

You've probably seen them gathered around dumpsters and in parking lots—homeless cats who flee from humans. These cats, referred to as "feral," are the result of both the failure of people to spay or neuter their cats and cat abandonment, which despite being illegal in NJ, still happens.

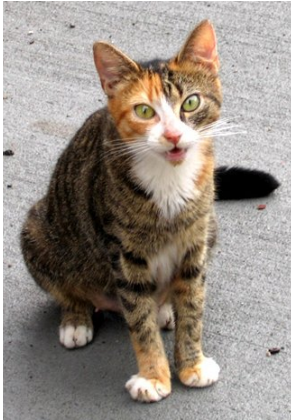
Rounding up and killing the victims of such negligence and indifference should NOT be a consideration.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is an effective, internationally recognized program by which cats are trapped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered and returned to their original location. A feral cat caregiver, usually a volunteer rescue worker, feeds the cats on a regular basis and brings them to a veterinarian if they require medical assistance. The resultant group of cats, including any new cats entering the caregiver's sphere, is known as a managed feral cat colony.

How are feral cats different from other cats?

Feral is defined as "having returned to a wild state from domestication."

Feral cats have generally been born in the wild—even if that means just behind a local strip mall—and have had little or no human contact, causing them to develop a natural fear of humans, thereby reverting to a wild state. Not all cats in a colony are feral, some may be strays who are lost or have been recently abandoned by humans.



Why doesn't trap and kill work?

Traditional attempts to trap and kill cats have historically resulted in greater numbers of stray animals than have well planned programs to trap, neuter and return cats—the TNR program. TNR, in

conjunction with public education, stabilizes numbers and facilitates the eventual elimination of colonies of cats. The trap and kill method is usually implemented in spurts. Cats will be trapped for a few weeks and then the area is abandoned. Cats who escaped the traps remain. Moreover, people continue to abandon cats and allow unneutered cats to roam. Without public education, and a permanent caregiver to monitor the area, the breeding cycle quickly starts up again. Trap and kill has been used for decades and there is still a feral cat overpopulation problem. It is unethical and does not work.

Why do some oppose TNR?

Misconceptions regarding feral cats and TNR may cause unnecessary public anxiety. Many believe that ferals carry diseases or are responsible for bird and wildlife decline. Some believe that cats are better off dead than living outdoors and there are those who simply don't want the cats around.

Isn't it true that cats should be kept indoors?

Ideally, yes. Domestic cats are safest indoors. However, because of the overpopulation crisis, there are not nearly enough homes available. The next best thing for feral cats is a managed colony where food, water, shelter and veterinary care are consistently provided.

Can't they just be moved? Or taken to a sanctuary or farm?

There simply aren't enough sanctuaries, barn homes, and the like to house the tens of millions of feral cats estimated to be living in the United States. The only humane and effective way to control the feral cat population and give the cats a chance at healthier lives is through TNR.

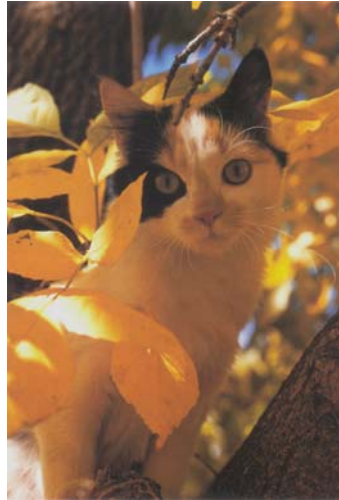


TNR is the only program for stabilizing and reducing feral cat populations in a practical, respectful and effective manner. Read on to learn more.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return?

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Feral Cats Questions & Answers

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Under no circumstances should cats ever be relocated or abandoned in an unfamiliar area. They will not be able to survive by hunting. Furthermore, cats are extremely territorial animals and will try to find their way back 'home.' Most will not survive their desperate attempts to reconnect with their family and the habitat where they were born. Abandoning animals is a cruel and illegal practice.

Do feral cats pose public health risks?

Stanford University's Department of Environmental Health and Safety conducted a study which found that feral cats pose virtually no risks to the public safety.

Rabies is not commonly found in feral cat colonies. Overall, the danger of rabies in

