



2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE



<https://www.improveoneida.com/>

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

# TO OUR COMMUNITY

## Introduction

This report describes the activities of the Oneida Community Cats Committee for the calendar year 2023. The Oneida Community Cats Committee is a Trap Neuter Return program and operates as a subcommittee of the Oneida Improvement Committee (OIC). The OIC was first incorporated in 1992 as a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt social welfare organization and was reorganized in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purpose of improving the lives of City of Oneida residents.

The Oneida Community Cats Committee is an all-volunteer group comprised of local community members who came together in 2021 because of their mutual interest in finding a way to address the community cat problem in the City of Oneida.

Trap Neuter Return is the only scientifically proven, evidence-based, humane, and effective approach to community cat population control. Thank you to our community as none of this would be possible without your help and support.

## Mission and Goals

### Mission:

The mission of the Oneida Community Cats Committee is to work with compassionate individuals, local governments, veterinary professionals, community members and other volunteers to achieve population decline of the unaltered, free-roaming, feral, and/or abandoned domestic cats (“community cats”) in our area through education and the use of a humane Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program.

### Goals:

1. Assist in creating a long-term community commitment to, and achievement of, the reduction of the local free roaming “community cat” population.
2. Reduction of the occurrence of nuisance behaviors associated with mating, including spraying, yowling, and fighting so that people and cats can live in harmony.
3. Find ways to support a successful TNR Program by gaining financial support in the form of fundraisers, grants, and contribution/support from local governments.
4. Promote humane treatment, and community understanding that “community cats” are victims of circumstance, deserve care and kindness, and provide a valuable public service in rodent control.
5. Aide in the community education and definition of what a “community cat” is. “Community Cats” is a term used to describe outdoor, unowned, free-roaming cats. These cats can be friendly, feral, adults, kittens, healthy, sick, altered and/or unaltered.
6. Promote unity through education. Support and encourage participation from community members, other animal support groups, veterinarians, and local government so that there is a clear understanding of the success that can be achieved through the operation of a strong Trap/Neuter/Return program.
7. Assist in the improvement of quality of life for homeless cats and kittens by creating an identification system to rate whether kittens or altered cats can be adopted, and coordinate with local fostering and adoption programs to support adoption.
8. Work with local governments to provide education, research, and data to assist in the prevention of future generations of “community cats.”

## 2023 Operations Summary

We had an extremely busy year between not only our Trap Neuter Return activities, but with fundraising, community education, community involvement, and various committee related functions. We made significant gains in all areas.

Highlights include:

- Maintained a positive relationship with 2 area veterinary groups- Village Veterinary Hospital and Paris Hill Hospital. Our accomplishments would not be possible without them. We also had contact with a variety of other clinics.
- Community advocacy has been amazing, allowing us to further strengthen our program. Several residents experiencing concerns with community cats have reached out to us. Each conversation lends to a moment of mutual support on some level, and an educational opportunity. This leads to unity. Residents from other communities also reach out to us for guidance.
- Addressed 9 separate cat colonies in 2023.
- A tracking sheet of all known colony information is maintained, and we utilize this to plan our trapping locations. We typically set up at 1-3 locations near a colony, and work on 1-3 colonies at a time. This is all coordinated with the homeowners.
- All veterinary invoices, fundraising activities, and donations are tracked and retained by the committee. For veterinary expenses reimbursed by the City of Oneida, the invoice/receipt is submitted to the City of Oneida to obtain reimbursement. Bank finances are handled by the OIC.
- Monthly meetings occur and we keep an agenda and minutes of the meetings. We maintain regular communication amongst the group regarding pertinent topics between meetings.
- Fundraising has been a large focus this past year - See below details under financials.
- Relationships have formed with animal advocacy groups. This has allowed us invaluable insight and sharing of knowledge and ideas.
- The committee was featured in a News 10 Now news story that was run statewide. This not only spotlighted the group's success but encouraged other NY areas to create similar programs to address the problem in their town.
- All "cat releases" are videotaped and we share the majority of those on our Facebook page.
- While we are not an adoption or fostering group, we have successfully worked with individuals and other groups to rehome several adoptable community kittens and cats. Every female can have up to 4 litters a year, so every cat makes a difference.

## Financial Summary

Expenditures in 2023 - \$8788.67. (All towards Veterinary bills)

Carryover from 2022-\$1,078.18

Funding added in 2023 - \$11,195.54.

