



Helping Control the Outdoor Cat Population through Trap-Neuter-Return

We understand that the presence of outdoor cats on your property can be frustrating. It isn't an uncommon occurrence. Cats may live in brush or wooded areas nearby, tenants may abandon their cats when they move, or your business may just be a stop along their way. Whatever the case, we want to help. Metro East Friends of Ferals is a small, volunteer-based community group working to help manage the outdoor cat population. Our group wholeheartedly believes in the power of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to make a significant impact on the lives of outdoor cats and the communities in which they live.

Trap-Neuter-Return, allows us to humanely control the cat population in your area. The process is simple - cats are humanely trapped; brought to a clinic to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped; then they are returned to their outdoor home. Through TNR, we help to create healthier and more balanced outdoor cat communities. Not only does TNR end the reproductive lifecycle for cats and help stop the spread of disease, it also helps eliminate problematic behavior like fighting and spraying.

Volunteers are able to assist you with the TNR process, at no cost to you. We simply ask that you allow us to do a few simple things:

1. Establish a feeding location somewhere on the property so that we can get the cats in a routine. We'll work with you to determine the best location. We ask that you allow the cats to be fed at a similar time each day to establish a routine.
2. Allow permission to be on the property to setup humane traps once we're able to schedule an appointment for surgery.
3. Unless your location is unsafe, we would like your permission to return to the cats after their surgery. For these cats their outside community is all they've known and it's where they feel most safe and comfortable.

To help keep the population healthy, we can work with a local resident caretaker to continue to care for the cat. This will allow them to remain healthy and safe.

There are several misconceptions about TNR:

Myth: If you don't feed the cats, they won't stay here.

Truth: The cats chose this place because it is already a source of food for them. Your property probably serves as a hunting ground for them and they're able to sustain a healthy food source.

Myth: If you trap the cats and don't bring them back, we won't have this problem anymore. **Truth:** Removing cats from their natural areas is not only stressful for the cats, but it will create a vacuum effect. This is a scientifically proven fact.

Myth: If the cats stay here, they just bring more cats.

Truth: Cats are territorial creatures and typically have a 3 mile radius that they call "home". Other cats respect these boundaries and tread lightly. The only thing bringing more cats onto your property is unfixed cats who continue to reproduce.

Myth: Having cats will just damage my property and they'll be noisy.

Truth: Spaying and neutering cats helps to eliminate the troublesome problems often associated with outdoor cats such as fighting, yowling or crying, and spraying. These habits subside in most sterilized cats.

Myth: Cats kill all of the wildlife in my area.

Truth: Although some cats will hunt for food without a provided food source, leading biologists agree that human-led factors are far and away the top threats to wildlife.

Myth: The outdoor cats in my area are a risk to my health.

Truth: Cats and people live side-by-side without negative impacts to health. Cats are extremely unlikely to spread rabies, toxoplasmosis, or any other diseases. This risk is even less when cats are vaccinated through TNR.

TNR can save the community tax dollars and is a service that is a minimum cost to caretaker residents - typically \$25 - \$35. Financial assistance is available for those who need it. We are helping to control the cat population in your area without using tax payer resources. Other eradication programs are paid for with tax dollars or at a cost to residents and local businesses. TNR programs are supported in the state of Illinois and Madison County and are managed by volunteers and community advocates.

Please reach out to us via email at MEFriendsofFerals@gmail.com and let us know how we can help.