

February 1, 2021



675 Greenville Road
Greenville, NS
B5A 5J6

Warden Danny Muise
Municipality of the District of Argyle
27 Courthouse Road
Tusket, NS
BOW 3MO

Warden Muise:

I am writing to you today in support of the non-profit group, Friends of Trap Neuter Release (TNR). There is no need to explain what it is they do, their name is self-explanatory. What I want to talk to you about today is the human factor in this. Friends' job, because a job is what it is, is unpaid except for the satisfaction they get from doing what they do and their dedication to same.

Their determination to spay/neuter *every* cat is commendable. They depend on fundraising and the generosity of those people who see a great need for the work they do. They also accept donations from people who bring cats to them to help defray the cost, but even then some people have taken advantage of their generosity and after the cats were doctored, walked away, giving them nothing. They have learned from those experiences and do things differently now, but as you know, Veterinarian's fees are excessively high and it takes money.

Please bear with me as I tell you a little story that perfectly illustrates the human factor I mentioned above. Two years ago I had been feeding a cat for six months. I knew she was pregnant, but I had hoped the cold weather or a wild animal would take care of the kittens. Nasty, I know, but I could not deal with a bunch of cats around. One was okay, more than that? No. One day she brought two kittens to my door, I had expected four or five. Just these two put me in an emotional state of distress. What am I going to do with them?

It didn't stop there. She got pregnant two more times that year. Someone told me to call TNR, which I did. I got a live trap from them and I tried to catch the mamma, but she proved to be smarter than me. She always seemed to know what I was up to and she would go nowhere near the trap. Her second and third litters of kittens weren't as smart. Our local Friends of TNR took all ten kittens. Of those ten, six were female. Two women came to my house and caught the mamma, who by that time was coming into my porch to eat. A happy ending to that story is, all ten kittens were adopted, after they had been spayed, neutered and vaccinated. I kept the first two because the SPCA would not keep them, and I now have the mamma. Not all the cats they

service have a “Sharon” in their lives to come back to. Most are returned to their place of origin, which is not always a positive situation for some cats. I know I am not the only person who has gone through this same situation, cats showing up on their doorsteps, not knowing what to do with them.

What I am saying here is, Friends of TNR is an organization that not only ensures that kittens and full grown cats, male and female, cannot pro-create again, they are a godsend to the humans on the receiving end of these cats. They literally saved me from going off the deep end, worrying and wondering how many more cats would be showing up on my doorstep. And that is not an exaggeration. They provide a service to the cats, but more importantly, they provide a service to the humans behind those cats.

The feral cat population is completely out of control as you know. How many times have stories about them been on the news, or this one or that one complaining about them? Too many times to count! In any given year Friends of TNR can take as many as four hundred and thirty-five (435) cats/kittens for spay/neuter, and treatments (vaccines and booster vaccines). That was four hundred and thirty-five cats that no longer added to the feral cat population in that year and subsequent years. Even with Covid-19 in Nova Scotia, 2020 still saw them take one hundred and twenty (120) cats/kittens. This costs money.

It would be, for want of a better word, the decent thing for the various governments to assist them financially. By assist, I do not mean completely pay for the work they do, but in addition to the funds they raise, provide them with annual financial support, without their having to apply for grants, to enable them to continue to do what they do so wonderfully. They do provide a necessary service whether some people think so or not. Maybe those people have not been on the receiving end of ten pairs of kittens’ eyes, or a pregnant mamma who is about to bring them more. Please consider looking at financial ways to assist them in their quest to continue doing what they do.

Friends of TNR is extremely instrumental in keeping the cat population down in Yarmouth Town and County. They have a very ambitious goal which will also aid in keeping feral cats under control. They are looking toward the future and a cat sanctuary. A much needed place where cats can live their lives out in peace, the only human interaction being that of the keepers who feed them.

Please, speak with the organizers. Listen to what they have to say about what they do, what their goals are. Feel their passion for their work and please do what you can to assist them with that work. Work that is invaluable!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,



Sharon Robart-Johnson

Phone: 902-742-7247

E-mail: samsrj68@gmail.com

Contact information for members of Friends of TNR:

Kendra McIsaac – 902-740-3137

Rowena d'Entremont – 902-749-8255