



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission:

The Tuscaloosa Spay Neuter Incentive Program is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the population of unwanted animals in Tuscaloosa. Fewer unwanted animals improves public health; reduces costs of animal control, sheltering, and euthanasia; and reduces suffering and disease in Tuscaloosa's animal population. We have been focused on using trap-neuter-return to reduce the population of feral cats, and educating students and community members about the importance of spay and neuter for all pets since TSNIP was founded in 2013.

As part of "Leave Us Memories, Not Your Pets" Day, Davis Emerson Middle School students visit the University of Alabama. The Davis Emerson students shared information with college students



**UA Students:
Leave Us
Memories,
Not Your Pets**



Central High School
Davis Emerson Middle School

about the importance of spaying and neutering pets, and the plight of abandoned animals. This event was led by Dr. Jeff Parker as part of a semester-long course involving students from UA and Davis Emerson Middle School.



Board of Directors:

Beth Bobo, President
19 Guildswood
Tuscaloosa AL 35401
Emergi-Care Clinic PC
Beth.Bobo@emergicareclinic.com

Mindy Norton, Vice President
Jamison Money Farmer
P O Box 2347
Tuscaloosa AL 35403
mnorton@jmf.com

Charity Golden, Secretary/Treasurer
Vice President, Renasant Bank
2518 University Blvd. Tuscaloosa
AL 35401 cgolden@renasant.com

Nikki Evans
Realtor, Blue Moon Properties LLC
7 Buena Vista
Tuscaloosa AL 35404
Nikkievans37@gmail.com

Kristine Fitts AT LARGE
Community Volunteer
1115 Meadow Lane North
Tuscaloosa AL 35406
kristineufitts@gmail.com

James Harper
Community Volunteer
jamesharper.mail@gmail.com

Jeffery G. Parker, Ph.D.
Assoc. Prof, U of A
P O Box 870216
Tuscaloosa AL 35487-0216
j.g.parker@ua.edu

Jon Lambert
Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Dept.
Jmlambert.al@gmail.com

Steve Reinhart
Financial Consultant
2326 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa AL 35401
sreinhar@fecg.com

Lucy Roberts, DVM
Animal Medical Center
1100 Rice Mine Road, N.
Tuscaloosa AL 35406
lmroberts@gmail.com

Programs Coordinator
Ann Holley
tsniphelps@gmail.com

Computer Consultant
Christina Frantom
Cfrantom@ua.edu

Committees

Feral Cats:
Dr. Lucy Roberts, Chair
Charity Golden
Jon Lambert

Education Committee:
Dr. Jeff Parker, Chair
Nikki Evans
James Harper

Finance Committee:
Beth Bobo, President
Mindy Norton, Vice-President
Charity Golden, Secretary-Treasurer

Nominating Committee:
Mindy Norton, Chair
Kristine Fitts
Steve Reinhart



Feral Cat TNR Program:

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the process of trapping feral cats, having them spayed and neutered (“fixed”), and returning them to their original location. In our program, the cats also receive a rabies vaccine and have their left ear cropped flat. Cats with a cropped (“tipped”) left ear can be identified as already done, so that resources aren’t wasted trapping the same cat over and over. Several research studies and many successful TNR programs in other cities (including Huntsville and Auburn, AL; and Destin, Gainesville, and Jacksonville, FL) have shown that TNR can effectively reduce both the number of feral cats euthanized in shelters and the number of feral cats trapped and brought in through animal control. Following these programs, TSNIP began trapping in spring of 2014. The data from Tuscaloosa’s Metro Animal Shelter shows that cat and kitten euthanasia have dropped by 80% and 40% respectively since then, and that feral cat intake through Animal Control has dropped by 60% as well.

