



InsideToronto.com

PETS - Partnerships with Toronto Feral Cat Coalition means more felines finding homes

By Hanna Booth

One of the great side effects of a successful coalition is expanded partnerships.

This month I'll feature two newly established lifesaving partnerships in Toronto's cat rescue world that have sprung out of a city-wide coalition focused on feral cats.

When the Toronto Feral Cat (TFC) Coalition came together four years ago, the primary focus was for feral/community cats. While this is still the coalition's main goal, the partnerships and collaborative projects underway have branched beyond feral cats to include rescue adoptions, sterilization projects, hoarding cases, public awareness strategies and more.

Since the new year, a few new partnerships have been solidified that are going a long way to saving more cats in Toronto.

The first that I'll mention is one that I am particularly excited about as it has made finding homes for tough to place shelter cats a lot more successful.

Toronto Cat Rescue (TCR) has teamed up with Toronto Animal Services (TAS) to take on some of the most vulnerable cats that come into the shelters.

These vulnerable animals include immature kittens, special needs medical cases, older animals and cats that are very stressed or not acting social in the shelter.

Having an efficient transfer process with a reliable rescue group to get these



Three of these cats – a pair of females and one male – are up for adoption at the East Toronto Animal Services Shelter - <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/ON217.html> Contact jbooth@toronto.ca if you are interested in more information about these cats.

animals out of the shelter quickly has been instrumental in improving their adoption rates.

When we are able to get these animals transferred out of the shelter within the first few days, it greatly decreases their chances of catching infectious shelter diseases such as an upper respiratory infection (<http://www.insidetoronto.com/blogs/post/1312194-pets-alley-cat-alley-talks-kittens-upper-respiratory-disease-and-shelters>) (URI) . Because the animals being targeted for these transfers are those that are the most vulnerable to URI, this means a far better outcome for these cats.

As a veterinarian preparing animals for adoption, when I come across cats that would have a difficult time in our general adoption stream, I send a photo and information about the cat to the representatives at TCR to propose these cats for transfer. TCR then responds within the next day or two to confirm if they have a foster home open to take on the cat.

I can't thank TCR enough for their hard work and dedication to help save these special-needs cats and give them a second chance at a good home.

Another exciting partnership that has been recently announced is between the Toronto Feral Cat Project and Urban Cat Relief. These two groups, which have a strong focus on public education, awareness and training for feral cat management have teamed up to further expand their services to the public.

These two groups are also primarily responsible for the ongoing maintenance and leadership of the Toronto Feral Cat Recovery Centre (<http://www.insidetoronto.com/blogs/post/4330729-pets-helping-toronto-s-alley-cats-with-scarborough-s-new-feral-cat-recovery-centre>) .

As one of their first joint public education ventures, these groups have arranged for a world-renowned expert in trap neuter return to conduct a weekend of workshops featuring kitten socialization and community outreach.

Feature Website of the month

For information on registration for the feral cat workshops and videos on taming feral kittens by the guest speaker, visit <http://www.feraltoronto.com/special-workshops-2014/> (<http://www.feraltoronto.com/special-workshops-2014/%20>)and <http://www.urbancatleague.org/TamingFerals> (<http://www.urbancatleague.org/TamingFerals>)

Colony Cats of the Month

After a recent feral spay clinic, we were left with three young, beautiful, semi-social colony cats that were in need of new



Three of these cats – a pair of females and one male – are up for adoption at the East Toronto Animal Services Shelter - <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/ON217.html> Contact jbooth@toronto.ca if you are interested in more information about these cats.

homes. The brother and sister that had brought them in were a tying up the loose ends of their late father's estate. Among these loose ends was a colony of cats their father had been feeding for the last five years. Luckily most of the cats seem as though they may be social enough for adoption.

Three of these cats – a pair of females and one male – are up for adoption at the East Toronto Animal Services Shelter - <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/ON217.html> (<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/ON217.html>)

Contact jbooth@toronto.ca if you are interested in more information about these cats.

Hanna Booth is a shelter veterinarian with a special interest in targeted spay/neuter programs to combat pet overpopulation. Booth and her husband spent a year spaying street animals in Central America; worked as a veterinarian at the Toronto Humane Society; now works for Toronto Animal Services; is a leading member of the Toronto Feral Cat TNR Coalition; and also runs a volunteer program www.torontostreetcats.com. She lives in Roncesvalles with her husband, son, three former street cats and a revolving door of foster cats and kittens.