

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CAT?

A community cat is a cat that lives outdoors, may be friendly or feral, and does not have an owner or a particular home.

WHY SHOULD I TNR?

Whether you love or loathe cats, TNR is the best answer to effectively reducing the number of stray cats.

WHY NOT TRAP AND REMOVE ENTIRELY?

If you begin to trap and remove, other cats will move into the territory and will fill the space left behind by the removed cats. This is called the "Vacuum Effect." The new cats integrate into the area and produce more kittens, since they are not fixed, and the nuisance behaviors continues to be a problem.

WHAT IS TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most humane and effective method for controlling feral cat populations. TNR benefits the cats and the community. Using this technique, community cats living outside are trapped, neutered, ear tipped (the symbol of a sterilized cat), and then returned. This helps control the rodent population.

ADVANTAGES OF TNR

- It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by stopping new litters.
- The nuisance behavior often associated with feral cats is dramatically reduced, including the yowling/fighting that come with mating activity and the males spraying to mark their territory.
- The returned colony guards its territory, preventing unsterilized cats from moving in and beginning another cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior.
- It reduces the number of kittens and cats flowing into the HHPAC.
- TNR cats control the rodent population, which benefits the health and safety of the City.



TNR

Trap-Neuter-Return



A guide about the Harker Heights Pet Adoption Center's affordable Trap-Neuter-Return program.



Harker Heights
Pet Adoption Center
403 Indian Trail
Harker Heights, TX 76548
254-953-5472



HARKER HEIGHTS PET ADOPTION CENTER

The TNR program is the only method proven to be humane and effective at controlling outdoor cat population growth. Using this technique, all the cats in a colony are trapped, vaccinated, neutered, ear-tipped for identification, and then returned to their territory. The goal of any community cat management program is to maximize the quality of life for the cats and to eliminate the existing colony over time through attrition. The Harker Heights Pet Adoption Center (HHPAC) uses qualified staffing and approved material for all procedures performed.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE TNR PROGRAM?

- Unwanted or abandoned cats living outdoors full-time.
- Kittens must weigh at least 3 pounds and be healthy enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery.
- House pets **DO NOT** qualify, as they have an owner and rely solely on humans for their survival.

TNR GUIDELINES

1. There is a \$20 fee per cat trapped in Harker Heights City Limits, due upon pickup. If you have financial difficulties, please talk to Staff.

- The cat(s) will be spayed/neutered. (If already sterilized, the fee will go toward anesthesia/vaccine costs and will not be refunded.)
- Cat(s) will be ear tipped, no exceptions (included in the cost).
- Cat(s) will receive a rabies vaccine & microchip (included in the cost).

2. The cat must remain in a live trap due to temperament in order to have a safe surgery performed. I understand that surgery may not be performed if the cat does not arrive in a live trap.

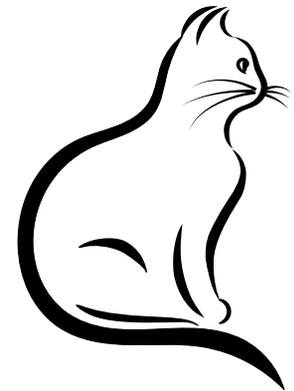
3. You must attest that this is a feral, un-owned cat that will be returned to an outdoor colony within Harker Heights city limits. This is not a personal pet or one belonging to an animal rescue organization.

4. There is some risk of injury or death in the procedure and the use of anesthetics and drugs. If the cat is pregnant at the time of surgery, the pregnancy will be terminated.

5. Any cat who is medically untreatable or in severe or chronic pain will be humanely euthanized at the veterinarian's discretion while the cat is under anesthesia. You will be notified post-euthanasia.

6. If a bite occurs during the cat's stay, HHPAC will follow Bell County's public health rabies protocol.

7. The cat must be picked up the day after surgery is performed and taken back to the location it was trapped at for release. If the cat is not picked up within 72 hours, it will be treated as property of the shelter.



If you are interested in the HHPAC's TNR program, please call 254-953-5472 to speak with a Staff member about getting started. Only cats that are trapped within Harker Heights city limits qualify for TNR.

You can also check out a live trap from the PAC if you do not own one.