TNR works to control feral cat populations because feral cats are territorial. They also live where they can find food, water, and shelter. This means they often live near groups of people so they can scavenge from food waste or rodent populations. This shows in feral cat intake data from Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter. Many times, an address where several feral cats are trapped will appear again 5-8 months later, with as many or more cats needing to be trapped again. When the cats are trapped and euthanized, that address is still a good location for cats. Soon, new cats move in and start breeding. Cats can have 1-3 litters each summer, with 4-8 kittens per litter. Soon, the people there will have a “cat problem” again. Where there were 3-5 cats, there may now be 12-20 cats. If we use TNR instead, the cats are fixed and brought back. They will stay there, using the food, water, and shelter. New cats are less likely to move in. The cats that are there do not breed. Animal Control does not have to come back out every 6-8 months, new cats do not have to be euthanized. So returning the cat to the original location is a very important part of the process. If the people there were unhappy about cats being present, they usually accept the fixed cats. Once the cats are fixed, they stop fighting, howling at night, and their odor drops by more than 50%. The cats continue to control local rodent and snake populations.



205-349-8111

tsniphelps@gmail.com

In 2016, TSNIP hired Ann Holley to work part-time as a trapping coordinator. She arranges surgery appointments with local veterinary clinics and the Alabama Spay-Neuter Clinic in Irondale. She answers phone calls and e-mailed messages from the public, educating them specifically about feral cats and referring them to other programs for help with spay and neuter resources for pet cats and dogs. She manages our trap library and trains volunteers to trap cats on a schedule for their surgery appointments. Ann has been a huge support for our program. She is excellent at listening to people and helping them understand how they can make choices with their pets or nearby feral animals that will help both their pets and their community as a whole. In 2017, we had our first full year with Ann's assistance. Unlike 2014-2016, when we fixed 300-450 cats per year, Ann helped us fix 809 cats in 2017, bringing our total to 2,019 cats fixed by the end of 2017.



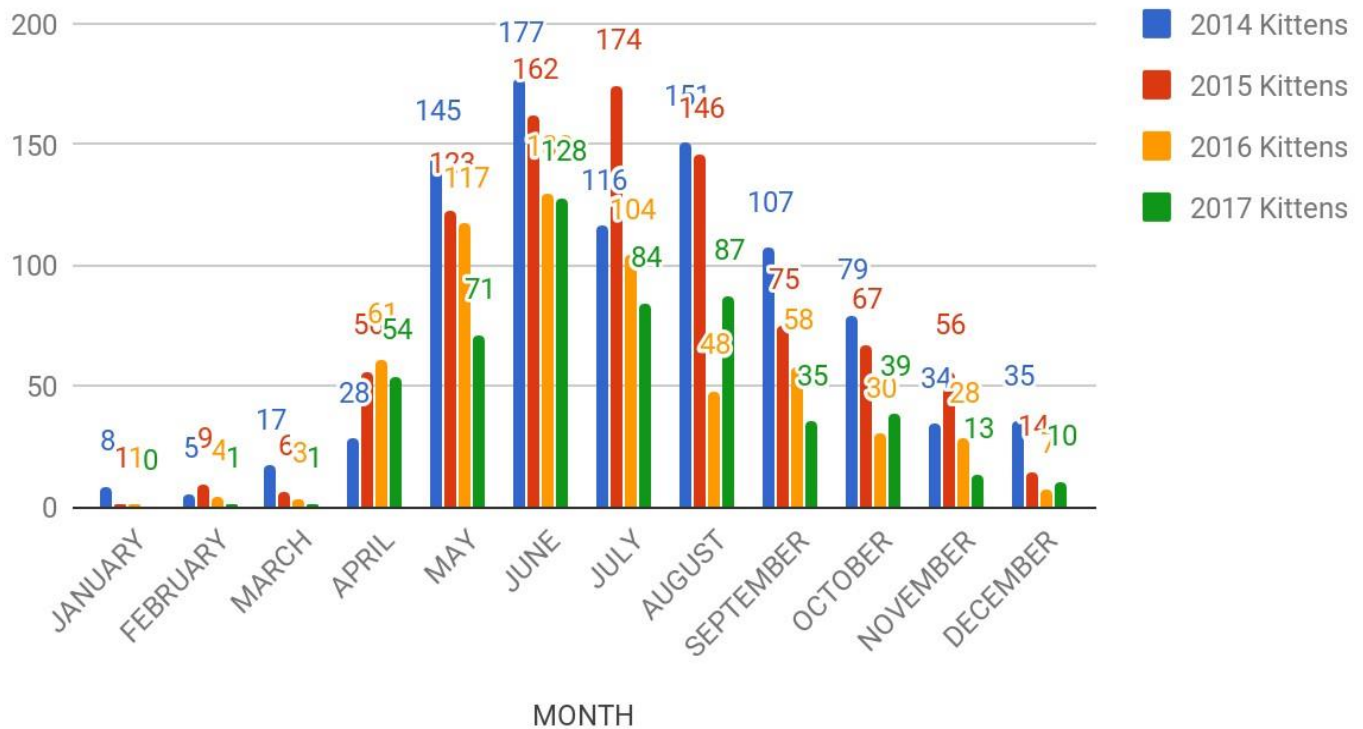
Davis Emerson Middle School students visit UA campus for “Leave Us Memories, Not Your Pets” Day



