



NEIGHBORHOOD CATS NETWORK, Inc.

CHRONICLE

Fall 2025

A Note from Simon: A Little TNR Humor

At Neighborhood Cats Network, we've learned that no two community cats are alike. Some are shy and cautious, some are bold and curious, some — well, some strut into the colony like they've been cast in their own action movie. Every cat has a story. Behind every ear-tip there's a personality shining through. In this issue, Simon, one of our "seasoned professionals," takes the mic to tell us about a certain new arrival.

Hi Folks, Simon here,

So yesterday, this new guy rolls into the colony — chest puffed out, tail high, walking like he owns the zip code. You know the type. Strut level: Olympic.

Eyes scanning: "Where the ladies at?" Talking loud, saying nothing: "What's up, queens? I'm new in town." Then he sees me — a seasoned, ear-tipped legend sunning myself on my favorite rock — and says:

"Yo, Simon! The humans said I'm on some TNR list! Sounds elite. Do I need to RSVP? Bring a date? Should I wear something sharp, or just go full whisker-fluff?"

Oh, Romeo. Sit down. I said, "Kid, TNR ain't a dinner party. It's not a gala. There's no buffet. It stands for Trap- Neuter-Release. It's more like... a surprise intervention meets a spa day... with vibes." Let me break it down for you:

Step 1: Sardine bait. You fall for it. Every time.

Step 2: The trap snaps. You panic. We nod.

Step 3: You take the ride of shame to the Snip Spa.

Step 4: Lights out.

Step 5: You wake up lighter, confused, and permanently excused from the kitten-making business. And yes — you come back with a left ear-tip. Not because you lost a fight. Because you joined the club.

That little ear-tip? Around here, it's a badge of honor. It says: "I've been through it." "I'm not part of the problem." "I don't make kittens anymore — I make wise choices." In fact, in this colony, that ear-tip is your membership card. No tip? No credibility. You can't sit with us at the food dish if you're still out here yowling for girlfriends and spraying like a frat boy.

Romeo blinked at me and said, "So..it's not..like...summer camp?" No. It's not a retreat. There's no campfire. Just paperwork and enlightenment. But you know what? After it's done — You get naps. You get respect. You get to keep your tail and your chill.

So yeah, hotshot — you're on the list.

At Neighborhood Cats Network, we see these moments every day - cats with big personalities, strong opinions, and hearts full of resilience. What doesn't change is the life-altering difference TNR makes for each of them. That small ear-tip isn't just a mark - it's a promise of safety, a stop to endless litters, and a future with dignity. But every trap, every vet visit, and every safe return to the colony depends on the compassion of people like you. Your support means fewer kittens struggling to survive, fewer moms worn thin, and more cats living healthy, peaceful lives in the communities they call home. Please visit www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org to donate today - because every cat deserves that chance.



Neighborhood Cats Network

Board of Directors

Marlies Sullivan

President

Mary Delton

Secretary

Jean Bidlack

Treasurer

Diane DiGravio

Director, TNR Operations &
Community Engagement

Our mission is to compassionately improve the lives of community cats by providing them with nourishment, housing, TNVRM (trap, neuter, vaccinate, return, and manage) as a pathway to a better future.



A Letter from Our Board President:

Dear Friends,

As summer winds down and we reflect on the past months, I am filled with immense gratitude for the people who make Neighborhood Cats Network possible—you, our volunteers, fosters, and donors. Every paw we save, every colony we care for, and every adoption we celebrate begins with your generosity of time, heart, and support.

To our volunteers—you are the hands and feet of this mission. You are out in the early mornings and late evenings, feeding colonies, trapping for TNVRM, transporting supplies, building cabins, and ensuring no cat goes unnoticed. Your dedication is the reason community cats not only survive but thrive under our care. You show them dignity, patience, and love every single day.

To our fosters—you open your homes and hearts to the most vulnerable among us. Every time you cradle a tiny newborn who wouldn't have made it on the streets, or comfort a frightened mama cat who finally knows safety, you give life where there once was struggle. Because of you, kittens grow strong, social, and adoptable. Because of you, cats once abandoned learn to trust again. You are the bridge between survival and forever homes.

