

Feral Cat 101 for Animal Control Officers

Lisa Tudor,
President IndyFeral

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Animal Care and Control
Officer

“All across the country a feral cat management program called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), is having a dramatic impact on solving neighborhood feral cat problems”

-Ed Boks, Executive Director,
New York City Animal Care and Control



IndyFeral and Indianapolis
Animal Care and Control (IACC)
have established a public-private
partnership.

Our Goal:

To reduce the free-roaming cat population through the non-lethal method of TNR and to provide uniform standards of care for free-roaming cat colonies while still mitigating cat nuisance complaints.

- IndyFeral is a non-profit organization founded in 2002
- Mission: As part of our belief in respect and compassion for all living creatures, IndyFeral Inc. seeks to reduce stray and feral cat overpopulation through the non-lethal method of TNR, not “trap and kill.”

- The Animal Care & Control Division works in partnership with the community to address problems associated with pet overpopulation, to promote responsible pet ownership and to enhance the health and safety of the community.

- Animal Care & Control encourages the adoption of pets from animal shelters, enforces ordinances and laws regarding animal-related issues and conducts inspections for the licensing of facilities that sell, groom, and kennel animals.

Why should Animal Control agencies make feral cats a priority

- “Animal shelters nationwide receive several million unwanted cats each year, due to a shortage of available homes approximately 75% of these cats are euthanized.”¹



Why should Animal Control agencies make feral cats a priority

- Managing the free roaming cat population is important because it is a community generated problem and every community has a responsibility to work toward a solution.
- Feral cats monopolize shelter space that is better suited for adoptable cats

Why should Animal Control agencies make feral cats a priority

- Current “trap and kill” methods that are being employed to control the feral cat population are ineffective
- Feral cats are a prominent subject of compliant/nuisance calls from the public

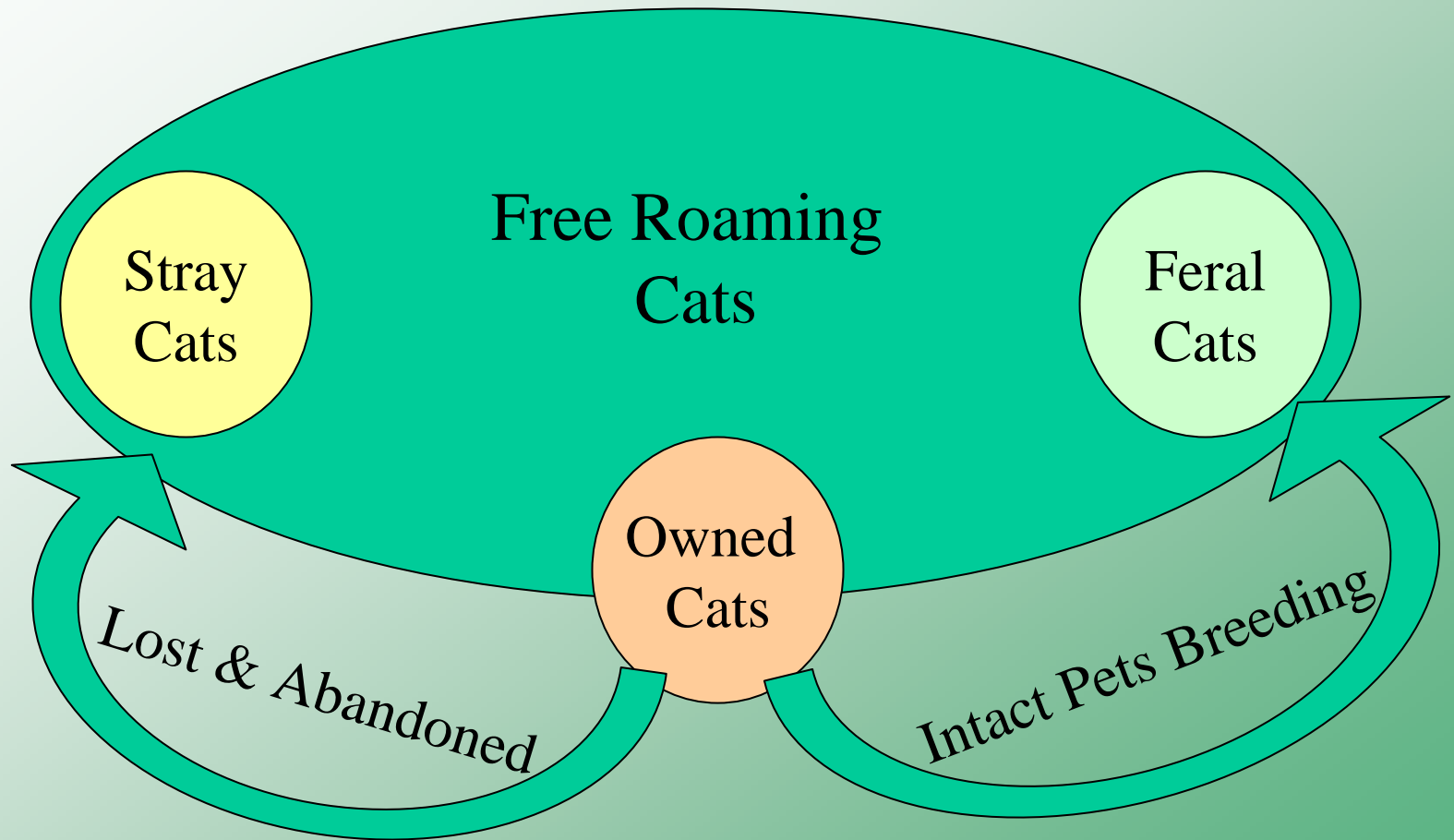
Why should Animal Control agencies make feral cats a priority

