

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR) GUIDE



Trap-Neuter-Return is the only humane and effective approach to feral cat populations. Here are the three basic steps to this lifesaving process:



Trap

Humanely trap all the cats in a colony (group of cats living outdoors together) the night before your scheduled surgery day



Spay/Neuter

On surgery day, take the cats in their traps to a veterinarian or clinic to be neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped (the universal symbol of a neutered and vaccinated cat)



Return

After the cats recover, return them to their outdoor home where they were trapped

Please remember - Feral cats are wild animals. It is important that you protect yourself and never touch a feral cat. Please stay quiet, calm, and conscious of the well-being of the cats during your trapping ventures.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

1. Feed cats in the same area every day, and ideally the same time every day. They will learn this schedule.
2. Withhold food for 24 hours. (example - if you want to trap on Monday night, you would feed the colony on Saturday night or Sunday morning for the last time until the traps are placed out)
3. Put a high value treat or canned food in the trap and place in the area where they are routinely fed. **Traps are available at WCHS to rent for TNR purposes.**
4. Back away from the traps and allow for the community cats to arrive. Consider leaving the feeding area and returning in an hour or two to check the traps
5. Once the feral cats are trapped, cover the traps with a sheet, towel or blanket to help reduce the feral cats fear and stress. Bring the trap into a temperature-controlled area overnight and away from other animals (ex. Garage). **DO NOT TRY TO OPEN THE TRAP OR TOUCH THE FERAL CAT.**
6. Bring to the shelter/clinic performing surgery
7. When surgery occurs, a rabies vaccine is usually given to help protect the wild cat, as well as an ear-tip, which lets others know that this cat cannot reproduce anymore
8. Sometimes a feral cat may be euthanized if the veterinarian performing surgery determines that the feral cat is suffering from disease or may not survive surgery due to illness
9. The feral cat will spend the night after surgery in the trap. If the shelter/clinic performing surgery does not keep the cat the night after surgery, place the trap back in temperature-controlled room. Cover with a blanket/towel to reduce stress.
10. Release the morning after surgery in the same location that feral cat was trapped in. You can resume normal feeding.

REMINDER: It is illegal to dump/abandon/relocate animals into a location other than where they were found without the permission of the owner of the property. Feral cats are best suited remaining in the location found when possible because they know where to find resources such as food, shelter, and water. Moving feral cats from their outdoor home can be detrimental to them.

This information was organized with the help of **Alley Cat Allies**. For more info on TNR, please visit their website or watch their informational video by scanning the QR codes.