To our donors—your generosity fuels every single effort. You help put food in a feral colony's dish, provide warmth through winterized cabins, and cover life-saving veterinary care for strays in need. Most importantly, you make Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage (TNVRM) possible, breaking the cycle of suffering and giving community cats healthier, safer lives. You also ensure that kittens in foster care have formula, food, litter, and medical care so they can grow strong and find loving homes. Whether through a recurring gift, a one-time donation, or in-kind support, you are the foundation that keeps our programs strong.

Together, you create a powerful circle of compassion. Volunteers care for them daily, fosters prepare them for brighter futures, and donors sustain the work that makes it all possible. Each of you plays a unique and irreplaceable role in this mission, and together, we are changing lives—cat by cat, colony by colony, family by family.

But our work is far from over. Every day, more cats need our help—and with your continued support, we can reach them.

Please consider renewing your commitment today by making a gift, signing up to foster, or volunteering your time. Visit www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org to see how you can be part of the change. Together, we can ensure that every cat knows safety, dignity, and love.

On behalf of all of us at Neighborhood Cats Network— and the thousands of whiskered friends whose lives are brighter because of you— THANK YOU!

Marlies

Marlies Sullivan

President, Neighborhood Cats Network

Volunteer Spotlight: Kati Ozminkowski & Family



Sometimes a single act of kindness can spark an extraordinary journey, and for Kati and her husband Jeff and daughters Erin and Shannon, that journey began in their very own backyard when a few feral cats appeared on their property.

Kati did not hesitate. Concerned about their safety and well-being, she reached out to Neighborhood Cats Network. Our team quickly responded to TNVRM (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return-Manage) the newcomers, but by the time we arrived, the situation had changed: kittens had already been born.

Rather than see them face an uncertain fate, Kati opened her home without hesitation, providing a safe, warm, and nurturing environment for the tiny family. It was at that moment that her role as a foster caregiver began, but it was only the start of her journey with Neighborhood Cats Network.

Since then, Kati and her family have become pillars of our organization. Their compassion extends far beyond fostering. Kati's organizational skills, patience, and enthusiasm shine brightest during our kitten adoption events. There, she takes on a leadership role: welcoming potential adopters, guiding families through the adoption process, and helping ensure every kitten finds a loving forever home.

What sets Kati apart is not just her dedication, but her family's shared commitment. Together, they embody the spirit of what makes Neighborhood Cats Network so special: a community willing to step in, offer love, and make a tangible difference in the lives of cats and kittens.

We are endlessly grateful for Kati and her family. Their kindness, energy, and unwavering commitment remind us that even the smallest acts of compassion can create lasting change, one whiskered face at a time.

On the Road With NCN: A Car Full of Compassion

Neighborhood Cats Network volunteer Sandy Pantaleo is once again gearing up for another day of love and service, loading up the official Neighborhood Cats Network car to begin her rounds. This car is so much more than transportation — it is the heartbeat of our mission on wheels.

Each day, it carries meals to our community cats who depend on us for survival. It transports cats and kittens to adoption events, giving them the opportunity to meet families ready to open their hearts and homes. And when it's time to prepare for winter, this very same car is packed with lumber, insulation, and supplies to build sturdy, weatherproof cabins. These cabins not only shelter the colonies directly managed by NCN but are also delivered to the many dedicated feeders throughout our community, ensuring that the cats they care for have warm, safe places to endure the coldest months of the year.

So, the next time you see the NCN car in your neighborhood, know that it represents hope, care, and an unwavering commitment to the cats who share our communities. Wherever it goes, compassion follows.



From Backyard Visitors to a Safe, Cared - For Colony



What began as a few shy feral cats wandering into Paul and Phyllis's backyard quickly became something so much bigger. The couple couldn't turn away from the hungry eyes peering out from the brush, so they did what kindhearted people do, they set out food and made sure every cat had a full belly each day. Their small act of compassion soon grew into a mission of love.

Before long, the visitors weren't just cats anymore, they were families. The two females had given birth, bringing seven tiny, vulnerable kittens into the world. Paul and Phyllis knew that without help; the situation could get out of control. That's when they turned to Neighborhood Cats Network.

