



HRM

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN
2016 REPORT

As a strategic effort to reduce cat overpopulation in the HRM, the Nova Scotia SPCA launched a web survey in March 2016 to quantify the extent of the problem. In under one month, we received over 85 responses from citizens and rescue groups throughout the HRM who identified over 3,500 feral cats, with more being reported every week.

Together, local animal groups including the NS SPCA, Spay Day HRM, Healing Animal SCARS, Sympathetic Ear, Mischief's Memory, Halifax Cat Rescue Society and TAPA developed a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program to address the need that was identified. To fulfill the goals set forth, we relied on the support of over 50 volunteers who handled trapping, transportation and care for the cats pre and post-surgery. We utilized the SPCA HRM Animal Hospital for all spay/neuter surgeries, then secured a rental property nearby which served as the pre-surgery housing and recovery facility prior to release.

Early on, we discovered that 50% of the cats residing in feral colonies were either friendly or kittens that could be rehabilitated. While this finding was unexpected, all partners felt it was in the best interest of the cats' welfare to accommodate them.

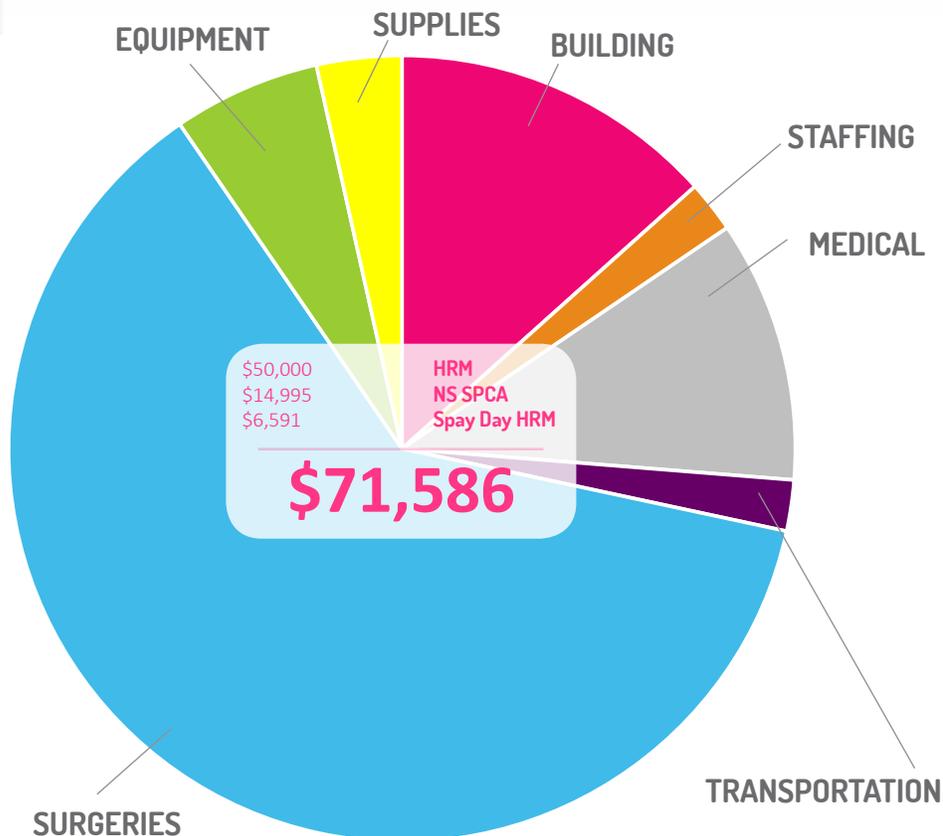
Over 100 kittens were rescued from the streets, socialized and brought back to health. Volunteers went above and beyond by fostering, socializing and donating much needed supplies. As the project evolved, volunteers made the best possible decisions for each individual cat's welfare. Although this required adjustments to our internal processes and put strain on our human and financial resources, the project was considered a great success by all.

We are very grateful for the \$50,000 received from the HRM in support of this first year TNR initiative and look forward to continuing this project with the support of counselors and staff in 2017.



Ryan Wilson (Photographer) 2016, Dartmouth SPCA, (Photograph) 2016

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT



VALUE OF SERVICES & SUPPLIES DONATED



“The cat issues in HRM have been neglected for so long that the problems are compounded and there is no one action or easy fix that will solve them. No one organization can tackle the problem alone. When the city and animal welfare groups partner, much has and can be accomplished, as in this TNR project. Partnerships are the key to success, as shown by the results of these past few months.

