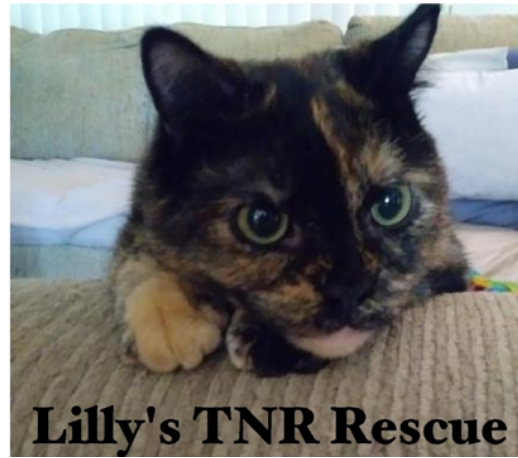
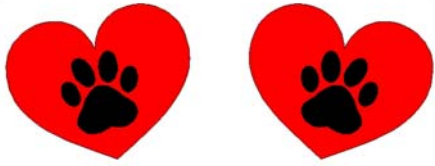


Healing Paws Cat Sanctuary



TNR (trap/neuter/release) Training Guide For Feral Cat Colony Caregiver's



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This is a step by step guide designed by Jackie Kibler of Healing Paws Cat Sanctuary & Anna McDonald of Lilly's TNR Rescue. They have taken their combined 25+ years of animal training and trapping expertise to help you learn how to set up and care for feral cats/colonies in your area known as TNR colonies. This guide will explain from what a feral cat is and how to register a colony to trapping them and how to care for them. By simply fixing just one cat, we can save 100's.

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Chapter 1: All about Feral Cats

Below are some of the biggest misconceptions and facts surrounding feral cats and their colonies. If done right feral cat colonies can thrive in all areas, but we ALL have to be willing to learn and help them to.

1: *Being Misinformed* Misinformation costs millions of cats their lives every year. As 2 organizations dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats, Healing Paws Cat Sanctuary & Lilly's TNR Rescue is working to set the record straight. By educating people on the truth about feral cats (also known as community cats) and combating the false claims, we can stop the killing. These facts call for a world where every cat is valued and protected. A world in which every cat, regardless of whether it lives with people or not, is safe to live its life without threat from humans.

2: *Cats have ALWAYS been outdoor animals* for thousands of years, cats have lived outdoors alongside humans. Just because they don't live in our homes doesn't mean they are 'homeless.' Yet the current animal control system and even misguided animal welfare organizations believe that taking feral cats to shelters, where nearly 100 percent of them will be killed, is more humane than leaving cats to live outdoors. Millions of cats share our homes, but not all cats are suited to living inside. For many feral cats, indoor homes are not an option because they have not been socialized to live with humans. They would be scared and unhappy indoors. Their home is the outdoors - just like squirrels, chipmunks, and birds. They are well suited to their outdoor home. The truth is that it's natural for cats to live outside.

3: *The real threat to cats is NOT themselves* People like to claim that cats are such an enormous threat to wildlife that they should be rounded up and killed. Shooting, poisoning, and mass extermination are among the extreme methods they suggest as solutions. Several prominent ecologists point to the fact that cats play an important role in many ecosystems, often stepping in to fill the place of now extinct or greatly diminished small predators. Some point to the helpful roles they play in complex urban ecosystems, in which dumpster rats and mice far outnumber meadows. As for the main threats to wildlife, leading biologists and environmental watchdogs agree: human-led activities - including climate change, habitat destruction, and development - are far and away the number one cause of wildlife depletion.

4: *Feral communities can live long healthy lives* some people argue that feral cats suffer terribly, living short and brutal lives outside. They even go so far as to say that cats are better off dead than allowed to live naturally in their outdoor homes. The truth is that cats can live full and healthy lives outdoors. Many cats live indoors with humans. Other cats live their whole lives outdoors, many with little or no direct contact with humans. Just because some cats live inside, doesn't mean that we should hunt down and kill those who live outdoors. Cats cared for through TNR have healthy life spans. In 2013, a long-term study of a TNR program noted that 83% of the cats present at the end of the observation period had been there for more than six years. The lean physique of some feral cats sometimes leads animal control and other groups to claim that the cats are starving or ill, but a 2012 study found that feral cats have healthy body weights and fat distribution. If they may be a little leaner than the cat on your couch, it is the result of a different lifestyle, not because they're suffering or sick. Neutering feral cats is an act of compassion and helps improve their wellbeing.

5: *Feral cats are NOT a health threat* Feral cats have equally low rates of disease as the cats who share your home. Feral cats do not pose a rabies risk to humans: The last confirmed cat-to-human transmission of rabies occurred in 1975. The risk of catching rabies from a feral cat is almost non-existent. Statistics from the CDC show that as a source of rabies infections, cats rank way behind wild animals like bats, skunks, and foxes who account for more than 90 percent of reported cases of the disease. Since feral cats involved in TNR programs are vaccinated and therefore cannot acquire or transmit the virus, they pose no threats to humans or other animals. Most importantly, research confirms that feral cats are neither breeding grounds for disease nor a health threat to communities in which they live.

6: *Shelters and feral cat's* Current animal control and shelter policies result in millions of healthy cats being killed each year. Unfortunately more than 70% of all cats brought to shelters, and nearly 100% of feral cats are killed. The pounds and shelters say these animals are "euthanized." But an animal is only euthanized when they are terminally ill or untreatably injured. Using the word "euthanasia" masks what really happens to healthy cats in pounds and shelters, they are killed. Amidst all the false claims, the sad truth is this: the number one documented cause of death for cats in the U.S. is being killed in a shelter. Feral cats live healthy, natural lives outdoors, just as cats have done for thousands of years. Removing them from their outdoor home and into shelters is a death sentence and there is nothing humane about it.

Chapter 2: What Is TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release)

This chapter will explain exactly what TNR is, how it works and how it can help lower the feral cat population in your area.



1: **What is TNR**

Trap: Humanely (painlessly) trap all of the cats in a colony (a group of cats living outdoors together).

Neuter: Take the cats in their traps to a clinic to be health checked, neutered, vaccinated, defleaed, and Ear tipped. (A universal symbol indicating they have been neutered)

Release: Release the cats back to their original outdoor home where trapped.

2: How TNR works TNR, the humane approach to addressing community cat populations, works. It saves cats' lives and is effective. TNR improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, reduces complaints about cats, and stops the breeding cycle. TNR improves the co-existence between outdoor cats and humans in our shared environment. This is why so many cities are adopting it. Scientific studies and communities with TNR programs are proof that TNR reduces and stabilizes populations of community cats.

3: How TNR lowers the feral cat population Before TNR for more than a century, the American shelter and animal control system has been relying on catching and killing outdoor cats to control their population. This approach continues to fail, and the number of outdoor cats increases despite the fact that millions of vibrant, healthy outdoor cats are killed each year. Taxpayer money that funds shelters and animal control agencies is wasted on an endless cycle of trapping and killing. Increasingly, the public believes that the money spent on killing could and should be re-allocated to programs that help animals. With catch and kill policies, vaccinated and neutered cats are removed from an area. But that only creates a vacuum in the environment, where new cats move in to take advantage of available resources. The new cats breed and the cat population grows. Catch and kill policies aren't just cruel and ineffective, they go against what the public really wants: humane approaches to cats. After TNR it balances the needs and concerns of the human communities in which many feral cats live. People don't want cats rounded up and killed. They want to see cat populations stabilized and appreciate when the mating behaviors of cats are brought into check through spaying and neutering. With TNR, adult cats are returned to the colony to live out their lives in their outdoor home. TNR is about more than saving today's cats: it is the future of animal control and sheltering. Every year, more and communities are adopting TNR programs to save more cats and improve their communities. Please join Healing Paws Cat Sanctuary & Lilly's TNR Rescue and help us spread the word. You can bring TNR to *your* community too!

