In NJ, there are 3 kinds of laws that could possibly affect TNR: federal, state and municipal.

**FEDERAL LAW:** There are no federal laws that prohibit Trap-Neuter-Return. A few anti-TNR people have suggested that the Endangered Species Act could be used to prosecute people for doing TNR. This is mostly hogwash—no practice in itself violates the ESA; what violates the ESA is doing something that causes harm to a particular endangered or threatened species in a particular place. It would be hard for anyone to make a case that neutering a cat who was already in the environment has harmed a protected species, and no one ever has.

However, it is important to contact APLNJ for help figuring out the best course of action if you are trying to manage feral cats in an area where there might be endangered or threatened species that could be vulnerable to cat predation. We all want to make sure that both the cats and the other species are protected from harm.

**STATE LAW:** There are no state laws prohibiting TNR or feeding feral or stray animals. The only state statute that directly mentions managed cat colonies does so approvingly—a recently enacted statute allows veterinarians to get continuing education credits for providing free neutering and veterinary services to municipally-approved managed cat colonies.

There is another state law which states that animal control officers must impound stray animals if they are off the property of their guardian and either hurt, interfering with property rights, or causing a public health problem.

The NJ Department of Health and Senior Services is the agency responsible for interpreting this statute and developing policies to enforce it.

DHSS' feral and free-roaming cat policy, available on their website, says that feral cats TNR'd with the permission of both the property owner and the municipality are not stray cats under the statute and so are not subject to impoundment under state law. DHSS leaves it up the municipality whether or not to permit TNR within its borders. But note: if TNR’d cats leave their property and interfere with property rights of other people (cause a nuisance complaint), they are still subject to impoundment under state law.

The state anti-abandonment statute, which makes it a crime to abandon a domestic animal, does not apply to TNR. TNR is not abandonment; it is providing care for an animal where he was found. The NJSPCA, which is the entity responsible for enforcing the state's abandonment law, supports TNR and does not consider it abandonment.

**MUNICIPAL LAW:** This is the kind of law that you really need to understand if you are doing TNR. There are over 550 municipalities in NJ and they all have their own animal control ordinances. Some have ordinances specifically approving of TNR and setting out guidelines for how to do it. Most do not have these ordinances yet, but many town governments permit TNR even without having a specific ordinance, through more informal policies or even, in some of towns, the animal control officers doing TNR themselves.

The fact that a town does not have an ordinance specifically mentioning TNR does not mean that TNR is “illegal” in the town. It is only a problem if the town has an ordinance that actually prohibits one or more actions that are necessary for TNR, or makes them difficult.

(LAW… continued on page 2)
The Law and TNR—continued

Here are the things to look for in your town’s ordinances and policies, which are available on your town’s website or through the town clerk’s office:

Is there a feeding ban? Many people (including health officers and animal control officers!) mistakenly think that their towns have feeding bans that apply to feral cats. While a few towns have ordinances that say people cannot feed stray or feral animals, most towns do not. Most towns have an ordinance that says people cannot feed “wildlife” on public property. Feral cats are domestic animals, not wildlife, and most managed feral cat colonies are not on public land. So most of the time these ordinances simply do not apply.

Is there a licensing ordinance for cats, and if so how is it worded and interpreted? About two thirds of NJ municipalities have cat licensing ordinances. Some of them apply only to “owned” cats, while others also apply when people “harbor” a cat. If such an ordinance is applied to feral cats, it may make TNR very difficult. Feral cats cannot wear collars with license tags, and the caregivers who are responsible for them may not be the property owners, making traditional licensing complicated. However, many towns have both cat licensing and approved TNR programs, and recognize that their licensing ordinance was not intended to apply to feral cats.

Limit laws, trapping bans and “leash laws”: A minority of towns have ordinances limiting the number of cats a resident can have in their home or on their property. In some cases, the wording of these ordinances clearly does not apply to feral cats (e.g. if the limit applies to cats inside a home, or to “owned” cats). Sometimes the wording is not clear but the town recognizes that the ordinance does not apply to feral cats. But a few towns do apply these limit laws to feral cats, and this can be an obstacle to TNR.

A small minority of towns have ordinances that directly interfere with TNR, such as laws prohibiting cats from being at large without a leash or laws prohibiting trap and return.

Get to know your town’s ordinances in detail, and feel free to contact Michelle Lerner at TNRPolicy@aplnj.org or 732-446-6808 if you need help finding or understanding them.

Food Raffle!

