

PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS 2023 REPORT

Palm Beach Island Cats (PBIC) wants all cats to live safely in houses. Our program of trap, neuter, return and maintain is the humane way to get there. We provide food and water every night, as well as any necessary medical care. We respond to resident concerns daily. Now I'd like to share serious challenges we face.

Increasing numbers of cats are being brought to Palm Beach and abandoned. This is a new and big problem. It is shocking to have 28 single kittens, as well as many adult pets and trapped feral cats, brought over the bridges, and released. The new ferals are a particular problem because they have been recently trapped and are trap shy, making it very hard for us to recapture and neuter them. The problem a few years ago on Jamaica Lane is a perfect example of what can happen. In short order, 3 cats became 46. We had hoped the success of our work meant that there would eventually be no free roaming community cats. We have learned that fertile cats will continue to be abandoned here and a Town TNR group will always be needed to ensure a huge cat population is not created again.

The community cat population in West Palm has suffered just such a population explosion. Shelters are full and stopped admitting cats. It was a shock to see our longtime partner, Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, stop admitting. This combination of huge cat population and nowhere to take a cat for adoption, is driving our problem of dumped cats. In addition, we have always depended on Peggy Adams for feral cat spay and neuter procedures. Their sterilization program is now under extreme pressure due to increased demand. This demand has exceeded their current capacity. Now PBIC cannot get a surgery slot. There are few other providers for feral cat sterilization and certainly no low-cost ones. We had 57 cats to alter this year and it was very difficult to accomplish.

PBIC sometimes must take in and domesticate tiny kittens. Peggy Adams has a program for this difficult procedure. Sadly, we cannot get a kitten admitted to it. Our Field Director must handle this, with its required hourly feeding. Once we have raised and domesticated these kittens, Peggy Adams had always helped us by placing the kittens for adoption, as well as the dumped pet cats we caught. This is no longer available to us, and that is huge problem.

Palm Beach has had an influx of new residents. Most are kind and considerate. Some are not. They do not know the Island's cat history or have any consideration or compassion for our cats. We do our best to placate them, but for many, that is not possible.

A number of cats were lost to coyotes when they first appeared, including a beautiful, friendly long haired male right behind Bobbie Lindsey's house, in the far north end. This predation seems to have slowed down now, but please, still be careful letting pet cats or small dogs out unattended, because coyote's range is now the whole Island.

We are very good at our mission, but providing adoption services, neonatal care and placating difficult, aggressive residents, has stretched us to the limit.

Finally, some Good News

1. Our small staff continues to excel in their difficult work. We are very lucky to have them.
2. We have a steadfast Board of Directors that is the backbone of all we accomplish.

3. Our residents appreciate us and fund our work.
4. It is great news that Island Animal Hospital has found a new home on the Island. They have provided wonderful care to our cats from our inception.
5. The Royal Poinciana Playhouse was home to a large cat colony for many decades. Through TNR, the population slowly decreased, till there were no cats there when Playhouse reconstruction started.
6. PBIC is very thankful for the support of Town Council and Code Enforcement. We could not survive without it.

PALM BEACH ISLAND CATS 2023 /2022 COMPARISON

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Cats Handled	66	51
New Alters.	57	32
Medical Treatment.	19	13
Revaccinated	66	30
Kittens.	46*	15
returned to island	9	3
placed for adoption	37	12
Total Deceased Cats	29	8
Hit by car.	8	3
Euthanized	12	5
Feeding Stations	50	35
Census	350	230

FOOD USED

Dry Food-		
Taste of Wild + Purina	4,240 lbs.	4,850 lbs.
Wet Food	21,353 cans	26,973 cans

2023 food numbers are lower than 2022, despite more cats this year, due to some resident feeders choosing to buy their own cat food.

Sincerely,

David Leavitt

Pres.

PBIC Board of Directors

Jane Dankin Ellen Ruland
David Leavitt Rob Scarborough
Cheryl Love Dr. John Strasswimmer
Michele Poole