Chapter 3: Registering a feral cat colony

This chapter will explain why you need to register your feral cat colony and how you go about doing it

1: Why do I need to register as a feral colony caregiver it is VERY important that you register your feral cat colony with the city/county that it is located in. By doing this you are letting local animal control and other people know that these animals are being cared for. Also by registering your colony neutering/vacs/ear tipping (this is done so people can see at a glance the cat is part of a registered colony) are also offered at n/c for each cat that is done.

2: How can I register my feral cat colony below is a list of the cities and how/who to contact at each one to register your feral cat colony.

*** ALL FERAL CAT COLONIES MUST BE REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR TNR PROGRAMS ***

Daytona Beach/ Port Orange/Holly Hill/Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach: Contact CCFAW (concerned citizens for animal welfare). Please leave your name, address, phone number and the approximate number of cats in your colony in your email or phone message as messages without this information will not be returned. Email Pat at ccfaw@ccfaw.org or Call Marea at 386-760-6330

Debary/Orange City: Call Heather Crowne at 407-810-6071

Deland: Call Rebecca Ackerman at 386-626-7413 or email ackermanr@deland.org

Deltona: Call Heidi Herzberg at 386-405-8335

Flagler County: Flagler Cats TNR ask@flaglercats.org 386-503-4250

Flagler Humane Society: 386-445-1814

Oak Hill: Farmhouse Cats email at pseuberling@cfl.rr.com or on Facebook under Farmhouse Cats

Orange City/Debary: Heather Crowne at 407-810-6071

Ormond Beach: Ormond Beach Animal Control Officer Joann Owen at 386-676-3262

Palm Coast: Community Cats Elizabeth Robinson 386-237-7690 Email: elizabeth@communitycatspc.org

Ponce Inlet: Nancy Epps at 386-795-2310

South Daytona: Officer Steve Pignataro at 386-322-3059

Unincorporated Volusia County: Volusia County Animal Services 386-248-1790 and choose option 4 for a direct line to VCAS

Chapter 4: Setting up your feral cat colony

This chapter will explain how to keep track of all of your ferals and also how to set up proper feeding stations and shelter areas for your feral cats.

1: Know your feral kittens/cats

It is important that you get to know your colony, the number of cats and their descriptions to ensure that all the cats have been trapped. This is also important for ongoing colony care, so you'll know if any cats are missing, sick, injured, or if any new cats join the colony that need to be neutered etc. Attached is a feral cat colony care sheet. Use this to keep track of the # and conditions of ALL of your feral kittens/cats. If you have areas that you find the cats/kittens are hiding/living that you are not able to access in order to see how many there are the best way to draw them out is to set up food near the area. Do this far enough away from the opening that you are able to see/count the number that comes out. You can then either have people hiding nearby to take pictures or you can set up a video camera to record them. If this is an area you don't want the cats to have access to you can close it off once all of them are out either eating or getting fixed. Make sure ALL cats/kittens are out if you are going to close it off so monitor the area during feedings for at least a week to make sure you have a count of EXACTLY how many are living in the area. Once you are sure of this you can then safely seal the area. If possible also set up a shelter area nearby so they have a place to go if wanted.

2: Setting up a safe shelter area

It is important to offer a safe and warm/dry place for EACH feral cat to sleep. Make sure they are located in a safe area away from traffic/dogs/etc. You can do this several different ways and below we list a couple easy and cost efficient ways to do this.

Styrofoam container cat shelter:

All you need is a Styrofoam cooler, a box cutter, some straw, vinyl tiles or contact paper, and a few boards to create this simple, effective feral cat shelter. Place the vinyl tiles on the bottom inside of the cooler, this stops the bottom from getting tore up. Next measure and cut a hole in 1 side of the cooler. This needs to be large enough to fit the largest cat in your colony but small enough as to not let predators in if possible. Now add straw on the inside (NEVER paper/towels/blankets/etc as these will draw moisture and not retain heat). Next secure the top on and finally attach it at a slight slant (so water/snow etc can drain off it) to a couple 2x4s to keep it off of the ground. You can also paint them to make them blend into the surroundings.



Plastic tote cat shelter:

You will need a 30gal (or biggest you can find) plastic tote container, straw, box cutters, and a few boards to create this simple, effective feral cat shelter. Measure and cut a hole in 1 side big enough to fit a cat through. Now add straw on the inside (NEVER paper/towels/blankets/etc as these will draw moisture and not retain heat) Next secure the top on and finally attach it at a slight slant (so water/snow etc can drain off it) to a couple 2x4s to keep it off of the ground. You can also paint them to make them blend into the surroundings.

3: *Setting up a safe feeding area*

Proper Placement of Stations Feeding stations should be discreet, low-profile and they should blend in with the immediate surroundings as much as possible. Try to keep them out of sight from the general public. Two reasons for this... first, cats won't want to go to a high trafficked area to eat as they won't feel safe, and secondly, this way it draws as little attention as possible to where the cats are getting fed, which affords them greater protection. If someone wants to harm the cats, it's a lot harder for them to do that if they don't know where you are feeding.

Constructing Your Feeding Station There is nothing worse than having a big bowl of dry cat food that has been rained on – it turns to soggy mush and after about a day it can even get moldy. Cats won't want to eat it and YOU will get stuck cleaning it! Feeding stations need to be waterproof. Ideally, the feeding station you construct should be able to fit your bowls of food and at least one cat, so at a minimum one cat can eat at a time and that poor cat doesn't have to eat out in the rain in inclement weather. Water bowls don't necessarily have to be inside the feeding station, although it's nice. If you can't do a station that sizable because of the need for discretion, the bigger priority is to make sure the food stays dry and protected. A slick and easy way to keep feeding stations dry is to take a large rectangular Rubbermaid storage bin, tip it on its side and put the food in it. The bin serves double duty both as camouflage and it protects the food from the elements. If you get blustery rain where you live, you can take the lid to the storage bin and cut it length-wise and then put it back on the bin, so that the top half acts as an awning of sorts. Zip tie the lid in place. If you need to, you can even place the entire bin on a couple of wood boards or cement blocks so that it's up off the ground and out of any puddles. Depending on how many cats you're feeding, an empty cat carrier with the door taken off can also be a waterproof feeding station. Your average medium size cat carrier can fit at least one if not two big bowls for food. Similarly, any sort of large plastic bin or wooden box with one side cut open will do. The most important factor is that it's waterproof.



Choosing the Right Feeding Dishes You'll want to choose an overall bowl style that will work best for your own situation. As a general rule, though, it's important to select bowl colors that will blend in with the area where you're feeding. If you're feeding in an open, natural setting, choose earthy colors such as tans, greens, browns and blacks. A bright red bowl in a park or nature setting will stick out like a sore thumb and draw unnecessary attention. Go with muted and dark colors. Also ants can plague feral feeding stations. Most people find that "moat" bowls work well. This is where you have a large outer bowl filled with an inch or two of water and you put a smaller bowl inside it holding the food. A 9×13" baking pan can work well as an outer bowl; fill it with an inch of water and then place in it almost any size inner bowl. Moat bowls can be easily homemade and are very inexpensive.

