

FeralFocus

A Quarterly Newsletter Produced by IndyFeral Inc.



Summer 2005

Proposed Changes to City Ordinance May Promote TNR for Controlling Free-roaming Cats

IndyFeral is pleased to announce a proposed change to the current Indianapolis/Marion County ordinance to promote TNR as an officially sanctioned method for controlling the immense population of free-roaming cats.

The new ordinance proposal is the culmination of months of work between IndyFeral, Jeff Bennett, administrator of Indianapolis Animal Care & Control (ACC) and the City Prosecutor's Office.

The proposed ordinance change

is now posted on the IndyFeral home page (www.indyferal.org), and will be posted on the ACC site soon (<http://accd.indygov.org>) for public review.

Public commentary on the proposed changes will be heard at the next ACC board meeting, Wednesday, August 3rd, 5p.m., at the ACC facility, located at 2600 South Harding Street. A map is available on the ACC web site.

The proposed ordinance will also be reviewed by the Public Safety

Committee and ultimately, to become incorporated into the Indianapolis ordinances, it will go up for vote by the Indianapolis City-County Council.

As we reach crucial points in the process, your support can ensure that the proposed changes have the best possible chance of becoming law.

If you would like more information on how you can participate, please visit IndyFeral's website (www.indyferal.org).

IndyFeral's Cat Captain Program Receives National Recognition by the ASPCA and Petsmart Charities

IndyFeral's Cat Captain program was recognized by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) as a proven program that has made a significant impact on the lives of free-roaming cats and the number of lives which have been saved.

The Cat Captain program has been added to the Imagine Hu-

mane Innovation Bank. More information is available at:

www.imaginehumane.org

In addition, Petsmart Charities identified the IndyFeral Cat Captain program as a best practice model for TNR. The program was added as a curious cat grant project.

Other TNR groups can now apply for funding from Petsmart to replicate the Cat Captain program in

their community through a curious cat grant.

The goal of the curious cat funding is to spread best practice models and innovative programs surrounding adoption and spay/neuter across the country.

Together, we ARE making a difference for the animals in our community! Thank you to all Cat Captains!



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright IndyFeral Inc.

Dr. Jason Herrmann, who runs the North Indy Mobile Vet clinic, recently joined the IndyFeral Spay Day team of vets.

Inaugural Spayday at New IndyFeral Clinic/Warehouse is Successful

June 29 was IndyFeral's first Spayday at the new clinic. Twenty-two cats were snipped.

The clinic has been a lot of hard work but our vision of a one-stop shop designed for the special needs of ferals has come to fruition.

The new clinic will provide Wednesday Spaydays twice a month. This will increase surgery slots by 50 per month. The warehouse also has the capability to dock a mobile surgical unit.

Kitten clinics are also hosted at the warehouse. Kittens born to feral mother cats have a 60% mort-

ality rate and often a host of health issues. Early intervention, through a general exam, worming, treatment for fleas and earmites, makes a huge difference in their quality of life.

The warehouse also serves as the location for our trap, shelter and food bank.

Special Thanks

to **Jan Baker** for donating
a clinic refrigerator

&

to **Mary Kay Beattie**
for purchasing remaining
surgical needs.

IndyFeral

INCORPORATED

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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 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 cats and kittens into homes.

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.

P.O. Box 30054
 Indianapolis, IN 46230-0054
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Email Subscriber List

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WWW.INDYFERAL.ORG

Good News from Osgood

IF Mentors Humane Society in Their Efforts to Launch TNR Program

RIPLEY COUNTY One couple living on a remote farm found themselves with a cat population crisis on their hands- a result of the constant streams of dumped cats. They contacted Ripley County Humane Society (RCHS) for help.

Volunteers from RCHS and People Assisting Animals in Need (PAAIN), a fundraising organization for the humane society, estimated there were probably 60 cats on the farm. They had heard of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and decided they could probably do it. How hard could it be?

They had one trap, and suddenly felt they were way in over their heads. They took to the internet and found IndyFeral.

In June, IF board member Maureen Owen and Vice President Greg Brush traveled to Osgood in Ripley County to assess the site, in southeastern Indiana, about an hour and a half from Indy.

Over the next two weeks, things fell into place.

Fortunately, IndyFeral was in the midst of an organization-wide trap inventory, so there was a large stock of traps at the warehouse.

PAAIN had raised enough money to get surgeries for at least 60 cats, and

through their ongoing relationship with the Pets Alive clinic in Bloomington, secured a day to fix all of the cats.

In one day, volunteers trapped 53 cats. They were transported to Bloomington for surgeries. En route to the clinic, one of the cats delivered four more kittens.

The caretakers of these Ripley County cats are eager to continue caring for the cats and enjoying their company, knowing they will not be flooded with kittens seven months out of every year and that all the cats will be healthier and happier.

However, there remain many more cats to be trapped just at this one site.

IF will continue working with PAAIN and RCHS to make TNR a regular part of their efforts to help reduce cat overpopulation. IF plans to work with the groups to build their own inventory of traps.

IF hopes to use this and similar experiences as a template to create a program to plant the seed of TNR in smaller communities and lighten the demand on IndyFeral's services.



Photo Copyright by John Freeland.

DeVoe to Perform Concert for Feral Cats

Singer Jennie DeVoe will perform a benefit concert for IndyFeral Sunday, October 9th, 1-4 p.m. at the Rathskeller, located at 401 East Michigan Street.

IndyFeral thanks all our generous sponsors. Tickets are on sale now. Seats are limited, so order early!