Sources Include:

- City of Oneida budget - \$1,000
- Donations
  - Gorman Foundation - \$2,000.
  - Several personal and business donations from within the community, as well as some from out of state.
  - NBT Bank.
- Fundraising
  - Participation with the CatStock Fundraiser- \$1,900.
  - Eclectic Chic Sales Booth \$1,788.75- comprised of donations from the community.
  - Oneida Fall Fest- Raffle and donations.
  - Recovery Room Dining Fundraiser.
  - Got Sneakers Fundraiser- this is an ongoing fundraiser. Donation bins are located at: The Gorman Center on the Northside, the Oneida Municipal Building, The YMCA, The Village Veterinary Clinic, the Presbyterian Church, and the Oneida High School.
  - Cans for Cats program- this is an ongoing fundraiser. Bottles and Cans can be returned to the Redemption Center in the Northside Plaza and requested to be credited to our account.
  - Donation jars- this is an ongoing fundraiser. The jars are labeled and located at: The Eclectic Chic, Better Hearing, and Luso's Bakery at this time.

End of year balance: \$3,485.05

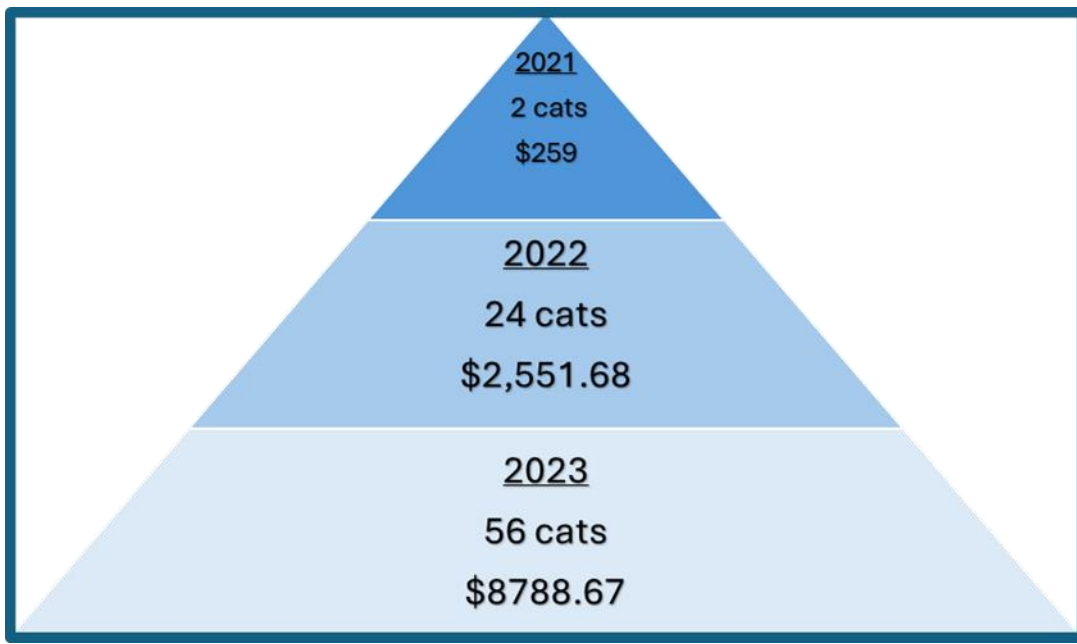
### 2024 to Date

Expenditures in 2024 -3 cats TNR'd - \$347 (Veterinary bills)

Donations and Fundraising to date \$1,279.85 (\$886.79 Eclectic Chic)

Balance February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024: \$4,417.90

## Year to Year # Cats and Cost Summary



We will continue our success in 2024

We plan to resume our current Trap Neuter Return processes in 2024 as weather permits. Areas of additional focus:

- We are looking to work with at least 2 additional veterinary groups as we are striving to incur less costs for veterinary bills.
- We will continue to expand our fundraising efforts; we have already raised \$432 dollars in January. We have fundraising activities planned for February and March.
- We would like to work with the City to look deeper into possible regulations as they relate to responsible pet ownership.
- Long Term Goal- Bring a mobile clinic to the area for Neuter/ Spay on a larger scale.

Created by: Oneida Community Cats Committee

Date: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024