



Jacksonville's Guide to Community Cats

Resources for Cats and Kittens
in Northeast Florida



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What's missing?

When a community cat is spayed or neutered, the tip of their ear is humanely removed during the surgery.

This is the universal sign that the cat is altered and does not need to be trapped or brought to a shelter.

This is referred to as an "eartip".



What is a Community Cat?

Community cats, sometimes called free-roaming or feral cats, are common in Jacksonville.

Community cats do not have traditional homes and may have several owners. They may be social or unsocial.

In order to keep our city no-kill, community cats in Jacksonville are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned to the location at which they were found, using a method called Trap Neuter Return.



This cat is in a humane trap, ready for surgery!

Trap Neuter Return, or "TNR" for short, involves a cat being safely trapped, altered, vaccinated, and returned to its territory. This is most often done by a caring community member - like you!

If you feed unfixed community cats or know of a colony with cats who are not spayed or neutered, you can be their hero and use community resources for proper veterinary care and the prevention of population growth.

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

This information is subject to change. Check websites for the most up-to-date information.

"EveryPet"



Affordable, Quality Vet Care For All

6817 Norwood Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32208

everypet.org
904.425.0005

EveryPet is proud to support the feral freedom program for the city of Jacksonville, originally launched in 2008, in an effort to save stray and community cats.

EveryPet offers free to no-cost spay/neuter surgeries to the Jacksonville community.

Please visit everypet.org for more information on these procedures. Community cat programs are subject to change based on available resources.

"JHS"



JACKSONVILLE
HUMANE
SOCIETY

8464 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32216

jaxhumane.org
904.725.8766

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"ACPS"



Animal Care & Protective Services

NEVER STRAY FROM HOPE.

2020 Forest St.
Jacksonville, FL 32204

coj.net/pets
jaxpets@coj.net or 904.630-CITY

Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) partners with local organizations to provide:

- Low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter services for community cats in Duval County
- Rabies vaccination as part of sterilization services

If you have questions regarding available resources for community cats, you may reach our pet resource center staff by emailing JaxPets@coj.net.

CLAY COUNTY

"CCAC"



3984 FL-16,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
claycountygov.com
animalcontrol@claycountygov.com
904-269-6342

CCAC offers free TNR services on Thursdays.
Drop off is between 7:30 am and 8 am and pickup
is the same day between 3 pm and 4 pm

All cats must be in traps.

The first 30 cats are accepted.

First come, first served.

Check our website for more info.

Trapping Supplies



Humane Trap



Bait



Towel or Cloth

How to Trap a Cat

- If possible, skip the feeding time prior to when you plan to trap. Cats need to be hungry and temptable.
- Use a humane live trap 30-36 inches long with a front and rear door. Traps can be purchased online or at stores like Tractor Supply, Ace Hardware, Lowe's, or Home Depot.
- Bait the trap with a generous amount of canned cat food, tuna, etc., and place a small amount a few feet away from the front door.
- Camouflage the trap with leaves and branches and place in a shady location. Make sure the rear and front doors are not covered.
- Check the trap frequently, but stay out of sight.
- Once the cat is trapped, cover the trap completely with a cloth to help calm the cat. Place the trapped cat in a safe place.
- Bring the cat to the shelter or facility in the trap.

Why TNR Works

Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane and effective approach for unaltered community cats. Now in practice for decades in the US, scientific studies show that Trap-Neuter-Return:

- Improves the lives of feral cats.
- Improves their relationships with the people who live near them.
- Decreases the size of colonies over time.
- Controls the population more effectively than other methods.



Did you know?

When Jacksonville's Feral Freedom program was introduced in 2008, it was the first public-private collaboration in the nation to save all community cats that entered the city's shelters.

Prior to this, cats were brought to the shelter and euthanized. Meanwhile, the cat population continued to grow. It was not a humane or effective solution.

Now, with TNR resources in Jacksonville, our city remains no-kill and serves as a leader for other communities that wish to improve lifesaving.

FUN FACT: TNR helps cease mating behavior in cats, including yowling, spraying, roaming and fighting!

9 REASONS TO RETURN CATS TO THEIR HOMES

Think that outdoor cat is lost? Think again! The practice of returning cats to their outdoor territories saves lives and reunites cats with caretakers. Here are 9 reasons why this is the best option for cats in our community:



1 LESS THAN 2%

This is the national average for cats who are reunited with their owners after coming to a shelter. A cat's best chance at being found by its family is to stay close to home.

2 NON-TRADITIONAL HOMES

Not all cats need or want a traditional home. Some outdoor cats have several caretakers who provide food, water and shelter, often calling more than one house "home."

3 HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Cats who are adjusted to living outdoors do not thrive in the shelter, especially when placed into kennels. This causes them extreme stress which leads to illness and can prolong any chance at adoption.

4 BEHAVIOR

Forcing a cat from its outdoor habitat into a shelter setting can lead to unwanted behavior, including biting and scratching. This puts cats in the shelter at risk.

5 KITTEN OVERLOAD

Underage, orphaned kittens flood our community shelters by the thousands every year. Returning healthy adult cats to their homes leaves room for babies in need.

6 SPAY & NEUTER

After sterilization surgery, cats can no longer reproduce! This helps control the cat population and prevents unwanted litters. The vaccinations will also prevent the spread of disease.

7 COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Studies show that a sterilized cat in your neighborhood is a deterrent to other cats. Cats who are spayed or neutered are also less likely to spray, fight, roam, and reproduce.

8 SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Studies show that outdoor cats with caretakers who provide food are less likely to disturb wildlife, while also keeping other cats away and stopping the birth cycle of more felines.

9 EXPERTS AGREE

Return to home is endorsed by Best Friends Animal Society, Million Cat Challenge, Alley Cat Allies and Maddie's Fund.

Not-So-Fun-Fact: Cats can get pregnant as young as four months old.



Remember ...

TNR is a solution to a community problem. It is not intended to be used for pet cats or cats who will be placed for adoption.

Abusing local programs puts our community at risk of losing funding for TNR resources.

If you need low-cost veterinary care for your pets, there are many options and we are here to help guide you.



Low cost veterinary care: everypet.org

Don't Kitnap Kittens

If you find a litter of kittens, please leave them be.

Watch and wait. The mother cat almost always returns. Their best chance of survival is to stay with her.



If you take the kittens, be prepared to see it through. Contact your local veterinarian for support. We have guides and options to help you.

More info: jaxhumane.org/kittenhelp

Thank you for supporting community cats!



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