



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### Our Mission:

The Tuscaloosa Spay Neuter Incentive Program (TSNIP), a 501(c)(3) organization was founded in the Spring of 2013 with the mission of reducing the unwanted pet population in the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport, Alabama and Tuscaloosa County through two main programs, education and feral cat control. These programs include education efforts for elementary through post-secondary students as well as the general public, and a feral cat colony program that focuses on Trap-Neuter Return.

### Board of Directors:

Beth Bobo, President

Mindy Norton, Vice President

Susan Snowden, Treasurer

Charity Golden, Secretary

Jimmy Canant, DVM

Nikki Evans

Jon Lambert

Kristine Fitts

James Harper

Andrea Moen

Jeffrey Parker

Steve Reinhart

Lucy Roberts, DVM



205-349-8111

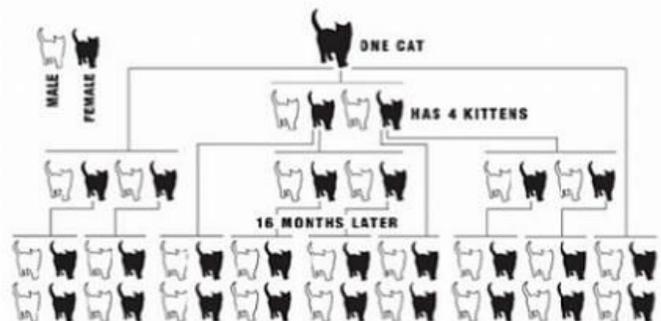
[tsniphelps@gmail.com](mailto:tsniphelps@gmail.com)



Feral Cat Program:

Feral cats have long been a costly problem for cities. As wild cats, they may learn to trust the person who feeds them, but they will never be tame and adoptable. Left to breed, they can rapidly overpopulate a neighborhood. But they live in that neighborhood for a reason – there is food, water, and shelter. If the cats are removed to an animal control facility, new cats will eventually move in and start breeding. This creates an expensive cycle of removing, quarantining, and euthanizing cats over and over.

Instead, TSNIP uses Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR. We trap the feral cats, spay the females and neuter the males, give them rabies vaccines, and put them back. Their left ear tip is cut flat to show that they are fixed. Cats are territorial, so they stay put, using up the food, water, and shelter. We concentrate on fixing cats in zones, to create neighborhoods with no new breeding. With an estimated 6,000 stray and feral cats currently existing in our area, the need for TNR is critical.



In 2014, our first year of TNR, we fixed 392 feral cats in over 125 feral cat colonies within the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport and Tuscaloosa County. Based on experiences of Huntsville’s successful Animal Control program and data from a large study on TNR in



Gainesville, FL, TSNIP added a Return to Field program, and began answering calls from citizens outside of our zones also in 2015. In the Return to Field program, we neuter, ear-tip, vaccinate, and release cats trapped by animal control. Hiring a part-time project coordinator has contributed greatly by improving coordination of volunteer trappings and veterinary appointment scheduling which accounts for improvements in meeting our TNR goals. Future plans may include hiring a community education officer to canvas target zones ahead of trapping to improve communication with citizens about TNR, particularly during peak breeding season. By July 2016, **we have fixed more than 1000 cats** through these programs. We are proud to report that **the overall cat euthanasia rate at Metro Animal Shelter has dropped by 15% from 2014 to 2015**. Moreover, the summer breeding season causes a spike in kitten euthanasia rates, but this spike is starting a little later each summer for 2015 and 2016.

