

FeralFocus

A Quarterly Newsletter Produced by IndyFeral Inc.



Fall 2005

City-County Council Passes TNR Ordinance

Legalizing TNR for Controlling Free-roaming Cat Colonies in Indianapolis

The City-County Council of Indianapolis voted to pass an ordinance at their Oct. 10 meeting establishing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to care, protect and break the breeding cycle of unowned cats in Indianapolis. The vote passed 26-1.

IndyFeral president Lisa Tudor said, "This ordinance makes it "legal" for the city's designated agency (IndyFeral) to trap feral and stray cats in Indianapolis, sterilize them and return them to their managed colony, where a caretaker provides care, food, and shelter."

There are estimated to be 174,000 feral cats within the city limits. IndyFeral charges colony care gives \$20 per cat for this service, compared to approximately \$120 per cat to trap and kill as was implemented by Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC).

Several key officials worked to support and pass this ordinance. According to a report in *NUVO (Indianapolis sets national precedent: Dealing with the city's cat overpopulation*, by Mary Lee Pappas, published Oct. 19, 2005), these supporters included Jeff Bennett, assistant administrator with the Community Economic Development, Department of Metropolitan Development, and former Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC) administrator, and Councilors Mary Moriarity Adams (17th District - D) and Scott Keller (16th District - R), who sponsored the ordinance.

Councilor for the Third District, Jim Bradford (R), whose district contains more feral colonies than any other, additionally endorsed the move.

"TNR through IndyFeral is a good program because it works to humanely and effectively reduce the feral cat population. It doesn't cost the taxpayers anything. Considering cutbacks in public services, IndyFeral has worked out a great program that doesn't cost the city



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright IndyFeral, Inc.

As part of a "managed TNR colony" it is legal to feed stray/feral cats if you are feeding cats in preparation for TNR as outlined by IndyFeral. The key is getting the cats spayed and neutered to break the breeding cycle.

money," Bradford said.

Ordinance builds on IF's standards

The new ordinance provides the following guidelines for feeding:

+ It is legal to feed stray/feral cats as part of a "managed TNR colony" or if you are feeding cats in preparation of implementing TNR as outlined by IndyFeral. The key is getting the cats spayed and neutered to break the breeding cycle.

+ If you are feeding stray/feral cats and you refuse TNR, this is considered an "unmanaged colony" and you could be fined. It is irresponsible to feed the cats and not have them sterilized as this contributes to the overpopulation problem.

The new ordinance will build on IndyFeral's established standards for the registration, caretaking, vaccination and feeding of free-roaming cats.

The endorsement from the city will

allow IndyFeral to work in partnership the IACC on a broad scale to reduce the un-owned, free-roaming stray and feral cat population and create a safer and more humane community for them.

City of Lawrence considers TNR

Some areas still do not allow for the method of TNR. It is illegal in the City of Lawrence. The function of animal control is overseen by the city's police and Sheriff's department.

Tudor is pursuing an ordinance revision in Lawrence. IF hopes to assist caretakers and cats in the area who want and need TNR.

She is working with the Lawrence city-council to open a dialogue about implementing TNR in their city. Leslie Fatum, IACC administrator and Indianapolis Third District Councilor Bradford are helping to facilitate this dialogue.

IndyFeral hopes to establish TNR as the standard and humane way to help control cat overpopulation.

IndyFeral works to enforce cruelty and neglect laws

Mother cats guard their kittens from predators. But who protects the cats against danger?

Mama is a member of a large feral colony in downtown Indianapolis. She and eight other cats in her colony underwent Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in October. During a preoperative exam, IF volunteers found a BB bullet in her hind leg.

Her wound had healed months ago, but she walked with a limp, fiercely caring for her kittens

Mama is a survivor. Not all feral cats are as lucky or as strong.

IndyFeral is working to enforce cruelty and neglect laws for stray and feral animals. For information on these efforts or how you can help, please call or visit www.indyferal.org.



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright IndyFeral, Inc.

Mama cautiously approaches her feeding site.

