

CALLING ALL CAT LOVERS IN HURON COUNTY!

Who We Are: Huron County Community Cats is a collective group of cat lovers in the Clinton, Vanastra, Bayfield, Goderich and surrounding areas that are dedicated to bettering the lives of the cats in our community through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), fostering and adoption. Our members include volunteers from *Clinton's Feral Kitties*, *Winter's Place*, *Off The Streets* and *Charity Bingo (Clinton)*.

We encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Contact Us:

huroncountycommunitycats@gmail.com

Website:

www.huroncountycommunitycats.ca

Instagram: @huroncountycommunitycats

MYTH

"The cats are in our neighbourhood because someone is feeding them. If they didn't feed the cats, they would go away."

FACT

The cats were already in the neighbourhood as a result of lost or abandoned unaltered cats reproducing.

The caretaker feeding the cats is providing an important community service by keeping the cats healthy and implementing TNR will prevent further reproduction.



What is a community cat? Community cats, also known as feral or stray cats, are a part of our urban and rural landscapes. They play an important role in controlling rodent populations and can be excellent pest control. However, many community cats are unowned and can contribute to overpopulation and nuisance behaviors. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a humane and effective way to manage community cat populations and improve their quality of life. They typically live in groups called colonies and have strong social bonds with their colony members.

Like all animals, community cats make their home where they find shelter and food, often in close proximity to humans. We understand that not everyone enjoys having cats in their yards, but with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and ongoing care, it can help you coexist with your neighbourhood cats!

What is TNR:

Trap-Neuter-Return is the only effective and humane way to stabilize community cat populations. Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian, where they are neutered and vaccinated. The cats are returned to their colony site, where they are often provided continuing care by volunteers. For these cats, a small part of their left ear is removed when the cat is under anesthetic (known as "ear tipping") which is the international symbol for a cat who has been sterilized.

Trap-Neuter-Return works! No more kittens. Their lives are improved, and the population stabilizes and declines over time. The behaviours and stresses associated with mating (such as yowling and fighting) stop.

Why is TNR so important?

There are hundreds of thousands of homeless cats in Ontario and hundreds of kittens are born outside every day.

Cats are very efficient at reproduction. Kittens as young as five months can become pregnant. They can have multiple litters each year and can become pregnant again almost immediately after giving birth.

Shelters and rescue groups can become quickly overwhelmed.

It doesn't have to be this way! Community cat populations will decrease, but only through the implementation of TNR and responsible pet ownership. Feeding bans and a trap/euthanize approach simply WILL NOT WORK and are not humane practices for Huron County.

TNR is supported by almost all major animal welfare organizations, which is why so many local animal rescue groups are currently promoting and actively implementing TNR in Ontario.

We desperately need Huron County to join this movement and we need your help to get the support of our community!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Have your cats spayed or neutered!!!!

The formation of HCCC has meant that caretakers need assistance from the community to trap, neuter and return cats to their colonies. We simply can't do this alone and need support and encouragement from people like you! We love our neighbours and community and that includes every furry feline in Huron County!

The Vacuum Effect:

Animal control's traditional approach to community cats – catch and kill – won't keep an area free of cats for very long. Catch and kill is cruel, inhumane and creates a vacuum, as do attempts to "relocate" cats. Known as the "vacuum effect", this is a documented phenomenon in a variety of animal species throughout the world. Once the cats are removed from a territory, other cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources and breed, forming a new colony. Catch and kill is an endless and costly cycle.



Cat overpopulation and homelessness cannot be solved by adoption alone - there are simply too many cats and not enough good homes to keep up with the demand. Each spayed female cat lowers the birthrate by hundreds, which means fewer homeless, abandoned or euthanized kittens.

Please email huroncountycommunitycats@gmail.com for more info or if you would like to donate or get involved!
