



Open your heart to our community's homeless cats

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We are dedicated to the care of feral cats, and members of our group work on a volunteer basis to feed, water, and provide medical care for hundreds of feral cats in Knoxville and surrounding areas. We participate in a trap/neuter/return program in an effort to control the feral cat population. The TNR program is where feral cats are humanely trapped by volunteers, taken to a clinic to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated, and returned to their colony where they are most comfortable. We are not an adoption agency nor do we take in unwanted pets. *Our organization only holds* adoption fairs in order to find homes for socialized kittens born into feral colonies and to re-home stray pets that are *abandoned in our colonies!* We are funded solely from donations and fundraisers with 100% of money raised going directly to controlling and maintaining the feral cat population.

What we can do: mentor you with your TNR (trap-neuter-release) project by teaching you how to use the traps (including care of the cats while in the traps) and loaning you traps to get the cats to the vet or a low cost spay/neuter clinic.

What we cannot do: remove feral cats from your neighborhood, place of business, etc., trap and transport the cats for you; loan traps for you to take cats to any animal service for euthanasia.

Monthly Meetings

🐾 Feral Feline Friends meets the second Tuesday of every month 7:00 pm at Mr. Gatti's at 6913 Kingston Pike (just west of Papermill Road.) Please come so you can learn about how you can help the feral cats of our community.



Adoption Center at Petsmart Turkey Creek

DECEMBER ADOPTIONS :

Curly Fry, Tater, Phoebe, Honey, Astrid, Olive, Dolly, Inky, Nugget, Mika, Toby, Jerry, Iris, Carter, Lassie, Squeaky, Sid, BJ, Mr.Fluffy Pants, Dabber, Cricket, Noel, Samuel, Daisy, Fiona, Fin, Jenga, Checkers, Roxanne, Hopscotch, Jax, Parcheesi, Sedona, Kolby, Cassidy, Storm, Shay.

We still have kittens and many adults in foster care needing homes and we still are in need of more foster families!

A big **THANKS** to the dedicated fosters and Petsmart volunteers who take such good care of our cats!

Please contact Deb at (865) 300-6873 or debmarsh@comcast.net if you would like to help in our adoption center.

Special thanks to Deb who keeps the adoption center staffed and so organized!!!

Great turnout this year for Petsmart Santa Claws Photos



We had a great turnout this year for the Petsmart Santa Claws Photo Event. We did over 100 Santa Photos this year!!!

We could not have done this great fundraiser without the help of our wonderful volunteers!

Special Thanks to the following who helped with this event: Sheila, Bonnie, Chris, Rich, Julie, Haley, Jarrod, Connie, Mark, Tabatha, Kristi, Kara, and Linda.



It's Fundraising Time: World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars

We will be selling the World's Finest Chocolate Candy bars again this year. Please prepare all those friends that you purchased Girl Scout cookies from....and ask them to help us with our fundraising efforts. We should be distributing these in the next few weeks.



Winter Tips for Ferals – Alley Cat Allies

Stray and feral cats are at home outside, but they can always use some extra help in cold or severe weather. Follow these tips to help them stay even safer, warmer, and healthier during severe storms and winter months.

Shelter

Shelters keep feral cat colonies comfortable in cold and other harsh or severe weather conditions. Placing discreet shelters in quiet locations away from foot traffic helps keep cats from taking shelter in places where they are in danger or not welcome.

There are endless variations of cat shelters. [Check out our list of shelter ideas sorted by ease of set up](#), or [learn how to build one yourself](#). Dog houses also do the trick with a few modifications (read on.) Here's a few tips to help you get started:

A good size for a shelter is at least 2'x3' and at least 18" high. Larger shelters are not necessarily better, since heat disperses quickly, leaving the inside as cold as the outside.

Cats will huddle together inside for warmth, so provide colonies with multiple shelters that can fit three to five cats each. If you are caring for fewer cats, use a smaller shelter so it takes less body heat to warm up.

Make sure the door is no bigger than six to eight inches wide to keep out other animals. If you're modifying a dog house, you'll need to block off part of the door to make it cat-sized. A flap on the door will also keep snow, rain, and wind out.