Please review the following three charts. The first two show monthly euthanasia rates at Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter, for kittens and cats. Cats breed in the summer, so there is a rise in kitten euthanasia every summer, with the peak around June.

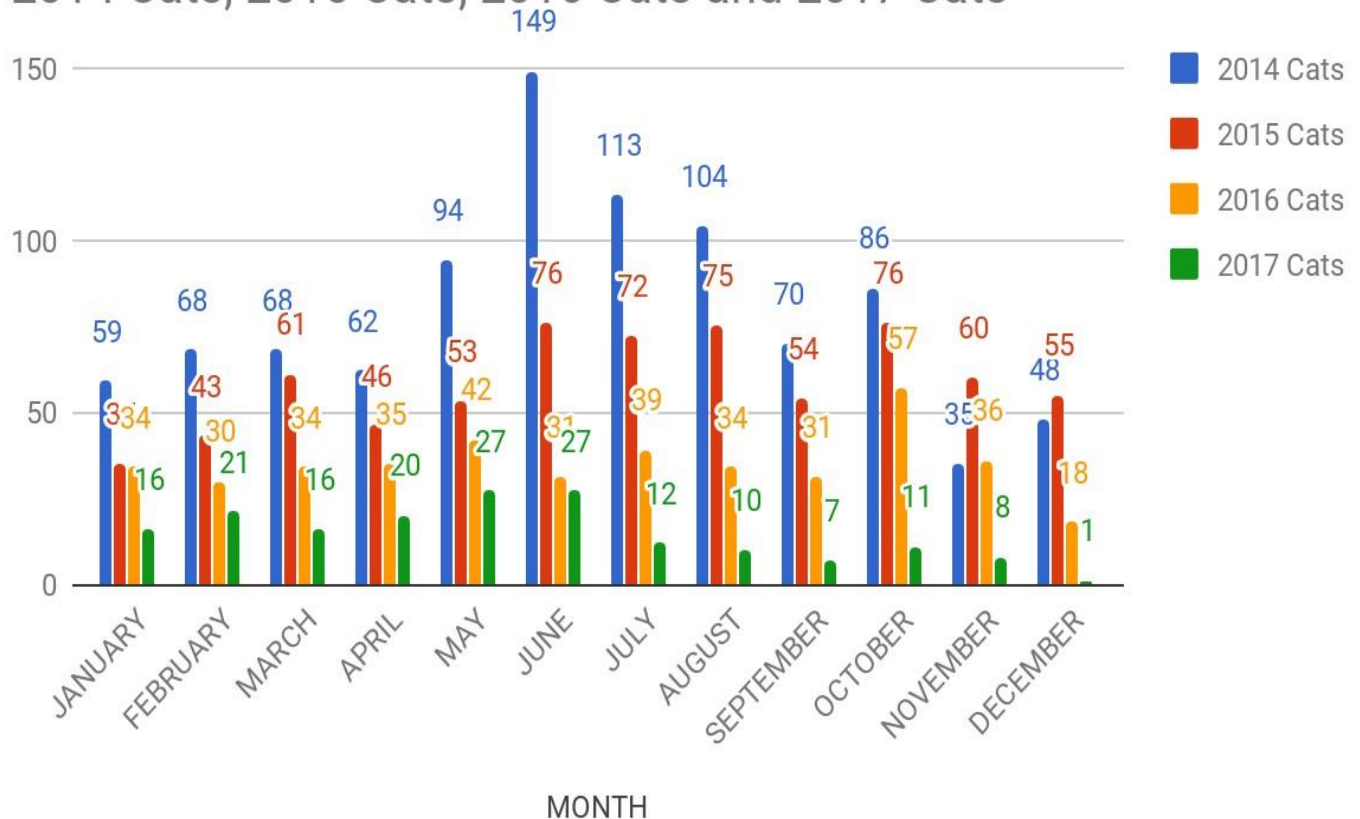
1. Since TSNIP started trapping, this peak in kitten euthanasia has dropped every year. Where Metro Animal Shelter was forced to euthanize more than 100 kittens per month for 5 months of 2014, that was lowered to 4 months in 2015, 3 months in 2016, and with Ann's efforts, the kitten euthanasia rate is only into triple digits for 1 month this past year.