- Animal control agencies are seeking effective and cost-effective long-term solutions that respond to the public's increasing desire to see feral cats treated with humane, non-lethal methods

Why should Animal Control agencies make feral cats a priority




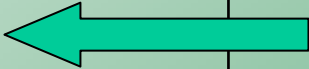
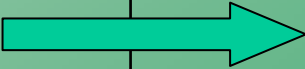
- Agencies spend a significant percentage of their (tax-funded) annual budgets responding to feral cat complaints rather than more serious public safety issues
- The human cost – there is a psychological toll to killing healthy animals which takes a toll on shelter employees and those that care for the cats

Understanding Cat Colony Dynamics



For each group of cats there is a source and particular course of action.

Free Roaming does not mean Feral

Owned	Stray	Feral
		
Tame, will allow touching and human contact	May or may not allow touching or human contact	Won't allow touching or human contact
Indoor	Indoor/Outdoor	Outdoor
Course of Action		
Indoor/Confined	Evaluation: 1. Handle ability 2. Health of cat	TNR/Colony Management
		

Wildlife doesn't belong in shelters

“Feral cats do not belong in animal shelters. They are not candidates for adoption since they are not socialized to humans. Ferals are like wildlife, and most are content living outside. TNR provides a more humane existence for ferals while reducing the behaviors that make them unwelcome neighbors. TNR is a positive step forward for a community that cares about ALL its animals.”

Martha Boden, CEO

Humane Society of Indianapolis

Definitions

- Caretaker- A caretaker is a person who provides food, water, and shelter for a colony of unowned, free-roaming cats according to IndyFeral's Colony Management Guidelines
- Colony- Any number of unowned, free-roaming cats that frequent an area seeking food or shelter

TNR & Colony Management

- TNR stops the breeding. Unowned, stray and feral cats are humanely trapped, evaluated, vaccinated and sterilized while adoptable cats are placed in homes when possible.
- Cat colony management reduces nuisance behaviors by providing long term care by the caretakers which includes food, water, shelter, and ongoing medical care.

TNR is not an
invitation to hoard
cats, abandon pets or
allow pet cats to run
loose!

How do IndyFeral and Animal Control work together?

- Communication is key
 - Identify one to two people as a liaison for each group
 - Any communications between the two groups should go through the liaisons
 - Office staff, volunteers, and dispatchers route “Cat Complaints” to the appropriate people

How does IndyFeral help Animal Control?

