

COMMUNITY CATS

FERAL AND STRAY CATS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

STRAY cats may act frightened and wary but can return to living among humans happily.

FERAL cats have never been socialized or domesticated. They are fearful of people and are unlikely to enjoy living indoors.

WHAT IS TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the humane, effective approach for feral cats. Cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped and then returned to their outdoor home. Through TNR, a colony's population stabilizes, cats' lives are improved, and the community benefits. (Source: *Alley Cat Allies, alleycats.org*)

WHAT IS AN "EAR TIP?"

Veterinarians remove the very tip of a cat's ear while under anesthesia to provide an easily recognized sign that the cat has participated in TNR and is spayed or neutered.

EUTHANASIA STATS

In 2013, nearly 9,000 cats and kittens were euthanized in the St. Louis area (over 40% of those entering shelters). **The chance of a feral cat being euthanized in a shelter is nearly 100%.** TNR can dramatically reduce the number of felines entering shelters and those euthanized, and plays a significant role in helping St. Louis become a "no-kill city."



KITTENS IN THE COMMUNITY

WHAT DO I DO IF I SPOT KITTENS?

Stay calm! Do not frighten the kittens or their mother if she is with them. Monitor their activity, to see if the mother is attending to them, allowing several hours for her return. Meanwhile, call St. Louis Feral Cat Outreach at 314-669-5228 or Tenth Life Cat Rescue at 314-808-2454 for guidance. A mama cat moves her kittens every 5 to 7 days for safety, so be vigilant about tracking their location.

Kittens should **not** be scooped up and "rescued" unless they appear ill or in danger; premature removal from their mother can precipitate illness or death. Before bringing a litter of kittens indoors, consider whether you have the time and money involved when caring for kittens, as well as the connections to place them in responsible adoptive homes. Please do not assume a shelter or rescue can help – they are often overwhelmed by requests.



ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATIONS

TENTH LIFE CAT RESCUE

Tenth Life Cat Rescue saves stray cats and kittens in the St. Louis area, prioritizing those with special needs. Founded in 2009, Tenth Life believes that every cat, regardless of emotional or physical limitations, deserves a chance at a fulfilling and happy life.



St. Louis Feral Cat Outreach

Aims to protect and improve the lives of feral/community cats by educating the community about Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR), advocate for responsible pet ownership and the importance of sterilization. The organization is dedicated to reducing the homeless cat population and providing outreach assistance to caretakers.



BENEFITS OF

SPAYING/ NEUTERING

BENEFITS TO CATS

- Longer, healthier lives.
- Decreased risk of reproductive system health problems.
- Prevention of uterine or ovarian cancer and decreased risk of breast cancer.
- Prevention of testicular cancer and decreased incidence of prostate disease.

BENEFITS TO YOU

- Cats are friendlier after being altered.
- Neutered males are much less likely to mark territory.
- Spaying eliminates your female cat's heat cycle, characterized by incessant yowling, nervousness, and attraction of unwanted males.
- Reduced incidence of behavior problems.
- Decreased likelihood of biting.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- TNR reduced fighting, smell, and noise in stray cats.
- Saves millions of dollars that communities spend on managing homeless pets.
- Decreases the burden on animal shelters inundated by homeless pets.
- Homeless cats and dogs are less likely to land in situations where cruelty could occur.
- Eventually, communities can become "no-kill" when pet homelessness is no longer an issue.

ST. LOUIS AREA RESCUE RESOURCES

LOCAL TNR RESOURCES

St. Louis Feral Cat Outreach – 314-669-5228
St. Louis Veterinary Center – 314-773-6400

LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER

Carol House Quick Fix Clinic – 314-771-PETS
BARC – 314-771-PETS
Operation Spot – 314-995-8678
Pound Pals Nooterville – 314-776-SPAY
SNIP Alliance (IL) – 618-488-2656
Hartz Second Chance (IL) – once monthly \$20
feline spay/neuter – 618-975-4434

LOW COST VETERINARY CARE

Carol House Quick Fix Clinic – 314-771-PETS
Humane Society of Missouri – 314-802-5700
Red Rover (grant program) – 916-429-2457

ST. LOUIS AREA SHELTERS & RESCUES

Please find area organizations at
www.tenthlifecats.org/resources
or call 314-808-2454"

ATHLETES FOR ANIMALS

This brochure has been made possible through a generous grant from Athletes for Animals (athletesforanimals.org), "a united team of professional athletes with a shared passion for rescuing and protecting the welfare of homeless pets nationwide."



ATHLETES
FOR
ANIMALS

CARING FOR COMMUNITY CATS

Together, we can help homeless cats have the chance at healthy lives that they deserve.

