

[City/County Animal Services] Community Cat Protocol

Staff at [Animal Services] agree to follow the following protocols when taking in “community cat(s)” from County residents:

- Staff are asked to gain as much information about the colony as they can, to include, but not limited to: 1) the presence of other cats and kittens on their property or immediate area, 2) whether the person is willing to participate in TNR on the property, 3) the exact location from where the cat(s) was found or where the nearest managed colony to that location, if known.
- Staff will inform the person(s) bringing in the cat(s) that it is likely the cat(s) will be transferred to a “Community Cat Advocate” group within [your] County and will likely be returned to a location nearby where they were trapped and/or captured, if possible.
- Person(s) bringing in community cat(s) to [Animal Services] will be handed the appropriate literature regarding community cats, particularly humane deterrent literature for those who are trapping cats because they are unwelcomed on their property.
- Staff will maintain a “Community Cat Advocate” email list to be utilized for placement of healthy community cats, including, but not limited to: [this could be the list of registered caregivers]
- Eartipped Cats - staff will email a “Community Cat Advocate” group within 48 hours so that plans can be made to return the cat(s). The cat(s) will be returned to field within 7 days or as soon as possible thereafter, once it has received a health clearance by the Chief Veterinarian or a designated member of his staff.
- Cats Not Eartipped - the cat(s) is neutered, vaccinated and eartipped within 7 days of intake or as soon as possible thereafter, then held for recovery and transferred to a “Community Cat Advocate”. [This depends if Animal Services wants/can do the sterilization. If not, then this should reflect that the Community Cat Advocate list will be informed of a new, non-TNR'd cat so they can have them sterilized]
- When returning cats to the field, the “Community Cat Advocate” will be provided an exact address or location that was recorded by staff during intake.

This protocol is not meant to include every possible scenario in which “community cat(s)” find their way to [Animal Services]; however, if a situation occurs that is not clearly covered by these protocols, please address them with your supervisor or higher level authority.