



Winter 2012

Volume 3, Issue 1

Project TNR  
a program of the Animal  
Protection League of NJ

Project TNR presents:

# Nexus News

Connecting feral cat caregivers across New Jersey



## In The News— Anti-TNR Researcher Poisons Cats

*Have you ever read something from The Wildlife Society (TWS) or the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) saying cats kill over a billion birds each year and that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) should be stopped? Did you happen to see one of the letters to the editor from ABC last month saying this and noting they sent a letter to 50 U.S. mayors asking them to stop TNR programs? Have you ever wondered where this figure of 1 billion birds came from, and what these organizations think should be done instead to reduce feral cat populations?*

The answer to these questions can be traced back to a woman named Nico Dauphine, a researcher who until recently had a fellowship at the Smithsonian National Zoo's Migratory Bird Center.

She has for years written articles and given talks claiming (in opposition to most research and common sense) that cats are the biggest threat to birds,



and arguing (in opposition to most research and the experiences of municipalities across the country) that TNR does not work.

She even gave a conference paper entitled "Apocalypse Meow."

In 2009, Dauphine published an essay in the booklet of the non-academic Partners in Flight Conference arguing that cats kill more than 1 billion birds every year in the U.S. The Wildlife Society and ABC have used this essay as a springboard for massive lobbying and publicity campaigns, and the NJ Fish and Game Council relied on it in their attempted assault on TNR programs a few years ago.

The Wildlife Society also highlighted Dauphine's work, and published another essay by her, in a special edition of their magazine taking aim at feral cats. Yet Dauphine's Partners in Flight essay is not based on any real data and misrepresents actual studies. The Stray Pet Advocacy Center has a detailed explanation of this called "One Billion Birds" at [www.tinyurl.com/cqgen6f](http://www.tinyurl.com/cqgen6f).

But the real question that comes out of Dauphine's claims is this: What does she think should be done about the large numbers of feral cats roaming the U.S.? When she and ABC and TWS rail against TNR,

what is their proposed alternative, since traditional animal control methods have done nothing to stem feral cat population growth? They never really say in any detail. Sometimes they allude to large-scale euthanasia, but without any explanation as to who would catch the millions of cats in order to kill them or how the killing would be done.

Well, we have a new clue as to what these people's answer is. Nico Dauphine was recently convicted in the D.C. Superior Court of attempted animal cruelty for putting rat poison in food for stray and feral cats in her neighborhood.

After rat poison was found in cat food bowls several times, police did a video stakeout and caught Dauphine on tape standing over the food bowls and taking something out of her purse to put into them—and then found rat poison in the food the next morning. Though the videos show that no one else went near the bowls all night, Dauphine denied the charges. The judge found the evidence showed beyond a reasonable doubt that she had tried to poison the cats.

Bizarrely, at the trial, Dauphine professed ignorance of the statements in her own published writings about cats, and refused to say whether or not she agreed with the claims she had herself published. The judge noted in his decision how poorly this reflected on her credibility as a witness.

The day after her conviction, Dauphine was forced to resign from the Smithsonian. The video of her "Apocalypse Meow" paper disappeared from the web. What about TWS and ABC? TWS stated on its blog that "TWS cannot comment on this case."

And ABC marches on, continuing to cite the 1 billion birds figure and rely on Dauphine's claims, like in their recent slew of letters to the editor all over the country, including in New Jersey—only now they don't mention her name.

### Inside this issue:

In The News 1

TNR Supportive  
Communities  
2012 2

Spotlight on AFF 3

Introducing the  
Leg Up Program 4

Raising Commu-  
nity Awareness 5

Ferals and URI's 5

SOS in 2012 6

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN POLICIES AND PRACTICES—2012**

**ATLANTIC COUNTY**

Atlantic City—health department oversees project

**BERGEN COUNTY**

Bergen County Animal Control (County ACOs do TNR in contracted towns—over 50 towns)  
 Englewood—health dept. oversees TNR  
 Garfield—ordinance  
 Lodi—ordinance  
 Rochelle Park—ordinance

