

Mewsletter

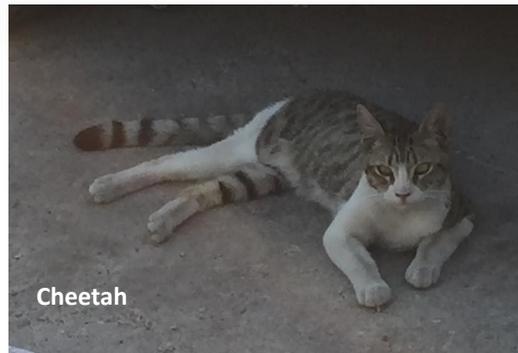


We have so many wonderful individuals and groups that do so much for our feline friends. We will be highlighting one of those groups or individuals in each newsletter.

FEATURE: The Cat Daddy by Valerie N Williams

Nevada

“Joe” approaches a chain-link junkyard fence looking for familiar faces. On the other side of that fence are several community cats for which he provides food, water, and love. One in particular, a brown tabby with white front legs, paws, and snout named Cheetah, is panting from the heat that is already 95° F and it is only 7:00 A.M. Cheetah is that cat that every caretaker has had at one time or another in one of their colonies. She is a true feral: she is wary and unapproachable. Joe worries about her because temperatures for the day are supposed to reach 115° F, so he fills the water bucket with ice water, and turns to walk away. But a quick glance over his shoulder catches her drinking the fresh, cold water from the bucket.



Cheetah

At least for the moment, he can breathe a sigh of relief, even though he knows that no cat, community or homed, should have to suffer in these temperatures. Thoughts of cats suffering in this heat weigh heavily on Joe, known online as *The Cat Daddy*.



Bandit

Normal summer temperatures in North Las Vegas, where Joe feeds and cares for these kitties, average 103° F from June through August, not showing any relief until September when the average high drops to 95°F. Winter isn't much better, as LV is in a desert, so temperatures drop significantly, especially at night. Extreme heat and cold make living conditions worse for these community cats, and makes Joe's role in their survival vital.

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Cat Daddy (cont.)

The Cat Daddy's story is not an unfamiliar one for veterans of Trap-Neuter-Return. What makes Joe stand out from the rest, besides the fact he is a guy,

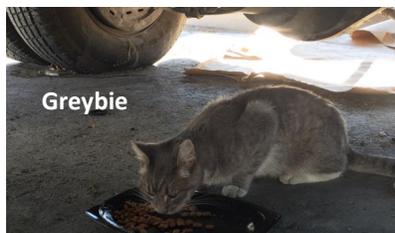


is the sheer numbers of community cats he cares for in these inhumane conditions. Not only does he feed up to 120

cats per day at 12 different sites, he advocates for community cats, he TNR's these cats, he pulls adoptable kitties to find them a home, and he shows love to each individual kitty. To feed his community cats during the week, Joe has a few volunteers to help, but he, himself, takes several pounds of dry food and a few gallons of water. On Sundays he works alone and it takes Joe an average 4 hours to make his rounds, dispensing 50 pounds of dry food, 48 cans of wet food, and 20 gallons of water. That is dedication.

How devoted is he? Earlier this year he got some new ink that says "I want to pet every cat in the world" and he means it. He sports two of what he calls "cat tattoos" and is planning a third.

The Cat Daddy loves his kitties. With names like Greybie, Tigger, Peanut, Bandit, and Boots, it is clear he is attached and has no plan of ever abandoning them. Watching any of the many videos he has posted on his Facebook page, his love and compassion is clear as you hear him cooing and chatting with each of his feline babies.



Joe depends on donations of money and volunteers to support the amount of food and supplies it takes



to feed, trap, and spay or neuter his kitties. And there are many who readily volunteer cash and time to him. It's pretty amazing to scroll through and see how many people are anxious to step up to help The Cat Daddy take care of North Las Vegas' community cats. If a cat needs extra medical care from being sick

"I don't know about you guys but I can't get enough of my junk yard gang. They are overflowing with love....you just have to know how to catch it."

or injured, The Cat Daddy solicits "sponsors" to pay for the costs. In every sense of the word, these are "community" cats. Joe is truly a cat daddy.

He is THE Cat Daddy.

And Joe is not his real name. He prefers to do what he does anonymously because for him, it's not about him, it's about the cats. Joe's attitude is summed up in his statement, "I don't know about you guys but I can't get enough of my junk yard gang. They are overflowing with love....you just have to know how to catch it."

