

pet community center



LIVING WITH COMMUNITY/FERAL CATS

What Is a Community Cat?

A community cat is a free roaming cat who may be friendly or feral (unsocialized) and is living outdoors and thriving.

Do You See Community Cats in Your Yard?

Community cats, like all animals, stay where there is food and shelter (naturally occurring or provided by humans). These tips will help you keep cats from undesirable areas. If you enjoy having cats in your yard, use these tips to help them become good neighbors.

Removal and Feeding Bans Do Not Work.

Removal attempts may temporarily reduce the number of cats in a given area, but unsterilized survivors continue to breed and other cats move into the now available territory. Year after year, cats are killed, but the population is never controlled. Fixing cats stops population growth and prevents new cats from moving in.

Discontinuing feeding will not make the cats go away. Cats bond to their territory and are opportunistic scavengers that can, if necessary, survive on garbage. Under a feeding ban, the cats suffer as they search for new sources of food.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

- Humane traps are used to take community cats to a spay/neuter clinic to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated.
- Cats receive a left eartip, a universal symbol of a fixed cat.
- Cats are returned to their original territory.

TNR is the Most Effective Solution.

- The population will be controlled with no new litters and will decrease naturally over time.
- Cats are vaccinated.
- Annoying behaviors like howling, fighting and marking will stop or decrease dramatically. The odor of male cat urine is reduced.
- It is humane.

Pet Community Center and Metro Animal Care & Control (MACC) participate in a program to provide more effective cat population control. **Instead of being euthanized, healthy community cats over 12 weeks old brought to MACC will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their territory.**

Helping Cats Become Good Neighbors

- **Contact Pet Community Center** to get the cats fixed. You can contact PCC's Community Cat Program Manager at (615) 928-6353.
- **Secure trash lids.** Open cans attract wildlife that will get into your trash as well.
- **Block areas under porches and sheds with chicken wire or lattice.** Repair holes in crawlspaces. Places that attract cats for shelter will look attractive to wildlife too.
- **Feed the cats on a regular schedule** if a neighbor isn't already doing so. Set out only enough food for the cats to eat in 30 minutes so wildlife isn't attracted. Feed during daylight hours, and keep feeding area tidy.
- **Establish a litter box** by tilling the soil or putting sand in a discreet location in your yard. Regularly remove deposits. Spray areas that urine odors with white vinegar or an enzymatic spray like Nature's Miracle® or Simple Solution® from pet stores.
- **Provide a shelter**, like a small doghouse, if a neighbor has not already done so.
- **Gradually move shelters and feeding stations away** from areas where you don't want the cats and into a secluded, discreet area of your yard.

Humane Cat Deterrents

- Apply cat repellent fragrances: orange or lemon peels, citrus spray, coffee, vinegar, tobacco, lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus.
- Use an ultrasonic cat repellent like CatStop™ or a motion-activated water sprinkler like Scarecrow™.
- Place plastic carpet runners spike up, chicken wire, latticework, pinecones, river rocks, or Cat Scat™ in soil in flower beds.
- Use a car cover to keep cats off your car.

What to Do if You Find Kittens

- Stop and observe. The best place for kittens younger than eight weeks old is with their mother, if at all possible. Monitor the kittens for several hours to see if the mother cat is away hunting.
- Kittens over 8 weeks old can be trapped, spayed/neutered, and returned to their home territory with monitoring from a caretaker.
- Visit <https://bit.ly/2EX8MJK> for more information.

Our Mission

Pet Community Center is dedicated to strengthening the human-animal bond through accessible veterinary care and support services.

Pet Community Center is a 501 (c) nonprofit organization. Through the generosity of donors we are able to offer high quality services at a low cost. To support our work with a gift, please visit petcommunitycenter.org/donate.

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