- The following runs are given to IndyFeral
 - Someone feeding free-roaming cats
 - Someone trapping free-roaming cats
 - Nuisance complaints of cats in an area
- IndyFeral helps promote responsible pet ownership by educating the public on pet cats running at large, the importance of spay/neuter, proper identification and abandonment

How does IndyFeral help Animal Control?

- Ear tipped cats in the shelter are returned to IndyFeral so they can be placed back in their colony and do not have to be held at the shelter and euthanized
- IndyFeral helps with TNR and management of the IACC Shelter Colony
- IndyFeral handles nuisance calls which gives IACC more time to address more important runs

How does Animal Control help IndyFeral?

- IndyFeral notifies Animal Control if they have problems with
 - Poisoning
 - Hoarding
 - Care and Treatment/Cruelty
 - Mediating neighborhood disputes
 - Stray dogs chasing/attacking cats

How does Animal Control help IndyFeral?

- Donation of surplus food to the IndyFeral food bank
- Animal Control helps to enforce the Colony Management Guidelines which promote uniform standards of care
- IACC Officers and staff educate the public on TNR and IndyFeral's services

How To Implement TNR

Beginning the process...

- A prospective colony caretaker calls IndyFeral for assistance with free-roaming cats or they are referred to IndyFeral by Animal Control

Implementing TNR

- IndyFeral oversees the TNR and ongoing colony management programs.
 - People are screened for eligibility
 - People agree to adhere to the colony management guidelines set forth by IndyFeral and Indianapolis Animal Care and Control
 - TNR/ Colony management agreement is signed which registers them as a colony caretaker and signifies their understanding of responsibility for the colony

Colony Management Guidelines

1. On-going monitoring and TNR
2. Food and water
3. Shelter
4. Medical care (provided/arranged by IndyFeral)
5. Maintain medical records
6. Adoption of tame cats
7. Inability to continue providing care for the cats
8. Exclude cats from areas they are not welcome

Colony Management Guidelines

- Ongoing colony management combined with TNR will promote harmony between colony caretakers, neighbors, and property owners and allow the colony to diminish in size naturally while reducing nuisance behaviors
- Colony management also improves the quality of life for the cats

Colony Management Guidelines



Colony Management Guidelines

- It is crucial that the guidelines be followed to ensure that the colony is being properly managed. Failure to follow these guidelines puts the cats at risk by increasing the chance the colony will become a nuisance, forcing Animal Control authorities to impound the cats to mitigate the nuisance

On-going monitoring and TNR

- All the cats in the colony, even those that visit sporadically will be sterilized, eartipped for identification, vaccinated, and returned to their familiar habitat.

On-going monitoring and TNR

- Ensure that any new cats observed in the colony are promptly trapped, neutered and returned.



On-going monitoring and TNR

- Why?
 - When cats are not sterilized they will display offensive mating behaviors which can quickly become a nuisance to the neighbor. They include: spraying, yowling, fighting, constant litters of kittens and roaming the neighborhood.



Ongoing monitoring and TNR

- Cats are very prolific breeders, females average three litters per year with 4-8 kittens per litter.
- During peak kitten season IACC takes in an average of 15 cats per day
- 75% of kittens born to free roaming cats die or disappear by 6 months of age

Food and Water

- Cats must be provided with adequate food and water on a daily basis year round.
- Why?
 - When cats do not have adequate food and water, they will seek it in areas they are not welcome in an effort to avoid starving. For example, in your neighbor's trash or a dumpster.

Food and Water

- What to do:
 - Cats should be fed in a designated area
 - Feeding stations should be kept neat and clean
 - Provide a feeding station to protect food and water from the elements

Food and Water

- What to do:
 - Feed in daylight hours to avoid attracting wildlife
 - If you are unable to feed the cats provide a back up caretaker

Food and Water



Rubbermaid storage bin converted
into covered feeding station



Shelter

- Cats must be provided with adequate shelter on your property
- Why?
 - When cats do not have a warm and dry shelter they will seek it in areas they are not welcome, for example under your neighbor's deck, shed or in a car motor.

