

Feral Advo-Cat-cy



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All About Animals Rescue
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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



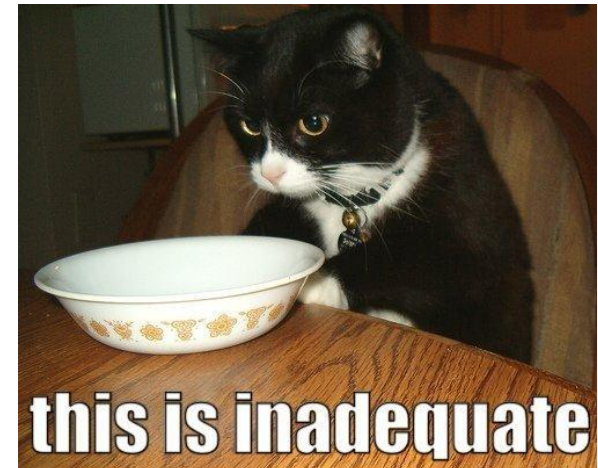
Failed Alternatives to TNR

✖ 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

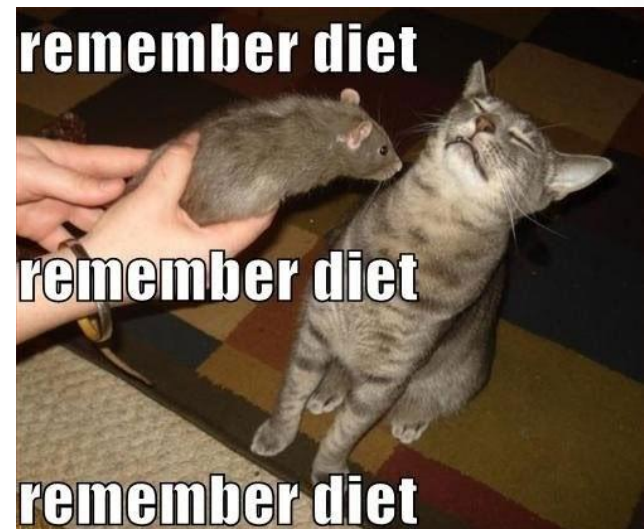
✗ Do Nothing

- 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

TNR



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