2014 Kittens, 2015 Kittens, 2016 Kittens and 2017 Kittens

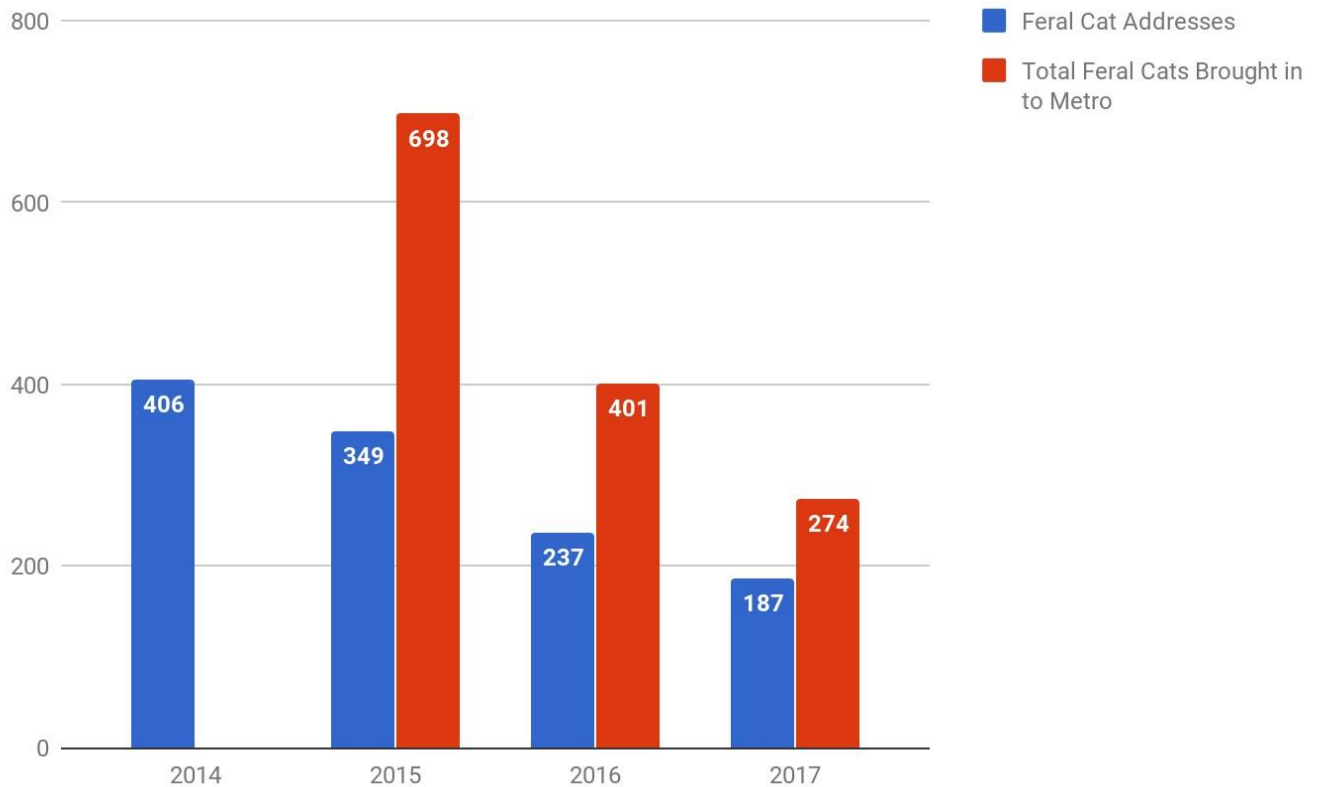


- Similarly, cat euthanasia rates have dropped with each year of TSNIP's TNR program. In 2014, 956 cats were euthanized. This past year, that number was just 176. This is a drop of 81% over the previous 3 years, and an impressive 58% drop from last year's total of 420 cats.

2014 Cats, 2015 Cats, 2016 Cats and 2017 Cats



3. The third and final chart tracks feral cat intake at the shelter. Cats were not documented as feral or friendly in 2014 at intake, so we do not have a total for number of feral cats brought in that year. There is a clear drop in the number of cats brought in, showing a reduction of the feral cat population in Tuscaloosa. Moreover, there is a clear drop in the number of addresses Animal Control travels to each year to respond to feral cat problems.



TSNIP would not exist without the hard work of concerned citizens, who volunteer their time to monitor and trap feral cats; the generous support of local veterinary clinics, who perform surgical procedures at a discounted rate; the collaboration of Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter and the hard working officers responsible for Animal Control throughout Tuscaloosa and Northport; and especially funding from the City of Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, and the City of Northport. This funding is key to providing a county-wide TNR program and education for our community. With a consistent presence, we have been steadily reducing Tuscaloosa's feral cat populations and euthanasia rates and plan to continue this work.

