

December Feature

Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) Program

The Village is going to take a small break from featuring Council and Staff this month to recognize a very important program that began five years ago--the **Trap, Neuter, Return Program (TNR)**.

Village Council and staff were overwhelmed with the number of calls being received from concerned residents regarding the stray cat population running at large and reproducing at a rate that would have become out of control if left to continue. After some research it was decided to implement a TNR program designed to humanely trap cats at large, advertise the cat for safe return to their owner where applicable and have eligible strays spayed or neutered and rehomed if possible. Pet license fees paid to the Village as well as incredible donations to date have supported the TNR Program and allowed the Village to control the outdoor cat population in the community.

Since starting the Program the Village has trapped 30 cats--four were pets returned to their owners, two kittens unfortunately had to be humanely euthanized, two more kittens sadly passed due to severe illness, three males were released back in the community to continue their important job of pest control, one mama cat and four of her kittens are currently in the care of the Village with pending homes to go to and the remaining 14 cats are living their best lives in loving new homes.

Village staff have learned valuable lessons through the TNR Program that have resulted in implementing procedures to improve the Program going forward. Staff have watched innocent animals fade away due to lack of adequate care, whether from not being vaccinated, living on the streets and the dangers associated with life outside and or from neglect.

With the joy of the holidays fast approaching here are a few things to remember:

- Pets are a fun addition to any home, but research and preparation are important.
- Pets are a big commitment that includes significant financial costs and responsibilities to keep them healthy and safe.
- Vaccinations are important to prevent worms, mites and deadly illnesses while spay/neutering is important to prevent unwanted litters.
- Keeping pets inside will prevent injury and lost pets so pet-proofing homes is important to keep your fur babies living long and healthy lives.
- Remember that kittens are always cute but they become full grown cats with a life span of 15 years. Be prepared to care for these sweet animals as long as you would a child.