



## 2017 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:

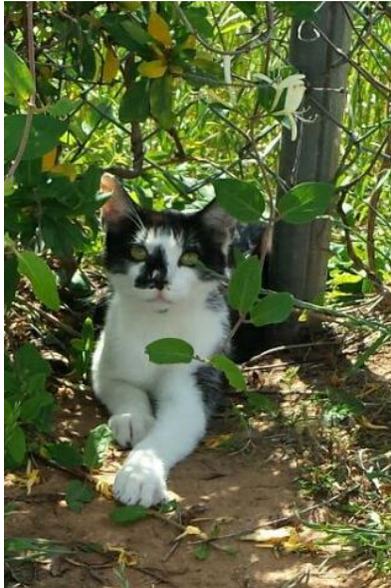
Beth Bobo, President  
Mindy Norton, Vice President  
Charity Golden, Secretary/Treasurer  
Lucy Roberts, DVM  
Jeffrey Parker, PhD  
Steve Reinhart  
Nikki Evans  
Jon Lambert  
Kristine Fitts  
James Harper  
Andrea Moen

### Computer Consultant:

Christina Frantom



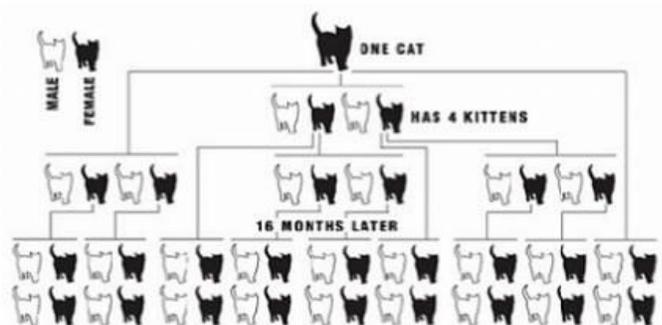
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Feral Cat Program:

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. Through 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 45% 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. The photo below was taken at a 2017 trapping, which fixed 45 cats over 3 days.



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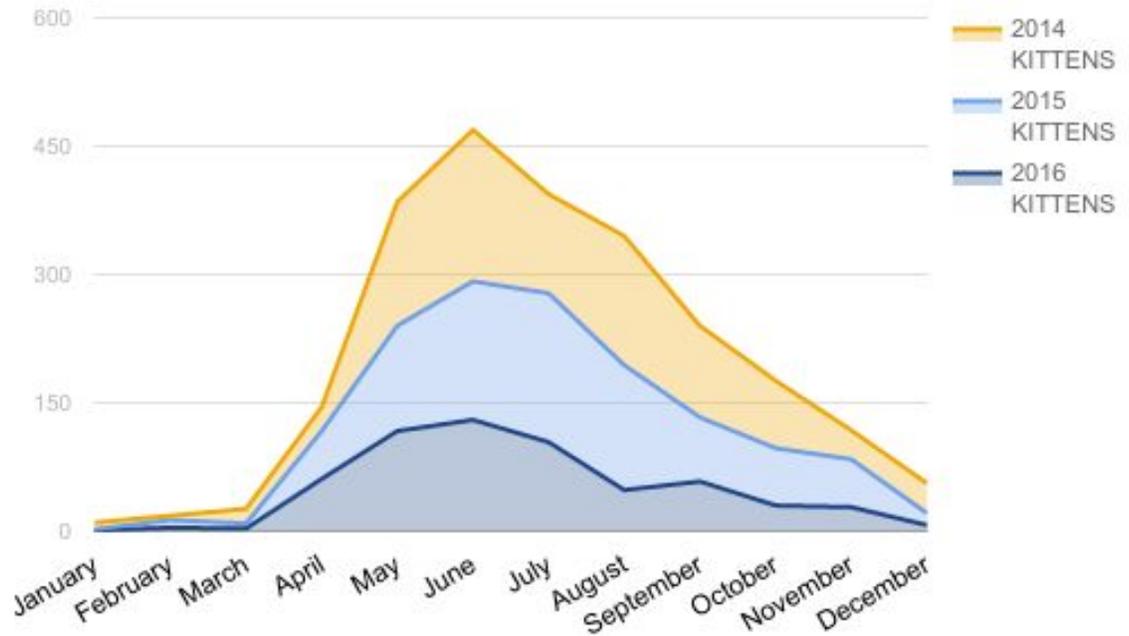


Back row: Kathy Freeland, large-colony trapper from Alabama Spay/Neuter. Front row: Ann Holley (program coordinator), April Wallace (volunteer), Lisa Folsom (volunteer), Lucy Roberts

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## Kitten Euthanasia at Metro