Monitor the feedings After you feed, don't race off! Plan to spend about 15 minutes observing what happens. Either sit in your car or watch from a short distance away. See who shows up, whether they are ear tipped and what kind of shape they are in. If you are not already keeping a log of all of the cats in your colony, you should try to jot down names, breeds, colors and descriptions, who you get fixed and when, etc. Monitor how much

food the cats are eating on a daily basis. That alone will give you an initial indication of how many cats you may be feeding, and you'll know what is "normal" for that colony. If they are going through their food faster than normal, you may have a pregnant mom or some newcomers who have showed up. If they are eating less, you should try to do a headcount on the cats to see if they are all okay. With the cats that do show up to eat, watch for health issues that could need medical attention. Watch for signs of mange. Look for URI signs like runny eyes or snotty noses and listen for sneezes. If a cat seems to be losing weight or if their coat seems matted or unkempt, like they aren't grooming themselves well, it is likely an indication of illness and you should trap that cat and take him/her to a vet immediately.

Chapter 5: Trapping your feral cats

This chapter will explain the correct way to trap/release your ferals as to not cause harm to them or yourself.

ALWAYS put your safety first. Keep the traps covered to reduce the cats' stress. Never open the trap doors or allow the cats out of the traps until ready to release them. Do not stick your fingers through the bars or attempt to handle the cats **AT ALL** as you can get seriously injured as pictured below.



1. Set-up and prepare for trapping

Do all of your set up and preparation away from the colony site - remember, feral cats are generally fearful of people. Trapping will also go more smoothly if you don't disrupt the cats' feeding area. Throughout the entire trapping process, clinic stay, recovery and return, you should make the environment around the cats as calm and quiet as possible. This will help minimize their stress. Twenty-four hours before trapping, *withhold food*, but always continue to provide water. This will ensure that the cats are hungry enough to go into the traps. Remind other caregivers and neighbors to withhold food as well and remind them you're coming trapping.

2. Prepare the traps

Line the bottom of the trap and tag the trap. Place newspaper, folded lengthwise to fit the width of the trap, inside the bottom of the trap to protect the cats' paws. If it's windy, secure the newspaper to the trap with tape or pegs (this is done so the wind will not move the newspaper and frighten the cats) and while ensuring nothing

interferes with the trapping mechanism or trap door. Should you open the rear door, be sure to relock it before trapping. If your trap doesn't have a rear door, you can secure the front door open with a twist tie while you work, and then remove it for trapping. Don't forget to remove it or your trap will be useless! You may need to have several different areas to set traps when trapping an entire colony; in this case, tag the traps with a description of the location so that you can return the cats exactly where you trapped them.

3. Types of traps available

Catch and release trap (various sizes available / pic on left) these traps feature one spring-loaded door for easy bait, set, and release and 1 door that opens for safe removal of the cat.

Drop trap (various sizes available / pic on right) A drop trap is a cage made to get hard to catch feral cats. It is propped up on one side with a poll, and food is placed in the back. The trapper stands at a distance, holding a string attached to the poll. When the cats are eating, the trapper pulls the string, allowing the trap to drop, capturing the cats inside.



4. Bait the traps

First, ensure the trip plate and trap door are functioning properly. Place approximately one tablespoon of bait (tuna, makrel, sardines) at the very back of the trap, so that the cat will step on the trigger plate while attempting to reach the food. You may choose to put the food in a lid or container for this, but make sure that it does not have sharp edges that could harm the cat once trapped, and be sure it won't interfere with the trapping mechanism. Drizzle some juice from the bait in a zigzag pattern along the trap floor toward the entrance. You should also place a tiny bit of food (½ teaspoon) just inside the entrance of the trap to encourage the cat to walk in. Do not use too much food at the entrance of the trap for two reasons: The cat must be hungry enough to continue to the trip plate. Cats should have a relatively empty stomach for at least 12 hours before surgery. Alternatively, you can bait the newspaper in the same way before positioning it in the trap - make sure you place the newspaper the right way round in the trap, so that the bulk of the food is over the trip plate.

5. Set the traps

Place a trap on the ground and make certain it is stable and will not rock or tip - cats will not enter an unstable trap. Do not place the trap on a hillside or incline. Ensure that metal traps do not sit on particularly hot or cold pavement (those temperatures could make the metal painful to the cats' paw pads when they touch it). If you are using multiple traps, stagger them and have those facing different directions. Try to place the traps where they will attract a cat and be camouflaged, e.g. near a bush. If you noted cat access laneways in your preparation, place traps in those locations. Move quietly and slowly so your movements will not frighten cats away. On your already prepared trap labels, fill in the exact location where you are setting the trap. This will make return much easier!

6. Keep track of the traps at all times

Traps should never be left unattended. Check the traps frequently from a distance. Choose a location to park your car and wait where you are far enough away to give the cats a sense of safety, but close enough so that you can see them. If you use a trap site that is out of your field of vision (a shed or barn), wait somewhere close enough to hear when the trap is tripped. And, if this isn't possible or, like me, you're hard of hearing, use baby monitors or walkie talkies to ensure you know exactly when the trap is sprung. There are several reasons to make sure you always have an eye on the traps: Leaving a cat uncovered in a trap for too long will increase the cat's stress and could lead to injury since they thrash against the cage. (You may want to place a sheet over just the back part of the trap - not the front - before you place the trap so you can easily cover the entire thing after the cat is caught. This could also encourage the cat to go inside the trap since it appears to be a covered, safe place.) When in a trap, the cat is exposed - and could be injured by other animals or a malicious person. Traps may be stolen, damaged or sprung, or someone who does not understand your intentions may release a trapped cat. To be safe, take an exact count of your traps at the beginning and end of your trapping day. In larger colonies there may be multiple trapping locations. It is important not to leave any traps unsupervised, so consider bringing multiple trappers to help. If you are trapping alone don't put out more traps than you track visually and/or audibly.

7. Trapping hard to trap ferals

Get the cats used to eating out of the trap. A short break from trapping can reduce a cat's fear of the trap. During this time, keep feeding that cat and others in unset traps for about a week or more before trapping again. Feed the cats in the same place and time as always. Load the trap the opposite way you normally would, so that the food is in the front of the trap and the front door is closed, because you do not want the trap set. Take off the back door or tie it securely open. Place the food by the entrance of the trap, then inside, then over a period of days gradually move it closer to the back. Feed in the same place and time as always. Monitor the traps while the cats eat to ensure traps are not stolen or a cat is not accidentally trapped. The cat will see other cats eating inside the traps and will likely try it as well. When you are ready to trap again, withhold food for 24 hours.

Try using a larger size trap. Some cats may be more comfortable entering a larger trap, which has a taller opening and wider sides.

Make the trap more enticing. Consider using the following smelly treats as bait: Bits of jarred baby food (not containing onions) – Catnip - The herb valerian. Make a strong-smelling broth by boiling Valerian Root in water, and then douse the trap with it. Other types of bait, depending on what you originally used, such as tuna in oil, mackerel, canned cat food, sardines, anchovies or cooked chicken. For intact toms the scent of females in heat is extremely enticing! When you trap such a female, don't clean the trap afterwards, instead keep its scent intact for trapping unaltered toms.

Place the trap in a more secluded location/camouflage the trap. Moving the trap to a quieter or more protected location can raise the cat's comfort level enough to enter. Or you can try to blend the trap in with its surroundings. First, hide the trap under a bush, under a leaning piece of wood or in a box so the cat feels like he is entering a dark hole. To further disguise the trap cover it with branches, leaves, camouflage material, burlap or other natural materials. Even simply covering the trap with dark cloth or a towel can do the trick. Be sure that the coverings you use do not interfere with the trap door closing.

