



Community Cat  
Programs: Overview,  
Operations, and  
Nuisance Mitigation

**Best Friends®**  
SAVE THEM ALL™



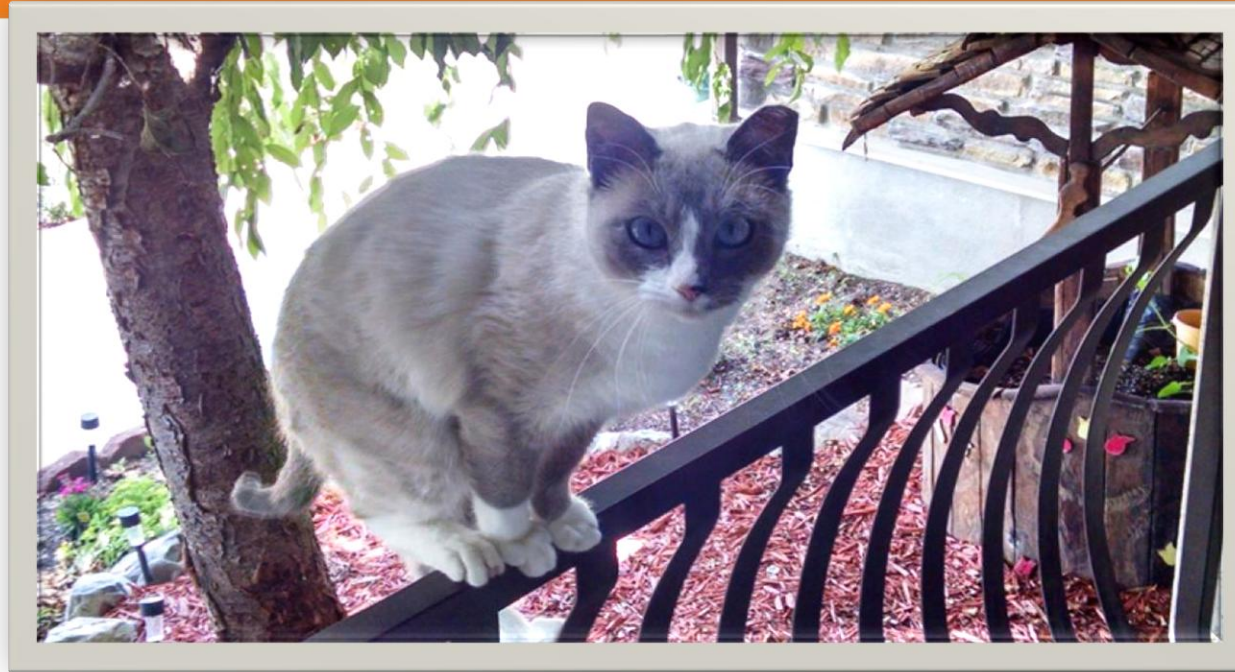
# What is a community cat?



A community cat is an unowned cat who lives and thrives outside, rather than indoors as pets. Best Friends Animal Society and other organizations use the term “community cat” because these animals are part of the community in which they live and are valued and often cared for by community residents.



# Some typical behavior of community cats



A community cat may be friendly, completely unsocialized with people, or somewhere in-between.

The temperament of a community cat can be vast as stated above, but they live in all communities; urban, rural, and industrial.

Where there are people, there are community cats.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_yKZ5lKhG3s&list=RDCMUcuZUSKAXEB\\_1l9hBpxEK\\_zQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yKZ5lKhG3s&list=RDCMUcuZUSKAXEB_1l9hBpxEK_zQ)



# Community Cats







## Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR)

- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNVR) or TNRV is the only humane method proven to stabilize then reduce free-roaming cat populations.
- TNR/TNVR is a field-based practice that provides sterilization and vaccination for community cats.
- TNVR addresses numerous citizen complaints.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7px3hc1\\_1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7px3hc1_1g)





# Trap-Neuter-Return



Alley Cat Allies

# All About



## Trap-Neuter-Return





# What are some benefits of TNVR?

Creates safer communities by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats ie rabies, FVRCP, etc

Improves the health and quality of lives of free roaming cats

Reduces the behaviors that can lead to nuisance complaints

TNR can stabilize and then reduce the size of the colony over time

Helps create better relationships between neighbors.



