



Spay-Neuter-Now (SNN) 2024 Newsletter

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Even with the Best Intentions

Every year we receive hundreds of calls and emails from clients who (*by no fault of their own*) find themselves caretakers of stray and abandoned cats. A few cats are fortunate enough to find a new home, but many remain outside and can quickly reproduce into a colony.

One of our volunteers learned about a colony of over a dozen kittens, all about 8-10 weeks old where their elderly caretaker who was feeding them had suddenly ended up in the hospital this spring. This meant over a dozen kittens not getting fed and it turned out these kittens had significant health issues that were not being addressed. When you see these photos, "how can I help them?" is all that comes to mind for us.

Thanks to our volunteer's quick action after discovering the situation and knowing the outlook was bleak otherwise, they were able to catch the kittens and get them into the vets. All the kittens had severe respiratory disease, conjunctivitis, several had tapeworm and one kitten was likely to lose an eye.

We would like to thank the volunteer, as well as Kitten Pause TNR for their extensive assistance in caring for these kittens and to JAVA's Veterinary Center for their dedication in providing medical care!



We are happy to report the surviving cats have recovered, were spayed/neutered, vaccinated and have found forever-homes!

Unfortunately several kittens did not survive their infections despite receiving the best care possible. Kitten immune systems typically mature at 12-16 weeks old and depend on maternal antibodies before then. It is likely their infections had been going on for some time and that their immune systems were too weak & overwhelmed for too long.

No aspect of situations like this are simple to say where things went wrong or where blame belongs, but there is room for us to all learn. Even with the best intentions a situation could turn to neglect rapidly with owned or unowned animals and someone going to the hospital.

We should applaud and assist those who are willing to make a problem their own responsibility like those who feed and maintain a colony of cats or take in a stray that showed up that should not have been their responsibility in the first place. So what are some things we can do to avoid a situation getting out of control like this?



- **For all pet owners and colony caretakers:** Whether it is planned or unplanned, do you have an arrangement in place for the care of your animals in your absence?

This may go as far as an agreement and money set aside for a friend, family member or neighbor who can take on the long-term or emergency care for your animals.

- Community members should say something when you see a potential problem. Politely talk to the animal owner or caretaker about your concerns and help get them in touch with organizations that might be able to help their situation.
- As animal organizations, we need to help expand awareness of our available programs to the public. If people are not aware of a program, they will not be contacting us to help.
- We need increased access for spay/neuter and TNR (Trap Neuter Release) programs and services. Preventing future litters is critical to steering the overpopulation crisis.

The kittens in this case likely came from known neighboring colonies that have not been spayed and neutered.

- Donate to funds that specifically help with the cost of spaying and neutering pets. This particular situation was so close to unintentional neglect when the caretaker was in the hospital that it qualified for **SNN's Rainey Fund** to cover the vet care and treatments for this colony of kittens.

Spay Neuter Now's Rainey Fund



Our late founder, Beatrice Schermerhorn started the SNN Rainey Fund in memory of one of her many rescued dogs. Rainey was a poodle mix who was abused by North Country teenagers who cast fishing hooks into her, tied her up in fishing line and then left her to die in a snow bank in December. Rainey Fund is here to help neglected and abused animals and to help prevent other pets from suffering from those situations.

Spay Neuter Now's Mission Continues

As the end of our 30th year of operation comes to a close, we proudly look at the **26,300** lifetime spays and neuters to North Country pets that Spay Neuter Now programs have provided! This feat would not be possible without the generous donations we have received over the years, on which our programs continued operations rely.

Our mission from our late founder Beatrice Schermerhorn is to put a dent in pet overpopulation in the North Country and we still have plenty of work to do towards that effort. Every animal we can spay/neuter means thousands of fewer future homeless pets trying to find help at our overburdened shelters.

We did not do this alone either, as we work with multiple other organizations to help with situations like the article on the first page of this newsletter. It really does take a village sometimes!

Spay Neuter Now is deeply thankful to our veterinary partners who work tirelessly in this difficult time to provide subsidized spay/neuter packages for eligible clients coming through our application process.

A huge THANK YOU to Town & Country Vet Clinic in Ogdensburg, Potsdam & Massena and to Little Friends Veterinary Services in Lyons Falls for your continued dedication to help animals, people and the community by working with us to help those in need of assistance!



www.tacvet.com



www.littlefriendsvet.com

June 2024 Hot Dog Fundraiser Coakley Home and Hardware



We would like to thank Coakley Home and Hardware and its welcoming staff in Canton NY for hosting SNN for another fundraiser on Father's Day weekend!

Coakley's always makes this fundraising event so easy for us in supplying the food, drinks, location and grill for the event! Thanks so much! Of course this event wouldn't have been a success without our volunteers, one who even forgot what day they were coming and volunteered two days instead!

Kitten Pause TNR was also able to attend the event with some of the kittens from the first page article that were well enough to be adopted. The kittens of course draw a lot of attention from staff, customers and our volunteers, but one did find a new home during the fundraiser!



Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to SNN.

By Check: Spay Neuter Now, PO Box 802, Canton NY 13617

PayPal Link: www.spayneuternow.org/donations-and-volunteering/

Please note if you want your donation to go to a specific SNN fund:

Rainey Fund (Animal Cruelty & Neglect), **Gift of Spay** (Additional Discounts for SNN Clients).



Donate



Gift of Spay 2024-2025



Our Gift of Spay Fund allows your donations to go out to clients in need of additional financial support as discounts to spay & neuter their pets or stray & feral cats.

Last year's Gift of Spay fundraiser brought in **\$4,215** that helped over eighty North Country cats & dogs!

Please consider donating in this season of giving!

Donors: Please include your name, address & email. We try to send photos of animals helped when possible.

[] Cats [] Dogs



Applying for SNN Programs

To keep things as fair as we can, we run an application process with income and situational guidelines. This helps us help those who need assistance the most and make the best use of our available resources.



Applications are available to print from SNN's website or clients can contact us to mail a form out. If printing is an issue, it is okay to send the same information our application requests not on the form itself.

Clients fill out the application for assistance and mail or email their information and household proof of income. Many clients use their smartphone to take a photo of their paperwork and email it to SNN.

We understand life can be complicated, so when in doubt, clients should include a note describing their situation with their application.

Once applications are processed, clients are contacted with instructions to schedule their pet's spay/neuter surgery through SNN partnering vet clinics and receive the subsidized spay/neuter package there.

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To use most SNN programs, clients must qualify based on their household proof of income or through our situational guidelines for stray and feral cats.

All application must include their proof of income.

Income Guidelines: Up to 250% of the USDA Poverty Guidelines, based on household size and gross income.

Situational Guidelines: Primarily for caretakers of stray, feral, colony, barn and community cats. Even if you may be over our income guidelines, you may still qualify for assistance, but it is very important that you include a description of your situation with the cat(s).