Feral Advo-Cat-cy

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Agenda

- Failed Alternatives to TNR
- Advantages of TNR
- Best Practices to Minimize Visibility
- How to Speak to Neighbors
- How to Handle Animal Control / Code Enforcement
- Feline Deterrents
- Q&A
Failed Alternatives to TNR

❌ Trap and Kill

1. Vacuum Effect
   • New cats will move in to take advantage of the shelter & food sources
   • Unsterilized survivors remain and will overbreed
2. Lack of animal control resources
   • An attempt to trap and kill all the cats, colony by colony, is simply unrealistic – there aren’t enough resources available to accomplish this
3. Abandonment
   • Domestic cats are constantly being abandoned and can quickly repopulate a vacated area

❌ Stop Feeding

➢ Cats are territorial and won’t simply ‘go away’
➢ This tactic drives cats to explore garbage cans/dumpsters and hunt wildlife
➢ Higher disease/flea rate among malnourished cats
Failed Alternatives to TNR

❌ Relocation

- This simply moves the issue to another area
- The same issues apply to relocation as trap and kill (vacuum effect, lack of resources, etc)
- Most feral cats cannot be tamed at all or would require months of focused work – and the outcome is always uncertain
- Unfamiliar territory can cause cats to continue to move

❌ Do Nothing

- The size of the colony will reach a critical point
- New litters will starve or become diseased from lack of food/shelter
- All issues of an unmanaged colony remain (noise, odor, costs, etc)
Advantages of TNR at the Colony Level

- Population Stabilization

- Noise Reduction
  - Neutered males will no longer fight over females
  - No mating means less noise

- Odor Reduction
  - Reduced/eliminated spraying

- Less Visible Society
  - Neutered cats will roam less and be less visible to the community

- Control of Rodents

- Prevention of New Colonies
Advantages of TNR at the Community Level

- Overall feral cat population reduction
- Improved Public Relations for Animal Control Officers
  - A well regulated/TNR’d colony will cause less community hostility
- Lower Euthanasia Rates
  - Fewer feral cats taken to shelters
- Cost Savings
  - Fewer feral cats in shelters, fewer euthansias, fewer calls to animal control = less money spent
- Ownership and Monitoring of the Colony
  - Someone watching over the colony for changes/additions that can take action if necessary
- Mobilization of Volunteer Workforce
  - Because TNR is life affirming it attracts many more volunteers than a trap and kill approach
Best Practices to Reduce Visibility

The best way to deal with Animal Control or pesky neighbors is to not HAVE to deal with them.

- TNR your colony!!!
- Feed only at set times and only for short periods of time
- Feed in an inconspicuous area
- Ensure shelters are well hidden
- Camouflage your shelter
- Keep your premises clean
Talking to Neighbors

- Always deal calmly with hostility and resistance!!

- Educate yourself so you can speak intelligently about the TNR process, its advantages and failed alternatives
- Listen to them and understand their concern(s)
- Ensure they know we have the same goal: the reduction/elimination of the feral cat population
- Be neutral when talking about the cats
- Put yourself in their place
- Use the feline deterrent list

Be Polite!!
Talking to Neighbors

- Less Cats
- Less Noise
- Less Smell
- Free Natural Rodent Control
Talking to Animal Control

Before an Encounter:

- Educate yourself so you can speak intelligently about the TNR process, its advantages and failed alternatives
- Research your local ordinances to see if you are in violation

During an Encounter:

- Ask if the officer believes you are violating any laws
- If you are not comfortable answering a question, you don’t have to
- You may ask the officer to return at a later time
- Only in an emergency situation can an officer search your property without a warrant
- You are not required to give your consent to search
- Do not sign any documents other than a court summons
- Get the officer’s name and badge number