Looking forward, we are also exploring ways to provide spay and neuter services to pets in underserved communities in Tuscaloosa County. As long as there are free-roaming, unfixed pets, there will be unexpected puppies and kittens. We will continue our education program to encourage citizens to value spaying and neutering their pets. We are also seeking grants to help improve access to spay and neuter services.

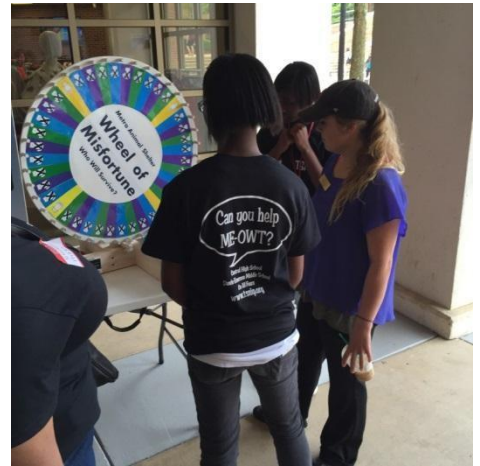


Outreach event at a local pet store. Students from Dr. Jeff Parker's class talk with community members about spaying and neutering their pets.



Education Program:

Dr. Jeff Parker developed and leads our education efforts. His Youth Civic Development and Community Engagement class (Psychology 380) at the University of Alabama accepts 20-25 advanced undergraduate college students who mentor local students at Davis-Emerson Middle School and Holt High School in community projects created and conducted by the youth. Together, they investigate the suffering of abandoned animals, and the effects on the people around them. Through outreach events on campus and at public events, they are teaching our community about the importance of spay and neuter for pets as well as feral cats.



In 2017, TSNIP partnered with the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa's One Place, Davis Emerson Middle School, and Holt High School in their endeavors to educate the Tuscaloosa community on the importance of spay/neuter.

