

In Support of a Community Cat Program for the City of Tulsa



Who supports TNVR?

Among many others: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), **National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA)**, American Bar Association, Humane Society of the United States, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals, Best Friends Animal Society, many cities and communities in the US and other countries. ***

What is a community cat?

Community cats are un-owned cats that live outdoors and are cared for by the community. They may be feral (unsocialized to humans) or friendly, may have been born into the wild, or may be lost or abandoned pets.

Why TNVR?

Some people are under the mistaken impression that there is a choice between having cats in their neighborhoods and not having cats. Catching and killing cats has failed for decades. It does not decrease un-owned cat populations. Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) does effectively reduce and stabilize community cat populations, while improving neighborhoods where these cats may live.

As with most outdoor cats across the country, **Tulsa's community cats are healthy, but they are unadoptable**, because they are not socialized to people (feral). Any city's catch and kill policy for feral cats leads to thousands of needless deaths in shelters each year, at considerable cost to taxpayers.

- **Cats and kittens taken into Tulsa's municipal shelter have historically been between 3,000 and 4,000 annually.**
- Thousands of healthy cats die because they are unadoptable, are kittens too young to survive, or there is simply not enough room to shelter them.
- **Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) is a proven method for REDUCING the cat population outdoors.** The process is simple: free-roaming cats are humanely trapped and taken to a clinic for spay/neuter surgery and vaccination. They receive an ear tip — a small snip of the tip of the left ear — as an indicator they've been fixed. After recovery, they are returned to the same place from which they were trapped – their "home." Most of these colonies are regularly supplied with fresh water and food by local citizens – the "community." They are only returned if healthy and with a viable food source.
- TNVR is known to prevent hundreds of thousands of litters each year.
- Neutered and spayed cats roam less, have fewer negative behaviors like fighting, yowling at night and territorial marking.
- Most community cats are healthy and disease free when they come into the clinics to be sterilized and TNVR improves their health for the future.
- Establishing a Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return program for community cats is a critically important, affordable, and effective solution.

- Municipalities engaged in any type of catch and kill efforts are ignorantly fighting a cruel, endless, losing battle against nature that is a gross waste of taxpayer dollars.
- Eliminating the original population (or colony) only allows other unneutered cats to move in and start the cycle of reproduction again. This is known as the “Vacuum Effect” and has been documented in many species.
- A community cat program can be managed with little cost to the city utilizing private funding while seeing a quantitative savings to the city’s animal control budget.

Every time a cat is spayed or neutered and returned to its outdoor home, another litter of kittens and endless suffering is avoided.

Tulsa Supports and WANTS TNVR!

T-Town TNR’s tracking of public requests and cats going through their program reveals that Tulsans support a community cat program.

| YEAR | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Month | Tulsa requests | Number of cats completed | Tulsa requests | Number of cats completed | Tulsa requests | Number of cats completed | Tulsa Requests | Number of cats completed |
| 1 | 6 | 95 | 26 | 104 | 45 | 72 | 18 | 115 |
| 2 | 2 | 92 | 35 | 143 | 29 | 136 | 25 | 67 |
| 3 | 6 | 55 | 29 | 109 | 25 | 94 | 31 | 121 |
| 4 | 6 | 32 | 17 | 116 | 41 | 85 | 33 | 90 |
| 5 | 3 | 60 | 26 | 101 | 58 | 111 | 30 | 89 |
| 6 | 6 | 27 | 25 | 127 | 72 | 168 | 60 | 112 |
| 7 | 5 | 108 | 33 | 141 | 60 | 148 | 42 | 145 |
| 8 | 8 | 116 | 28 | 98 | 47 | 144 | 45 | 188 |
| 9 | 5 | 31 | 24 | 138 | 55 | 152 | 35 | 135 |
| 10 | 17 | 70 | 29 | 104 | 44 | 214 | | |
| 11 | 10 | 127 | 23 | 108 | 24 | 162 | | |
| 12 | 10 | 106 | 22 | 88 | 37 | 157 | | |
| Total : | 84 | 919 | 317 | 1377 | 537 | 1643 | 319 | 1062 |
| Monthly Average | 7 | 77 | 26 | 115 | 45 | 137 | 35 | 118 |

***Some cities that have successfully implemented *practical, affordable* TNR programs are Houston, TX; Cleveland, OH (Tulsa’s Sister City), Oklahoma City, OK; Jacksonville, FL; Atlantic City, NJ; Washington D.C.; Albuquerque, NM, San Antonio, TX; Philadelphia, PA; DeKalb County, GA; Baltimore, Maryland; Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition, the entire State of Virginia endorses TNR in its communities. Many cities in other countries, including Canada, Italy, Greece, the UK, Taiwan, and Spain have practiced TNR for decades.