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A resource for caretakers and friends of stray & feral cats in central Indiana

Mission

As part of our belief in respect and compassion for all living creatures, IndyFeral Inc. seeks to reduce stray and feral (wild) cat overpopulation through the non-lethal method of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), not trap and kill.

What is TNR?

TNR is a process by which unowned, free-roaming stray and feral (wild) cats are humanely trapped, evaluated, vaccinated and sterilized by a veterinarian and then returned to their familiar habitat.

We encourage people to make efforts to use the resources of adoption organizations to attempt to place tame

Who is IndyFeral?

IndyFeral is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed entirely by volunteers. We are dedicated to helping stray and feral cats in the Indianapolis area by creating resources to assist with the feeding, shelter, spay/neuter, and medical care for them.

IndyFeral was established as a means of changing the way stray and feral cats have been traditionally viewed and dealt with in our community. Acting as their advocate or voice, IndyFeral will strive to improve their lives and promote ideas that are more reflective of a caring and humane community.

Board of Directors

Corporate Officers

- President Lisa Tudor
- Vice President Greg Brush
- Secretary Verna Boggs
- Treasurer Debbie Marlett

Board

- Amelda Butler
- Maureen Owen
- Rebecca Seifert

Get Involved

If you would like more information on how you can help feral cats in your community or know of a feral cat colony, please contact IndyFeral. We also encourage you to visit our web site to learn more about TNR and feral colony management.

IndyFeral Inc.

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WWW.INDYFERAL.ORG



All Photos Copyright Meg Roth / INTake

DeVoe Raises Awareness, Funds for IndyFeral

Singer Jennie DeVoe performed to a crowd of about 200 at the IndyFeral benefit concert at the Rathskeller October 9. The event raised \$4500. All proceeds will go toward supporting IndyFeral operations. IF thanks all of its generous sponsors for making the event a huge success.

Photos clockwise from top right:

IndyFeral volunteer Missy VanderWaal sold T-shirts while working the silent auction and raffle table. She shows off one of the raffle items.*

DeVoe shines at the concert. She began performing benefit concerts for IndyFeral last year. IndyFeral hopes she will return next year for another performance.

IndyFeral volunteers VanderWaal and Lisa Zoeller work the auction table.

DeVoe belts out her lyrics with assistance from backup singer Nicole Proctor (right), who DeVoe jokes, will be the "sexpot" of her shows from now on.*

*Captions and photos Copyright Meg Roth/INTake, www.intakeweekly.com

Cat 5000 marks a new milestone for IndyFeral's TNR program



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright IndyFeral Inc.

IF volunteer Colleen Troke grooms Cat 5000 still under anesthetic.

IndyFeral's Animal Advocates

IndyFeral would like to thank its generous supporters for providing supplies and equipment to assist with spay/neuter surgeries and medical care for stray and feral cats.

Thank you to Jim Bradford, owner of the Whistle Stop Deli in Broad Ripple (located at 901 E 64th Street) for generously donating box lunches for monthly Spay Day volunteers.

A special thanks to Georgetown Animal Hospital for allowing us to rummage through their storage unit. We were able to retrieve office supplies and some medical equipment. The medical equipment included two defective dental machines (similar to what is used in a dentist's office), which we were able to dismantle to create one that works as well.

"About 10 to 20% of feral cats are found to need dental extractions during their spay/neuter surgery, but without the proper equipment, this can be much more difficult.

This kind of machine is something that we had hoped for, but with a price tag new of around \$5000, believed was simply impractical. This is a dream come true - and great news for ferals!" IndyFeral vice president Greg Brush said.

IndyFeral thanks all of its generous community supporters and volunteers. It keeps getting better for ferals in Indianapolis and surrounding communities.

Little did she know she would be honored with a title and paper crown just for stepping inside a fishy-smelling trap.

Cat 5000 arrived, along with 109 of her feral friends, early Sunday morning, July 24. This special feral is the 5000th cat to undergo IndyFeral's TNR program since 2002, when IF began working to reduce the feral population in Indianapolis. To date, the total ferals fixed is 5,887.