How Can You Help?

Check out his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNLVCatDaddy/timeline>

The Cat Daddy's Amazon Wishlist: http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/14LLDLZTCVM15/ref=cm_sw_r_fa_ws_NFqzv0JRBTYG

And the Cat Daddy's PayPal email: thenlvcatteddy@gmail.com



Advocacies



have relocated, so they will no longer have to deal with unsafe conditions and unwanted pregnancies. While there were other folks in the county trying to do TNR, nothing formal was in place. So Tina created **Mountain Cats TNR**, applied for 501c3 status in partnership with **Shannondale & Beyond**, and is now an official non-profit charity.

At the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers is Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, historically known as the place where the Civil War started. Moving south along the Shenandoah you will find the community of Shannondale, with a population of fewer than 4,000 residents. Shannondale and the surrounding residents make up the majority of the population in Jefferson County, WV.

But within this small community exists another community that is unseen and in need. This hidden populous is an innumerable body of community cats that need to be trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated, and returned or socialized for adoption.

Enter Tina Creller, the founder of **Mountain Cats TNR**. Tina became involved with helping community cats when friends of hers, who had been feeding a colony of cats, moved. She took over and soon realized that the community cat population was much larger than she or anyone had imagined.

So this past spring, Tina and a few volunteers began trapping and neutering/spaying cats with money out of their own pockets. They caught 4 or 5 cats first, then a handful of kittens they have socialized, and finally two mother cats they



Mountain Cats TNR go out every weekend now, hold meetings every two weeks and are seeing an upswing in interest and participation. Many who had been trying to do TNR on their own have joined Mountain Cats TNR, really bringing the community together. They recently held a yard sale that netted \$1,000, much of it cash donations from grateful community members. That's a nice start for a new non-profit.



Yard Sale

Tina has learned that she can't do this alone, that to care for community cats requires a human community. Since becoming a non-profit in the past month, they have already TNR'd nearly 50 cats.

We extend a warm welcome to this very new TNR group out of West Virginia.

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainCatsTNR/>

By Valerie N Williams

CCU, Inc. as Advocates

Nearly every day we read or hear about a city or county council that wants to attempt to kill off the community cat populations in their jurisdiction.

CCU's AdvocATS Facebook page is the place where pleas for letters and phone calls, and petitions for change are posted by not only CCU, but also by members of the Trap-Neuter-Return community that is well over 6,000 strong now.

But there is so much more that is going on with advocacy.

Community Cats United, Inc. also advocates for many groups in many areas in the United States, assisting with education, organization, and implementation of TNR practices. Much of the advocacy work is done quietly and behind the scenes so you may not even be aware CCU is involved. Some work has been done and claimed by other groups.

But Community Cats United, Inc. will continue to do advocacy for any and all groups and areas that need help.

Save the Cats of Landisburg, PA

This is an urgent situation! One of the groups CCU has been advocating for is in Landisburg, Pennsylvania. CCU set up a Facebook page to help get the word out about a new borough ordinance that allows animal control to round up community cats and take them to be euthanized. This new ordinance also continues to disallow residents to feed the cats.

The ordinance went into effect in September, and residents have been given the month of October and November to place city-issued collars to designate them as 'owned.'

If you can help CCU help this group, **click on their logo** or [HERE](#) and go to their Facebook page. Link to story:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/10/some_landisburg_stray_cats_fou.html

Pennsylvania



BECAUSE EVERY LIFE MATTERS



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The Bull-headed Cowgirl"

Christina Anderson

Colorado

Chicken Bone Soup for Cats

*This is from **Jacki Martini**, one of our moderators from our CCU Facebook page*

.....

One whole chicken
4 chicken backs
4-6 Unpeeled carrots
1-2 tablespoons white vinegar
Large stock pot
Cheese cloth
Strainer
.....

Place whole chicken, chicken backs and carrots in large stock pot. Cover with cold water and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat, partially cover with lid and cook until chicken falls off the bone.

Remove chicken and carrots from pot, and allow to cool.

Remove all fat and meat from bones and return bones to pot, bring to boil, and add vinegar. Vinegar will leech the bone marrow into the broth. Reduce heat to low and slowly simmer, covered, until bones literally break apart and are soft.

