



ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of Animals Since 1957

FACT SHEET: TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN (TNR)

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is a cat who does not have a home or an owner. They are wild cats who are not socialized and who typically live on the streets. They are generally very afraid of people.

What is TNR?

TNR stands for Trap, Neuter and Return and the Arizona Humane Society promotes TNR as the humane solution to the feral cat, over-population problem. It is a program that stops breeding by trapping, spaying or neutering and then returning cats to their original habitat. This program:

- Ends the breeding cycle and stabilizes the population.
- Is more effective and less expensive than extermination.
- Eliminates or minimizes annoying behaviors such as spraying, yowling and fighting.
- Reduces the number of under-age kittens flooding our shelters, many of whom must be euthanized.
- Is the *humane* solution.

How does it work?

TRAP - The cats are humanely trapped

NEUTER - The cats are taken to a veterinarian where they are spayed or neutered. Their left ear is "tipped" so that people will recognize that they have been sterilized and will not attempt to trap them again.

RETURN - The cats are returned to their caregivers, who agree to continue to provide them with food, water and some type of necessary shelter.

What are the alternatives?

DO NOTHING - Eventually the problem will reach unmanageable levels and lead to untold suffering.

TRAP & KILL - Aside from being inhumane, this approach is not a solution. New cats will simply move in to fill the void and start the cycle over again.

TRAP & RELOCATE - There is no place for these cats to go, and again, this approach is not a solution. New cats will move in to fill the void and start the cycle over again.

CATCH & TAME - This approach is not realistic. Adult feral cats cannot be socialized to the point where they can be placed in homes as pets.

How Can I Help?

Please spay and neuter your **companion** cats before they have any offspring. Keep them indoors with a collar and an up-to-date I.D. tag. The Arizona Humane Society offers low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for owned animals. If you are feeding **homeless** cats, please call Animal Defense League of Arizona's TNR Program today at (602) 265-7729 or email feralcats@adlaz.org for TNR assistance.

For more information, please visit
www.azhumane.org