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### Sign up to stop the killing

Join our mailing list and learn how you can help us win the battle against unnecessary killing of outdoor cats. [Sign up now »](#)

## Get Informed

### Discover the Truth about Cats and the Vacuum Effect

#### Feral cats live outdoors.

Feral cats are members of the domestic cat species, but are not socialized to humans, and are therefore unadoptable. Feral cats choose to reside in locations for two reasons: one, there is a food source—intended or not—and two, there is shelter. Feral cats lead healthy, natural lives on their own, content in their outdoor home. [Learn more about feral cats.](#)



#### Catch and kill creates a vacuum.

Capturing and killing feral cats is animal control's traditional approach for feral cats. Catch and kill attempts may temporarily reduce the number of feral cats in a given area, but two things happen: one, unsterilized survivors continue to breed, and two, other cats move in to the now-available territory. This is known as the vacuum effect.

#### Catch and kill **doesn't** work, yet it continues.

Animal control agencies have been catching and killing cats for decades in a misguided attempt to reduce the number of feral cats in a given area. Animal control continues to practice catch and kill even though the number of outdoor cats does not decrease. This endless, cruel cycle is not supported by the public and is a gross misuse of tax dollars. The vacuum effect is just one reason catch and kill is so ineffective. [Learn more about cat fatalities in the animal control system.](#)

#### Trap-Neuter-Return does work.

This program involves humanely trapping, spaying or neutering, vaccinating, and returning cats to their outdoor homes. There are no more kittens; the population stabilizes. And the returned spayed and neutered cats' lives are improved. Behaviors and stresses associated with pregnancy and mating, such as yowling or fighting, stop. Not only does Trap-Neuter-Return make good sense, it is a responsible, humane method of care for outdoor cats. [Learn more about Trap-Neuter-Return.](#)

#### You can make a difference and save lives.

Together, we can stand up and take action to stop the current animal control policies that don't address the needs of the cats or our communities. To learn more or to find tools to help you educate people in your area, go to [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org).

Want to do something? [Join our movement to stop the killing.](#) You can make a difference and save lives.