When sufficiently cool, first strain off bones, secondly pass through cheese cloth until all bone fragments have been removed and broth is clear.

Offer broth 2-3 times per week as liquid, or mix into food that they will eat in one sitting. Don't allow broth to sit for long periods of time it will spoil in warmer temps and freeze in colder temps.

Freeze broth for future feedings in an ice cube tray. Defrost as needed.

Chop or use food processor for the meat, fat and carrots. Offer as is or mix into food.



Born - Denver, Colorado October 26, 1947. Yes I am sixty-eight. I would kill for young skin. But I wouldn't go back and be twenty again. I'd like to have the boundless energy I had then, but I think I might have gotten a little wiser with age.

Grew up in Littleton, CO when it was a nice "little town". I lived in the oldest house in Littleton, surrounded by fields and cottonwoods. I always had cats. My grandmother and my mom and dad all were cat-lovers. There was no such thing in those days as TNR. There were no live-traps. Vets killed cats if they got ahold of them and they had no homes or families. Our big old house was across the road from a Carmelite Monastery. I used to "spy" on the nuns. I'm sure they knew I was climbing trees and looking over the fence. They were very mysterious to me. For a long time I thought they made caramels there. We had a big white cat named Frosty and he disappeared. He was gone for about two weeks and my grandmother worried about him. One day the Mother Superior showed up, with her habit, of course. She was holding Frosty in her arms and she told my grandmother that he had been locked in one of their out-buildings and she had found him and knew where he lived because she had seen him (guess she had been spying over the fence, too - wonder if she climbed a tree?) My grandmother and the Mother Superior became friends and sometimes had tea together and talked about cats.

I was given my first horse when I was fourteen. She was twenty-two. She taught me everything I came to know about horses. Often one of the cats who lived at the farm where I boarded her would be found curled up on her back as she grazed. She lived to be thirty. I have had other horses since, but never one as awesome as the "Mare de Chelly" (pronounced the same way the

canyon is). She was "horse royalty" and I was just a skinny little kid.

During the course of a misspent life I got a Bachelor's degree in Pipe Organ from Colorado Women's College, another Bachelor's from CU Boulder in Comparative Lit./Creative Writing and finally a Master's in Bilingual/Multicultural Education. I was the director of the Boulder Valley School District Adult Education Program for years. It was during my years as a school administrator that I learned to "tell them what they want to hear and do what you need to do". Also that it is easier to ask forgiveness than to mess with permission.

My first husband was a Texan (can't believe that I, a Coloradoan, married a Texan!) and he didn't like animals. The first time he met my mare she bit him. That should have told me something right there. He's dust in the rear-view mirror, as are all the men who have been in my life. The more I see of men the more I love my cats! I had two cat-sisters, black and white, long-hair, from a feral mom-cat who lived at the farm where I kept my horse (a different horse since my grand mare had already galloped into the Pastures of Heaven). Mom-cat couldn't be caught and she kept having kittens and we (my second husband and I and the man who owned the farm) found homes for three litters. Finally the mom cat disappeared and we knew a coyote had gotten her. The sisters were named Gum-Drop and Dew-Drop. Their markings were identical. I called Dew Drop the "Tiny Cat" and she never weighed more than seven pounds in her entire life. By the time I was married to my third husband I knew that cats were my "totem" animal. When I married my third husband I went to live in the mountains west of Boulder and took the "Drop Sisters" with me. They would follow me



"The Bull-headed Cowgirl" (cont.)

up onto the mountain behind our house and we would sit on the rocks together. Dew Drop caught chipmunks and she would invariably eat them under the picnic table. I had a big black cat named Hamish, and the Tiny Cat, Dew Drop, would devour a chipmunk under the picnic table while Hamish watched, longing for just a bite. She would chew and growl and eat the whole chipmunk never giving him even a morsel. She never threw up. Not once in her whole long life! She was my soul-mate. When she was dying in my arms I told her that I would see her again and that she could leave a little part of her cat-spirit with me and she did that. She lives still in my heart.