Our animal welfare groups have experience on the ground and our volunteers worked terrifically hard; literally with blood, sweat and tears. The finding provided by the city combined with the financial contributions of the partners; the Nova Scotia SPCA and Spay Day HRM created successful outcomes in this first endeavour by the HRM city council to tackle their cat issues. ”

- Linda Felix | Spay Day HRM

BENEFITS TO YOUR COMMUNITY

- ↓ Fewer stray cats on the streets, humane population control
- ↑ Increased safety for children in public play areas
- ↑ Increased safety for owned animals
- ↓ Decrease in garbage digging & urban foraging
- ↓ Reduction of noise complaints from cat fighting
- ↓ Less breeding, suffering and illness
- ↑ Cats are better neighbours - less fighting for resources

IS THERE STILL A CAT CONCERN IN HRM? Yes.

In addition to a consistent TNR Program, the HRM would benefit from a campaign to change the public perception that cats are disposable.

Over **50%** of the cats found in colonies are friendly. This tells us that far too many cats are being abandoned, left to fend for themselves, and are unfortunately adding to the feral cat crisis by producing offspring.

HELP US HELP THEM

TNR HIGHLIGHTS STATISTICS FOR 2016

780
FREE ROAMING CATS SERVED
611 PROCESSED THROUGH TRIAGE FACILITY, 169 PROCESSED THROUGH ANIMAL SHELTER

54,600+
UNWANTED CATS PREVENTED OVER THE NEXT 3YRS.

5,500+
MEALS SERVED DURING THE PROJECT

76,345+
KILOMETERS TRAVELLED

5,295+
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$6,086
DONATED FOOD & SANITATION SUPPLIES

TOTAL COSTS:
\$71,586

TESTIMONIALS



“ I am convinced that the City Councillors will receive less calls about cat problems from the areas we were able to target in just over 6 months. We encountered cats with multiple medical issues such as dental disease, parasites and ticks galore, to name just a few. These cats now have a better chance at survival. All in all, I think the project was a resounding success! I feel if the city is willing to invest a few more years of funding, we could change the cat problem in HRM so that we become known and recognized as one of the best cities in the country for cats! ”

- Sonya Higgins | Healing Animal SCARS, NS



“ The HRM TNR Project has provided a great deal of relief to myself and my neighbours. Since the SPCA has come to help I am much less stressed and overwhelmed because I don't have to struggle financially to feed them - my neighbours are happy that their gardens are not being wrecked! ”

- Annie | Musquodoboit, NS



“ I was very overwhelmed financially because I was spending \$600 a month on cat food. I had tried in the past to find help only to learn there was no help out there. I thought there was no way out but now there is light at the end of the tunnel. It truly has been life changing. There are now less cats here and kittens were adopted out. It's reassuring to know the kittens have a chance at a better life and won't grow up outside in the cold fighting to survive. I am so grateful for the project for helping me. ”

- Cathy | Sackville, NS



“ I cannot say how much we appreciated this program, we were getting very worried about the number of cats and we always tried to get any kittens and turn them over to animal rescue groups. ”

- Norma | Herring Cove, NS



“ In the past, there was no funding from the city for spay neuter projects and I had to rely on individual Rescuers to fundraise to do a couple of cats at a time. This summer we were able to spay/neuter over 15 adult cats. This prevented countless litters of kittens. As a caretaker, I cannot afford to feed a large number of cats so I am glad that the number was reduced through the spay neuter initiative. ”

- Jim | Eastern Passage, NS



“ Very pleased I have not found any kittens since this project I am happy that there is finally something being done about the stray cat issue in HRM. This project needs to be continued because everyday people can't afford to do this on their own and being a responsible pet owner myself it breaks my heart to see more babies being born to a life outside. This is a wonderful project and I hope this is something the HRM continues to do. ”

- Joylene | Dartmouth, NS



“ Since the TNR project - the cats around our property are much healthier. Over the years, we have watched the colony grow, but also decline due to abnormalities from multiple births, per cat, per year, exposure to the harsh weather and predators. Dept. of Natural Resources came into the area & trapped two huge Coyotes - if the cat population is kept under control perhaps coyotes wouldn't become a threat in our HRM neighbourhoods. The TNR program has certainly helped control the population. Currently, we are feeding 5-6 ferals, twice a day, every day, where previously we were feeding twice that many. \$\$\$ This is a much needed service and should be continued throughout HRM. ”

- Joanne | Halifax, NS