Insulate the shelter with straw to repel moisture and keep cats warm and dry (*Note: Make sure it's straw, but not hay, because hay absorbs moisture.* [Learn the difference between straw and hay.](#)) Blankets may seem like a good idea, but since they are also extremely absorbent, they make bad bedding.

Raise shelters off the cold ground to conserve warmth. Wooden pallets stuffed with insulation work well for elevating shelters and keeping out drafts.

That's a start – read more about constructing feral cat shelters in our [Colony Care Guide](#).

Winter Tips for Ferals – Alley Cat Allies - continued

Build a Feeding Station

A simple feeding station with a roof and sides will protect food and cats from precipitation and icy breezes during meal times. Building a feeding station also establishes a specific area where the cats know to come for food, so they spend as little time exposed to the elements as possible. As with shelters, elevating the floor of the feeding station off the ground keeps food and paws warmer. Feeding stations also offer many year-round benefits for your colony, including deterring insects and making colony management easier. The moderate time and effort it takes to build one this winter will be well worth it all year round!

Find out how to build your own feeding station in our [Colony Care Guide](#).

Food and Water

When temperatures drop, the colony will need extra calories to maintain energy levels. Provide extra food and water during the winter, and do your best to keep it from freezing. (See above to learn about building feeding stations to protect food and hungry cats from the cold.)

Food
Feed the cats on a regular schedule. The cats will know when to come around, and both the food and the cats will spend less time exposed to the weather.

On average, you can expect an adult feral cat to eat roughly 5.5 ounces of wet (canned) cat food and 2 ounces of dry food daily in temperate weather (add a half cup to that amount if only feeding dry food). In colder weather, make sure to feed larger portions than you usually do for an extra caloric boost.

Observe the cats and the time it takes for the food to be eaten. If the cats eat all of the food in 15 minutes or less, put out a bit more.

If you can keep it from freezing, feed wet food—it's easier to digest, so cats save more energy for keeping warm. Consider warming canned food prior to arriving at the site and using insulated bags to keep the food warm during travel.

Since wet food is also quicker to freeze, make sure you put out dry food too, or if you think the food is very likely to freeze, you may want to feed only dry food.

Spray insulation foam into the underside of plastic feeding dishes to keep wet food from becoming fishcicles! Or chickencicles, turkeycicles, etc...

Water

Change water bowls twice daily to keep water from freezing. Use deep bowls rather than wide ones, and refill them with hot or warm water. If the colony is close to an outlet, [heated electric bowls](#) will also do the trick.

Keep the water in the sun and use dark colored bowls that will absorb the sun's heat.

Purchase a [Solar Sipper](#), a solar powered bowl, although we've learned from experience that these bowls work best at temperatures of 30°F or higher and must be kept in the sun.

Insulate the bowls as instructed above or use double-layered bowls—they have an insulated air layer between the surface the water touches and the surface against the ground.

Shield the water dish from wind by placing it inside a small styrofoam cooler or surround the top and sides of the feeding area with plexiglass to create a greenhouse environment for the water.

Purchase a microwavable heating pad like a [Snuggle Safe](#) disk to use under the water bowl.

If there is a water source like a spigot, run the water slightly, since it won't freeze as quickly as still water.

Add a pinch of sugar to the water to keep it from freezing as quickly and to provide an energy boost for the cats.

Winter Safety Tips

In addition to providing food, water, and shelter for cats in your neighborhood, observe these winter precautions to keep cats safe:

Before starting your car, give the hood a tap and check between the tires—cats will sometimes crawl into the engine or hide underneath the car for warmth.

Winter is also the time of year for antifreeze, which often tastes irresistible to cats and other animals, but is toxic and deadly. Keep it out of reach and clean up any spills!

Remember to shovel out cat shelters when you're shoveling your own driveway. Cats in shelters can get snowed in, so keep entrances clear and shovel an exit for cats who may be taking refuge under bushes, porches, or other hiding spots.

Stay away from salt and chemical melting products. These products can be toxic to animals and harmful to their natural snowshoes—paws!

Trap-Neuter-Return

Cats have a 63-day gestation period and usually mate in the winter. Trap-Neuter-Return can be done during the winter months, as long as you take precautions to make sure the cats are not exposed to extreme weather. Cats are very vulnerable when in traps and can't move around much to generate warmth, so be sure to keep trapped cats covered and secured in a temperature-controlled vehicle or holding area while you trap. Use your judgment when deciding if it's too cold to trap. Learn more in our [Trap-Neuter-Return Guide](#).