**BURLINGTON COUNTY**

Burlington County Freeholder resolution  
 Beverly—ordinance  
 Bordentown City—ordinance  
 Lumberton—ordinance  
 Shamong—ordinance  
 Southampton—ordinance  
 Springfield—ordinance  
 Tabernacle—ordinance  
 Woodland—ordinance

**CAMDEN COUNTY**

Gloucester Township—coordinates with county shelter  
 Gloucester City—town funding, city committee implements  
 Camden—ordinance

**CAPE MAY COUNTY**

Avalon—ordinance  
 City of Cape May—ordinance  
 Lower Township—town clerk administers, town funding  
 Sea Isle—ordinance  
 Stone Harbor—ordinance  
 Woodbine Borough—ordinance

**ESSEX COUNTY**

Bloomfield—ACO does TNR in coordination with nonprofit  
 Montclair—ACO does TNR in coordination with nonprofit  
 Nutley—town coordinates with nonprofit  
 West Caldwell—exemption from feeding ban ordinance

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY**

National Park—resolution

**HUDSON COUNTY**

Secaucus—ordinance  
 Hudson County Parks department—collaborated with nonprofit to TNR in Jersey City park

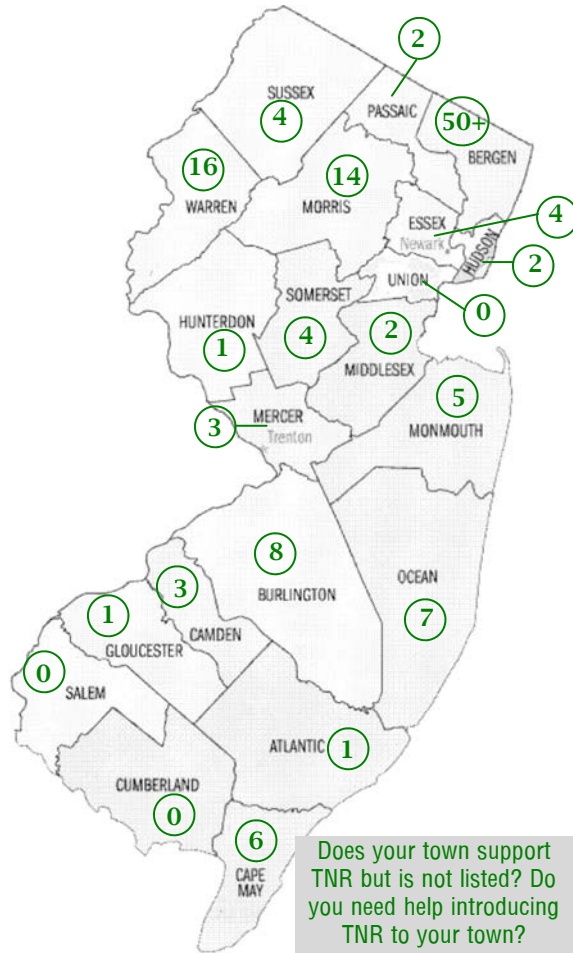
**HUNTERDON COUNTY**

Flemington—provides funds to nonprofit

**MERCER COUNTY**

Ewing Township—resolution  
 Hightstown—town committee oversees TNR  
 Trenton—shelter and ACOs partner with volunteers

*Municipalities and counties are only included on this list if there is an official policy, ordinance, resolution, or contract or if the health department or animal control officer does TNR themselves or coordinates with a nonprofit for TNR. Notification of any additions or changes to this list are appreciated.*



Mendham Township—ACO does TNR (contract w/ Randolph)  
 Montville—volunteers coordinate with ACOs  
 Morristown—municipal TRAP program run by nonprofit  
 Mountain Lakes—volunteers coordinate with ACOs  
 Mt. Olive—Ordinance  
 Netcong—town administers program through grant  
 Pequannock—ACO does TNR (contract with Randolph)  
 Randolph—ACO does TNR  
 Towaco—volunteers coordinate with ACOs

**OCEAN COUNTY**

Berkeley—ACO does TNR  
 Brick—pilot project  
 Jackson Township—ordinance, town committee  
 Plumsted—resolution  
 Manchester—pilot project  
 Point Pleasant Borough—ordinance  
 Point Pleasant Beach—ordinance, town committee