Cat 5000 is one of 1,787 fixed in 2005. After her successful surgery, she was returned to one of 992 managed colonies in central Indiana. IF set another record with 300 surgeries in September.

Congratulations to Cat 5000 and to the volunteers and supporters of IndyFeral, who are making the lives of feral cats a little better.

Feral Photo Contest

July Grand Prize Winners



Photo ©2005 Cindy Budd

Buddy.



Photo ©2005 Gail Pierce

Mo.

IndyFeral congratulates the July grand prize Feral Photo Contest winners: **Cindy Budd** and **Gail Pierce**. Both winners receive an IndyFeral t-shirt of their choice.

To help spread the word about TNR and to help people understand the life of a cat in a managed feral colony, IndyFeral is promoting an ongoing Feral Photo Contest, calling for photographs showing ear-tipped cats in any setting.

Each month, we will select two grand prize photos. The judging will take place at IndyFeral monthly board meetings.

The grand prize winners will receive an IndyFeral t-shirt (choice of available colors and sizes). Each IF quarterly newsletter will feature two new grand prize winners.

Submitted photos will be used in internet, electronic and print publications to promote TNR, IndyFeral and the welfare of free-roaming cats. All photos will be credited.

How to Enter

You must be at least 18 years old to enter. You may submit entries as often as you wish, and there is no limit to the number of times you can win. However, due to limited stock, winners may receive only one t-shirt every six months.

All submissions must include your name, address, phone number, email address and the exact text of the photo credit.

Please visit our website at: www.indyferal.org for complete rules and instructions for submission, or write to IndyFeral.

You may send photos through the website or mail to:

IndyFeral Inc.
Feral Photo Contest
P.O. Box 30054
Indianapolis, IN 46230-0054

Photo by Ana Radovanovic ©2005 IndyFeral Inc.



IF volunteer Ruth Boerner models the new pink baby tee. The back features the IndyFeral slogan "It's ALL about the cats."

Photo by Ana Radovanovic ©2005 IndyFeral Inc.



A Purrfect Holiday Gift!

Yellow, blue & pink T-shirts only \$15 each

All proceeds help support IndyFeral operations.

www.indyferal.org

Supplies are limited. Available exclusively at IndyFeral events.



"It's All About the Cats!"

A resource for caretakers and friends of stray & feral cats in central Indiana

P.O. Box 30054
Indianapolis, IN 46230-0054

WWW.INDYFERAL.ORG



Dear Feral Cat Supporters:

Your donations of time and funds have helped make better lives for more than 5000 feral cats since 2002.

Please consider giving this season to help support the operations of our Spay Day and Kitten Clinics. Every dollar helps us help the feral cats in your community.

You can make your tax-deductible gift to IndyFeral by check. Please make check payable to IndyFeral, P.O. Box 30054, Indianapolis, IN 46230-0054.

If you would like to make a donation with a credit card, please go to our website www.indyferal.org. We accept credit card donations through PayPal.

Thank you for your support!
IndyFeral Inc.

IndyFeral's Clinic WishList

1	Anesthetic machine	\$1500
1	Pulse Oximeter machine (to monitor anesthesia)	\$700 each
1	Microscope (for fecal/urine/blood examinations)	\$500
1	Anesthetic box (to anesthetize high-risk kittens)	\$50
1	Microscope light	\$200
10	Surgery instrument packs	\$300 each
1	Universal microchip scanner	\$200

2005 2006 Calendar

NOV

- 20 Spay Day
- 21 Board Meeting

DEC

- 18 Spay Day
- 19 Board Meeting

JAN

- Every Wednesday IFW Spay Day
- 12 Volunteer Orientation, Glendale Library
- 15 Spay Day
- 16 Board Meeting

FEB

- Pet Overpopulation Month
- Every Wednesday IFW Spay Day
- 8 Cat Captain Meeting, IFW
- 19 Spay Day
- 20 Board Meeting

MAR

- Every Wednesday IFW Spay Day
- 9 Volunteer Orientation, Glendale Library
- 19 Spay Day
- Board Meeting