



**Animal Friends**  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
"Furry Facts"

1370 S. Main Rd., No. 138  
Vineland, NJ 08360

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**Animal Friends** *Furry Facts*  
FOUNDATION, INC.

www.AnimalFriendsFoundation.com

856-503-5572

Spring, 2016

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Animal Friends Foundation  
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Vineland, NJ 08360

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### In Honor Of

Carolyn Vinci by Joyce Vanaman

Joe by Dorothy Hankins

## After Further Review...

By Ric Kuhns

AFF Director of Operations

Although Lisa and I have had at least one cat  
during our entire married life, I never really consid-  
ered myself a "cat person." I mean I loved my cat  
but never really paid any attention to any others. I  
guess I considered myself an "animal person" and  
didn't pay attention to any one species in particular.

All of that changed during the summer of 2012  
when two feral female cats being fed by a neighbor  
graced us with 16 kittens between them in a week  
and a half. Now the same problem facing neighbor-  
hoods in cities everywhere had come to my own.  
Having them picked up by animal control or the  
SPCA was never a thought, and when I saw the  
look on Lisa's and our neighbor Betty's faces as  
they watched the kittens play it became painfully  
obvious that they weren't going anywhere. It now  
was a race to find a solution before kitten number  
seventeen made its appearance.

Fortunately, as we researched our situation, AFF  
was in the process of introducing Trap-Neuter-  
Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) to the City of Millville and  
that's when we realized that even if the process  
didn't work in the big picture, we knew it would  
work for us. We contacted AFF and began the  
process of TNVR under the guidance of Lew Vinci.  
Incidentally, before we could get them all trapped,  
number seventeen did make its appearance.  
Slightly ahead of numbers 18 through 24.

So my point is that I came to advocate TNVR  
because I didn't want to be seeing any additional  
cats in my neighborhood and not because I was a  
big cat fan or what I now refer to as a CFCP (crazy  
freakin' cat person). Simply put, **any program  
designed to lower the number of free roaming  
cats that does not include taking away their  
ability to reproduce will fail.**

(Continued on page 2)

## Meet our new mascot

By Ric Kuhns

I happened to be at the Tractor Sup-  
ply store in Vineland on March  
19 along with members JoAnn  
McSurdy and Cindy Karageanes. We  
were there in support of the Cumber-  
land Cat Colony Caregivers Coalition,  
which was doing a fund raiser to offer  
low cost spay/neuter  
vouchers to their sup-  
porters on a walk-up  
basis.

The women running  
the fundraiser, Cathy  
Geraci and Misty  
Biggs, are committed  
to all aspects of cat  
care and regularly go  
out of their way in  
helping others. I was  
within earshot as they  
were having a conver-  
sation with a couple  
of other women about  
a blind cat that they  
were helping to feed

along with several other co-workers.

I asked Misty about what they  
were discussing and she told me that  
a cat had shown up at the Millville  
Senior High School about four  
weeks earlier that appeared to be  
blind or severely impaired. A few  
staff members began feeding the cat  
and before long the number of sup-  
porters grew as the story made its  
way around the school.

After about three weeks of caring for  
this cat and trying to find someone to  
take her home, a call was placed to a  
local non profit rescue group known as  
CAROLSCATZ led by Commercial  
Township resident Carol Hickman, who  
then called the Coalition. Cathy and  
Misty responded by humanely trapping  
the cat, after which the search began  
for a foster home until a forever home

could be found.

Cathy and Misty had no more room  
at their homes to take in any more  
rescues unless it became an emergency  
case, so they called Carolscatz, who  
agreed to find some space among the  
dozens she currently fosters. Later that



Admiring Cami, AFF's new mascot, are, from left, Lisa Kuhns,  
Cami's owner; and Cathy Geraci and Misty Biggs, of the  
Cumberland Cat Colony Caregivers Coalition.

week, along with others of her own,  
Carol took the blind kitty to the Animal  
Alliance of Cape May County where  
she was spayed and received necessary  
shots from Dr. Schwert and that dedi-  
cated group of volunteers who run the  
weekly clinic. Carol and kitty returned  
to await a chance to be adopted.

