

# Cattitudes

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## **Turtle Creek Colony**

When we first met them in early May, there were approximately 9 adult cats in the Turtle Creek colony. They live under and around the home of their caregivers and are able to roam into the nearby woods and onto the road. At this point, we have spayed four of the females. Unfortunately, one of the females delivered five kittens before we could trap her. One kitten was adopted by a neighbour, but tragically the mother cat was hit by a car, so the remaining kittens are loose and unprotected. They are roughly 8 weeks old, and the caregivers are going to attempt to catch and tame them so they can be surrendered to the SPCA in an adoptable condition. We have provided some kitten milk and moist food for the kittens, and, thanks to the SPCA, we have made three separate deliveries of multiple bags of dry cat food for the colony. The caregivers are helpful and co-operative, and we anticipate spay/neutering the remainder of the adults in the next few weeks. The colony is fairly stable, as cats do not come and go much due to the remote location. The major concern right now is for the kittens as they are greatly at risk from the adult cats, cars and predators. I will update you in the next bulletin.

## **Other Colonies**

We are not sure how many cats are in the Pine Tree colony. Because of the dense human population and transient nature of some residents, the colony is somewhat fluid, but there appear to be 6 to 12 adult cats. One of the cats is slightly deformed; the care giver believes it is female, but if that is the case, it appears to be sterile. At least two females have kittens at this time. We neutered one male, and we have made two unsuccessful trapping visits. On one of these, I did trap a lactating female, but I released her so the kittens would not suffer. The male we neutered was found dead, probably hit by a car, about a week after the operation. It is virtually impossible that the death was related to the operation, but it was unfortunate as the cat, named Bob, was one of the care-giver's favourites. We have been delivering food donated by the SPCA to this colony since March.

There is a small colony of three cats in Hildegard subdivision that need immediate attention before more kittens are produced. We have been approached about a colony in Hillsborough, and although they are well outside the city, we will try to help them. There is, however, an issue as to how long term care will be provided as the person reporting the colony may be unwilling to be a permanent care giver. I believe I have the name of the care giver for the colony off of Elmwood Drive, and will try to contact him as soon as possible. It has been reported there are as many as 20 cats in this colony. I have not yet been able to locate the care giver for the colony in the Lester St. area of the east end.

## Financial Stuff

We have secured a very generous agreement with Community Animal Hospital to do a limited amount of spay/neuters for us. This is a small clinic and would probably not do more than one every two weeks, but we really appreciate the help. All of our work to date has been done by Maritime, but we do not have a firm price yet since their office manager is away.

In their first week, our contribution boxes collected \$39.97. We have had a few other donations. Our non-vet expenses totalled less than \$200 for the two traps, an application fee for a future raffle license and milk for the Turtle Creek kittens. I am unable to provide an exact balance at this time because we don't have the costs from Maritime, but we had at least \$600 on hand at the end of June.

Marlah has generously offered to set up "the books" for ca-r-ma, so both Peter and I will have formal financial reports, and I will be able to provide more detailed information in future bulletins.

## The Road Ahead

- Thanks to all those who attended the June 28 meeting. Some good ideas came from the group and it was nice to meet everybody. We need to change the good ideas into action on fund raising and promotion.
- We have applied for a raffle license for an item valued at over \$500 for the quilt raffle and for a raffle permit for an item valued at under \$500 for a basket raffle.
- Anyone wishing to donate or solicit donations for a raffle basket of pet-related items, or anyone able to sell tickets at local stores or malls, please let me know.
- I will be putting up flyers in various locations in an attempt to locate and enumerate feral colonies inside the city of Moncton. If you are aware of a colony we should be investigating, please let me know.
- We need a stamp for our donation receipts. I will order one at Staples.
- Here are two interesting websites you may want to check out: [www.cats-pe.ca/](http://www.cats-pe.ca/) and [www.alleycats.org](http://www.alleycats.org)
- I hope to produce this bulletin monthly and to include local photos from time to time. If there is anything you would like to see in the bulletin, just let me know.

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