Together, we sprang into action. The adult cats were humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their familiar territory—ending the cycle of litters once and for all.

The seven kittens were brought into foster care, where gentle hands and patient hearts gave them the chance to grow up safe, socialized, and ready for adoption. Today, each of those kittens is on the path to finding a loving forever home.

But Paul and Phyllis didn't stop at rescue. Their compassion deepened. Wanting to give the remaining adults more than just a safe food source, they transformed their unused garage into a warm, welcoming sanctuary. With our help, they installed insulated cat cabins packed with straw, creating snug hideaways where their colony could sleep soundly through even the coldest winter nights.

What started as a couple of strays became a small, managed, thriving and cared-for colony—and it happened because two people opened their hearts and refused to look away.

Paul and Phyllis didn't just change the fate of these cats. They showed what's possible when compassion meets action: vulnerable lives are protected, suffering is prevented, and a community of cats is given the chance to live with safety, dignity, and love.

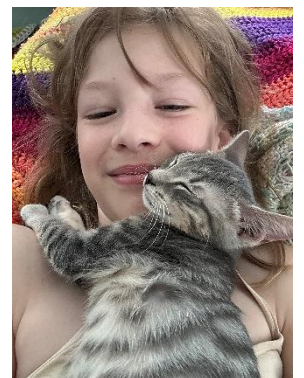


Adoption Highlight: Quinn and Kitten Josie

From the moment little Josie, a Neighborhood Cats Network foster kitten, laid eyes on Quinn Aman, it was pure love at first sight. She knew instantly she had found her forever home—and she's been living the dream ever since! Snuggles on the couch, nonstop affection, and endless love have quickly become her new normal.

A heartfelt thank you to the Aman family for giving Josie the warm, love-filled life every kitten dreams of.

Happy Adoption Day, Josie— you've truly found your happily ever after!



Fostering Saves Lives: Selena and Her Seven Miracles



Life on the streets is brutal for any cat, but for a pregnant mom, it can be pure survival against impossible odds. No warm bed, no steady food, no safe place to give birth.

Every car that passes, every storm that rolls in, every lurking predator becomes a threat, not just to her, but to the tiny lives depending on her. Too many mother cats face this reality, and too many lose their battle before anyone ever knows they existed.

Selena was one of those mothers. By the time she crossed paths with Neighborhood Cats Network, she had already endured multiple litters outdoors, her body worn down from the cycle of struggle and survival and very pregnant once again. She had known nothing but hardship, until everything changed.

The very next day after being rescued, Selena delivered seven tiny newborns. This time, instead of giving birth to her kittens on cold concrete or under a broken porch, she had a clean blanket and safety all around her. For the first time, her babies entered a world where they would be cherished.

That miracle was only possible because two incredible fosters, Meg and Dayna Corbett, said yes. They opened their spare bedroom and transformed it into a haven of hope. What could have been another tragic litter born to the streets became seven precious lives with a future, because Meg and Dayna made room in their home and their hearts.

Selena no longer had to choose between survival and motherhood. Instead, she could finally rest, purr, and care for her kittens with the peace every mother deserves. Watching her curl around her babies, safe at last, is a sight we will never forget.

This is the power of fostering. It is the difference between despair and possibility, between loss and love, between death on the streets and a second chance at life. Selena's story is proof: when someone steps up to foster, they don't just save one cat—they change the course of an entire family's future.



At Neighborhood Cats Network, we are deeply grateful to fosters like Meg and Dayna who make these miracles possible.

Selena's kittens will grow up never knowing the pain of the streets, only the kindness of people who cared enough to give them a chance.

Because when you foster, you don't just save lives. You rewrite their story.

Partner Spotlight: Pet Supplies Plus



At Neighborhood Cats Network, we believe it takes a community to change lives, and we are beyond grateful to have Pet Supplies Plus standing proudly by our side. Their generosity, compassion, and unwavering support have opened countless doors for our cats and kittens and helped us carry out our mission with greater impact than ever before.