After having four strokes in 2003, my third husband divorced me. More dust in the rear-view mirror. So I now live in the middle of a town out on the plains where there's traffic noise and barking dogs and neighbors who have loud parties. There is also the Humane Society where I volunteer every Thursday afternoon from one to six, as an Experienced Volunteer working with cats who are fearful or aggressive - cats who have suffered at the hands of humans. My job is to socialize them so they can be adopted. Volunteering at the Humane Society had its hazards. I've adopted all of my cats except one "Pogadh M'Hone" (Gaelic for "Kiss My Butt"), from the Humane Society. I'm a member of the Longmont Friends of Feral and Abandoned Cats, where I've finally found one of my niches. I am privileged to feed one morning a week at one of our large colonies that is in a salvage yard in an industrial part of Longmont. We've managed to place three of the cats from this colony in loving homes. Two of our colonies had to be disbanded. One was at the home of an elderly lady whose brother told us if we didn't have all the cats gone by this summer he was going to kill every one of them and bury them in the back yard. We all hoped someone would off him and bury him in the back yard. The colony manager live-trapped every cat and found good homes for them on area farms and ranches. She has gone to check up on them and they are all doing very well. The other colony was in an area that is heavily industrialized and the man who owned the property sold it to some developers. All the cats had to be trapped and they are now all living in indoor-outdoor habitats at the homes of three

members of our group. Our goal as an organization that cares for cats throughout the community is to purchase a place where we can have a sanctuary. Big enclosures with indoor shelters and perches and things for cats to climb on and a way for the kitties to be safe, but still have access to the great outdoors. Well, we can dream...

I got into animal activism from living in Boulder, where people are more conscious of the environment and the animals than in many places. I'm now an admin for two animal activism and pro-animal pages, plus an editor for the No Kill Coalition Cross posting page where I post only kitties. I'm also an editor for Baffini - New York where I post kitties as well. Every night I post the Kitties on Death Row at the Animal Care and Control (the infamous ACC) in New York City. Every night I post the cats individually on either the NKCC page or Baffini, depending on when it's my night to post and what page. I'm on the computer about six to eight hours a day posting kitties from all over the country. I see a lot of heartbreaking things. But if even one cat is spared or finds a home through my posting it is worth any pain or sadness it might cost me. The cats, after all, are paying a much higher price than I am called to do. Belonging to the Longmont Friends of Feral and Abandoned Cats acquainted me with TNR. I believe in it with all my heart.

I think I've told you everything about me that is printable. My dad was known as the "Mayor of South Denver" where he was a lineman for thirty years for Ma Bell. I loved him more than any person in the entire world. He was killed in a car accident the year I was twenty-three and he was fifty-one. Gates, Wards, and Schwayder Bros. closed their doors the day of his funeral and over three-thousand people attended. I played for it. I still get tears in my eyes when I play "Sentimental Journey". I wear a bracelet he made from scrap steel off the Battleship Arizona. I put it on the day after he died and I haven't taken it off since. I never saw him without that bracelet on. It's one of a kind. He was a Marine in the Pacific in WWII. He loved animals, especially cats, a rare thing in a man. He taught me to be gentle and quiet around all animals and to treat them with respect. Like him, I have "never met a stranger".

I want to tell My Story

If you would like to tell your story for possible inclusion in the newsletter, click the link below. Please note that submitting your story does not guarantee inclusion.

Guidelines:

- 300-350 Words
- Focus on Rescue/TNR
- Stories will be edited for length and some grammar errors

[Tell My Story](#)

- ◇ Click link above
OR
- ◇ email to
vwilliams@juno.com



Christina



IT'S TOO COLD!

Or The Importance of Having Shelters for your Community Cats

Colony Caretaker Tips

As the temperatures continue to drop, be sure to increase the food intake and calories so your colony kitties can put an extra pound help prepare them for winter.

Buy your straw early and get those shelters cleaned out prior to the wet weather wherever possible.

Raise shelters that you can or put protective snow covers on them that will allow the snow to slide off the tops and keep their doorways accessible.

Be sure to move shelters away from snow plow areas as last year so many were covered--very dangerous!

If you have shelters that get snow-covered, keep the opening clear, but use the snow to pack around the shelters for more insulation.

By Virginia Scudder

As I sit here writing I gaze at one of my feral buddies sunning himself on the back lawn. Quirky and playful and not a care in the world, Byron, one of the elders of the colony, 13 years old to be exact, thrives and lives under my protection.

Living in the North East can be brutal on feral cats and their ability to stay safe during the winter months is not easy. There are snow storms, hurricanes and heavy rain days that impede on the feral life and make existing in a cruel world even harder. Because there are a plethora of feral cats and cat colonies in this area, finding homes and barns for all of them is next to impossible and it is the TNR community that is the best thing for these felines.