8. Trapping a momma/babies

These instructions are for moms with kittens that are old enough to walk. We understand your reservations about interfering with nursing mothers and their kittens, but the best thing you can do for the whole family in every situation is to TNR them as soon as it is safe to do so. Where you place the kittens after trapping—either in adoptive homes or back with their colony depends on many factors, including your own time and resources. No two situations are exactly alike, so be prepared to use your judgment. The best place for kittens younger than eight weeks old is with their mother, if at all possible. The ideal window for socializing kittens is about between five weeks and nine weeks. Older kittens can be tnr'd. If the mother is feral and the kittens are too

young to be separated from her, the best thing for the family is to leave them where they are for now. Remember, the mother is best able to care for her kittens. Provide food, water, and shelter. Monitor the family daily and make the environment as safe for them as you can. If you have decided you don't have the time or the resources to foster, socialize, and adopt out the kittens, then you can tnr the whole family when the kittens are 12-weeks-old or 3 pounds. If you can foster, socialize, and adopt out the kittens, the ideal window is when the kitten are between five weeks and nine weeks old. The best thing for the mother cat is to be trapped, spayed, and returned to her outdoor home. If you trap a cat and discover at the clinic that she is a nursing mother, get her spayed immediately and return her to the area where you trapped her as soon as she is clear-eyed that evening. (You may also choose to go looking for the kittens.) Nursing mother cats continue to produce milk after being spayed, and can continue to nurse their kittens. It may seem counterintuitive to separate her from her kittens, but it's difficult to trap her again and this may be your only real chance to spay her and prevent further litters. Many times, you only learn she is a nursing mother after she is at the clinic. Make sure the clinic knows your plans for returning nursing mothers as soon as possible as they may have an anesthesia protocol that will enable her to wake up from surgery more quickly. Try to find the kittens before releasing the mom or follow the mother after you return her so that you can trap the kittens and neuter them when they are old enough. On your first attempt at trapping a cat family, always set out at least one baited trap for every cat and kitten in the family. Several kittens will often run into a trap together. DO NOT try and separate them on your own. If you don't trap mom in the first round, she will soon hear, see, and smell her kittens in the trap and want to get close to them, providing the perfect incentive for her to enter a trap herself. Once you have a kitten trapped, immediately set up a second trap of similar size end-to-end against the one holding the kitten, so that mom will have to walk into the open trap to reach her baby. Do not open the trap holding the kitten. The short ends of the traps should be touching and the two traps together should form a long rectangle. To make sure mom goes inside the trap and not around the back or sides, cover the trap holding the kitten on three sides so that the kitten is only visible from the entrance of the open trap. Cover the area where the traps meet, so mom can't see the partition as easily. To her, it will appear as though the kitten is inside a tunnel. If you trap the mother cat first, or if you are trapping other cats and you trap her by accident, keep her in the trap and set a second trap. Follow the same instructions outlined above with the traps used end-to-end, with one important addition: once you have trapped one kitten, you will have to set up a new trap for the next kitten. Kittens can also be used to trap their siblings in a similar fashion.

9. Post surgery and releasing the feral cats

Picking up your feral

The cats should be returned to you in the same covered equipment in which they were brought to the clinic, with clean newspaper inside. Ask if any of the cats need special care, any that need an eye kept on them and/or any that need to be kept longer than usual before release. If you are given medical records, be sure to save them. Most clinics will require you to sign a consent and/or release form, either for each cat or for multiple cats, and you should do so. You may want to keep a copy for your own records. Most clinics will also supply you with written aftercare guidelines.

Hold cats until they recover

Cats usually need to be held for 24 hours after surgery, depending on recovery speed. Male cats can be returned to the trapping site 24 hours following surgery, as long as they are fully awake and do not require further medical attention. Females can also be returned after 24 hours as long as they are not licking/chewing etc at the surgery site. You **MUST** return nursing mothers as soon as possible, once they completely regain consciousness, so they can get back to their kittens. Make sure all cats are fully conscious, clear-eyed and alert before release. Any cats that needs held for longer than 24 hours must be transferred to a bigger cage, they cannot be kept for that amount of time in a trap. Monitor the cats often for their progress; keep an eye out for bleeding, infection, illness and lack of appetite. If a cat is vomiting, bleeding, having difficulty breathing or not waking up, get veterinary assistance immediately. Ask the clinic before the surgery how to reach them in an emergency if there are surgical complications. If a cat is vomiting while still unconscious, her head should be turned to avoid choking. Sometimes this can be achieved by gently tipping the trap to no more than a 30 degree angle to change the cat's position. Be careful when tipping the trap so that you don't harm the cat by jostling them too much. Very occasionally a cat will lick at their stitches. If there's a danger of them tearing the wound they will need to wear an

E Collar. You will not be able to release such a cat until the wound is completely healed and the lampshade collar removed. Don't attempt to remove a lampshade collar from a feral cat yourself.

Releasing the cats

Release the cats in the same place you trapped them. Early morning is a good time. Place the holding cages on solid ground and point them away from roads or high-traffic areas. Pull the door of each cage or trap up and off, while standing well away from the door and the cat's direction of exit. Then completely remove the cover and walk away. Do not be concerned if the cat hesitates a few moments before leaving. They are simply reorienting themselves to their surroundings. Sometimes a cat can 'disappear' for a few days after their returned. They will appear eventually. Resume the colony feeding schedule and continue to provide food and water as they may turn up and eat when you're not around.

Clean & disinfect the equipment

Thoroughly clean the traps and cages with a 50/50 bleach water mix when the returning is complete. Whether the traps are borrowed or your own, they should be cleaned and disinfected before they are stored. Then they will be ready for the next trapping adventure. Even traps that appear clean must be disinfected - the scent of the cat previously trapped may deter other cats from entering. The exception to this is a trap that has held a queen in heat - it can sometimes be worth keeping such traps with the scent intact in order to entice hard-to-trap toms

Chapter 6: Caring for your feral colony

This chapter will explain how to care for your colony kittens/cats along with the most common illnesses in feral cats and how to treat them. Please check with your local veterinarian to see if they treat feral's as unfortunately not all do.

1. Raising orphaned kittens

Should I take in an abandoned kitten?

Be certain kittens are really abandoned before you disturb a nest. A mom-cat can be harder to spot than the stealth bomber, but just because she's not there now doesn't mean she's not around. If the kittens are clean, plump, and sleeping quietly in a heap, odds are that they've got an attentive mom and should be left alone. Abandoned kittens will be dirty and the nest will be soiled, and they will cry continuously because they're hungry. Ideally, kittens should not be taken from the mother until they are five to six weeks of age. However, if you're going to find the kittens forever homes they should be taken away, if possible, at about four weeks old. At this age, it is easy to tame them and they have gotten a full four weeks' worth of the precious antibodies mother's milk provides. As they get older, it gets increasingly harder to tame them. Kittens over the age of eight weeks who have had no human contact will probably take months to tame if it can be done at all.

Warmth and Care

If a rescued kitten feels cold, warm it immediately, but gently. Place it on a rice sock (take a sock and fill it with uncooked rice and tie it off this can now be heated in a microwave till its hot and the heat will last for awhile) wrapped in towels. Do not feed a kitten until it is warm, since it can't properly digest when cold. It is okay, though, to syringe feed a few drops of 5% sugar water or to rub a little bit of Kayro syrup on the kitten's gums. This will help the kitten's blood sugar stay up until their warm enough to feed. Kittens under three weeks old can't control their body temperature. Keep them on rice socks until they are about four to five weeks old, or until you notice that they're avoiding it. You'll know if it's too hot if the kittens tend to sleep on the edges. Kittens are born with their eyes and ears closed so for the 1st few weeks of life they can't hear or see so make sure you

keep them somewhere safe that they can't fall out of like box or large cat carrier in a warm, draft-free place, completely isolated from other animals. Keep the container covered with a towel or blanket and a small towel or cloth inside the carrier will also keep them cozy. Change the bedding of their "nest" daily, since kittens are not litter trained at this age. As they get older, they will need more room to exercise, play, and explore. A spare bathroom is ideal for this. It is a good idea to take them immediately to a veterinarian to be checked for dehydration and general condition. Bring a stool sample if possible to be tested for worms and parasites. Young kittens are always at risk for being dehydrated and it can happen very quickly. A dose of fluids injected under skin (subcutaneously, also known as "sub-q") is necessary in this case. You can also contact your local shelter or a rescue group and ask if you can become an official "foster parent" through their organization as you raise your kitten. Many of these organizations help cover the cost of necessary medical care as the kitten grows towards adoptable age.

