

Trap-Neuter-Return

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Trap-Neuter-Return?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the humane approach to addressing community cat populations, saves cats' lives and is effective. In TNR, free roaming, unowned community (aka feral) cats are humanely trapped, spay or neutered by a Veterinarian, vaccinated, and returned to the area from which they are trapped. They are also ear tipped, the universal sign that they have been spay or neutered.

Does TNR help cats?

Yes! TNR improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, reduces complaints about cats, and stops the breeding cycle—reducing the number of community cats over time. Altered cats live longer, healthier lives!

Does TNR help people and other animals in the area?

Yes! Trap-Neuter-Return makes cats better neighbors. TNR improves the co-existence between outdoor cats and humans in our shared environment. Neutered cats also roam less and do not fight over mates, and generally engage in less undesirable behaviors.

Why not just remove the cats?

Removing cats from an area by killing or relocating them is not only cruel—it's pointless. Each time cats are removed, the population will rebound through a natural phenomenon known as the "vacuum effect," drawing the community into a costly, endless cycle of trapping and killing.

Can't I just ignore the problem?

No! Female unaltered cats can go into heat as early as 3.5 months of age and produce up to three litters a season! Cat colonies can quickly grow, creating problems for the cats in the colony and the humans near by. A stable, spay/neutered colony, on the other hand, provides all the benefits of cats (e.g. rodent management) with less of the issues and healthier cats.



Is it cruel to leave community cats outside?

Community cats generally do quite well outdoors. Studies show that after neutering, cats become healthier and gain weight. Outdoor cats in managed colonies even live longer thanks to TNR.

How can Community Cat Allies help?

Community Cat Allies, a local non-profit, can help with local cat colonies! Community Cat Allies has a group of volunteer trappers who can trap all of the cats in a colony over time and use local, low cost spay/neuter resources to get the cats altered and vaccinated. We then return the cats to the original area and can come back if additional, unaltered cats are found. Additionally, we can provide education to local residents and partners about the benefits of TNR. Contact us today for more information!

Thank you for helping our community cats!

Adapted from Alley Cat Allies: alleycat.org

