



Tip Me Frederick Volunteer Opportunities

Tip Me Frederick (TMF) will only achieve its mission of providing humane management of stray, feral and free-roaming cats in Frederick County through the generous support of its volunteers and supporters. There are many volunteer activities available to suit all ages, experience, and skills. Please review the list below and contact us if you are interested in volunteering. If you do not see anything that appeals to you, don't be dissuaded...there are many ways in which you can get involved. TMF will provide training and support!

For more information on volunteering, please contact us via email at volunteer@tipmefrederick.org.

Administrative Support

TMF does not have a physical office; we are still a virtual organization. But our administrative needs are still great and we're growing! We need help with the following: Handling voice and emails (which based on a volunteer's level of knowledge and desire to learn, may mean addressing the inquiry or just routing it to another TMF volunteer); entering data (volunteer and supporter names, contact info) into spreadsheets; entering data into our contact management system (we can teach you); scanning documents; etc. We'd really love to get to the stage where we operate in a cloud-based environment and minimize handling of hard copy. If you have good organizational skills, are computer savvy, and are proficient in the Microsoft Office Suite, we need you!

Barn Cat Program Support

The TMF Barn Cat Program works with citizens and Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) to place feral, semi-feral, and friendly cats into new colonies or safe barn homes. Since the inception of the barn cat program in November 2013, TMF has placed over 300 cats into safe barn homes; these were cats that might have faced euthanasia.

Our Barn Cat Program Coordinator needs help in the following areas: Handling inquiries for barn cats to ensure we match the right cat with the right home (this involves a screening discussion); ensuring that paperwork is in order, all medical info is up to date, and all data about the cat is entered into our database; gathering supplies for our "start up" kit that includes food, a litter box, litter, and a suitable crate, bed/insulated cave, quilts/blankets to cover crate, suitable hook-on water and food bowls; coordinating pick up of cats and scheduling drop off with the barn owner, transporting, and setting up a "safe area" where the cat is sequestered until it has become oriented and will not run away; routine follow up and picking up equipment, cleaning it and preparing it for the next cats.

This program is critically important and unique – we need all skill sets, from drivers to admin support to people comfortable handling cats and meeting with barn owners.



Foster Care for Cats

Although TMF is not a traditional cat rescue which fosters and adopts out cats and kittens, in the course of our trapping activities, we come across cats or kittens that should not be returned to their colony for age or medical reasons. We foster and adopt out these kittens to safe homes. Foster care parents provide a safe and secure environment for these type of cats in transition. Fosters provide shelter, food, and transportation for medical care. Medical fees and crates/cages for in-home fostering are covered by TMF.

Spay/Neuter Clinic Support

Our signature program is our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) spay/neuter clinic that we do once or twice a month, in conjunction with Spay Spa and Neuter Nook of Davidsonville, MD. Clinic support includes: scheduling cats for each clinic, which involves emailing and calling the caregiver to schedule times, learning about the cat's situation, age, etc.; transporting cats in our van to and from the clinic (we need drivers and loaders); organizing paperwork before and after the clinic; and, following up after the clinic to ensure cats are healthy and have been released.

Trapping/Transporting

TMF helps people reduce feline overpopulation by trapping, neutering/spaying, and either returning feral cats and kittens to existing feline colonies or adopting them to loving homes. We need volunteers to help trap feral cats and kittens, transport them to TMF-approved veterinarians, and either transfer them to foster care (if appropriate) or return them to the colony. You do not need to do it all—we have a range of support needs. We also need volunteers to help us feed feral cat colonies on the occasional basis. We will train you in humane trapping techniques, identify locations of feral cat colonies, and provide other support to ensure both human and feline safety and maximize the effectiveness of this program.

Drivers

We also need the occasional help with things like transporting cats to and from veterinary appointments for care-givers who cannot drive; picking up or dropping off traps, food, donations, and general errands. If you have a car, and are up for the occasional errands, we could really use your help!

Special Events Support

TMF has several special events each year, including but not limited to, our casino night, Bets4Pets, National Feral Cat Day, and other events such as special adoption events. Our Events Coordinator needs people willing to help her with the planning and organization as well as staffing events. These types of activities require someone who has strong organizational skills; good interpersonal skills, including ability to email and make phone calls; and, a pleasant but assertive demeanor.

Public Relations/Communications

TMF strives to raise public awareness of feral and free-roaming cat welfare issues within our community and we need someone to help us get the word out. Ongoing activities include publication of a quarterly e-newsletter; writing and disseminating press releases



and media advisories; and leveraging social media channels to raise awareness of our programs, galvanize volunteer interest, and publicize special events.

Fundraising

TMF relies on the generous donations of our supporters and needs help with developing fundraising programs. Ongoing activities include development of strategies to encourage new or increased contributions, raising awareness of our work aims and goals, building successful relationships by networking, and monitoring progress of fundraising campaigns.

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