Feeding

Your first purchase should be a pet nursing kit and some kitten formula, available at pet stores. Below is a recipe for a homemade formula if you are not able to get to a pet store or they are closed. Unfortunately, cow's milk is NOT good for them and they will slowly starve to death on it as it doesn't have the proper nutrients etc and it also causes diarrhea, which is extremely dangerous for young kittens so DO NOT feed them this. The nursing kit usually includes a bottle, several extra nipples, and a cleaning brush. Cut an "X" in the tip of your first nipple with scissors. Kitten formula is more economical if purchased in powdered form to be mixed as needed. You know that you have made the nipple opening just big enough if, when the bottle is held upside-down, formula drips slowly from it. Too small of an opening will make kittens work too hard to get their formula, tiring them out before they've had enough to eat. Too large an opening will force too much formula into them too fast.

Homemade Formula

1 ounce goats milk (condensed milk can be used if you don't have/cant find goats milk)

1 ounce water (I usually do half water half CLEAR ONLY pedialyte as most kittens that have went without care from mom even for a few hours will already be somewhat dehydrated an the pedialyte will help with this. I do this for the first few days of feeding then switch to all water unless very dehydrated)

1 ounce plain yogurt

1 egg yolk

NEVER Microwave formula as it depletes some nutrients and can cause hot spots that burn a kitten's mouth. Instead when feeding kittens, soak the bottle in a bowl of very hot water for about a minute or so then allow it to cool to the proper temperature then test a few drops of milk on your wrist first. It should feel just a little warm or even cool, not too warm or hot. Once it passes the skin temperature test, you are ready to feed kittens. Only use this emergency formula until you have the kitten formula. This will keep in the fridge for a few days.

Before each feeding, sterilize the bottles and nipples by boiling them in water. You should also wash your hands thoroughly. It's a good idea to wash your hands again after you're done with each kitten. This way, the kittens and your own pets will be protected against one another's germs. An alternative to this is to purchase hand sanitizer to use. Many fosters like to keep a special t-shirt, sweatshirt, or apron in the room where the kittens are kept, and slip it on before feeding and removing it afterwards. Some viruses can live on clothing, and this can help prevent cross-contamination to and from other animals in the house. Keep in mind that the younger kittens are, the more accustomed they are to staying "latched on" to a mom-cat's nipple all the time, nursing small amounts periodically. If you're feeding multiple kittens, you'll have better luck with them eating

enough each feeding if you feed them each several times, taking turns. Feed the first kitten until it stops nursing, then feed the second, etc. Then go back to the first and repeat this round-robin. Usually after two or three nursing turns, a kitten has had enough for one feeding. If they overeat, there is a risk that some formula goes down the wrong pipe and enters the lungs which can cause aspiration in the lungs which is fluid in the lungs and in most newborns/kittens is deadly. If this happens, you can try holding the kitten upside down and VERY lightly tap on its lungs until it stops choking. Feeding kittens every two hours is necessary the 1st week, so its always better to give less then more to start and increase it as they grow in size then the 2nd week you can feed every 3 hrs, 3rd week every 4 hrs and the 4th week every 5 hrs. Kitten positioning for feeding is VERY IMPORTANT as doing this wrong you can cause the kitten to get aspiration of the lungs as stated above. Kittens are to be feed in a position like the position they'd be in if they were nursing from a mom-cat which is flat on their stomach (pic below) on a towel or cloth on which it can cling; it will "knead" its paws on instinct. Then also cover them with a towel to keep them warm. Put the nipple in your newborn kitten's mouth. Don't lift his head or force him in any way. He should start feeding immediately. If your newborn kitten doesn't start feeding immediately, check to make sure the nipple isn't clogged. Formula should drip from the nipple when the bottle is turned upside down and slightly squeezed. If the nipple is working, then your kitten's nursing instincts may not have taken hold yet. Gently stroking his head and back should help him get the idea. There are also two kinds of nipples out there, one shorter and one longer, so you might have to make sure they don't prefer one or the other. You will feel a real "vacuum effect" when the kitten gets into suckle mode. To keep air from getting into the kitten's stomach, hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle, keeping a light pull on the bottle. The kitten should be allowed to suck at its own pace. When a kitten has had enough formula, it will usually get some bubbles around its mouth and its tummy will be very rounded, almost pear-shaped. Once your newborn kitten is done feeding you should burp the kitten just like you'd burp a human baby. Hold it upright against your shoulder and pat it on the back. If they don't burp, it's okay. Newborn kittens also need their bowels and bladder stimulated after feeding, because the digestive tract doesn't begin functioning until they are a few weeks old. Mother cats do this by licking their kittens' bellies. You can do it by gently stroking your kitten's belly with a warm washcloth. Don't worry if this doesn't cause them to relieve himself right away; sometimes it takes a few feedings. It's natural for kittens to suckle on each other or on your fingers after they're finished eating. This is harmless unless you notice that this kind of activity is causing irritation to other kittens' fur or skin. At 4 weeks you can introduce them to gruel (recipe below) which is pretty much just a mush kitten food to start the weaning process and you can feed them every 6 hrs. Some will take right away to this and some wont so also continue to bottle feed all until all kittens are eating a decent amount of the gruel at each feeding time. Feed this until their baby teeth are mostly in at around 6 weeks then you can switch them to kitten chow and regular can food.



Homemade Gruel Recipe

Soak dry kitten food in hot kitten formula until its mush cool and feed

Take can pate and mix with hot kitten formula until its mush cool and feed

I like to use mini/reg size muffin pans as they grow as these are small enough and easy for the kittens to access

Kittens that seem too weak to nurse can often be stimulated by rubbing some Kayro syrup on the lips. If a kitten still refuses to nurse and this happens beyond the first few “getting the hang of it” times it indicates illness usually and you should take the kitten to the vet.

Cleaning kittens and their bedding areas of soil and fleas

Newborns and kittens up to 2 weeks old can **NOT** have any topical flea medicine applied to them as they are too young and it can be harmful to them. They can be bathed in dawn dish soap to kill the fleas and clean off any soil as even though you are helping them to go potty they can still squeak out a little on there own. . Once this is done and they are dry you can apply Diatomaceous Earth (food grade ONLY)to them all over. Also change out any bedding after each bathing and sprinkle DE on the bedding also. This will kill any fleas that get on them. Clean the bedding area at least once a day with 50/50 water bleach mix if you are using plastic carrier etc you can scrub it clean. If you have them in a cardboard box you can do a VERY light spraying of the bleach mix and let it air dry before adding new bedding. The rice socks will have to be checked at each feeding and reheated if needed. These can also be lightly sprayed with the bleach mix and let to air dry. I usually like to have several on hand so I can change them out with fresh clean ones at each re heating and then just clean and repeat. Kittens over 2 weeks of age can have Advantage applied to them for fleas. The dosing chart is listed below under the section for Fleas.

2. Vaccines, Tests, Worming and Neutering

Vaccines and Tests

Kittens get several vaccines over several weeks starting at 8 weeks of age as long as they are healthy. You NEVER want to vaccinate or test a kitten that is sick. Below is a chart listing the vaccines and the age they are given. Kittens can also be tested for FeIV (feline leukemia virus) and Fiv (feline immunodeficiency virus) a negative test result indicates that there are no detectable Fiv/FeIV antibodies in the cat's blood, which usually means that the cat doesn't have them. Kittens under the age of 6 months can have a false positive result and should be retested when they are 8 to 12 months old. At that time if they test negative they are negative if they test positive you will need to decide how to proceed. Below under the section diseases kittens/cats can get we explain these and how to work with them as even though there is no cure for each, the kittens/cats can go on to live productive lives for many years with the proper care.

