



ALLEY CATS AND ANGELS
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Advocates for Forgotten Felines

Alley Cats and Angels
PO Box 785
Apex, NC 27502
919-303-3500
info@alleycatsandangels.org
tnr@alleycatsandangels.org
www.alleycatsandangels.org

Our Mission

Alley Cats and Angels is dedicated to improving the lives of the stray, abandoned, and feral cats and the overall reduction of homeless cats in the Triangle.

We:

- maintain a non-profit, foster home based cat rescue for stray and abandoned cats and kittens
- find loving, permanent, and safe homes for the cats
- help alleviate the problem of overpopulation in our area by sponsoring spay/neuter surgeries for cats from low-income/hardship families
- bring attention to the plight of feral cats and help facilitate zero growth in street/feral colonies by sponsoring spay/neuter surgeries for feral cats
- relocate at risk feral cats into safe barn/garden homes so they are no longer in danger and have a second chance at life
- educate the public about pet overpopulation and promote sterilization (spay/neuter)

Leading Sources for Feral Cat and TNR Information

- www.alleycat.org
- www.feralcat.com
- www.feralcatcaretakers.org
- www.neighborhoodcats.org
- www.indyferal.org/
- www.americancat.net/
- www.urbancatleague.org/
- www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/resourcelibrary/feralindex.cfm
- www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral_cats/qa/feral_cat_FAQs.html
- www.aspca.org/adoption/feral-cats-faq.html

Feral Cats and TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return)

What is a feral cat/free roaming cat?

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.

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 humans is relatively slight, but the best way to eradicate any risk of rabies from a feral cat is through a TNR program. Feral cats who are TNR'd are vaccinated against the disease, thus eliminating the concern about feral cats carrying rabies.

What is TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), It is a non-lethal method to reduce the number of feral and stray cats in our community both immediately and for the long-term. TNR is a comprehensive, ongoing program, in which stray and feral cats are humanely trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated, and sterilized by veterinarians. They are returned to their original location to live out their lives under the watch of voluntary caregivers who provide food, water, and shelter daily. TNR is the only successful long-term strategy for humanely controlling the population of feral or free roaming cats. A sterilized colony of feral cats will stabilize, and eventually decline in numbers through illness, accidents and old age. All free roaming cats should be spayed and neutered.

How does TNR benefit the community?

TNR benefits the local community by stabilizing a colony and helping facilitate zero growth due to spay/neuter. TNR will help eliminate nuisance behaviors because sterilized cats are less likely to spray, fight, and yowl. In addition, sharing your community with a colony of sterilized feral cats can help control pest problems and will typically keep other cats from moving into the area.

“Catch and Kill” does not work – neither does complacency

Removal attempts may temporarily reduce the number of feral cats in a given area; however, two things happen: first, the unsterilized survivors continue to breed and, second, other cats move into the now available territory (known as the “vacuum effect”). Stopping feeding will not make the cats go away. Cats bond to their territory and can survive on garbage, if necessary. Stopping feeding will only make the cats suffer as they search for new sources of food. In communities not practicing TNR, several decades of “catch and kill” has done nothing to reduce the feral cat population – there are more cats than ever. ***TNR is the only program that works to combat and end feral cat overpopulation.***

What can you do to help feral cats in your community?

- Make sure that all cats in your care are spayed or neutered.
- Help educate the residents of your community and your local politicians by becoming a spokesperson for feral cats. The biggest obstacle for most caregivers is fighting with hostile neighbors.
- Support TNR efforts. The reduction of feral cat populations requires a community's effort. Get involved. Help end the suffering of these cats and prevent future births. Seek the advice or assistance of an experienced rescuer before attempting to handle or trap a homeless cat.
- Ignoring homeless animals is precisely what perpetuates the problem.

Detailed information on TNR and feral colony management

- <http://www.alleycatsandangels.org/TNR-FeralColonyMgmt.pdf>