For those little lives that live in the wild, it is our responsibility as caregivers and rescuers to make sure they are as healthy and as comfortable as can be to survive. So, Spay and neutering is just the first step in success and health. Sheltering colonies is vital too. Weather is not the only hazard to these creatures, but it is also other animals and humans that can be a danger. Most non-cat people do not understand the feral cat plight nor do they care to learn about it. It is not the fault of the animal that they are homeless, abandoned and sometimes forgotten. It is however the job of every colony provider and the TNR rescuer to make sure that these defenseless animals have homes.

Most colony shelters are simple construction made out of Rubbermaid storage containers, or Styrofoam coolers. There are many more elaborate homes made out of wood and even wine barrels here on the North Fork of Long Island,

known as wine country. NO matter the construction, any shelter, big or small, helps to protect and eliminate death and health issues for our feline friends.



I especially like a shelter my father built using left over pallets . He simply took some pallets he got for free at home depot and created shelters. First, he laid one pallet on the ground in a secure area and placed two rows of cinder blocks around the perimeter for height leaving a space for an entrance. He then placed another pallet on the top of those cinder blocks and using some left over pond liner, covered the box. A few bricks were placed on the top and on the sides to keep the liner in place.

My neighbor down the road lives on a nice sized property and went out of his way to find an old shed. He discovered that there are many people looking to get rid of old sheds for free as long as you are willing to pick them up yourself. He was able to pick one up for free he found on an online site for nothing and soon turned it into a heated shelter for his colony.



BUILDING SHELTERS FOR COMMUNITY CATS

<http://facespayneuter.org/>

Plastic Tote Shelter – A shelter anybody can make; suitable for one to two cats.



Start with a 30 gallon tote for one to two cats



Cut 5 1/2" diameter hole in tote



Insert Styrofoam cooler and cut hole in Styrofoam to match tote



Add straw



Add Styrofoam lid



Add tote lid—finished!



low cost animal clinic
After the cats have begun using the tote shelter, you might want to add a door flap made of heavy plastic or heavy vinyl for further wind/weather protection.

If you need to house more cats, just purchase a larger plastic tote.

Here is another idea: <https://corokitty.wordpress.com/>
Made from easily available materials, a project you can do At home



Where to find CCU online

COMMUNITY CATS UNITED, INC.

Mission Statement

The mission of Community Cats United, Inc., is to engage members worldwide who dedicate themselves to the care taking of Community Cats and their efforts to promote Community Cat well-being. Our vision is to advance the status of community cats, uplift shelter medicine, encourage TNR, support our members in all areas of cat rescue and advocacy, and to reduce the number of community cats and ease the plight of unowned cats everywhere.

We respect and salute the men and women who act as caretakers, assist in the sterilization, and advocate on behalf of these un-homed, beautiful creatures.



- [Community Cat United Website](#)
The main website for CCU
- [Trap-Neuter-Return Community Public page](#)
Over 6,200 members strong and growing
- [Trap-Neuter-Return Community Groups](#)
[GROUP-for individuals only](#)
This group focuses on TNR related discussions.
[PAGE-for individuals and groups](#)
- [Community Cat EduCATion](#)
This is a reference place of posts on how-to information on Community Cats. It is also about eduCATing on the benefits and success of TNR
- [Community Cat Social Media](#)
Learn about how to get the most out of your Community Cat Facebook page or website. If you need help or have questions, complete our simple form Request Help to contact us!
- [Community Cat AdvocaTs](#)
This page focuses on advocacy areas

for Community Cats, including an advocacy network, which allows us to spread the word quickly when an issue arises relating to Community Cats. Whether it's a petition, email campaign or something else, this network starts with fellow advocates in all areas of the US.

[A problem or threat to Community Cats anywhere is one to Community Cats everywhere!](#)

- [Community Cat Fundraising](#)
This page is geared towards all aspects of fundraising for Community Cats. Here we share ideas, posters, campaigns, etc.
- [Community Cat Compassion](#)
This is not a sad place but rather a place to celebrate our great Community Cats that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge!



COMMUNITY CATS UNITED, INC.

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If you haven't heard of Maddie's Fund, you need to check them out. This is a resource for free webinars and advice on caring for animals, including community cats and shelter animals. The goal is a no-kill nation.



Maddie's Fund