8 weeks old 1st FVRCP Vaccine (Feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia)
12 weeks old 2nd FVRCP Vaccine
16 weeks old 3rd FVRCP Vaccine
Then booster FVRCP every year

16 weeks old RV (rabies) Vaccine
Then booster RV either every year or every 3 years

8 weeks old and older Fiv/FelV blood test

8 weeks 1st FelV Vaccine

12 weeks 2nd FelV Vaccine

Then booster FelV every year

8 weeks old 1st Fiv Vaccine

11 weeks 2nd Fiv Vaccine

14 weeks 3rd Fiv Vaccine (Once vaccinated, pets will test positive for Fiv due to the presence of antibodies however this does NOT mean they have the disease now. Pet owners that prefer to vaccinate cats have to administer the vaccines at the scheduled time in order to prevent any risks.)

Worming for internal parasites

Kittens also receive several worming over several weeks to kill internal parasites such as hookworms, tapeworms, roundworms and whipworms. Most feral kittens will have some or all of these so go ahead and worm them even if you're not seeing them either in their stool or around their rectum area. This will not harm them if they don't have worms. You can use either a liquid wormer Pyrantel or DE. Below is a chart listing the ages for worming.

2 weeks 1st worming if using Pyrantel

4 weeks 2nd worming with Pyrantel

6 weeks 3rd worming with Pyrantel

8 weeks 4th worming with Pyrantel

If using DE you want to add some to each feeding continually. The dosage amount is listed below under the section disease and how to treat them. Since internal parasite eggs hatch at different intervals treating them this way will kill adults and eggs. Continuing to treat with DE daily will kill anymore in the future.

Spay and Neutering

Kittens can get spayed/neutered starting at 3 months or 3lbs. Which ever comes 1st. Some TNR clinics will do them earlier and at a less weight however I prefer to wait till they are the 3 months or 3lbs just to be on the safe side as doing them earlier can lead to issues and complications from breathing issues and heart issues to possible death. As with vaccines do NOT do this if they are not feeling well. Pregnant cats can be spayed no matter how far along they are however the further along the more chance there can be issues and complications. From blood loss to possible death. Pregnant cats can go into heat starting a few days after giving birth so if possible try to trap momma as soon as possible to get her fixed. She will still produce milk to feed any current kittens she has.

3. Caring for adult ferals (1 year and older)

Raising adult feral cats

There are a lot of the same things you will do to care for the adult ferals in your colonies that you do for the kittens such as vaccines, neutering, medical issues etc. Adult ferals will be MUCH more leery/scared of humans therefore it will be harder to do most if not all things to them. Because of this you will have to have LOTS of patience when dealing with them and at times come up with some very unique/different ways to deal with and treat them. Some over time will eventually come around and can even become very friendly and lovable and be able to be adopted into furever homes (if you also do adoptions of your ferals as we do). It all just depends on the amount of time and effort you are able/willing to devote to them and the size of your colony. Obviously if you care for LOTS of ferals which I've heard of some colonies having 100s there is no way possible you will be able to socialize ALL of them! In a case like that it is more feasible to learn which ones seem not as scared and stand offish and work with those.

Feeding

Adult cats can be feed twice a day. I due every 12 hrs but you can do it however its easier for your schedule. Ferals are also going to include live food, people food they can get their paws on and other cat food they can find in their diets also so twice a day is DEF enough. I feed each cat aprox. ½ a cup at each feeding and depending on how your feeding station is set up (sep bowls for each, shared bowls etc) they will get enough food each feeding. So just take the # of cats X by 1 cup each and that's what you should feed per day. I feed all my adults dry food 99.9% of the time. The 1% that get can are 1s that need medicine, 1s that REFUSE to eat dry, 1s with health issues that require can and 1s I'm trying to trap. I just find it MUCH easier and also cheaper (cause face it cat food is expensive) to feed dry. An also feeding can only now and then can make it easier to medicate with it and trap with it. If your feeding can daily and all you have is can to trap with for whatever reason you may not get whoever it is you're trying to catch cause their sick a can right now. I also try and feed a dry that covers all ages. Depending on the # of cats in your colony and if any require a special diet its much easier to feed 1 food then kitten, adult, senior etc. If you have a cat that requires a special diet because of a health issue (kidneys, ibs etc) this is where some of that unique thinking needs to come into play as you don't want any of the other kittens/cats to get that food. So in this instance you may want to try and watch/keep track of that cat more to get a better idea of their daily routine (yes they have 1) a fig out a way/place you can feed them by themselves. Since adult cats are more prone to eat human food and that can be harmful to cats make sure you have containers/trash cans that have good tight lids that they can't get into and ALWAYS throw out any human food in these so they can't access it. Unfortunately you can't control what they eat as they are off on their daily wandering so the less they can get at home the better. Kittens learn from momma so if momma can't dumpster dive the kids will be less likely to.

Cleaning them and their sleeping quarters

You do not need to bathe adult cats like you do kittens. Thank God! Cause face it most would NOT survive it. The only time you need to give an adult cat a bath is when there's a medical issue that requires it and even then the chances your feral cat will just let you bathe them is VERY slim so this will more then likely have to be done by your vets office as the kitty will more then likely have to be drugged before attempting this. As for cleaning their sleeping areas how often all depends on what kind of shelter you have and if you use straw, towels, blankets etc and how messy the cats are. But rule of thumb for me is I check them once daily and change out what needs to be.

4. Vaccines, Tests, Worming and Neutering

Vaccines and Tests

Adults get several vaccines over several weeks just as kittens do starting right away as long as they are not sick. You NEVER want to vaccinate or test if they are not feeling well. Below is a chart listing the vaccines and the age they are given. Adults can also be tested for FeIV (feline leukemia virus) and Fiv (feline immunodeficiency virus) a negative test result indicates that there are no detectable Fiv/FeIV antibodies in the cat's blood, which usually means that the cat doesn't have them. If they test positive you will need to decide how to proceed. Below under the section diseases kittens/cats can get we explain these and how to work with them as even though there is no cure for each, the kittens/cats can go on to live productive lives for many years with the proper care.

Any age 1st FVRCP Vaccine (Feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia)

3 weeks after 2nd FVRCP Vaccine

Then booster FVRCP every year

Any age RV (rabies) Vaccine

Then booster RV either every year or every 3 years

Any age Fiv/FelIV blood test

Day of negative test 1st FelIV Vaccine

3 weeks later 2nd FelIV Vaccine

Then booster FelIV every year

Day of negative test 1st Fiv Vaccine

3 weeks later 2nd Fiv Vaccine

3 weeks later 3rd Fiv Vaccine (Once vaccinated, pets will test positive for Fiv due to the presence of antibodies however this does NOT mean they have the disease now. Pet owners that prefer to vaccinate cats have to administer the vaccines at the scheduled time in order to prevent any risks.)

Worming for internal parasites

Adults also receive several worming over several weeks to kill internal parasites such as hookworms, tapeworms, roundworms and whipworms. Most feral cats will have some or all of these so go ahead and worm them even if you're not seeing them either in their stool or around their rectum area. This will not harm them if they don't have worms. You can use either a liquid wormer Pyrantel or DE. Below is a chart listing the ages for worming.