Educate Others

Educate your family, friends, and neighbors about the habits of outdoors cat during the winter, especially the safety tips above. Print or [share](#) this page and pass on these tips to keep cats everywhere safe and well cared-for throughout the winter.

Happy Tails Adoption Story : Dixie (Wendy)

Wendy was living in a feral colony at a McDonalds dumpster. Deb, her caretaker, trapped her and realized she was just timid...and not feral. See below how sweet Dixie (formerly Wendy) is living the good life now!

~~~~~

Dixie is princess of the "manor". She is loving her new life and getting all the love and attention she deserves. She has her routine down and is being taught everything Emmy thinks she needs to know. Love observing this training which is ongoing. We have transitioned between her listening to me ... as in "time to go to bed", and listening to Emmy ... "forget what she's telling you, I have cabinets to jump on and all sorts of fun things to show you that I'm not supposed to do". Basically, I'm in a power struggle with a little over a one year old cat who acts like a mother cat.

I admit I am totally addicted to taking pics of my babies. Not hard to do because they are right where I am all the time. Dixie wants to do everything just like Emmy, be it bad or good! We love Dixie and would like for you to keep us in mind if you come across another shy, sensitive soul like she is. You wouldn't believe her antics now. It's the best!!!

Thank you so much for your work. It is rewarding to everyone. Please feel free to use any of these photos however you want.

Best wishes to all of your family for the coming year.

Cathy and Jeff Arnwine



## Colony Corner: Ms Siamese



I don't remember the first time I saw Ms Siamese but one day about six years ago--there she was. She was standing away from the other cats I was feeding looking longingly at the food I was putting out. I tried to call her and she ran. As I left that colony headed for the next one I could see her about 200 feet away watching me. I stopped and took some food over to where I saw her--she stood way off until I had gotten back in the car and then came and gobbled the food like she was starved. She would never come to where the other cats were so I started taking her food to her where she was. Sometimes when I got there she was up a tree. I tried in vain many times to trap her and finally gave up once everybody else in the area was TNR'd. She eventually started coming closer and one day I saw that she was ear-tipped. Kristen has a colony at another location in the same area and one day she said something about a Siamese cat that had shown up that she was feeding. Mine was still coming on a regular basis so I just thought they might be related. Shortly after a building project started nearby, Ms Siamese started acting very strange. She was acting so strange that I was determined to get her and take her to the vet. Traps and nets only scared her away. I didn't realize that during the day there was so much loud noise from heavy equipment that she was getting spooked. Then she wasn't there--I stopped and left food for 8 weeks but didn't see her--I was so sad and thought that something had happened to her. In the meantime, Kristen was still feeding her Siamese and finally got close enough to see that it was ear-tipped! I went to that location a couple of times with binoculars and thought that surely had to be Ms Siamese. When it started getting cold a couple of months ago, she showed back up where I used to feed her and has been coming ever since. The only reason I can think of is that I feed earlier than Kristen and she wanted to get fed and get snuggled up somewhere for the cold nights. She has always been by herself. The 3 cats I was feeding at the original location where I saw her eventually disappeared one by one and she moved to that location so I guess being alone is her choice. She's a beautiful cat and I would love to know her story but the one thing I do know is that she will have food and shelter as long as I am able to provide it. ~~~~ Linda

*Special Thanks for Donations to help care for the unwanted*

Ann Delap

*Support Feral Feline Friends of East Tennessee*

*In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_*

*Enclosed is my donation of: \_\_\$10 \_\_\$25 \_\_\$50 \_\_\$100 \_\_Other*

*Your donation will solely be used for the care of Knoxville's feral colonies, to include spaying/neutering, food, or other necessary care. Your donations are tax deductible under section 501c3 of the IRS code. Please let us know if your employer will match your gift.*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone \_\_\_\_\_*

*Email \_\_\_\_\_*

*Feral Feline Friends of East Tennessee*

*PO Box 32121*

*Knoxville, TN 37930-2121*

*(865) 406-6980    [kfcf@bellsouth.net](mailto:kfcf@bellsouth.net)*