

Community Cats

Helpful Information and Tips for the Community

A Community Cat is a catch-all term often used to describe any outdoor cat that may appear to not have an owner. Feral cats, which are under- or not socialized, fall under this umbrella, as do free-roaming, friendly cats.

In Maricopa County, cats are not subject to the same licensing and leash laws as dogs. Because of this, Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) cannot pick up stray or feral cats or take action against those feeding cats in their neighborhoods.

Many times, members of the community act as colony managers to ensure that a feral cat colony is a managed colony. Cats in these communities are usually fed, watered, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and monitored for overall health. Other times, the cats are self-reliant and can survive in the neighborhood on their own, without any direct assistance.

TNR

TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is a long-proven and effective method for humanely addressing community cat populations across the world.

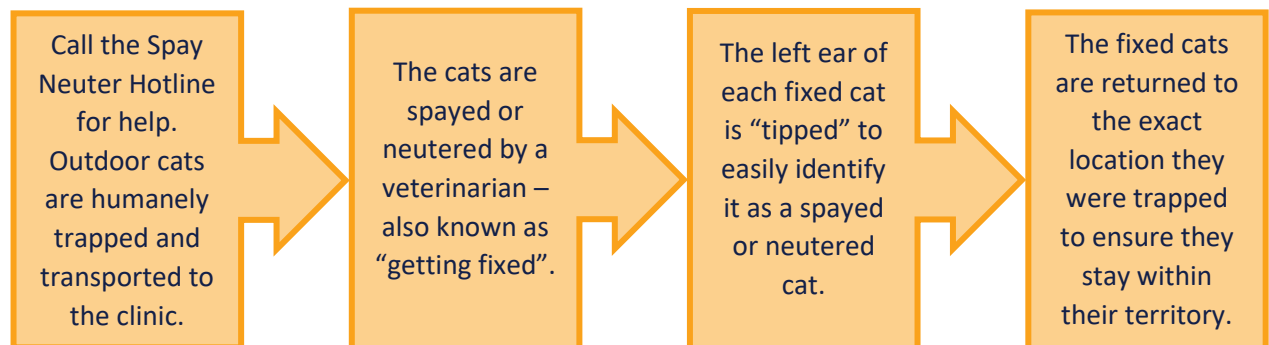
Trap: The cats are humanely trapped and brought to a clinic.

Neuter: The cats are fixed, vaccinated, and their left ear is “tipped” to indicate they have been fixed.

Return: The fixed cats are safely returned to their colony.



Trap Neuter Return Process



Spay Neuter Hotline (ADLA): 602-265-7729

Injured or Sick Animals (AHS): 602-997-7585



Benefits of TNR

- Cats become better neighbors as it reduces or eliminates unwanted mating behaviors (e.g., yowling, fighting, spraying).
- Cats will be healthier when treated with this humane solution and typically are less likely to wander from their food source.
- Halts the breeding cycle which allows community cat populations to stabilize and eventually decline.
- Protects and respects cats' lives.

How to Help Keep Community Cats Away from Your Property

- Remove or secure all potential food and water sources from your property, including dog food.
- Spray concentrated orange juice or hang orange or lemon peels in areas where cats are spraying – cats do not like the citrus scent.
- Keep all trash and recycle bins tightly closed as cats are considered opportunistic feeders/hunters.
- Use a motion-detecting device that turns on a sprinkler or bright light in response to motion on your property, such as ScareCrow™.
- Remove or secure potential shelter areas – secure access under houses, sheds, decks, porches, and buildings with wire fencing.
- Use plastic carpet runners spike-side up and covered lightly in soil to prevent cats from digging in your garden.
- Keep landscaping trimmed to avoid creating hiding/nesting spots.
- Spread dried wild animal manure in the areas you notice feral cats in your yard; wild animal urine also may work to deter the cats.
- There are also many commercial cat repellants (chemical and non-chemical options) available in garden stores, pet shops, and online.

For more information about TNR, please call the Spay Neuter Hotline at 602-265-7729 or complete the online form: <https://adlaz.org/spay-neuter-hotline/outdoor-cats/newrequest-for-tnr-services/>.

Additional Resources

Alley Cat Allies: <https://www.alleycat.org/>

Altered Tails: <https://www.alteredtails.org/stray-outdoor-cats>

Fix.Adopt.Save.: <https://www.fixadoptsave.org/trap-neuter-return-program>

Foundation for Homeless Cats: <http://www.thefoundationforhomelesscats.org/faqs/>

Spay Neuter Clinic: <https://www.spayaz.com/>

