



TNR Joins SCBI and Bucks County SPCA

In February, SCBI volunteer trapper and Bucks County resident, Dwight Dulsky, became aware of a large abandoned cat colony about 10 minutes from his home.

An 80-year-old caretaker of approximately 35 feral cats became incapacitated and had to leave her home to live with relatives. This was a sudden move and no provisions were made to care for the cats. In addition, 10 cats were locked in the house with no access to the outside and limited food and water. Fortunately, Dwight began to feed the colony and called for help.

SCBI responded immediately with large donations of food to get these cats through the worst part of winter. Feeding the cats was only the first

problem, the bigger issue was that none of the cats were spayed and neutered.

With permission from the woman's family, Dwight and other SCBI trappers who lived in the area began to slowly chip away at the colony, trapping on weekends and taking the cats to local low cost spay/neuter clinics. They were able to sterilize 18 cats but it became apparent, as kitten season approached, that they had to do something more dramatic to prevent kittens from being born.

Dwight contacted Anne Irwin, Executive Director of the Bucks County SPCA in Lahaska. She recommended that Stray Cat Blues, Inc. utilize their mobile spay/neuter van manned by Dr. Karen Detweiler and her SPCA assistant Frank Nassetta.

A date was set for a mega round



SPCA assistant Frank Nassetta gets help from SCBI volunteer Debbie Hryhorec sending another kitty off to recovery.

up and sterilization day. Dwight mobilized SCBI volunteers and on the day before the arrival of the van at his house, they were able to trap the remaining 17 cats at the site in about four hours.

It was a fantastic team effort – with SCBI volunteers working along with Dr. Detweiler and Frank. All the cats were successfully spay/neutered and vaccinated and were distributed among SCBI volunteers for brief recovery periods before being returned to the site.

An even happier ending is that a concerned neighbor agreed to have the cats moved to her property and she will become the new colony manager.

Note: While the property owner's family gave us a small donation, Stray Cat Blues and the Bucks Co. SPCA shouldered the expense for this project. That's why your donations to our TNR effort are so important. They enable us to help the cats and the community.



SCBI volunteers at the clinic from left: Don and Maxine Stover, Lynn Grieco, Dr. Detweiler, Frank Nassetta, Debbie Hryhorec and Marie Beltz.

SCBI Cats Impacted By Tight Economy

SCBI has felt the impact of these tough economic times by the increased number of previously adopted cats that have been returned to us due to financial stress, and the inordinate number of cats anonymously dropped off at our adoption centers. These returned and abandoned kitties have strained our already thin resources.

Earlier this year, Meatball and Elijah were returned after a year and a half. Their situation is similar to many that have impacted our group. Their adopter lost his job and could not find another one and as his money dwindled, he had to make the difficult decision to surrender his cats back to SCBI. It was sad for him and for Meatball and Elijah who became very shy and depressed in their adoption cage. Cats suffer when their known territory is changed. People suffer when they lose their beloved pets.

It was hard for SCBI, too, because we can never guarantee that pairs of cats can be re-adopted together. Meatball and Elijah had been together since birth. However, there is a happy ending. After several weeks in the North Wales Petsmart Adoption center, Meatball and Elijah were re-adopted by a wonderful new family.

Last Christmas, seven adult cats were left in the freezing cold in taped up



Meatball and Elijah

Situations such as these stress our foster network. There were so many surprise situations in January and February, we had to board some of the cats at a local vet office until we could find foster space for them. That extra expense was not budgeted.

There are various resources available to pet owners experiencing financial difficulties. For instance, in April the Human Society of Berks County gave away thousands of pounds of donated pet food to low income and disadvantaged pet owners in Berks and Montgomery Counties. This food was made available to the community through HSBC's "Ani-Meals on Wheels Program." This is only one example -- there are many others. So before you give away your beloved pet, ask for help. It's out there.



STRAY CAT BLUES, INC.

P.O. Box 8
Colmar, PA 18915

Detach or photocopy this coupon, complete it and mail to: Stray Cat Blues, Inc., PO Box 8, Colmar, PA 18915

YES! I want to help SCBI's TNR Program!
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Resources that provide pet owners with assistance during financial crisis:

Prince Chunk Foundation
<http://www.princechunkfoundation.org>

Feline Veterinary Emergency Assistance Program
<http://fveap.org>

United Animal Nations - Lifeline Grant
www.uan.org/lifeline

In Memory of Magic:
<http://www.imom.org>

Visit our website for more resources!