

Why TNVR?

The traditional method of Trap and Kill, which has been practiced in Cumberland County, has **not** resulted in any appreciable decrease in the number of feral and stray cats.

- TNVR is a humane way of managing populations of feral cats.
- Feral cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies and other diseases, and returned to where they were trapped.
- Reduction in number of feral cats over time.
- Cost savings to the county (less than \$15 for female cat, less than \$6 for a male cat) due to volunteer labor for the TNVR clinics vs Trap and Kill (\$29 per cat).
- Grant funding can reduce cost of materials for TNVR to zero.
- Less risk of injury or illness to county employees from feral cats.
- TNVR cats are vaccinated for rabies, reducing the risk of that deadly disease.
- Fewer citizen complaints due to nuisance behaviors.
- Small kittens are “rehabilitated” and placed in homes.
- The left ear of each cat is “tipped” to allow easy identification in the future.



Community Cat Program



Community cats, also called feral cats, are unowned cats that live outdoors. Like indoor cats, they belong to the domestic cat species. Community cats are generally unsocialized and unfriendly to people. This makes them unadoptable and unsuitable as pets or companion animals. They live full, healthy lives with their feline families, called colonies, in their outdoor homes.

Cats living outdoors is nothing new. Kitty litter was not even invented until the 1940s, making it possible for cats to become “Indoor” only cats. Before this, all pet cats roamed freely in and out of their human homes. Community cats are cats that thrive in their outdoor homes.

Community cats are considered part of the natural wildlife of the area; however, they are usually more visible than opossums or raccoons, that also inhabit the same spaces.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

4704 Corporation Dr.
Fayetteville NC 28306
910-321-6852

TNVR

Trap. Neuter. Vaccinate. Return.



**A Humane
& Effective Solution**
to Feral Cats in
Cumberland County





Often called community, stray, wild, alley, barn or neighborhood cats, **feral cats** live outdoors, avoid humans, are not socialized and cannot be touched.

The Process

- Unadoptable feral cat colonies are identified by their caretakers or concerned citizens.
- Coordination is then made with Cumberland County Animal Services to begin trapping these cats for the TNVR program.
- Trapped cats are brought to the shelter by appointment, where they are surgically sterilized, vaccinated and ear tipped.
- Cats are then returned to the place they were captured and rejoin their colony.
- Traps are set to catch more members of the colony and the cycle continues until all cats are sterilized and vaccinated.

Community cats can be easily identified by their "tipped" ears.

These cats are fixed and vaccinated!



Living with Community Cats

One of the main community concerns about TNVR is the number of unwanted cats on private property. TNVR will ensure that new cats are not being introduced into the community by putting the brakes on unchecked breeding. The cats that remain can be humanly trained to avoid lawns, flower beds, cars, porches, gardens and outdoor furnishings.

Nuisance Cats



Cats that have owners and that are allowed to roam freely and cause damage to property of others or present a public danger or hazard are considered "nuisance cats."

Nuisance cats are still managed by Animal Services. Reports of nuisance cats will be taken by Animal Services and assessed. If the cat is found to have an owner and meets the qualifications as a nuisance, under county ordinance, the cat may be removed, or the owner fined.

Deterrent Methods

Use deterrents to train cats to stay away from your property or flower beds. Once trained, cats will gravitate to areas more attractive to them. Simple methods of deterring cats include:

- Motion activated sprinklers
- Carpet runners
- Pans filled with vinegar
- Cat deterrent plants
- Ultrasonic deterrent devices
- Scat Mats
- Chop sticks stuck into garden soil
- River rock on top of exposed soil
- Fresh orange or lemon peels
- Wet coffee grounds (also good for flowers)



5 Steps for Humanely Deterring Cats

1. Talk to your neighbors. Determine if they are owned or feral cats. Refer them to Animal Services.
2. Apply nontoxic deterrents around your yard.
3. Put a tight lid on your trash can.
4. Block gaps in the foundation of sheds and porches.
5. Use a car cover if paw prints are a problem.

E-mail: tnr@co.cumberland.nc.us