

## **Frequently Asked Questions—Trap/Neuter/Return Program**

**What is a feral cat?** A feral cat has had little contact with humans and is fearful of people. He or she usually lives outdoors on their own. Feral cats may be called community or barn cats.

**What is a stray cat?** A stray cat is a tame cat who has become lost or has been abandoned. Stray cats were socialized to people at some point in their lives.

**What is trap/neuter/return (T/N/R)?** Trap/neuter/return is a three-step process. The feral or stray cats are humanely trapped. The cats are taken in their traps to a veterinary clinic or a spay/neuter clinic where they are spayed (females) or neutered (males), eartipped, and given a rabies vaccination. They are then returned to their original location.

**What is SNACK's T/N/R program?** In our program, volunteers come to your home, trap the cats in our humane traps, and then transport them to the veterinary clinic for surgery and a rabies vaccination and ear-tipping. The cats are then returned to you either late the same day or the next day.

We ask you to complete our application for assistance and return it to us. After we review it, we will call you and discuss the project.

**How do you evaluate my application?** The first thing we look at is your location. We trap in four counties—Delaware, Morrow, Knox, and southern Richland counties. If you are not in this area, we are not able to assist you. We also need to have a volunteer, or preferably two, who can assist in the project.

We also look at ownership of the colony location. If you rent your home (such as an apartment or a mobile home park), we have to have the management's signed approval for our activity.

We also look at the number of cats in the project. In some very big projects, we may not have the resources to assist you.

We make sure the cats are feral cats and not outside pets. The program is for feral cats only.

Whatever the case may be, we will contact you regarding your application and if you are turned down, we may have some suggestions for other ways to get the cats spayed or neutered.

**Will you lend me traps?** No. The group is not set up to loan traps because of liability issues and because we need the traps for our projects.

**Who pays for this?** On your application, you will be asked to donate time (helping us trap or transport), or money, or recyclable aluminum cans. These ways help us to pay for projects. Other money to cover surgical expenses/veterinary expenses comes from our donors, fundraising efforts, and grants (when granted to SNACK for this purpose). The SNACK volunteers donate their time and travel expenses. They are not reimbursed for either.

**When will you start my project?** We work on trap/neuter/return projects on a first-come, first-served basis. We also have to coordinate schedules of all those involved—you, the client, the volunteers, and the veterinary clinic. We do not trap in bad weather or when temperatures are below 40 degrees. Generally, trapping season is from late April to late October. We will give you a week or more of notice when we are ready to start your project.

Usually, we trap in the morning to minimize the time a cat has to spend in a trap. We do not trap on weekends because most veterinary clinics are not doing surgery on weekends. We do not trap at night.

**What if you don't trap all the cats?** We do our best to trap all the cats and will try various strategies to get them all. Sometimes however, the cats outsmart us. In these cases, we may ask you to trap the remaining cats, if you are willing and able to do so. We will lend you a trap, make the veterinary clinic appointment, and transport the cat to and from the clinic if needed.

**What if I find homes for the kittens?** We ask that all kittens are sterilized before they leave the colony. Kittens can be spayed or neutered at two months of age or two pounds weight. Failure to follow this guideline will terminate SNACK's participation in your project.

**What if the kittens can be socialized?** SNACK is not a shelter or a rescue. Occasionally, we can take in a kitten if they are young enough to be socialized and would be endangered if they were returned to the colony. We rely on our foster volunteers and their availability. We can help with spay and neuter, but we are not an adoption agency.

**What if more cats move in?** If more cats move into the colony, we ask you to call us so we can trap again. TNR works best when all cats are sterilized.

**What if a cat is injured or sick?** We treat this situation on a case-by-case basis. It depends on the severity of the illness or injury and what treatment is needed. We budget for some medical issues but are unable to treat extensive injuries/illnesses.

**Can I bring a feral cat to a monthly fix-it day or Rascal Day?** Yes! Please register for the day you are interested in under the Fix-it Day tab on this website. Happy trapping!

**More questions?** Please email us at [info@snackohio.org](mailto:info@snackohio.org) or call us at 614-371-8996.