We wish we could support caregivers more with food donations, but sadly we don’t often have anything to distribute. Thanks to a recent donation we did have 2,880 cans of Fancy Feast to give away and invited our Nexus members to enter a drawing for 20 cases (480 cans) each so that we could give a decent amount to 6 people. Congratulations to these people - we hope this helps at least a little and we hope we can offer another raffle soon to help more people. Joann K, Warren H, Mercedes L, Donna E, Diane Z and Edwina Z.

Setting Up A Food Donation Bin

Need food donations? Perhaps you could try setting up a donation bin like this one at local stores or markets. We can provide you with stickers to attach to poster board, TNR brochures and a brochure holder to display them. You make the poster and provide the bin.

We also can provide a letter to give to store managers when you ask for permission to place the bin there. Email us for more info!
Each issue we like to highlight a group engaged in TNR, hoping to inspire others to promote TNR in their town using ideas from successful groups!

Q1 Nexus News: What was your first step to getting started as a group? START: Save the Animals Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.) was established in 1991 by Annette Lamberti in order to help primarily cats in Passaic County. After over seven years of doing TNR herself and spending her entire retirement account, Annette applied for a non-profit status in order to try to raise money to keep doing this critical work. She enlisted the help of a few animal lovers and began finding homes for local homeless cats and kittens. S.T.A.R.T. is now in its 20th year of rescue!

Q2 Nexus News: How does working as a group make you more effective than working independently? START: In order to be successful at animal rescue, you need to have a support team of caring individuals who each possess a different skill set. There are many roles required to rescue effectively and it is impossible to do independently. The following is just a few of the roles needed: Foster homes, fundraising, administrative tasks, trapping, transportation, adoption coordinators, etc.

Q3 Nexus News: How have you built resources for TNR? START: TNR is an effective way to help alleviate the number of homeless animals. To facilitate a successful TNR Program, you need to develop relationships with several people/businesses/groups. S.T.A.R.T. has developed relationships with multiple local veterinarians who provide reduced-cost medical services for the cats/kittens we TNR. One of those veterinarians has implemented an Annual Feral Cat Spay Day which has proven very successful over the past two years. If we did not cultivate this relationship with this veterinarian, we would never be able to spay/neuter 100 cats in one day!

In addition, we have developed relationships with other local rescue groups and partnered together at times to provide each other assistance when needed (ex. during kitten season). Over the years, S.T.A.R.T. has come across many advocates of TNR and has either welcomed those people on as volunteers or worked together with them on local feral cat colonies to ensure those colonies are sterile. The importance of building relationships with others is vital to the success of TNR Programs.

Q4 Nexus News: How many cats have you TNR’d in the past 12 months? START: In the past 12 months, S.T.A.R.T. has TNR’d over 650 cats!

Q5 Nexus News: How do you fund your TNR? START: S.T.A.R.T.’s TNR Program is funded through donations, grants and fundraising events. Unfortunately, grant funds have diminished each year due to the economy as well as the number of rescue groups applying for them. As well, fundraising events and donations have also decreased due to the bad economy and growing unemployment rate. We will try all kinds of fundraising ideas from canister drives to our Annual Tricky Tray. Our most successful event is the Annual Tricky Tray. Our Annual Ride to Rescue Motorcycle Rally (coming up on June 11, 2011) is also very successful. We also sell Ashley Farms Cheesecakes before Thanksgiving, Gertrude Hawk Candy for Easter and do several Used Clothing Drives during the year. We have an Annual Pot of Gold fundraiser in March, Hooters for Neuters Car Wash in July and do Pet Pictures with Santa at the end of the year. We are always looking for volunteers to help with all of these events!

Contact START:
Save the Animals Rescue Team
PO Box 1098, Little Falls, NJ, 07424
www.startpets.net
973-785-1245

Volume 2, Issue 3

Project TNR – a program of the Animal Protection League of NJ
PO Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726 • 732-446-6808 • www.ProjectTNR.com • feralcats@aplnj.org
Feeding Station Ideas and Summertime Tips!

Our Nexus is a resourceful and talented bunch! We asked YOU how to share your feeding station ideas and tips for keeping stations clean and bug free, especially in summer. These are your ideas! APLNJ supports ideas that act as deterrents without being fatal to any species of animal.

Maria C: “My sister circles food dishes with white chalk. Keeps most bugs away!”

Beth C: “This bowl is the BEST at keeping ants out of food! You can find them on Amazon for less than $10 shipped.”

Anne S: “Place the food dish in a larger dish (preferably flat with a slight lip around it) filled with water. The water deters most bugs, especially ants, from getting into the food.”