On January 25, 2016, my wife Lisa  
and I were forced to say good bye to  
our last indoor cat and—as most of  
you have experienced—had not yet dis-  
cussed adopting our next kitty. While  
listening to the women at Tractor Sup-  
ply talk I began to feel very strongly  
that my hearing this conversation was  
not coincidental and that Lisa and I  
were meant to adopt this cat. For the  
rest of the night I could not get this

(Continued on page 3)

## Millville TVNR coordinator is appointed

### By Gary Meyer, TNVR Coordinator

The City of Millville through Resolution R39-2016 appointed me, Gary Meyer, on February 2 as the new Volunteer Animal Coordinator for the City of Millville. My job is to work with the existing colony caregivers to maintain the records of feral cats and work with our animal control officer to promote a humane environment for cats to coexist safely within the city, to ensure that the TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) is encouraged, so the cats do not breed.

This position previously was held by Ric Kuhns and I credit Animal Friends for helping get the ordinance passed previously. I have been in animal rescue for 20 years and bring with me first, my love for animals, and secondly, a proven track record of business success as CEO of Gementerprises, a Southern New Jersey technology company with a commercial facility on Columbia Avenue in Millville.

Residents of Millville can now register their cat colony with Gary Meyer by calling 856.300.5138. Registration is free. People caring for colonies are responsible for spay/neutering, a rabies shot, ear tipping the cat and subsequent, long-term care of the cats.

Much of this is at a very low cost to residents, and people on low income or disability can even get these services for \$10 for New Jersey residents on assistance or disability. Through a good TNVR program plus education and working together, the community can enjoy harmony while the cats live out their lives safely without breeding.

The benefits of registering a colony are having an integrated network of people to help each other and, should an ear tipped cat be found, the cat can be identified and returned to the colony, saving taxpayers money. People need to understand that cats cannot survive without outside help, so dumping unwanted cats outside should never be done and education is critical to end the breeding cycle.

Millville is one step toward controlling the excess homeless cat population, with more good things to follow. In the next newsletter, I'll talk about what we look for when I register a colony for Millville's program along with related issues to keep our residents in the loop.



## After Further Review...

(Continued from page one)

That said, fast forward to now. I've noticed that there is a major flaw in the approach used by most TNVR advocates when they're trying to convince others to support the concept. The reasons given in advocating the program are of interest only to CFCP's or people who are already involved in the program. We're preaching to the choir. There are only two ways that come to mind that may successfully encourage the non-cat lovers to support TNVR. One is if TNVR actually did make the cat instantly disappear, and the other is if they knew it could free up thousands of dollars annually which could be used by city governments for other needs without having to raise taxes.

TNVR is an untapped source of revenue for city government and that's how it should be introduced. Those city governments who've switched to TNVR as a cost cutting measure are noticing a reversal in the annual increase of free roaming cats that their former method caused. This is a perfect example of saying what you want to say, and how they want to hear it.

TNVR is a very specific recipe for lowering the free roaming cat popu-

lation. Municipalities that attach rider laws to their TNVR programs such as feeding bans, licensing, and program registration fees experience a sharp reduction in resident participation as opposed to successful programs where cats are exempt from these laws. I personally read a TNVR ordinance drafted locally that came dangerously close to being passed that would have made a colony manager responsible for damages done on other people's property by a cat registered in your colony. Rider laws attached to a TNVR program almost certainly doom that program to failure. Everyone knows that you can't change Mom's recipe and expect the soup to taste the same.

In closing, I find it amusingly ironic that people on both sides of the TNVR issue want the same result: lowering the number of free roaming cats. But the people who don't like cats and oppose TNVR are allowing the cat population to increase annually, while the CFCP's, who can't get enough of anything cat, have presented a program that will ultimately result in lowering the street cat population towards their goal of "a home for every cat."

At the end of the day, I guess you do have to be careful what you ask for, but even more careful how you ask.

### What is Animal Friends?

Animal Friends Foundation is a non-profit organization registered with the State of New Jersey composed entirely of volunteers. We are committed to finding solutions to the overpopulation of unwanted companion animals through education and financial support of existing low-cost spay-neuter programs. Further, we support individuals and organizations that are doing good work with animals throughout Southern New Jersey.

Low-cost spay/neuter funds are available for qualified persons. For more information, call the office at 856-503-5572, and visit the web site at [animalfriendsfoundation.com](http://animalfriendsfoundation.com).

