



## Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

### Benefits of TNR

TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is a humane approach to managing community cat colonies while keeping the animals' welfare in mind. Community cats are unsocialized, outdoor cats who are not suitable as indoor pets, due to the stress they experience from human contact and confinement. This stress compromises the welfare of those cats when admitted to shelters and can lead to limited positive outcomes.

### TNR (TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN)

Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR is a method for managing community cats, whereby cats are humanely trapped and surgically sterilized, vaccinated and ear tipped under anesthesia. Ear tipping is an international indicator that the cat is sterilized and prevents future trapping. Following the procedure, the cats are returned to their original managed colony.

### Why Is TNR Important? Reducing Free-Roaming Cat Populations

TNR clinics and services can be an effective strategy in reducing the community cat population in a nonlethal, humane way while allowing the welfare of community cats to be maintained. Several studies show that TNR programs are an effective approach to reducing the total outdoor cat population by decreasing the breeding population, which stabilizes the population in the short term and causes an eventual population decline. Ensuring all cats are altered is critical to the program being effective.

### OTHER TNR BENEFITS

The advantages of TNR, when the method is practiced on a community-wide scale, extends well beyond each individual colony:

1. **Prevents new, unaltered colonies from forming:** Cats choose to live where there is easy access to food sources and shelter. Since every habitat has a maximum population size that can be sustained, cat colonies will usually guard their territory against newcomers to



protect their resources and support their current members. Removing cats from a colony is not enough to manage the population in the long-term because the availability of resources is still there, so new cats will just move in and take over the territory. Furthermore, if any cats are left behind after the removal process, they may respond by increasing their birth rates thus increasing their survival rates.

- 2. Disease control:** Vaccinations and parasitic medication are included in TNR programs; therefore, reducing the risk of disease transmission and improving in the health of the colony.
- 3. Fewer nuisance complaints:** Undesirable behaviours related to mating, such as fighting, roaming, noise and noxious odors decrease as more cats are neutered. This in turn reduces the burden and cost on local animal control units, as it decreases the total number of complaints.
- 4. Rodent control is maintained:** Cats provide a natural form of rodent control, thus minimizing the spread of disease. Capturing, altering and returning cats to their colony allows this relationship to continue. Despite the common misconception, altered cats are just as effective hunters as their non-altered counterparts.
- 5. Lower euthanasia rates:** TNR plays a key role in reducing euthanasia rates in shelters because community cats who are unsuitable for rehoming are returned to their original location.
- 6. Cost savings for shelters:** These programs help reduce cat shelter admissions which leads to fewer costs related to capturing, processing, caring for and euthanizing of stray community cats brought into shelters who cannot be adopted into regular homes. Additionally, these cost savings free up additional space for adoptable cats.
- 7. Healthier, less visible colony:** Spaying, neutering, regular food and adequate shelter greatly improve the cats' overall health. By spaying female cats, they are no longer forced to endure the physical demands of numerous pregnancies - which can lead to cancer and other reproductive related diseases. In addition, neutering male cats results in less fighting and injury in the long run.



## ADDITIONAL LINKS

Additional Helpful Links For even more information on TNR, click to access or search online for:

[Just the Facts: The Vacuum Effect | Alley Cat Allies](#)

[Why Trap-Neuter-Return Feral Cats and What is TNR? | Alley Cat Allies](#)

[Trap-Neuter-Return Research Compendium | Alley Cat Allies](#)

[Trap Neuter Vaccinate Return: TNVR for Cats | Best Friends Animal Society](#)

[TNR Effectiveness Case Studies | Best Friends Animal Society](#)

You can also ask questions by emailing: [tnr@edmontonhumanesociety.com](mailto:tnr@edmontonhumanesociety.com)

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