



Community Cats

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND TIPS FOR THE COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Spay Neuter
Hotline (for TNR)
602-265-7729

Surrender Stray Cat to
MCACC (\$96 fee)
602-506-7387

Injured/Sick Animals
AZ Humane Society
602-997-7585

Note: There are currently no state statutes or ordinances against free-roaming or feral cats, nor against feeding them. MCACC does not have the authority to enforce against feral cats in the county.

A Community Cat is a catch-all term often used to describe any outdoor cat that may appear to not have an owner. Feral cats, which are under- or not socialized, fall under this umbrella, as do free-roaming, friendly cats.

In Maricopa County, cats are not subject to the same licensing and leash laws as dogs so Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) cannot pick up stray or feral cats for the shelter or take action against those feeding cats in their neighborhoods.

Many times, members of the community may act as Colony Managers ensuring that a feral cat colony is a Managed Colony (cats in these communities are usually fed, watered, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and monitored for overall health). Other times, the cats are self-reliant and can survive in the neighborhood on their own, without any direct assistance.

TNR

TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is a long-proven and effective method for humanely addressing community cat populations across the world.

- **Trap:** The cats are humanely trapped and brought to a clinic
- **Neuter:** Cats are fixed, vaccinated, and their left ear is “tipped”
- **Return:** The fixed cats are safely returned to their colony

Community Benefits of TNR

- Reduced or eliminated unwanted behaviors (e.g. yowling, fighting, spraying)
- Cats will be healthier when treated with this humane solution and typically are less likely to wander (will stay near their food source)

TIPPED EAR



Image: Best Friends Animal Society

TNR (TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN) PROCESS

Call the Spay Neuter Hotline for help. Outdoor cats are humanely trapped and transported to the clinic.

The cats are spayed or neutered by a veterinarian—also known as “getting fixed.”

The left ear of each fixed cat is “tipped” to easily identify it as a spayed/neutered cat.

The fixed cats are returned to the exact location they were trapped to ensure they stay within their territory.

PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Note: There is a \$96 relinquishment fee for each stray cat that you bring in to surrender to MCACC. This cost recovery fee goes towards the feeding, care, and sheltering of each cat.

TNR is widely believed to be the most humane and effective method for stabilizing a community cat population. For more information about TNR, please call the Spay Neuter Hotline at 602-265-7729 or complete the online form: <https://adlaz.org/spay-neuter-hotline/outdoor-cats/new-request-for-tnr-services/>.

What You Can Do to Help Keep Community Cats Away From Your Property

- Remove or secure all potential food and water sources from your property, including dog food
- Spray concentrated orange juice or hang orange or lemon peels in areas where cats are spraying — cats do not like the citrus scent
- Keep all trash and recycle bins tightly closed as cats are considered opportunistic feeders/hunters
- Use a motion-detecting device that turns on a sprinkler or bright light in response to motion on your property, such as ScareCrow™
- Remove or secure potential shelter areas — secure access under houses, sheds, decks, porches, and buildings with wire fencing
- Use plastic carpet runners spike-side up and covered lightly in soil to prevent cats from digging in your garden
- Keep landscaping trimmed to avoid creating hiding/nesting spots
- Spread dried wild animal manure in the areas you notice feral cats in your yard; wild animal urine also may work to deter the cats
- There are also many commercial cat repellants (chemical and non-chemical options) available in garden stores, pet shops, and online

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ANIMAL DEFENSE LEAGUE OF ARIZONA (ADLA): <https://adlaz.org/spay-neuter-hotline/outdoor-cats/>

FIX ADOPT SAVE: <https://www.fixadoptsave.org/trap-neuter-return-program>

FOUNDATION FOR HOMELESS CATS: <http://www.thefoundationforhomelesscats.org/faqs/>

ALLEY CAT ALLIES: <https://www.alleycat.org/>

ALTERED TAILS: <https://www.alteredtails.org/stray-outdoor-cats>