



What is a Community Cat?

A community, or free-roaming, cat is the general name of a cat who lives outside and is not considered anyone's pet. These community cats can be considered a stray (with aloof to friendly personalities) or feral (wild).

Benefits of Spaying or Neutering a Community Cat

- Helps end overpopulation of stray and feral cats in your area
- Makes cats less aggressive
- Keeps cats healthier
- Lowers the amount of spraying
- Lowers the number of cats yowling during mating season
- Drastically lowers the number of kittens born in unwanted litters

Did You Know?

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton is:

- A **no-kill** animal welfare agency with an average save rate of 99%
- The **only agency** in the Miami Valley to care for all types of animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, horses, farm animals, exotics and more
- The **only agency** with humane agents investigating cruelty and neglect against all types of animals
- The **longest-serving agency** helping animals since 1902
- **Solely funded** by individuals, corporations and grants. We receive no government funding.

Humane Society of Greater Dayton
1661 Nicholas Rd., Dayton, OH 45417
(937) 268-PETS (7387)
www.hsd Dayton.org



Thanks to Best Friends Animal Society for providing a grant to print these educational materials!



TNR: A Humane Approach to Cat Overpopulation



A no-kill organization and the oldest, most-established animal welfare agency in the Miami Valley - helping people and pets since 1902.



What is TNR?

TNR stands for Trap-Neuter-Return. It is the only proven effective way to humanely address cat overpopulation.

Trap

Community cats are humanely trapped and brought to our shelter.

Neuter (Spay)

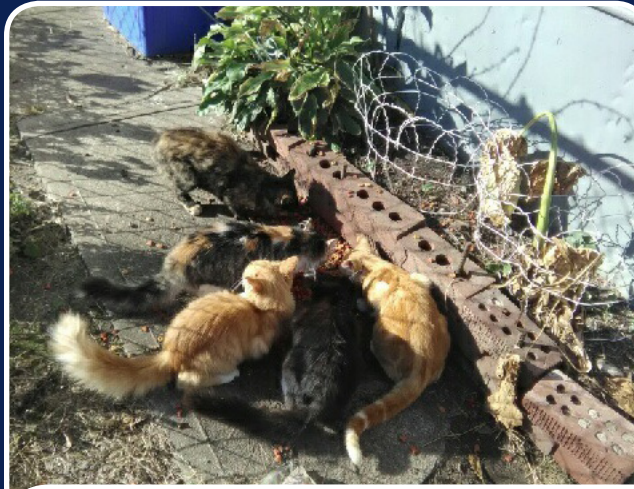
These cats are spayed or neutered so they can no longer reproduce. During surgery, their ear is also tipped. This is when the tip of a cat's left ear is removed during surgery. This is the universal sign of an altered community cat.

Return

Community, or free-roaming, cats who are healthy and have a clear food source will be returned to their location. Friendly, healthy cats and kittens that are trapped may be eligible for our adoption program. Please contact (937) 268-PETS (7387) for information.

Euthanasia Doesn't Work

Traditionally, the answer to cat overpopulation was to trap and euthanize cats, but this doesn't fix the problem of overpopulation.



The Vacuum Effect

Once cats are removed from an area, other cats can move in to take advantage of the newly available food and resources. This is commonly called the vacuum effect.

When you catch and euthanize community cats, you are just opening a space for other stray cats to fill the void. By trapping, spaying or neutering and releasing these cats back to where they were trapped, you are stopping the reproduction process while still keeping the same number of cats in an area. This way, these altered cats cannot add to the problem and with time the number of cats in an area will drop.

How You Can Help

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton always needs passionate individuals who want to help stop cat overpopulation in our community. There are several ways you can help us battle this issue.

Sign Up for a Class

Do you have a stray cat problem in your community? Help us by becoming a trapper. We offer a free Cat Trapper Training Course that is open to the public. Through this course you will learn about TNR and how to properly and safely use a live-release trap. For upcoming training events, visit www.hsdayton.org/events.

Trap in Your Community

We have an amazing pool of people who want to improve the lives of community cats in their neighborhoods while lowering unwanted litters. Don't have a trap? Don't worry, you can rent one from us! Plus, as a leader in TNR, we partner with most area cities and townships to provide this TNR service for a very low-cost, if not free.

For information on how to get involved with our program visit www.hsdayton.org. To see if your area is one of our partner communities, contact your local city or township. Together, we can make an impact to provide safe and healthy lives for the community cats in the Miami Valley.

