring produced by these dogs, will populate shelters.

Please, please don't breed dogs, and don't buy from a breeder if you can adopt the type of dog you want from a shelter. As always, you can choose to be part of the solution, or part of the problem.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF NELSON COUNTY

2391 New Haven Road
Bardstown, KY 40004
502-349-2082

www.ncanimalservices.org
humane-societync@att.net

Our mission is to prevent cruelty to animals, relieve suffering among animals, and extend humane education.

Animal Shelter Hours:

Open to the Public:
Monday – Friday
10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-2pm

Board of Directors:

Trudi Maish, President
Dennis Brock, Vice President
Judy Cooke, Shelter Director
Carol Keeling, Secretary
Jason Cheek, Treasurer
Mary Jo Abell
Sarah Bradford
Jane Hagan
Becky Hayden
Mardi Jones
Deborah Perkins, D.V.M.

Newsletter Design:

Peggy Waters



(Editor's Note: Why no mention of cats? Intentional breeding for profit has very little impact on their overpopulation, at least in this area. Different species, different problem, to be addressed in future article.)

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF NELSON COUNTY**

2391 New Haven Road
Bardstown, KY 40004

Return Service Requested

Non-profit org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BARDSTOWN, KY
Permit No. 14

Humane Society Yard Sale



**Saturday, May 25th, 8 am – 2 pm
at Bardstown Baptist Church
(corner of 3rd & Brashear)**

Come and shop for household items, furniture, pet supplies, books, DVD's, CD's, and great miscellany. To donate items, bring them to the church on Friday, May 24th between 4 and 6 pm. Donations are tax-deductible.

Call 349-2082 for more information.