Any age 1st worming if using Pyrantel

2 weeks later 2nd worming with Pyrantel

2 weeks later 3rd worming with Pyrantel

2 weeks later 4th worming with Pyrantel

If using DE you want to add some to each feeding continually. The dosage amount is listed below under the section disease and how to treat them. Since internal parasite eggs hatch at different intervals treating them this way will kill adults and eggs. Continuing to treat with DE daily will kill anymore in the future.

Spay and Neutering

Adult cats can get spayed/neutered at any time. As with vaccines do NOT do it when they are not feeling well. Pregnant cats can be spayed no matter how far along they are however the further along the more chance there can be issues and complications. From blood loss to possible death. Pregnant cats can go into heat starting a few days after giving birth so if possible try to trap momma as soon as possible to get her fixed. She will still produce milk to feed any current kittens she has.

5. Disease feral kittens and cats can contract

This section will explain the diseases that feral kittens/cats can contract. It also explains each disease in detail and how to treat if its treatable.

FeIV (feline leukemia) is a disease that spreads through urine, nose discharge and saliva. Cats can catch the disease through bites, sharing food and water bowls, and from simply living together. Mother cats can pass the disease along to their kittens, and kittens are more likely to contract the disease than adult cats. Some cats will immediately become ill upon contracting the virus; however, in other cats, symptoms of the disease will not manifest for several weeks/months/years. Feline leukemia can result in a number of conditions, including system-wide infections, diarrhea, skin infections, eye disease, respiratory tract infections, bladder infections, infertility, anemia and cancer. Any severe chronic illness can be a sign of feline leukemia.

Treatment: Although there is no cure for feline leukemia, the disease is easily preventable with the vaccine once tested for it and they are negative.

FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) is a disease that primarily spreads through bite wounds, and outdoor cats and territorial tomcats are most susceptible to infection. However, unlike feline leukemia, casual contact through sharing food and water bowls doesn't significantly increase the risk of contracting FIV. Although a mother cat may pass the virus along to her kittens, this happens rarely. Once the virus enters the bloodstream, it can remain dormant until it progresses into an active disease. FIV is terminal, and because it targets the immune system, cats that have the disease run an increased risk of enlarged lymph nodes, ulcers of the tongue, inflamed gums, progressive weight loss, poor coat and skin disease, diarrhea, anemia, eye disease and cancer.

Treatment: Although there is no cure for FIV, the disease is easily preventable with the vaccine once tested for it and they are negative.

Feline Panleukopenia (feline distemper) is a highly contagious viral disease in cats. Kittens are most at risk, and they almost always die -- even if given treatment after contracting the disease. It can spread through bodily

fluids, feces and fleas, and is usually transmitted by contaminated food and water bowls, litter trays and clothing. Feline distemper affects cats' intestinal tract and attacks their immune systems. Cats suffering from the disease are likely to experience diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, malnutrition and anemia. Symptoms include depression, loss of appetite, lethargy, and tail and back leg biting. A vet can diagnose feline panleukopenia through fecal and blood tests.

Treatment: Treatment of feline panleukopenia is aggressive, since the disease can kill within a day of contraction. Cats usually receive blood transfusions, antibiotics and vitamin injections to combat the disease. FVRCP vaccines starting at 8 weeks of age can prevent this disease.

FIP (feline infectious peritonitis) The virus is shed in feces and cats become infected by ingesting or inhaling the virus, usually by sharing cat litter trays, or by the use of contaminated litter scoops or brushes transmitting infected microscopic cat litter particles to uninfected kittens and cats. Direct, cat-to-cat, virus transmission does not commonly occur. There are two main forms of FIP effusive (wet) and non-effusive (dry). While both types are fatal, the effusive form is more common (60–70% of all cases are wet) and progresses more rapidly than the non-effusive form. The hallmark clinical sign of effusive FIP is the accumulation of fluid within the abdomen or chest, which can cause breathing difficulties. Other symptoms include lack of appetite, fever, weight loss, jaundice, and diarrhea. Dry FIP will also present with lack of appetite, fever, jaundice, diarrhea, and weight loss, but there will not be an accumulation of fluid. Typically a cat with dry FIP will show ocular or neurological signs. For example, the cat may develop difficulty in standing up or walking, becoming functionally paralyzed over time. Loss of vision is another possible outcome of the disease.

Treatment: Although there is no cure for FIP there is one intra-nasal vaccine available however there are reports of cats dying from FIP weeks after receiving the vaccination, sending its effectiveness into question.

Rabies According to The Merck Veterinary Manual, cats are reported rabid more often than any other domesticated animal in the United States. And feline rabies is one of the most dangerous cat diseases, because it doesn't infect just cats -- it can be passed along to humans, too. Rather than cat-to-cat transmission, feline rabies usually spreads to cats through bites from wild animals. This debilitating and degenerative disease attacks the nervous system. Feline rabies can be deceptively slow moving; the disease can incubate in a cat's system for as many as two to five weeks, according to VetInfo.com. Symptoms include poor coordination, conjunctivitis, yawning, drooling, fever, strange behavior, depression and weight loss.

Treatment: Although there is no cure for feline rabies. There is a vaccine given at 16 weeks of age that can prevent this disease.

Abscess A puncture wound that closes over on the surface of the skin while infection spreads below the surface. If an abscess opens, you will notice blood, pus, and a bad smell. Otherwise you may see a lump under the fur anywhere on the body. An untreated abscess can spread infection throughout the body.

Treatment: The abscess needs to be opened up and drained getting all the infection out. You then want to keep the area clean and scab free so it doesn't close over and refill with puss etc. You also want to start the cat on clavamox antibiotics.

Ear mites There are several types of ear mites that can live in cats' ears, but the most common are otodectes cynotis, tiny, eight-legged parasites that feed on the wax and oils in a cat's ear canal. An individual mite has an approximately three-week life cycle, and is barely detectable by the naked eye. Causing irritation and inflammation, ear mites can infect the external and internal canal, and lead to more serious skin or ear infections if left untreated. Infection usually produces a characteristic dark discharge and in the most severe cases, a cat's ear canal can become entirely obstructed by this coffee ground-like debris. Symptoms of ear mites in cats are excessive scratching and rubbing of ears, head shaking, hair loss and dermatitis, black or brown waxy secretion, strong odor, inflammation of the ear, obstruction of ear canal with coffee ground-like debris, scratches or scabs near ear.

Treatment: Topical Revolution will kill ear mites. Apply (2) doses at 3 weeks apart to kill both adults and hatching eggs.

Ringworm is a fungus that can be found on the surface of the skin. It is also known as dermatophytosis. Both cats and dogs are prone to the disease, but it seems cats are especially vulnerable. There are three types of fungus that may cause ringworm, but the most prevalent of all is the microsporum canis. In the Journal of Small Animal Practice, it mentions how 94% of all ringworm in cats is caused by this type of fungus. It is a fungus found on wild animals like small rodents. Your cat is most likely suffering from ringworm if you see your cat's skin with a small, round, hairless lesion on it. Its appearance may vary depending on where the disease occurs. Usually, ringworm occurs on the face, ears, tail, and claws, but it may spread across the other areas of the body.

and may form an irregular shape. It may start as a small spot, but it grows in size eventually when it is left untreated. When it reaches this stage, the condition can be diagnosed as severe, and may need a long term treatment.

Treatment: A topical cream containing an antifungal like miconazole or thiabendazole applied daily for at least 3 weeks to make sure all the fungi is killed off. Above all, it is important to decontaminate the environment through intensive cleaning of the carpets and furnishings where fungi might possibly reside.

