



# T-TOWN MEWS

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## WHAT'S NEW

- To allow us to work multiple projects simultaneously, we added 20 traps and 15 carriers to our equipment bank. This was largely made possible through a generous grant from the Binky Foundation.
- In January, we developed and conducted a Process and Role Strategy Workshop utilizing design-thinking concepts. The purpose was to examine our processes and data collection to implement better solutions.
- In February, we created a draft training document on trapping activities and caretaker education.

## A BUSY START TO 2019

Because kittens can be born year-round in Tulsa, we made a strong push to close as many colonies as possible during the winter, when the cats are mating less. Our dedicated volunteers braved freezing temperatures to help us reach a total of 356 cats impacted by our program during January, February and March. In February, we hit an all-time monthly high of 142.

In February and March, we found a 50 percent increase in the number of cats trapped that were already pregnant. By April, 70 percent of the females trapped were pregnant. The ones not pregnant were juveniles. This is why we believe our biggest impact can be made from November through mid-April.

We are on track to reach our goal of 1,200 cats in 2019, but we can't do this without your support. Please consider donating to this cause online at [ttowntnr.networkforgood.com](https://ttowntnr.networkforgood.com) or by mail at **PO Box 703013 Tulsa, OK 74170**. We appreciate your generosity!

# PAINTING, SIPPING AND RAISING MONEY FOR CATS



The first of our live events planned for 2019 was in March, when we hosted a successful "paint and sip" fundraiser at Pinot's Palette. Participants paid for a seat and were given step-by-step instructions to create an original piece of art.

The sold-out event allowed T-Town TNR to educate more people about our program, sell TNR-related merchandise and raise money through a silent auction. The first \$1,000 of the proceeds was matched by a grant from Community Cats Podcast.



Community outreach remains a vital aspect of our program. In January, Samantha Polen, executive director of T-Town TNR, and Kelly Hines, our publicity chairwoman, appeared on KTUL's morning TV show to talk about the progress we are making in addressing feline overpopulation in Tulsa. In February, Samantha recorded a public service announcement on the importance of spaying and neutering with Carly Rush of Griffin Communications radio.

Many hours in March were dedicated to planning our participation in the Pawsitively Tulsa inaugural Pet Health and Wellness Fair held on April 6. Pawsitively Tulsa is a collaboration of local animal welfare interests along with the City of Tulsa and its citizens to develop and nurture an optimum environment for all animals in the community.



## GOLD STANDARD ACHIEVED

In January, T-Town TNR received the "Gold Star Seal of Transparency" in Guidestar ([www.guidestar.org/profile/83-0922383](http://www.guidestar.org/profile/83-0922383)). Guidestar (now Candid) is an online resource that gathers, organizes and distributes information about US nonprofits.

The Guidestar levels indicate what kind of information about an organization has been updated in our profile on the website to allow potential donors and funders to make educated decisions about the work we do. The gold level requires responses on goals, strategies, capabilities, indicators and progress.

## SECOND-QUARTER PRIORITIES

- Continue with completing as many TNVRs as possible through the duration of kitten season.
- Attend the HSUS Animal Care Expo on April 15-18 in New Orleans, where team members Samantha Polen, Kelly Hines and Elaine Spencer will learn more about various cat-related topics in addition to tips for effective leadership, marketing and fundraising. This group was awarded financial support from the Petco Foundation for registration and travel costs.
- Complete the evaluation of software tools for project and data management to improve data and tracking infrastructure.
- Recruit more volunteers and create and implement a training program for new team members.
- Publish a document for trapping assistance and caretaker education.
- Identify a team member to lead the fundraising and education events for 2019 within the Tulsa community. Our fundraising committee includes Tori Lieberman, Abby Lehman and Morgan Jones.
- Begin the process of establishing a Return-to-Field protocol with the Tulsa Animal Welfare organization.



## NEW VOLUNTEERS JOIN OUR TEAM

Our website is continuously being improved and updated, and we now have an online form to allow people to volunteer for our group as well as ask for assistance with colonies in Tulsa. Sometimes we get both from the same person!

One new volunteer came to us with a concern about the increasing feline population in her neighbor's yard. She and her neighbor partnered with us for training and financial support, and they trapped 13 cats and closed that colony. She also caught the trapping bug and is now a member of our team.



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