Diane S: “We have big plastic bins that we place the food in, we will bring some buckets with soapy water and clear water and wash everything, this keeps bowls clean and feeding area clean, and helps keep the flies away.”

Kathy B: “I have one dish for each cat and measure 1/4 cup of cat chow into each dish every morning and 1/4 cup every evening. The cats eat every crumb each time and no food is left for bugs. The worst problem that I have is slugs crawl into the empty dishes, if I don’t pick them up overnight.”

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Phyllis S: “Feed later at night and pick up dishes in the morning. You can feed in a dish inside a bigger dish filled with water and you can put Vaseline around the rim of the bigger dish.”

Maria M: “Dollar store sells large plastic dishes. They are perfect to fill with water and place food bowls in. This protects food from being inundated by ants.”

SIMPLE

MEDIUM

ADVANCED

Perfect Set - cats use the water station to launch into the raccoon proof feeding station!

Public Station in Spain!

Pretty Station in Malta!
## Fundraising Ideas!

Websites that may help you raise money for TNR!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Website</strong></th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goodsearch.com</strong></td>
<td>A search engine that benefits the organization of your choice with every search.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>iGive.com</strong></td>
<td>Search engine that pays 1¢ per search to benefit the organization of your choice and gives cash for purchases made through the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ChipIn.com</strong></td>
<td>Allows you to use your social network to collect donations for particular projects. You tell them how much you want to collect and what it is for then post the 'widget' on your favorite websites. Donations will go to designated PayPal account. PayPal may charge a fee but ChipIn does not.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>32auctions.com</strong></td>
<td>Allows you to create your own silent auctions for up to 20 items for free and invite people to bid. Works best when you have a large audience you can draw to the auction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pepsirefresh.com</strong></td>
<td>Pepsi offers opportunities to receive $5,000—$50,000 every month by posting your idea and securing enough votes for your idea to finish in the top 10.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Missionfish.com</strong></td>
<td>Missionfish has been acquired by Ebay and offers way to raise money for non-profits with Ebay auctions. You can donate any percentage of sale price you choose and cost to list is reduced.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Firstgiving.com</strong></td>
<td>&quot;We help ordinary people raise extraordinary amounts of money for causes they care about.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investedin.com</strong></td>
<td>Allows you to set up a project page with videos and pictures similar to FirstGiving.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FoundationCenter.org</strong></td>
<td>If you are a registered non-profit and would like to try your hand at grant writing, find a Foundation center library location near you and you can use this directory in the library for free. Find information about foundations currently accepting applications with a focus on community or animal care issues. <a href="http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccnj.html">http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccnj.html</a></td>
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### Equipment Bank

APLNJ now has an even BIGGER bank of equipment available for you to borrow! Refundable deposit required.

- 45 box traps
- 4 drop traps
- 4 large folding crates
- 4 feral dens
- Several dividers / forks

Below are awesome ‘feral dens’ for feral cats who need an extended stay or to assist with transfers. Place this inside a crate with the large clear door facing back. When it’s time to release or transfer these make the job super easy and the cat feels secure hiding inside these.
SOS Program Update - Apply for Funding Assistance NOW!

Thank you so very much to these generous donors for showing their support for the Sponsor Our Spays (SOS) program:

Kathy B, Kiernan B, Joyce B, Irene T, and Olive W

With their help, we can help YOU get over SEVENTY more cats spayed or neutered! We are so excited that this program is receiving such fabulous support and enabling so much good work to be done.

If you would like to help fund more TNR, as little as $30 will get one cat sterilized and vaccinated. Please make checks payable to APLNJ and write Project TNR—SOS in the memo line. Trappers are welcome to apply for these subsidy funds. Email us for an application!

MATCHING DONATIONS FOR SOS!
During the months of July, August and September your donations to our SOS program will be magically DOUBLED thanks to the gracious generosity of Ms. Olive Walker who will match ALL donations received up to a total of $1,500!

Have a business* you would like to promote? Contact us about appearing in our next issue!

AD SPACE AVAILABLE!
Currently circulating to over 700 members!

*Subject to approval - all advertisements must not conflict with APLNJ’s cruelty-free philosophy. Fees collected will be used for TNR projects.

Become a member of APLNJ and you can be proud to be a part of one of the most active and effective grassroots animal advocacy groups in the country!

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________

Make check payable to Animal Protection League of NJ and send to: APLNJ, PO Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726

□ $20 individual member
□ $10 student & senior

Help us save money by requesting removal from our mailing list if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter. 732-446-6808 • FeralCats@aplnj.org