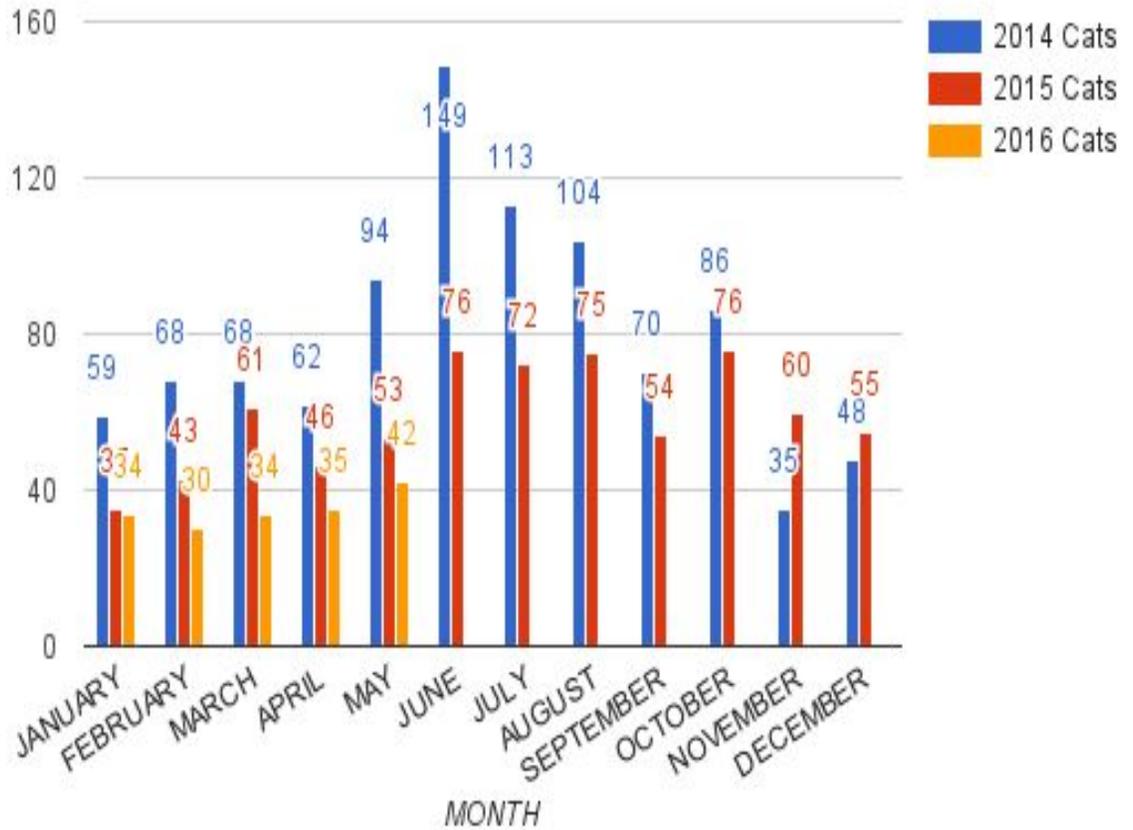
Lucy Roberts, DVM, leads our Feral Cat Program, with assistance from members of the board and many non-board volunteers.



205-349-8111

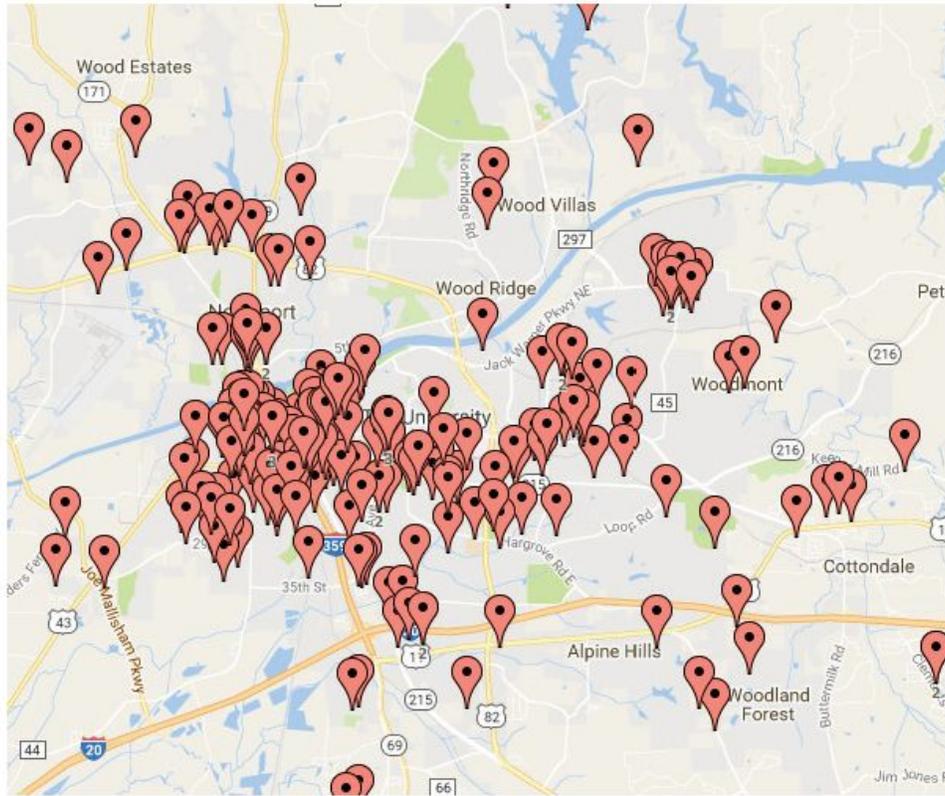
[tsniphelps@gmail.com](mailto:tsniphelps@gmail.com)

## Metro Cat Euthanasia



TSNIP began trapping in February of 2014. We are pleased to note the drop the euthanasia rates in 2015 and 2016 compared to 2014 data.





**TSNIP Colonies as of July 2016**  
Expanded to center on City of Tuscaloosa

Education Program:



205-349-8111  
[tsniphelps@gmail.com](mailto:tsniphelps@gmail.com)

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 and Central High Schools 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.



Under the banner of “On All Fours”, they make presentations at school assemblies, and set up information and activity displays at public events such as Bark in the Park and high traffic locations like the River Market Farmers Market and local pet stores. They created the Wheel of Misfortune, a roulette-style wheel that illustrates the high mortality rate of cats at the local animal shelter due to pet overpopulation.

They also conduct community education outreach activities like TSNIP’s spring Gala, which showcased student photographs of feral cats in a gallery presentation titled “A City Underground”.

