



Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony

Sample Workshop Outline

[Suggested length of workshop: 3 hours; fill in **red (electronic)** or **bold (printed)**]

Neighborhood Cats
TNR Handbook page(s)

I. Introduction to Trap-Neuter-Return (ATNR@)

- A. What is TNR? – **(Video: beginning of “How to Perform a Mass Trapping” or “Neighborhood Cats” or “The Humane Solution”)** 3
- B. The Advantages of TNR 3
 - 1. Colony level 3
 - a) population control (no more kittens)
 - b) dramatically reduced noise (from fighting and mating) & odor (from unaltered males spraying)
 - c) continued rodent control
 - d) improved community relations
 - 2. Community level 4
 - a) lower cat intake and euthanasia rates for local shelters
 - b) cost savings for animal control from volunteer workforce
 - c) improved public image for animal control
- C. No Effective Alternatives
 - 1. Trap and remove (aka Atrap and kill@) doesn't work over **5-7** time because:
 - a) vacuum effect (neighboring cats move in)
 - b) overbreeding by cats in colony not caught
 - c) abandonment of domestic cats
 - d) not enough animal control and volunteer resources
 - 2. Rescue is ineffective on a global scale because
 - a) too many cats
 - b) socialization of ferals beyond kittenhood is a long, difficult process
 - 3. Stop feeding – cats don't go away, still reproduce

II. The First Step - Establishing Good Community Relations

- A. The importance of good relations – facilitates the project, educates the neighborhood, and helps provide long-term security for the cats 10

| | |
|---|---------|
| B. How to achieve good community relations: | 11-13 |
| 1. Educate yourself on TNR so you can speak proficiently | |
| a) www.neighborhoodcats.org (Neighborhood Cats) | |
| b) www.alleycat.org (Alley Cat Allies) | |
| 2. Gather information | |
| a) get to know the neighborhood & who feeds the cats | |
| b) post flyers announcing program, seeking help | |
| c) attend Community Board meeting or hold a local meeting | |
| d) repeat the mantra: Ano kittens, less noise, less smell, rodent control@ | |
| 3. Dealing with hostility towards the cats | |
| a) be understanding (the neighbors are living with the noise & odor) | |
| b) never argue - be professional in your approach | |
| 4. Keeping cats out of gardens and yards | 14 |
| 5. Dealing with Poisoning threats - post flyers (see handbook for sample) | 13, 102 |
| | |
| III. Hands-on Techniques (<i>live demonstrations</i>) | |
| | |
| A. How to use a humane box trap (inc. cardboard extender, sheet for covering, trail of bait) | |
| 1. recommended traps | 39 |
| | |
| B. Caring for Cats In Traps | 66-69 |
| 1. Using the trap dividers to feed and clean | |
| 2. Use a table, if possible | |
| 3. Recommended dividers | 41 |
| 4. (<i>show “Caring for Cats in Traps” portion of “How to Perform a Mass Trapping” video</i>) | |
| | |
| IV. Preparations for Trapping | 33-36 |
| | |
| 1. Establish a feeding pattern | |
| a) to facilitate the trapping, train the cats to eat at the same time and place | |
| b) count the cats (take notes, photos) for accurate spay/neuter scheduling | |
| c) determine their status – any adoptables, sick? – and begin to make arrangements | |
| | |
| 2. Find a holding space (4-6days) | 34, 67 |
| a) must be warm, dry and secure | |
| b) plastic drop cloths on tables, ground | |

3. **Schedule a spay/neuter date**
 - a) **(List local spay/neuter resources)**
 1. **(Summarize procedures for scheduling)**
 2. **(List contact info)**
 - b) Standard veterinary treatment: neuter, eartip, rabies
 - c) All cats must be brought **in traps and covered!**
4. **Arrange transportation to and from clinic, if necessary**
5. **Reserve or secure equipment**
 - a) Have more traps than cats.
 - b) **(List local trap banks)**
 1. **(Summarize procedures for borrowing)**
 2. **(List contact info)**

V. **Trapping**

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| A. Basic procedures | 42-47 |
| 2. Withhold food the entire day before (e.g., trap on Friday, last feeding on Wed.) | |
| 3. Begin trapping at least 2, preferably 3, days before spay/neuter date | |
| 4. Use more than one kind of bait (cheap tuna plus one other) | |
| 5. Prepare traps as demonstrated | |
| 6. Place all or most traps out into the territory at once | |
| 7. Place traps alongside or against structures, not out in the open | |
| 8. Cover and remove trapped cats – but only if they are getting frantic; otherwise leave them be | |
| 9. Put a new trap where an old trap worked (hot spots) | |
| 10. Label and log traps | 108 |
| B. Special cases (kittens, nursing mothers, pregnant) – REVIEW HANDBOOK | 50-55 |
| C. Hard to Catch Cats – REVIEW HANDBOOK | 56-58 |
| 1. The Drop Trap | 59 |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| VI. Spay/neuter date | 76-83 |
| 1. Bring cats in on time | |
| 2. Post-surgical anesthetic recovery stages: | |
| a) unconscious | |
| b) shivering/twitching | |
| c) woozy/unsteady | |
| d) lying still | |
| 3. Warning signs: unconscious after two hours, pools of blood (not drop not tinge of blood in urine) | |

4. Seriously ill cats – discuss with veterinary staff whether illness is treatable. If not and illness is terminal, discuss whether euthanasia is appropriate
- D. Recovery/Release** **84**
1. Normally hold 48 hours (male and female), longer if sick, pregnant, etc.
 2. Nursing mothers can be released after 24 hours, if necessary and if alert.
 3. Release in same location trapped
 4. Relocation – requires 3 weeks confinement in new territory **86**
- VII. Food & Shelter**
- A. Feeding Station** **17**
1. Location (ideal: low visibility, good access for feeders)
 2. Types of Feeding Station: automatic feeders/waterers if possible, sheltered from rain. E.g., Rubbermaid storage bin with side cut out.
 - a) if you build one - it must be completely open on at least one side to prevent dominant cats from excluding others
 3. Type of food (Athe best you can comfortably afford@) **23-25**
 - a) healthier food means stronger immune systems
 - b) supplement with fresh raw or cooked meat (ground chuck)
****Add one teaspoon calcium lactate or bone meal to one pound of meat (to balance calcium/phosphate)**
 - c) other supplements (Vitamin C, Vitamin-mineral mix, steamed broccoli, dried barley leaves)
 4. Tricks **19**
 - a) ants - moat in a dish
 - b) rain - plastic cover over dish
 - c) fences - arm extenders
 - d) slugs – feed separately
 - e) pigeons – feed cats after dark; raccoons – feed cats during day
 5. Preventing Water from Freezing **20**
 6. CLEAN UP!!!! Number one complaint against feeders.
- B. Winter Shelter**
1. Types: Styrofoam, storage bins, packing crates, etc. **28-31, 103**
 2. Placement (remote, near feeding station) **32**

- 3. Dry is as important as warm
- 4. Insulating materials - best is straw, hay or shredded newspaper; worst are blanket, towels, folded newspaper **31**
- 5. Extreme cold – Mylar blankets to line floor, walls; PurrPads **31**

VIII. Other Topics in Feral Cat Care

- A. Releasing FIV or FeLV cats **79**
- B. Adoption **91-97**

VI. Other Local Feral Cat Resources

- A. (List any feral cat coalitions or other TNR organizations)**
- B. (List any online discussion groups or regular meetings)**
- C. (List any email networks)**