

How to Help Community Cats



Community Cats, also referred to as feral cats, cannot be placed in homes as pets. Most are fearful of humans due to lack of socialization. These cats are well-adjusted to their outdoor lifestyle, and typically don't want to live indoors with people. Because Community Cats are so difficult to socialize and place into homes, they're rarely adopted and are at risk of euthanasia in a shelter.

Trap-neuter-return (TNR) offers a humane solution to euthanasia of unadoptable cats. TNR involves:

- Catching the cats in a humane trap.
- Taking them to a clinic to be spayed or neutered.
- Then releasing them back into the area where they were trapped.

Spaying and neutering these cats stabilizes the feral population in a neighborhood. It also helps to reduce fighting among male cats and territorial spraying. If you see a feral cat with one ear "tipped" it means they have been spayed or neutered to prevent future litters. While being spayed or neutered these cats can receive any other medical care they need, such as wound care, vaccinations, etc.

You can also help to keep Community Cats happy and healthy by acting as their "Colony Caretaker". A Colony Caretaker provides a regular source of food for a colony of feral cats. They monitor the regular population of this group – ensuring that everyone in the colony has been spayed or neutered, with an ear tip to indicate that they have been sterilized. If an unaltered cat moves in to the colony, they are humanely trapped, neutered, and then released back into the colony. The Caretaker may also watch for any signs of injury or illness, and contact one of the groups below for medical assistance if one of their colony cats becomes ill or injured.

Below are organizations that offer a variety of services to help Community Cats:

Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project: feralcatproject.org/

425-673-2287 ~ 4001 198th St SW, Suite 3, Lynnwood, WA

Operates a free spay/neuter clinic aimed at humanely and effectively reducing the feral cat population. The clinic is open to the public. Call for a spay or neuter appointment or for information on trapping, taming feral kittens and other support materials.

Community Cat Coalition: communitycatcoalitionwa.org/

PO Box 1236 Mukilteo, WA 98275

Provides education and mentorship on Community Cats and TNR – including information on how to trap, and lists of spay/neuter resources.

Feral Cat Assistance and Trapping: feraltrapping.com/FCAT/Home.html

206-427-6454 ~ 5415 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Their mission is to actively care for and educate people about feral cats. Can provide information and assistance with trapping and colony maintenance.

Northwest Spay & Neuter Center: nwspayneuter.org/

253-627-7729 ~ 6401 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98408

Promotes and provides low-cost spay and neuter services for cats, dogs and rabbits.

The NOAH Center: thenoahcenter.org/

360-629-7055 ~ 31300 Brandstrom Rd, Stanwood, WA 98292

Offers free spay/neuter services to feral cats on Mondays. Call for more information or to make an appointment.

Oasis for Animals: oasisforanimals.org/
360-321-4142 ~ PO Box 1304 Langley, WA 98260
Provides assistance with TNR.

Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation: waifanimals.org/
360-678-8900 ext. 1100 ~ 60 Rhododendron Park Rd, Coupeville, WA
Provides assistance with spay/neuter and re-releasing feral cats.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals: ompetpals.org/
360-301-8142 ~ PO Box 1466 Port Hadlock, WA 98339
Provides assistance with TNR.

The Cat's Meow: meowanacortes.org/
360-588-9900 ~ PO Box 1232 Anacortes, WA 98221
Operates a free spay/neuter clinic for feral cats on Fidalgo and Guemes Islands.

Spay to Save: spaytosave.org/
360-477-0574 ~ PO Box 2453 Port Angeles, WA 98362
Provides assistance with all stages of TNR.

The following organizations loan out humane traps, but do not provide further assistance:

Homeward Pet Adoption Center: homewardpet.org/
425-488-4444 ~ 13132 NE 177th Pl, Woodinville, WA 98072
Offers rental of humane traps, provides information to the public.

Progressive Animal Welfare Society: paws.org/
425-787-2500 ~ PO Box 1037 Lynnwood, WA 98046
Offers rental of humane traps, provides information to the public.

Purrfect Pals: purrfectpals.org/
360-618-6683 ~ 230 McRae Rd NE, Arlington, WA 98223
Offers rental of humane traps. Sometimes has feral/barn cats available for adoption.

Once altered, what should you do with a feral cat?

It is not recommended to relocate or surrender the cat unless they are in danger, ill, or injured. The TNR process should be completed by returning the cat to the location where they were originally trapped. If you need medical or sheltering help, please contact one of these organizations:

Feral Cat Assistance and Trapping: feraltrapping.com/FCAT/Home.html
206-427-6454 ~ 5415 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Everett Animal Shelter: everettwa.gov/148/Animal-Services
425-257-6000 ~ 333 Smith Island Road, Everett, WA 98201

Seattle Humane: seattlehumane.org/
(425) 641-0080 ~ 13212 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA 98005

Regional Animal Services of King County: kingcounty.gov/depts/regional-animal-services.aspx
206-296-7387 ~ 21615 64th Ave. S. Kent, WA 98032

Feral cats are an excellent solution for rodent or pest problems. Interested in adopting a barn cat or "working cat"? Check out this list - [Barn Cats](#)