## Trap a cat to save a life

If you're like us, you feed the outside cats that are abandoned and left behind by uncaring adults. These cats, through no fault of their own, have to fend for themselves. If they make it, life is tough for them. Not enough food or water, hot summers, cold and snowy winters, sickness, cars and people who abuse them. They need your help! To make life better for both you and the stray/feral cats you feed, please take the time to trap, neuter, vaccinate and return them outside (TNVR). Spaying the female cats you feed will protect them from the debilitating effects of repeated pregnancies. A female cat in heat can be detected by male cats up to a mile away. Neutering the male cats you feed will prevent them from spraying/marketing their territory and fighting with other male cats for mating rights. Neutered males are less likely to roam far from home.

### Trapping The Stray/Feral Cats You Feed

Don't be afraid to trap the cats. Use a humane Safeguard Trap that is at least 30 inches long or another comparable humane trap. You can borrow Safeguard traps from Animal Friends. These traps open on both ends which makes it easier for you. Set the traps and put food in the other end in a small plastic dish. If the trap opens at both ends, make sure the food end door is properly fastened. Place the traps where the cats normally eat or where you see them most often. You can put a few pieces of food outside the plastic dish on the bottom of the trap. Sometimes this makes the cat move around to pick up the pieces and causes the

## Blind kitty steals hearts

(Continued from page 1)

little blind cat and what it had been through out of my mind.

When Lisa got home from work the next morning I was having my breakfast coffee and she asked how everything went at Tractor Supply the day before. I hesitated and asked, "How would you feel about giving a blind cat a home and a new life?" Assured that Lisa felt the same way I did, I called Misty and told her that if it were possible, Lisa and I were excited about having the little blind kitty come live with us.

The next afternoon Misty delivered the little blind cat who began her reign as Queen of the Household, now known as "Cami." And as if the High School staff hadn't done enough already, Misty gave us an envelope containing a substantial amount of money that the staff had collected to help defray medical costs to her new family. I can't even begin to tell you how awesome I think they are. A staff brought together for the purpose of educating, who were brought even closer together by the compassion they shared for a little blind stray cat.

Credit goes to **Andrea Pfeiffer, Kristan McManus, Kristan Masters, Judith Baker** and everyone else at the school who stepped up to get involved for the sake of a stray cat who needed your help; **Cathy Geraci** and **Misty Biggs** from the Cumberland Cat Colony Caregivers Coalition who responded without hesitation to apply their trapping skills and then helped us adopt her;

trap to spring easier. Don't put food under the metal plate in the cage or directly up against it. If the trap doesn't spring the first time, don't get discouraged. If you catch a cat, move the trap somewhere safe and away from the other set traps. Put a towel over the trap. This will calm the cat down. Make sure there is a little open space to let air in. Call the vet or clinic of your choice to make a spay/neuter appointment.

Your participation will not only improve the lives of the cats you feed but also those of yourself and your neighbors by controlling the cat population in your area.



### AFF Yard Sale to be held July 9

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
ANIMAL FRIENDS FOUNDATION

Saturday July 9, 2016

7 AM to 2 PM

Premier Orthopaedics Parking Lot  
298 S. Delsea Drive, Vineland

Donations welcome prior to sale

Call 609-805-3757 for more information

Spread the word and tell your friends!

Come out and purchase great items or  
clean out the house of unwanted clutter.

and to **Carol Hickman** and **Carolscatz**, who saw to her medical needs and always seems to find a place for one more cat in need of fostering.

Lisa and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your role in bringing Cami into our lives and promise she'll live the rest of her days with all the love the Queen of Household and official mascot of Animal Friends Foundation Inc. deserves.

### Office move, June 21 meeting set

We have moved! In April of this year, the office was relocated to 616 E Landis Ave, Suite B4, Vineland.

A membership re-organizational meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 21, 2016**, at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at 614 E Landis Ave., Vineland, which is right next door to the new office.

Our web site, [animalfriendsfoundation.com](http://animalfriendsfoundation.com), has begun updating information and will continue to do so on an ongoing basis. Check back often for membership information and to see where our low cost vouchers will be available for purchase on a walk up, first come first served basis.