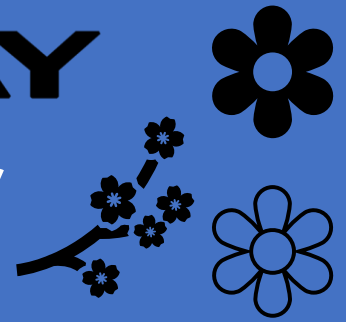




SPAY&STAY

2026 Spring/ Summer Newsletter

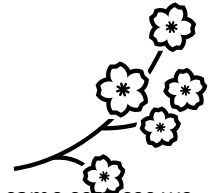


Important: TNR and Adoption Price Increase Effective June 1, 2026!

As operational costs increase, Spay and Stay will be adjusting the prices of our TNR copays and adoption fees. These changes will help ensure that we can continue providing critical services to the community while continuing to expand our funding sources.

As of June 1st, prices will increase as follows, and there may be another increase coming January 2027:

- **Regular TNR copay: \$50 for ferals** (ear tip, microchip, vaccines, spay/neuter); can you help pay it forward for others?
- **Non-ear tipped TNR copay: \$130** (microchip, vaccines, spay/neuter)
- **Adoption fees based on age:**
 - <6 months: \$150
 - 6-12 months: \$125
 - Over 1 year: \$100
 - \$25 off each cat after the first (Ex: 2x 4-month-old kittens will be \$275, not \$300)
 - **Picking up an animal off the streets** and taking to your own vet **will cost over \$1000** for the same services we provide.



Spay and Stay subsidizes the services we provide to Lake County, to help make TNR affordable for everyone so that everyone can help their local homeless cats. In that effort, below is the **breakdown of our basic required services for TNR cats:**

- **Average neuter (male cats) TNR appointment through Spay and Stay: \$105**
\$25 vaccinations, \$5 microchip, \$5 Revolution treatment, \$70 neuter surgery
- **Average spay (female cats) TNR appointment through Spay and Stay: \$135**
\$25 vaccinations, \$5 microchip, \$5 Revolution treatment, \$100 spay surgery.
- **Unexpected costs** often covered by caretakers or Spay and Stay can include (often requiring specific fundraising):
\$30 fecal test, \$10 deworming, \$150 for bloodwork or X-rays, \$100-500 for illness treatment and monitoring, \$1000+ for major surgeries (amputations, eye removal, pyometra, etc.)

As always, we will endeavor to keep the costs of TNR as affordable to Lake County Residents, but we need help to spread the word to those outside the Spay and Stay community. So, print and share our newsletters, ask for doorhangers or business cards to hand to neighbors, or tell people about our adoptables. If you're able, please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

We couldn't do this without you and your support!

Caretaker Corner: I am moving, what do I do about my colony cats?

If you know you are moving soon, reach out to your neighbors as soon as possible. Do not wait until the week before you are leaving. There may be other neighbors already feeding the cats that you didn't know about, or maybe someone is willing to help feed them.

But do not worry if you can't find help! Cats are resilient and will move on when their regular food source is no longer available to them. It's in their survival instincts.

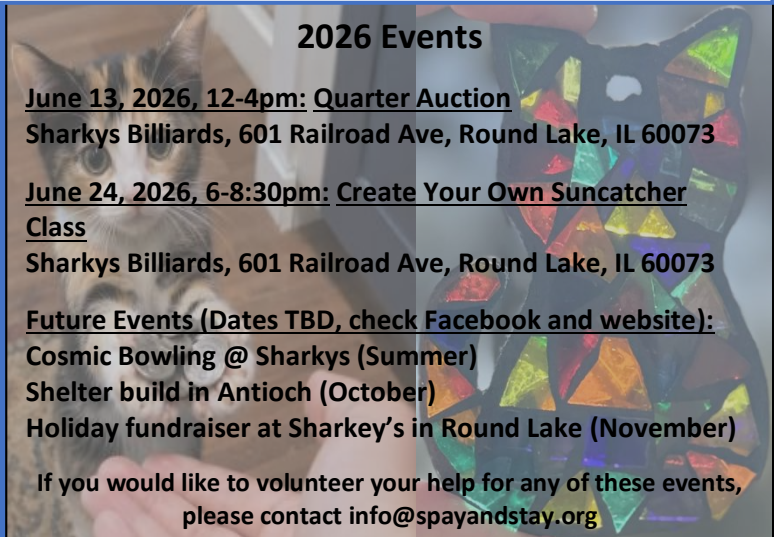
2026 Events

June 13, 2026, 12-4pm: Quarter Auction
Sharkys Billiards, 601 Railroad Ave, Round Lake, IL 60073

June 24, 2026, 6-8:30pm: Create Your Own Suncatcher Class
Sharkys Billiards, 601 Railroad Ave, Round Lake, IL 60073

Future Events (Dates TBD, check Facebook and website):
Cosmic Bowling @ Sharkys (Summer)
Shelter build in Antioch (October)
Holiday fundraiser at Sharkey's in Round Lake (November)

If you would like to volunteer your help for any of these events, please contact info@spayandstay.org



Bright Meadows Colony TNR

Margarita Ferguson

What started as the occasional skinny stray cat passing through has grown into something much bigger—an active, ongoing effort to care for and stabilize a feral cat colony right outside my front door. I literally now have a mini subdivision of cat houses on the sides of my house.

Over time, more cats that I've never seen began appearing. Some were clearly young, others already pregnant, and it became obvious that without intervention, the population would grow quickly. That's when I committed to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). I reached out to Spay and Stay for help.

So far, I've successfully trapped and spayed eleven cats—most of them young females, many under a year old, and at least two already pregnant with five kittens. Each one has been ear-tipped, vaccinated, and safely returned. It's been a learning experience filled with both small victories and unexpected challenges—like the time one determined cat (King Kitty as we call him) managed to escape not just the trap, but my garage overnight! A real Houdini!

My routine now includes feeding the cats twice daily, morning and late afternoon. I watch as they come from down the block, when they see me filling the bowls at mealtime. Some, like a cat I call Jerod, have become familiar and trusting—staying close, observing, and even eating nearby while I fill the bowls, though still keeping just enough distance to remain wild. Jerod has come to expect a can of wet food (not dry) and if it's not there, she checks all the bowls to verify my neglect!

Each cat has their own story. Nubz, who lost her tail in an early encounter, is now thriving after being spayed. Others come and go, and new cats still appear, reminding me that this work is ongoing.

Recovery after surgery happens in my garage, where I set up large crates with straw bedding, food, and litter boxes. I try to keep my presence minimal during recovery—these cats don't want affection; they want safety and space—and I respect that.

It's not always easy and I have learned a lot about cats over the last year! There are moments of frustration, worry about new litters, and the constant awareness that one missed cat can mean many more kittens. But there's also deep satisfaction in knowing that each cat helped makes a real difference.

This isn't just about controlling a population—it's about compassion, responsibility, and quietly improving the lives of animals who would otherwise go without care.

And I'll keep going. One cat at a time.



Spay and Stay is Funded in part by:



**KENNETH A. SCOTT
CHARITABLE TRUST**



THE LAKE COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
An affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust

Have a heartwarming story or comment to share with our community? Email kpatterson@spayandstay.org with your story and we might select it to appear in our future newsletters!

SPAY AND STAY

P.O. Box 145, Grayslake, IL 60030 847-289-4557 www.spayandstay.org info@spayandstay.org

Here's my gift to help end feline homelessness in our communities.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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