Our 2017 focus was on Education, Advocacy and Public Relations.

- Education
 - Pet Supplies Plus, Bark in the Park Booth and River Market events held to educate the community on TNR with the Wheel of Misfortune .
 - Leave us Your Memories, Not Your Pets Day held at the University of Alabama in which University of Alabama students and Davis-Emerson Middle School students talked to UA students about responsible pet care.
 - Students presented the TNR Week declaration which was signed into action by Tuscaloosa Mayor Maddox and Northport Mayor Aaron. TNR Week was 4/16/17-04/22/17. An educational booth was held on the Quad on A Day which was 4/22/17 with our Mobile Exhibit and in Northport. Flyers, banners, stickers, paint chalk, etc. were put in and around local businesses with our logo to educate the community on spay/neuter and TSNIP.



205-349-8111

tsniphelps@gmail.com

- Advocacy – Statewide Legislative
 - About ½ of the states have laws for leaving animals in hot vehicles—Alabama does not. TSNIP sponsored students at the University of Alabama and the AP Class at Holt High School who drafted and submitted Bill HB525 to the legislature in Montgomery, to make it a misdemeanor in Alabama for leaving animals in hot vehicles. The legislature requested changes to the bill which will be presented again in 2018.



Presenting the HB525 Bill



- Public Relations
 - A City Underground calendar was worked on, however, the calendar was not printed due to an issue with releases of photos.
 - Sorority Shirt Fundraiser to introduce our t-shirts in August for Greek points on UA campus.
 - Reception was held for TNR Week to thank local veterinarians and volunteers.



Bark In the Park education on the importance of spay/neuter and TSNIP.



In 2018 TSNIP is partnering with the University of Alabama again along with Davis Emerson Middle School and Holt High School, on the following projects.

- Leave Us Your Memories Not Your Pets to educate the University of Alabama students on the importance of pet responsibility and care was held again on the University of Alabama campus.
- A Community Art Project which will focus on Holt High School Government and Art students collaborating with the University of Alabama students to educate the community awareness of feral cats and the harm done to them #FeralLife.
- Murals (temporary or permanent) painted on local buildings throughout town to involve local artists and area youth with the purpose of educating the community and participating students on TSNIP. Each mural will have #FeralLife for recognition. The first mural has been painted on a local business owner's building in downtown Northport with success. The # is linked to our social media site.



Mural painted in downtown Northport to raise awareness of TSNIP



205-349-8111

tsniphelps@gmail.com

- Tiny Doors/Tiles is a project focusing on art by the Holt High School Students and other student volunteers. The tiles are 6x6 or 6x3 inches in size and are painted and prepared to be placed inside and outside local businesses. This has been done in Atlanta where they have tiny doors in various locations. The tiles will advertise #TSNIP to bring awareness of feral cats in the community and to educate spreading awareness of TSNIP. There are currently 30 businesses that have agreed to participate in the Tiny Doors project. The students have also met with the Mayor of Tuscaloosa and gained his support for the project.



Samples of Tiny Tiles and students working on the project



Key Financial Data:

Funding and contributions received:

City of Tuscaloosa	25,000
County of Tuscaloosa	25,000
Individual and business contributions	<u>1,278</u>
Total funding / contributions	\$ <u>51,278</u>

Program expense:

Feral cat program:

Spay / neuter surgeries	\$ 46,134.00
Other veterinary care	141.00
Traps and supplies	2,259.00

Education program:

Advertising and printing	2,525.00
Supplies	<u>1,932.00</u>
Total program expense	\$ <u>51,078.00</u>

Administrative expense:

Accounting services / Payroll processing	2,652.00
Bank and other charges	0.00
Insurance	2,209.00
Payroll expense	15,715.00
Postage and mailing expense	287.00
Supplies	159.00
Software subscriptions	297.00
Telephone answering service	<u>1,357.00</u>
Total administrative expense	\$ <u>22,676.00</u>