**PASSAIC COUNTY**

Paterson—ACO works with nonprofit  
 West Milford—ordinance

**SOMERSET COUNTY**

Bernards Township—resolution  
 Bridgewater (via Somerset Regional AS)  
 Manville (via Somerset Regional AS)  
 Somerville (via Somerset Regional AS)

**SUSSEX COUNTY**

Fredon—town pays for TNR implemented by veterinarians  
 Green—ACO coordinates with nonprofit  
 Hampton—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Stillwater—ACO works with nonprofit

**WARREN COUNTY**

Allamuchy—town council approved, town funding  
 Belvidere—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Blirstown—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Franklin—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Frelinghuysen—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Hackettstown—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Hardwick—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Hope—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Knowlton—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Liberty—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Lopatcong—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Oxford—ACO works with nonprofit  
 Phillipsburg—ordinance  
 Washington Borough & Township—ACO works with nonprofit  
 White Township—ACO works with nonprofit

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

South Amboy—resolution  
 South River—ordinance with town committee

**MONMOUTH COUNTY**

Atlantic Highlands—resolution  
 Eatontown—ordinance  
 Highlands—ordinance  
 Union Beach—ordinance  
 Seabright—ordinance

**MORRIS COUNTY**

Morris County Shared Services Best Practice policy publication supports TNR and managed colonies.  
 Boonton—Board of Health resolution  
 Chester Borough—appropriated funds for TNR  
 Denville—ACO does TNR and coordinates with nonprofit  
 Dover—ACO does TNR (contract with Randolph AC)  
 Mendham Borough—ACO does TNR (contract w/ Randolph)

## TNR Group Spotlight - Animal Friends Foundation (AFF)

*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?** **AFF:** Animal Friends Foundation began in 2003 when a small group of concerned citizens decided to do something about the alarming numbers of homeless - but healthy - dogs and cats that were being euthanized at local animal shelters simply because there was not enough room to keep them. The five Southern New Jersey women, 3 of which were former board members of a local shelter, were determined to focus their efforts on getting the word out through community education and most importantly providing financial assistance for spay/neuter services. Their goal was to reduce admissions to the shelters and give the animals already there more of a chance at finding a home.

After meeting for several weeks to select a name, develop a mission statement, write by-laws and elect officers, AFF made application to the Internal Revenue Service for non-profit status. Early on, the leaders of AFF realized the need to "put our best foot forward" and took advantage of the local community college's free courses in non-profit management and grant writing. The five founding members were committed to establishing credibility in the community and all spent countless hours and contributed financially to fund the IRS application and for other start-up costs including obtaining a post office box, contracting for a cell phone, printing business cards, brochures, and various other necessary business expenses.

**Q2 Nexus News: How does working as a group make you more effective than working independently?** **AFF:** Working as a group allows each of the members to use their respective strengths and talents to further the mission of AFF. Early on, we decided to have regular monthly meetings to keep everyone connected and that has continued uninterrupted since 2003. We have been very fortunate to have a competent team of volunteers who each contribute to our mission to reduce the overpopulation of unwanted companion animals in our community. In addition, banding together for one common cause has created camaraderie. We are careful to keep to our mission, as it is easy to become distracted with related causes. Moreover, we are realistic in our goals so that we can measure our successes.

**Q3 Nexus News: How have you built resources for TNR?** **AFF:** In the beginning we had very limited resources so we tried to educate the public about the State of NJ's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program that is funded by

special license plates ("Animal Friendly"). Over the years we have been able to partner with other non-profit groups to



pool resources and four years ago we entered into a very successful partnership with the Animal Alliance of Cape May County and their high volume low cost weekly spay/neuter clinic. AFF regularly sends a minimum of three workers to this clinic. The volunteer staff is very adept at handling feral cats and the low surgical costs allows AFF to maximize its financial resources.

