

Trap-Neuter-Return: Supporting Community Cats

As a member of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition, we are committed to offering support for community cat populations and their caretakers.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a humane approach to population and health management of community cats. Without TNR, community cat populations can balloon out of control. TNR not only controls population but can help reduce the risk of disease transmission through vaccination and reduction of diseases spread by reproduction. Cats who are spayed or neutered live longer and healthier lives.

TNR programs also help community cats live more harmoniously with humans by reducing behaviours associated with mating, such as yowling or fighting, and reducing the odour of the male cats.

Management of community cat populations through TNR has been one of the main reasons for lower shelter intake and euthanasia numbers in recent decades. In fact, [a recent study](#) completed by Toronto Humane Society determined that there is a strong correlation between an increase in TNR and a decrease in stray cat intakes.

Trap-Neuter-Return begins with committed community members who place baited humane traps in areas with known cat colonies. The cats enter the trap and are safely contained and transported to our clinic. We sedate the cats safely through the trap to minimize stress to the cats. Following surgery, the cats are returned to the community member who will keep the cat confined for recovery for 24-72 hours, then release the cat to where it was found.

Cats in the TNR program receive a spay or neuter surgery, core vaccinations, parasite treatment, a veterinary exam, and a microchip. This is all at no charge to the community member bringing in the cat for surgery. We do not receive any funding from the City of Toronto for this service. The TNR program is fully subsidized by the Toronto Humane Society through generous support from our community. [Please consider donating to help this program continue.](#)

To learn how to support community cat management and become a caretaker please enroll in the “Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony” course offered through [Community Cats Toronto](#). Please visit their website for upcoming course dates and registration.