Cat Scabies(mange) is a skin condition which is caused by a small mite, only 1/3 of a millimeter in length, known as notoedres cati. This mite is **very contagious** between cats and is shared through direct contact. When treating you need to keep all infected cats quarantined from ALL other cats until treatment is complete. Interestingly, the notoedres cati mite only has the ability to live on a cat. It cannot use a dog or a human as its host. Cat scabies is known for causing extreme itching and patchy hair loss. As the female mite burrows underneath the skin of your cat to lay her eggs, she creates a very intensely irritating feeling for your cat. While it is mainly the head and neck area that will be affected, the entire body of your cat is a playground for this mite. Eventually, your cats continuous scratching will create bald spots and patches of scabbiness. If left untreated, the scabs will start to crust and a secondary infection can develop.

Treatment: Diatomaceous earth is a great natural scabies treatment option for your cats. DE is deadly to scabies mites because the powder essentially suffocates and/or dehydrates the mite by sticking to and coating it's outer layer. Ways to use this powder to help get rid of scabies are: Sprinkle all over the effected cats every day. Sprinkle all over all bedding. Make a mixture of diatomaceous earth and all-purpose cleaner in a clean spray bottle. I like to use an antibacterial one. You don't have to be precise, but it should be roughly 1/4 diatomaceous earth and the rest the cleaning solution. Use this mixture to wipe down EVERY surface that they touch, DAILY. Chairs, tables, housing and anywhere else they regularly use are all fair game. This will be messy, but it's important to re-apply to ensure you are killing the mites faster than they can reproduce. I recommend following these three steps in order to get rid of scabies fast. Topical Revolution Apply (2) doses 2 weeks apart. If the infection is severe you can apply a 3rd dose 2 weeks after the 2nd one. Apply the dose on the neck between the shoulder blades and if possible directly on the skin. Revolution is safe if they lick some off. Some cats may salivate more then normal. Some cats may also loose the hair in the area its applied.

Dosage: *You can use the xlg dog size and dose it out for each kitten/cat*

Kittens under 8 weeks of age a couple drops

Kittens over 8 weeks up to 11 weeks 0.1ml

Kittens 12 weeks and up to 4 lbs 0.2ml

Kittens/Adult cats 5-14lbs 0.4ml

Adult cats over 14lbs 0.6ml

Upper respiratory infection (URI) is a viral infection similar to the flu in humans. Symptoms may include yellowish nose and/or eye discharge, congestion, and sneezing. URI can lead to secondary infections like pneumonia and in some cases can become life threatening if untreated.

Treatment: Amoxicillin is the favorable antibiotic given for this at a dose of 5-10mg. per lb every 12 hours for 14 days.

Fleas are a very common external feline health problem. But it's one you can easily treat. Signs your cat has fleas include: flea dirt on its skin (they look like tiny black dots) constant scratching/frequent licking/red or irritated skin/hair loss/skin infections or hot spots. Fleas can live for more than a year, and your cat risks anemia if the problem becomes serious, so be sure to treat your cat's flea problem and prevent future infestations. Flea infestation in kittens can also lead to life-threatening anemia.

Treatment: Topical Revolution applied monthly. Dosing chart is listed under the Scabies section. You can also apply diatomaceous earth (Food Grade) to their coats and bedding/living areas, this will also kill fleas. Topical Advantage (**NEVER** use Advantix as this is HARMFUL to cats) dosing below. To be more cost efficient you can purchase the xlg dog size and dose these out by kitten/cat weight. 1 xlg dog tube can treat aprox 15 kittens or 7 adult cats. Store the unused amount in a place away from light,

K9 Advantage Dosing

Kittens 2 weeks old 2 drops

Kittens 4 weeks old 4 drops
Kittens 6 weeks old 6 drops
Adult cats up to 9lbs 0.4ml
Adult cats over 9lbs 0.8ml.

Tape, Round, Hook, Whip, Lung and Heartworms One of the most common feline health problems is inside your cat. Most of these common parasites are contracted by ingesting infected soil, water, bodily waste, or an infected host such as a bird or rodent. The parasites can also usually be caught by consuming an infected mother's milk or by eating infected fleas while self-grooming; some parasites can even burrow through skin to infect a pet. These parasites can cause bloody stools, diarrhea, itching around anus, lethargy, pale tongue, gums, and nose, swollen abdomen (pot-bellied appearance) visible worms in vomit or stool and weight loss and depending on the parasite even death. Cats almost always get tapeworms as a result of swallowing a flea so is sure to handle any flea problems your cat has before tackling tapeworms.

Treatment: Pyrantel is a liquid dewormer medicine. Kittens receive ½cc adult cats receive 1cc every 3 weeks and do 3 treatments. Diatomaceous Earth (food grade ONLY) Since as most of us know, ferals can be difficult (to say the least, hehe) to medicate, and because of this I found the easiest way to treat for ALL parasites is to just feed DE on a daily basis since most parasites can take weeks to kill all off because the eggs hatch at different intervals. The easiest way to do this I found is to take note of the number of servings in the bag of cat food. Multiply the appropriate DE dosage by the number of servings. Add that amount of DE to the bag of cat food and shake the bag to distribute it evenly. The DE will absorb the scent of the cat food and be almost indistinguishable from it allowing your cat to enjoy their food. Out of all the cats here at the sanctuary, only a couple won't eat it this way so for them I just add a touch a wet food to mask the smell/flavor of the DE. If you don't want to feed DE daily below are the doses for each parasite. I always suggest feeding DE for a minimum of 30 days for roundworms, whipworms, or hookworms, due to their life cycle and needing to catch any hatching eggs, as DE does not kill eggs. Lungworms, including hookworms that have migrated to the lungs for which upper respiratory symptoms would be seen (sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, runny eyes) you want to give double the recommended daily DE dose for at least 90 days. For tapeworms you want to treat for at least 30 to 45 days. For heartworms DE should be fed for at least 30 days, to catch all newly hatching eggs or the cycling of the worms through the lungs and back to the stomach.

DOSE:

Small Cats and Kittens* (2-6 ½ lbs)	½ tsp of food grade DE
Full Grown Cats (7-13 lbs)	1 tsp of food grade DE
Large Cats (>13 lbs)	1 ½ tsp of food grade DE

Once you start worming with DE, do NOT stop the daily DE for at least 3 weeks. IF you start one day and forget for 3 days, the infestation and dead dying worms which emit bacteria, toxins, ammonia, etc. can cause toxic overload, which can make animals sicker.

Conjunctivitis is a cat disease characterized by an inflammation of the eyelid membrane. Pink, crusty or swollen eyes are a giveaway of conjunctivitis. This cat disease is most commonly seen in kittens because their immune systems are weaker. This is contagious so if 1 feral has it, check because others will also more than likely have it to.

Treatment: Terramycin Ointment applied every 12 hours for 10 days

Kidney Failure in Cats Unfortunately, kidney failure is one of the most prominent cat health issues. Kidney failure can be either acute or chronic. Symptoms include vomiting, weight loss, lethargy, behavior change, increased urination and back pain. Unfortunately there is no way to prevent kidney failure. Once diagnosed, you continue to treat the symptoms for their remaining life span.

Treatment: may include prescription medications, prescription foods, and fluid therapy.

In closing we hope this guide helps you to set up and care for the feral cats in your area. If we all take the time to do our part we can help to lower the feral cat population.

Feral Cat Colony Tracking Information Sheet's

These forms will enable you to identify and track the individual feral cats in your colony and chart the progress of your TNR effort.

Caregiver Information: (Use the back of this sheet to list any add'l caregivers)

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Colony Information:

Name of colony: _____
Name of location: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Trapper Information: (if different from caregiver)

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Veterinarian or clinic performing medical care:

Name of Veterinarian: _____
Name of Clinic: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Setting: Alley Offices Apartment Residential Rear of address Park Industrial
other, describe:

Date current TNR plan was implemented: _____

Total number of cats in colony after TNR is completed:

Adult male: _____
Adult female: _____
Kittens: _____
Number of cats euthanized: _____