# Outdated & ineffectual Trap-Kill Methods



The trap and kill method is an outdated, ineffective and cruel way to try to deal with outdoor cat populations.





# Why the vacuum effect or trap and kill methods won't work

Trap and kill or trap and remove methods don't work because the remaining cats continue to breed at a higher rate and new cats move into the available territory





# 2011 – Community Cat Act

- <http://bit.ly/CommCatAct>
- Allows for cats to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned (not for owner surrendered pets)
- Bypass 5-day stray hold
- “Community cat caretaker” means any person other than an owner who provides food, water, or shelter to a community cat or community cat colony.
- Cats condition indicates they are doing well outdoors
- A community cat program is the #1 lifesaving program for a shelter and is imperative towards a no kill model.

# Community cat programs in shelters

Understanding the Foundation







## **NATIONAL ANIMAL** CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

# National Animal Care & Control

- It is the position [policy] of the National Animal Care & Control Association that, at every opportunity, officers should [will] work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination; responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas. It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**



# What does SNR or RTF mean?

- When a community cat enters a shelter, they can bypass the stray hold and get sterilized, vaccinated, ear-tipped and returned to their outdoor homes.





# CCP Components

- SNR—
  - shelter, neuter, return
  - Also known as: RTF—  
return to field
- Outreach—
  - Targeted TNR
  - Nuisance mitigation







# What are the benefits?

- Creates safer communities by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats (ie rabies vaccine and FVRCP)
- Improves the health and quality of lives of free roaming cats
- Reduces the behaviors that can lead to nuisance complaints such as fighting and yowling
- TNR reduces the size of the colony over time
- Increased job satisfaction among animal shelter employees
- The largest return to owner program (RTO for cats)

# “But I don’t want the cat back”

- How is the cat/cats accessing the property?
- What type of concern does the person have about the cat/cats accessing their property?
- Sterilization will reduce most unwanted behaviors (spraying, roaming, fighting, litters, etc.).
- What would be the best device for the situation? Factors to consider large area to cover, water source, digging, cat sleeping on car, fighting with other cats in the house.
- Continuously reiterate your understanding of their frustrations.
- What is attracting the cat to the location? Can it be eliminated or modified?
- Is there a food, water or shelter source?
- How can you make the acceptable location more attractive?





# Mitigating Nuisances

- Ask the person to define their concerns: “What specifically is the animal doing that is causing a problem for you?”
- Convey empathy, which creates a bond and a willingness to cooperate.
- Assure them this is an issue that others have experienced, and which most likely has a humane and mutually beneficial solution.
- Let them know that removing and euthanizing/moving cats is not a solution, and new cats would just move in and start the breeding cycle over again.
- Remind them that cats are part of the community as well, so we can work together to figure out which deterrent method is best for this situation.





# Utah Shelter programs

Salt Lake City began Community Cat Program in 2008, and then the Salt Lake County saw the success in SLC, and then all the cities that contracts with SLCAS also followed.

Cities and Counties that followed:

Murray - 2010

West Valley/Taylorsville - 2011

Davis Counties – 2014

South Salt Lake-2014

Weber Counties – 2016

Sandy- 2016

West Jordan – 2017

Herriman- 2019

Cotton Wood Heights- 2021

		Shelter Cat Stats					
		Baseline (year prior to launch)		2018		2023	
Shelter	Years of CCP	Cat intake	Save Rate	Cat intake	Save Rate	Cat intake	Save Rate
Salt Lake County	2011-2019	4864	63%	4073	91.30%	3,347	90.8%
West Valley City / Taylorsville	2011-2019	2251	33%	1577	92.40%	2,253	92.9%
Weber County	2016-2019	2096	42%	2210	88.20%	2,049	86%
Davis County	2016-2019	2356	54.60%	2255	87.80%	2,416	91.8%
West Jordan	2017-2019	962	63.80%	940	87.70%	922	85%