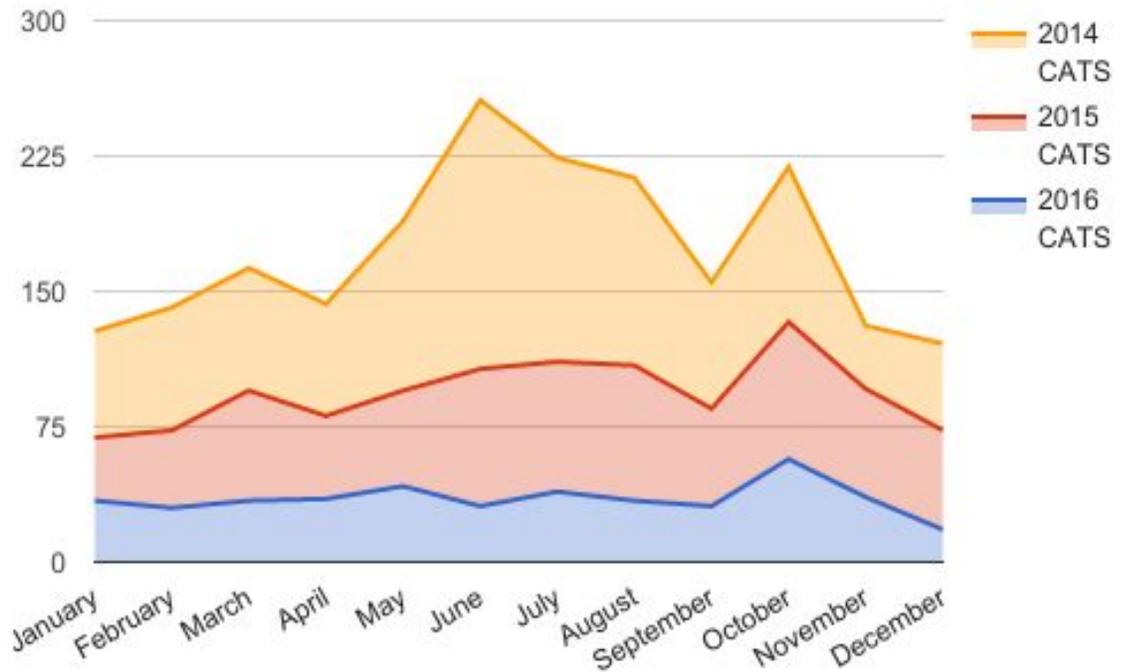


Cats have a breeding season. They produce kittens in months with long daylight and warm temperatures, which makes population control much harder in the South. Metro Animal Shelter, like animal shelters all over the country, is overwhelmed with kittens in the summer. Nevertheless, TSNIP is proud to report that we have been reducing kitten euthanasia rates since we began trapping in 2014.



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## Cat Euthanasia at Metro



TSNIP began trapping in February of 2014. We are pleased to note the drop in the euthanasia rates in 2015 and 2016 compared to 2014 data. Cat euthanasia has dropped by 55% in this time span, and kitten euthanasia has dropped by 34%. We are very grateful for the City of Tuscaloosa's support, which has made our program possible and allows TSNIP to reduce the stray cat population in a humane, effective way. We also plan to apply for a PetSmart Charities grant, in hopes that the increased funding would help us to provide an even greater service to our community.



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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 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.



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



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 host a “Leave Us Your Memories, Not Your Pets” day at University of Alabama. The younger students bring their displays to educate college students about the impact of pet abandonment on our city, the importance of spay / neuter, and of the many sad outcomes for abandoned pets.



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This year, the “On All Fours” students practiced civic engagement while working to improve the plight of helpless animals. They presented activities and public education events for TNR week from April 17 through April 22, 2017, with the support of Tuscaloosa’s own Mayor Walt Maddox and Northport Mayor Donna Aaron. There was a great turnout for the celebration on Friday April 21 as well as very positive community response throughout the week. ABC 33/40 ran a story about TNR week, and interviewed one of TSNIP’s community volunteers about why TNR helps both the community and the cats.

The high school students of “On All Fours” also advocated to protect animals from hot car deaths. The students wrote a bill to allow Good Samaritans, with the guidance of law enforcement, to break into a hot car to save an unattended animal. Through petitions and letter writing campaigns, they enlisted the help of Representative Chris England of District 70. With his leadership, their proposal became HB 524. On April 28, 2017, 12 students from Holt



High School and 10 of their University of Alabama student mentors traveled to Montgomery to appeal to the House Judiciary Committee for a recommendation for passage of this bill. The bill received a unanimous favorable recommendation, and will next be voted on in the full House.

We are very proud of these students for their hard work, their compassion, and their drive to make their community a better place.



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Key Financial Data:

**Funding and contributions received:**

City of Tuscaloosa	25,000
County of Tuscaloosa	18,750
Individual and business contributions	<u>24,198</u>
<b>Total funding / contributions</b>	<b>\$ <u>67,948</u></b>

**Program expense:**

*Feral cat program:*

Spay / neuter surgeries	\$ 24,212.00
Other veterinary care	316.00
Traps and supplies	4,838.00

*Education program:*

Advertising and printing	1,270.00
Supplies	<u>1,370.00</u>
<b>Total program expense</b>	<b>\$ <u>32,006.00</u></b>

**Administrative expense:**

Accounting services	1,440.00
Bank and other charges	378.00
Insurance	1,969.00
Payroll expense	16,818.00
Postage and mailing expense	102.00
Supplies	696.00
Telephone answering service	<u>1,178.00</u>
<b>Total administrative expense</b>	<b>\$ <u>22,581.00</u></b>



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