Ticket price is \$20. The price covers the sterilization cost of one cat. Order through PayPal at www.indyferal.org or mail check to:

IndyFeral Inc.
 P.O. Box 30054
 Indianapolis, IN 46230

IndyFeral's Animal Advocates



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright IndyFeral Inc.

Mary Lee Pappas is a writer for *NUVO Newsweekly* and began volunteering for IndyFeral in 2002.

IndyFeral congratulates friend, animal advocate and IndyFeral volunteer **Mary Lee Pappas** and *NUVO Newsweekly*.

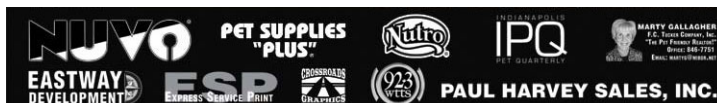
Pappas's *NUVO* article on dog fighting, "Blood Sport," (published June 2, 2004) was awarded first place in the investigative reporting category by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Congratulations also goes to IndyFeral volunteer Cat Captain **Alex Reynolds** for completing the Noah's Wish Disaster Training. The program prepared Reynolds for deployment in the event of a disaster in the Midwest Region or where help is needed.

The program instructs trainees how to organize and set up headquarters to rescue and shelter animals during a disaster; how to handle animals (from cats to horses) during times of high stress; setting up triage for injured animals, intake and outtake of animals.

Noah's Wish has a 100% placement of disaster animals. If the original owners do not retrieve their pets, they are adopted out elsewhere.

Reynolds continues his disaster training through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Reynolds serves as cat captain for the southeast side of Indianapolis and is a regular spayday volunteer.



Feral Photo Contest

Grand Prize Winners



Buddy.

Photo ©2005 Cindy Budd



Photo ©2005 Phebe Blackburn

This is Franklin - originally from Cheryl Stigall's colony. He was adopted, along with his sisters, Eleanor and Lucy, by Karen Sherman. Franklin rules the loft and the barn!

IndyFeral congratulates the first two grand prize Feral Photo Contest winners: **Cindy Budd** and **Phebe Blackburn**. Both winners will 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 the IndyFeral monthly board meeting.

The grand prize winners will receive an IndyFeral t-shirt (choice of available colors and sizes).

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

IndyFeral Announces “Good Neighbor” Program with Contech Electronics

Contech Electronics (www.scatmat.com), based in British Columbia, has made it the company's mission to improve the harmony between animals and humans. Their focus on developing innovative products that really work has made Contech a leader in the pet industry.

Contech's humane mission make them a perfect partner for IndyFeral. In an effort to create a safer more humane community for free-roaming cats, IndyFeral and Contech have joined forces to create the “Good Neighbor” Program.

Feral Cats have become part of our urban landscape. Like wildlife, feral cats can't be socialized and are most content to live outside.

The “Good Neighbor” Program will focus on situations in which cats have become a source of contention among businesses or neighbors. IndyFeral will act as a mediator and resource by conducting on-site assessments, colony restructuring and utilizing Contech's humane animal deterrents - the CatStop® and ScareCrow®.

We seek to teach our community how to live in harmony with animals.

Indyferal will receive a 20% donation from Contech for any product sale referred through IndyFeral.

How to order

To order online: www.scatmat.com. Click on “contech on-line store.” Make your shopping selections. At the end of the transaction you will be asked for a “coupon/gift certificate code if applicable.” Type in: indyferal (all lowercase).

To order by phone: Call 1-800-767-8658. Tell them you were referred by IndyFeral.



Back by Popular Demand!

New yellow & pink T-shirts are available to purchase for \$15. All proceeds go toward supporting IndyFeral operations. Order yours today!



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

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

WWW.INDYFERAL.ORG

"It's All About the Cats!"



Photo by Ana Radovanovic. Copyright: IndyFeral Inc.

IF volunteer Paula Jones organizes food donations during a recent Spayday.

Got Food?

Pet Supplies Plus provides convenient food donation drop off locations for the feral cat colonies that IndyFeral maintains.

Shoppers can purchase an extra bag on their next trip to any Pet Supplies Plus pet store. Financial donations can also be earmarked for "food bank" and mailed to IF.

The food will be used exclusively for feral/free-roaming cats. These cats are generally not socialized and are unable to live in a typical home.

Feral and abandoned cats are the result of irresponsible pet owners who fail to spay or neuter their cats and allow them to roam freely.

Many colonies throughout Indianapolis depend on this food, along with the long-term care and shelters IndyFeral provides them.

If you would like to learn more about IndyFeral's efforts or how you can help, visit their web site at www.indyferal.org or call the "feral line" at (317) 596-2300.

Annual Yard Sale Funds Surgeries

IndyFeral thanks all those who participated in the Annual Yard Sale Memorial Day weekend, either by donating items to sell, or advertising for us, or helping to setup tents and tables.

A big thanks to the folks who helped to price and organize literally thousands of items.

Total sales for this year's event: \$4300. This will spay-neuter 215 cats. What a difference you have made in the lives of free-roaming cats!

2005 Calendar

JULY

18 Board Meeting

AUG

National Homeless Animals Day (ISAR Sponsor)

13 "IF Day" at Pet Supplies+ (Noblesville)

15 Board Meeting

21 Spay Day

SEPT

8 Volunteer Orientation, Glendale Library, 6-8pm

18 Spay Day

19 Board Meeting

24 "IF Day" at Pet Supplies+ (Broad Ripple Avenue)

OCT

4 Cat Captain/Intake Meeting, Irvington Library 6-7:30 pm

8 Petfest at Eagle Creek Bark Park

9 Jennie DeVoe Concert @ Rathskeller Ballroom
(See Page 2 for details)