In 2010 AFF became the first non-profit animal welfare organization in Cumberland County to enter into agreements for low cost surgeries at five veterinary practices. In addition, in 2011 we expanded outside the county to include three more practices. AFF handles all scheduling and billing and often supplements the low cost surgeries with financial aid to qualified caregivers.



**Q4 Nexus News: How many cats have you TNR'd in the past 12 months?** **AFF:** AFF has contributed toward TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) for 314 cats in last 12 months. While AFF may assist with lending traps, providing shelters, distributing donated food, supplementing and in some cases entirely funding the surgeries, it is the colony caretakers who do the bulk of the work of providing ongoing care that make this effort such a success.

**Q5 Nexus News: How do you fund your TNR?** **AFF:** We fund our TNR through donations, grants and fundraisers. In the last two years we have asked businesses to display donation boxes and the community has responded by supporting our efforts. Each year we do one major fundraiser. Most of our fundraising has involved food of some sort, usually pasta dinners. This year we decided to keep the food theme, but in an instructive format. We decided to publish "Look Who's in the Kitchen with Cooper," a cookbook sharing recipes for animals and their people. The book is introduced in a friendly format by our two canine mascots, Cooper and Tucker, and contains recipes for vegan/vegetarian foods, pet treats and traditional family recipes along with vital animal resource information. Both mascots participated in the "Book Launch" at our local independent bookstore where refreshments were served made from recipes in the book.

### Animal Friends Foundation

[www.AnimalFriendsFoundation.com](http://www.AnimalFriendsFoundation.com)

1370 South Main Road, #138, Vineland, NJ 08360

Ph: 856-503-5572 / Fax: 484-842-9566

Clinic (call first): 629 East Wood Street, #302 (3rd floor), Vineland

## **Leg Up Program - Seeking Expressions of Interest NOW!**



Me! Me! I Need a Leg Up!

Project TNR is currently developing a BRAND NEW program designed to assist TNR groups in becoming more effective and self sufficient. We are seeking to work with just ONE interested group for 2012 for this specialized mentoring program.

Please read below to see if this program may be just what you need to get a leg up. If so, register your expression of interest by January 31, 2012!

### **How Do I Apply?**

- Please send an email with 'Leg Up—Expression of Interest' in the subject heading to [feralcats@aplNJ.org](mailto:feralcats@aplNJ.org) by January 31, 2012.
  - In return we will email you a basic application form.
- Please understand that we can only mentor one group at this point in the program's development, so competition may be strong. Please only apply if you are highly motivated to become a completely self sufficient TNR group.
- A 'Group' for the purposes of this program can be any number of people, even one highly motivated person!

### **What can Leg Up do for me?**

- Leg Up will loan you an equipment bank for 12 months consisting of 20 traps, 2 feral dens, 2 dividers, and 4 large crates. (Note: Mentor year will be mid-2012 through mid-2013.)
- Leg Up will guide you in your initial fundraising effort for 2012 with a raffle. We will provide all permissions to conduct the raffle and will help to contribute to prizes for the raffle to ensure it is a success and will collect funds on your behalf if you are not already a 501(c)(3).
- Leg Up will guide you through the process to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- Leg Up will assist in volunteer membership building to help add numbers to your group by running ads and helping you to set up public meetings and workshops.
  - Leg Up will assist in working with your township, wherever possible, to introduce TNR policy.
- Leg Up will help you identify the most efficient and cost effective method for conducting TNR in your town.
- Leg Up will provide you with ideas and support for grants and fundraising.

### **What will Leg Up expect from me?**

- Leg Up will expect all equipment to be returned in good condition at the end of 12 months.
- Leg Up will expect you to work hard to sell raffle tickets for the initial fundraiser and to subsequently hold a minimum of 2 additional fundraising events during the year, with our guidance.
  - Leg Up will expect you to complete your 501(c)(3) filing by the end of the mentor year.
  - Leg Up will expect monthly tracking reports showing how many cats have been TNR'd.



## Raising Community Awareness and Support

Ok, listen up you lot!

**Calling All Animal Lovers!**

Are you concerned with how the homeless cats of Jamesburg are currently treated? Do you feel that feeding bans are ineffective and cruel? Do you want to see positive changes with effective results in the way these cats are handled? If so, then help us bring a humane management solution to the homeless cats of Jamesburg.

