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## Helping New York City's Feral & Stray Cats

### Our Mission

The New York City Feral Cat Initiative is a joint program of the [Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals](#) and [Neighborhood Cats](#), two private non-profit organizations. Our mission is to solve the feral cat overpopulation crisis in New York City through the humane, non-lethal method of Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR for short.

### The Problem: Too Many Cats Living on the Streets

Tens of thousands of street cats live in the alleyways, backyards, and outdoor spaces of New York City. They are the offspring of lost or abandoned pet cats and, unneutered, they go on to spawn new generations. The cats group themselves together in packs called colonies. Many of their nuisance behaviors can be attributed to mating behaviors that would likely cease if they were sterilized. These behaviors include noise from fighting and mating, and the smell from the spraying of pheromone-laced urine.

Because these cats are not socialized to humans, they are not candidates for adoption. The breeding of these street cats results in more kittens entering the shelters — taking away homes that would otherwise go to the adult cats already there. Most adult feral cats taken in at city shelters are euthanized (killed) because they are not adoptable as house pets. As a result, the city must shoulder higher costs for municipal animal control.

### The Solution: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Our [New York City Feral Cat Database](#) shows that in neighborhoods throughout New York City, TNR is proving effective in humanly managing feral cat colonies and reducing their numbers over time. TNR is a two-step approach to feral cat overpopulation:

#### Step One: TNR

Stray and feral (wild) cats are humanely trapped, evaluated, given a rabies vaccination, left eartipped, and spayed or neutered (sterilized) by a veterinarian, and then returned to the familiar habitat of their original colony. Tame (friendly) cats and kittens young enough to be socialized are removed for adoption placement in permanent indoor homes.

#### Step Two: Ongoing Feral Cat Colony Management

Volunteers called colony caretakers provide ongoing care of the cats, including daily food, water, and clean-up of the area, shelter, and monitoring of the cats' health. This ongoing surveillance ensures that any new cats that find their way into the colony will be removed if they are tame, or TNRed (rabies vaccinated, left eartipped, and sterilized) if they are feral. This allows the number of cats in the colony to diminish over time through natural attrition, as cats get old and die from natural causes.

### How the NYC Feral Cat Initiative is Helping

#### What We Do:

The NYC Feral Cat Initiative program provides [TNR Caretaker Training Workshops](#) in all five boroughs, [hands-on assistance](#) at TNR projects in all boroughs, [TNR equipment loans](#), [advice to the public](#) by phone and e-mail, [educational events](#), and information via our [e-newsletter](#), [web site](#), and [printed materials](#). Also, the NYC Feral Cat Initiative hosts the [NYC Feral Cat Council](#), an alliance of organizations that work directly with feral cats and TNR in New York City.

#### What We Do NOT Do:

- **Emergency Rescues**  
 Instead, [learn who handles emergency rescues](#) in New York City.



## Upcoming Events

### January 2009

[Workshop: "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony"](#)  
 Saturday, January 31, 2009  
 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
 Queens Library, Steinway Branch, 21-45 31st Street, 2nd Floor, Astoria, Queens

### February 2009

[Workshop: "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony"](#)  
 Saturday, February 7, 2009  
 1:00–4:00 p.m.  
 Staten Island address and directions given upon registration

[Workshop: "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony"](#)  
 Monday, February 16, 2009  
 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
 ASPCA, 424 East 92nd Street, 5th Floor, Manhattan

### March 2009

[Workshop: "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony"](#)  
 Saturday, March 14, 2009  
 1:00–4:00 p.m.  
 Park Slope Food Co-op, 782 Union Street (at 4th Avenue), Brooklyn

### April 2009

[Workshop: "Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony"](#)  
 Saturday, April 4, 2009  
 Noon–3:00 p.m.  
 Blue Heron Nature Center, 267 Poillon Avenue, Staten Island

## TNR in the News

### January 2009

- **Investigate Animal Cruelty Cases**

Instead, [learn how to report a case of animal cruelty](#) within New York City.

- **Take in Cats or Kittens**

Instead, [learn what no-kill options are available](#) for homeless animals in New York City.