Thanks to their invitation, we are able to host regular Adoption Events at their Pittsford, Fairport, Greece, and Webster stores. Each week you can find us in one of these locations, which means every store welcomes our cats and kittens about once a month.

These gatherings are so much more than adoption days. They are moments of transformation where tiny paws and gentle hearts step into the spotlight, hopeful eyes meet future families, and new chapters of love begin.

What makes this partnership even more extraordinary is the way Pet Supplies Plus continues to uplift our work in every possible way. They showcase our adoptable cats and kittens on their social media, helping us reach animal lovers far and wide. They donate nutritious cat food, ensuring the cats and kittens in our care are healthy, happy, and thriving. And they provide a welcoming space where our fosters, volunteers, and adopters can come together to celebrate the magic of rescue.



Their dedication is proof of what happens when a business opens its heart to community rescue. With every event hosted, every donation shared, and every family reached, Pet Supplies Plus helps us bring hope to the most vulnerable.

Together, we are saving lives, changing futures, and giving every cat and kitten the chance to grow up loved, safe, and cherished.

For that, we couldn't be more thankful.



Introducing the” Safe Haven Barn Cat Program”

At Neighborhood Cats Network, our mission has always been rooted in compassion, ensuring that community cats not only survive but truly thrive where they are. Through TNVRM (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return, Manage), along with daily feeding, care, and advocacy, we work tirelessly to give every cat the dignity and security they deserve.

We are honored to share the launch of our sixth program: **The Safe Haven Barn Cat Program**, which was created out of necessity and love. It joins our other five programs: TNVRM in Action, The Food Pantry, The Cat Cabin Project, The Education Initiative, and Journey to Forever Foster and Adoption.

While our goal is always to return cats to the place they know as home, we recognize that sometimes their environment is no longer safe. In heartbreaking situations, community cats face unrelenting dangers such as hostility from people, major construction or demolition, or the complete loss of their habitat. In these moments, staying is no longer an option.



The Safe Haven Barn Cat Program exists for these cats. It is a last-resort relocation program that gives feral and unsocialized cats a second chance at life when every other path is closed. We accept only a limited number of urgent cases each year, and each placement is handled with great care.

Cats in this program are placed in pre-approved barns and rural sanctuaries where they are welcomed not as strays, but as valued working cats. In their new homes, they are respected, provided with food, shelter, and veterinary care, and given the chance to live out their lives in safety.

Relocation is never taken lightly. Each case is reviewed thoroughly to ensure that it is absolutely necessary, and that the placement will provide the cat with long-term stability and security. We know the stress relocation can cause, which is why it is reserved only for those whose very survival depends on it.



At Neighborhood Cats Network, we hold to one unshakable truth: every cat deserves a haven. Whether that haven is the business park they patrol, the colony they cherish, or a barn that offers them sanctuary, we are committed to helping them find it.

The Safe Haven Barn Cat Program is our promise that no cat will ever be forgotten and no life will ever be dismissed as unworthy. For those who cannot remain where they are, we will open new doors that lead to safety, dignity, and the refuge they so deeply deserve.



Every cat deserves a safe place to rest, heal, and belong—will you help us open more doors to safety for them? By supporting the Safe Haven Barn Cat Program, you become part of a promise: that vulnerable cats will find food, shelter, and safe placement where they can finally thrive. Visit www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org to learn more, volunteer, or make a gift from the heart. Together, we can give every cat the haven they deserve.

NEIGHBORHOOD CATS NETWORK, INC
PO BOX 263
MENDON, NY 14506

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY



YES, I want to give Community Cats a brighter future!

Enclosed is my gift of \$25____ \$50____ \$100____ \$250____ \$500____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐

I would like to make a recurring monthly gift in the amount of \$ _____.

☐

My gift is in honor of / in memory of (circle one) _____

Please send notification of my gift to _____ at:

☐

Please make your check payable to Neighborhood Cats Network and use the attached envelope to mail it to us or donate online at www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org.

Neighborhood Cats Network, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our New York State Charities registration can be viewed at www.charitiesnys.com/RegistrySearch/search_charities.jsp. If you missed the previous issues of this Newsletter, you can read them online on our website <https://www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org/>