For more information or to get involved, please contact us today.  
*Thank you for your support!*

**Project TNR**  
P.O. Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726  
732-446-6808 | feralcats@aplNJ.org  
[www.ProjectTNR.com](http://www.ProjectTNR.com)



Feeling overwhelmed? Do you desperately need reinforcements for your volunteer base?

If you are willing to hold public meetings, we will advertise in local papers for you FREE of charge. We can also give you ideas on how to create a presence for TNR in your local media to further increase community awareness and support.

Please email us if interested at [feralcats@aplNJ.org](mailto:feralcats@aplNJ.org).



## Ferals and Upper Respiratory Ailments

The primary responsibility of caregivers is to provide a warm and safe environment for the cats and to keep feeding areas as clean as possible, using disposable dishes or cleaning dishes with bleach and then rinsing thoroughly between uses.

Symptoms: sneezing, watery eyes, nasal discharge, lack of appetite, drooling, breathing problems, open mouth breathing, fever.

Many upper respiratory illnesses are viral and will not respond to antibiotics however secondary symptoms from those illnesses may respond to antibiotics, so it is often the first step taken to help manage discomfort.

Make sure you have a feral friendly vet to work with. Most will still want to examine the cat before prescribing antibiotics, so be prepared to trap the cat. Ask for liquid forms of antibiotic wherever possible and put the dosage into the cat's food. Sometimes using baby food helps. If you get pills, crush them finely and also place in food.

Whether you have a vet to turn to or not, you may want to try these other natural remedy ideas used and approved by many experienced caregivers.

- L-Lysine powder—available from health stores in powder form

which you add to the food of all cats in the colony. It boosts immune response and helps reduce viral replication. Give 500mg a day.

- Vitamin C powder—readily available and a good antioxidant. Give 250mg a day.
- Probiotics—to help digestive system rebalance. Also excellent after worming. We suggest FortiFlora which can be purchased on Amazon and any vet care website.
- Oli-vet—antimicrobial which supports the immune system in ridding itself of a virus. Can be purchased from Amazon or any vet care site in tablet form.
- Fresh water and the best quality food you can afford. Don't forget about heated water bowls in winter for outside!



*These things really are warm! I'd prefer a shelter though!*



## Still Not Ready for Winter?

Please make sure you have your shelters all set for the cold weather, with fresh straw inside. We listed 2 pre-made options in the last newsletter and we have another option for those of you who live closer to Middlesex County.

Please contact [laydeejoej@aol.com](mailto:laydeejoej@aol.com) for information on how to order one of the shelters seen here. Available for pick up from Plainfield area. Size shown costs about \$45 each to make. Fabulous!



Animal Protection League of NJ  
PO Box 174  
Englishtown, NJ 07726

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FREEHOLD, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 420

**Return Service Requested**



**We're on the web!**  
[www.ProjectTNR.com](http://www.ProjectTNR.com)  
Phone: 732-446-6808  
Fax: 732-446-0227  
E-mail:  
[feralcats@aplNJ.org](mailto:feralcats@aplNJ.org)

*Connecting feral cat  
caregivers across NJ*



*Please help us save money.  
Request the electronic version  
of our newsletter!*

## How You Can Help 500 Cats This Year!

TNR projects are continuing throughout this winter and our trappers desperately need your help to get as much done as they can before the next kitten season. Even a donation of \$15 can vet one cat thanks to Ms. Olive Walker continuing to offer matching donations. However if you send nothing, we get nothing! All donors receive pictures of the cats they helped and a thank you letter. What a great gift idea for someone you care about—to assist some feral cats in need in their name! We would be happy to send the pictures and thank you to a person of your choice if you'd like to do this for a gift idea! Thank you for your continued support of this very productive program. Please help us reach or exceed our goal of 500 cats helped with this program for 2012. Enjoy these pictures of some grateful recipients of the 2011 SOS subsidy funds!



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!

\$20 individual member     \$10 student & senior

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

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](mailto:FeralCats@aplNJ.org)