### Learn More!

Browse this web site to learn more about NYC Feral Cat Initiative [services](#), read [information](#) on feral cats and TNR, learn about [volunteer opportunities](#), register your feral cat colony in our [online database](#), or [make a donation](#) to support this valuable work for NYC felines!

### About Us

The [NYC Feral Cat Initiative](#) is a joint program of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and Neighborhood Cats, two private non-profit organizations committed to solving New York City's feral cat overpopulation crisis through the humane, non-lethal method of Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR for short.

### Feral Cat Services

The NYC Feral Cat Initiative program provides [TNR Caretaker Training Workshops](#) in all five boroughs; [hands-on assistance](#) at TNR projects in all boroughs; free [TNR equipment loans](#); [public advice](#) by phone and e-mail; feline [educational events](#) and information via our [e-newsletter](#), [web site](#), and [printed materials](#). In addition, the NYC Feral Cat Initiative hosts the [NYC Feral Cat Council](#), an alliance of organizations that work directly with feral cats and TNR in New York City.

### Information on TNR & Feral Cat Care

Learn about resources available to help street cats in New York City, including free and low-cost [feral cat spay/neuter services](#), proper [care of a feral cat colony](#), [winter shelters](#), [bottle-feeding orphaned kittens](#), [socializing feral kittens](#), [community relations](#), and [adoption options](#) for found tame (friendly) cats and socialized kittens. In addition, print out a variety of helpful documents, including our [NYC Feral Cat Initiative brochure](#), [TNR Project Preparation List](#), and [Cat Poisoning Reward Poster](#) in [English](#), [Spanish](#), or [Russian](#).

### E-Newsletter

[NYC Eartips](#), the e-newsletter of the New York City Feral Cat Initiative, will debut during Summer 2008. [Subscribe now](#) and you won't miss an issue! When subscribing, you can also opt to receive *Out of the Cage!*, the e-newsletter of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, *Picasso Veterinary Fund in Action!*, and other occasional notices from the Mayor's Alliance.

### TNR in the News

Read [how TNR is making an impact](#) on communities in the New York City area.

### Upcoming Events

See what feral cat workshops, classes, public information sessions, fundraisers, and other events are on the [calendar](#).

### Register a Colony

Are you managing a colony of feral cats in New York City and performing TNR? Then you should register your colony today in the [New York City Feral Cat Database](#). All information entered is confidential and you will be eligible for free cat food giveaways and raffles! The database was launched in 2006 to gather statistical data on feral cat colonies in New York City. Today, the database has hundreds of feral cat colonies registered. The data collected shows that, on average, those colonies show a substantial decline in size!

### Volunteer to Help Feral Cats

Learn how you can help the street cats in your neighborhood by attending a [TNR Caretaker Training Workshop](#), by becoming a [TNR Coach](#) and sharing your experience with others, by [fostering a cat or kitten](#) until a permanent home can be found, or by [socializing a litter of feral kittens](#).

### Donate

Your [generous donation](#) will directly assist the NYC Feral Cat Initiative in accomplishing its mission to humanely address feral cat overpopulation through the non-lethal method of TNR. You can choose to make a one-time donation or become a Feline Friend by signing up for automatic monthly donations.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Find answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), feral cats, and the NYC Feral Cat Initiative.

### Contact Us

### A Walk on the Wild Side

by Cimeron Morrissey, *Cat Fancy*  
January 2009

### December 2008

#### Coalition has fix in mind for stray cats

by Alfred Dias, *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*  
Thursday, December 18, 2008

#### NYC Eartips – Fall 2008

by NYC Feral Cat Initiative  
Thursday, December 4, 2008

### November 2008

#### Urban feral cat population booming

by Susan Walker, *Toronto Star*  
Sunday, November 23, 2008

#### Dedicated rescuer roasts turkey for Queens cats she loves

by Amy Sacks, *New York Daily News*  
Saturday, November 22m 2008

#### Del Monte Pushes Meow Mix for a Good Cause

by Yul, *Cats Working*  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

#### Meow Mix Donates More Than 30,000 Lbs. of Cat Food to New York's Homeless Cats and Their Caretakers

Press Release by the New York City Feral Cat Initiative  
Thursday, November 12, 2008



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