# Word from the ACOs

Animal Control Officers Talk about Community Cat Programs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AswcjaXS2Yk&feature=youtu.be>

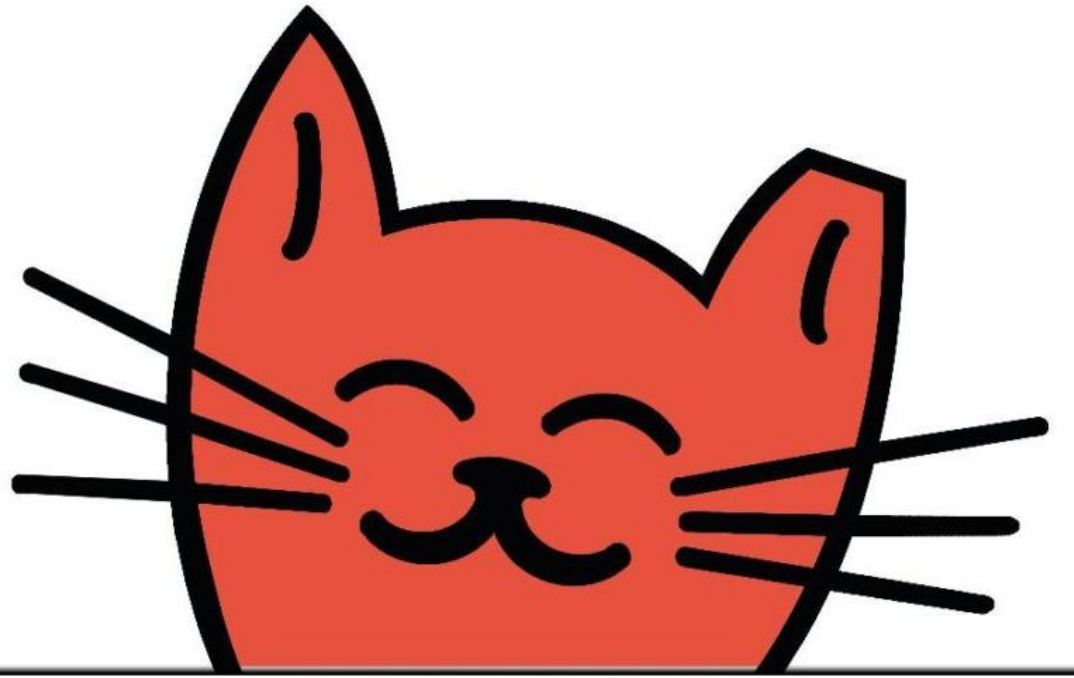




# Best Friends Resources

All services are by appointment:

- Loan humane cat traps for 2 weeks at no charge.
- Community cat food pantry
- Outside cat shelters (suggested donation \$10/each, or whatever they can afford, which can be nothing.)
- Council through phone calls, emails, assistance hours, and when needed, consult community cat calls.(30 min-1 hour.)
- Volunteer trap posts across Utah by county
- Community cat spay/neuter vouchers



# Operation Community Cats



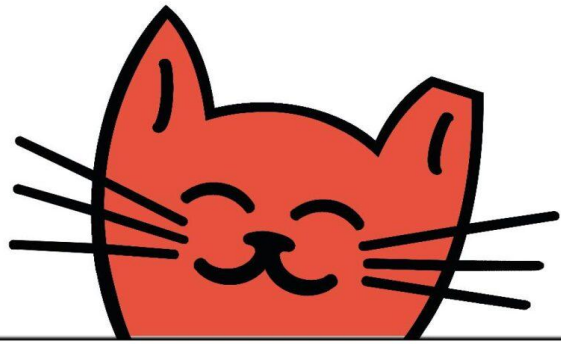
**Mary Wilson**

## OUR MISSION

To reduce the population of community cats through trap, spay, neuter and return.

## OUR VISION

A world where all cats live safely inside, and every kitten born can find a loving home.



**Operation  
Community  
Cats**

## Operation Community Cats

### SERVICES

We support homeless outside cats via the effective, humane TNR (trap-neuter-return) approach. OCC also provides cat food and some minor medical assistance to homeless outside cats.



# Questions?