Shelter

- What to do:
 - Cat shelters should be placed in designated areas
 - Provide enough shelters to house all the cats
 - Shelters should be painted to be inconspicuous
 - Straw is the preferred bedding since it does not hold moisture, but should be changed seasonally

Shelter



Medical Care

- Ensure that any cats that are ill or injured receive prompt treatment
- Why?
 - Humane reasons
 - Seeing a sick or injured cat can be disturbing to compassionate citizens, and makes them feel as though the outdoor cats are sickly and not receiving care

Medical Care



Maintain Medical Records

- Maintain records (notes, surgery, treatment, and vaccination)
- All cats that go through IndyFeral receive the following “standard” package (Cost \$20)
 - Spay/Neuter Surgery
 - 3 year Rabies vaccination
 - 3-in-1 Feline vaccination
 - Revolution (for fleas, worms and other parasites)
 - Basic wellness check, including ear and eye cleaning and treatment of minor wounds
 - Eartip

Cat with Eartip



*An eartip serves as permanent identification and indicates the cat is part of a managed colony and is sterilized and fully vetted.

Maintain Medical Records

- Why?
 - Maintaining vet records allows caretakers to show the cats are healthy and vaccinated
 - Records can be used as a tool to educate neighbors that are fearful that the cats will spread disease to them or their pets

Adoption of Tame Cats

- Make efforts to place tame colony cats with adoption groups
- Why?
 - Fewer cats in the colony reduce the incidence of nuisance complaints, tame cats are more prone to falling victim to violence because they do not fear humans.

Adoption of Tame Cats



Inability to continue providing care

- If a caretaker is moving or can no longer adequately care for the colony alternate caretakers need to be identified.
- Why?
 - It is inhumane to abandon a colony of cats that have grown dependent on a caretaker
 - Cats left alone will starve to death or run the risk of becoming a nuisance and will be impounded by animal control

Exclude cats from areas where they are not welcome

- Use humane techniques to discourage or exclude cats from areas they where they are not welcome
- Why?
 - If you fail to address neighbor's complaints you are risking the cats lives by causing animal control to impound the cats.

Even with TNR and ongoing colony management there are still going to be conflicts between colony caretakers and neighbors.

When resolving disputes it is important to look at both sides of the issue.

Mediation

Caretaker Side

- The caretaker did not create the problem, their compassion prompted them to begin feeding a hungry stray.
- Caretakers are very bonded to the cats and value their lives tremendously
- They may not have heard of TNR and may not realize that resources are out there to help them get the cats fixed and resolve cat related issues.

Mediation

Complainant Side

- The cats are creating a legitimate nuisance
- May believe that a caretaker is creating the problem
- They have not bonded with the cats and value their property tremendously
- They may not realize that resources are out there to help keep the cats off their property and removing the cats will not work to solve the problem
- May or may not value the life of the cats

Mediation Tips

- When you are called to help with a neighbor dispute it has probably hit the crisis level
 - Listen patiently to each side
 - Write down what they say
 - Find out the specific reason the complainant wants the cat removed so you can offer the appropriate solution
 - Develop a plan of action for each side
 - Follow up

Getting to the heart of the matter

To solve the problem, you must understand the problem. Keep discussing the problem with the complainant until BOTH you and the complainant understand their complaint, and the situation that exists in the neighborhood. The nuisance may really have little to do with the cats.

Nuisance Prevention Tips

Cats are using my garden/yard as a litter box or digging in my flower bed.

- A cat's natural instinct is to eliminate in soft, loose soil, mulch, sand or peat moss
- The complainant can also take steps to keep the cat out of the garden
- Colony caretakers should provide an ideal place for the cat to eliminate

Nuisance Prevention Tips

Cats are using my garden/yard as a litter box or digging in my flower bed.

To keep a cat out of your garden:

1. Place irregular shaped rocks or pinecones set firmly into the dirt.
2. Heavy plastic carpet runner (pointed side up)
3. Chicken wire can be firmly set into the dirt (sharp edges rolled under)
4. Cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, and pipe tobacco repels cats.
5. Spray cat repellent available at pet supply stores on typical digging areas or plants.
6. Reppers (repellent grains similar to moth balls) are available at PETsMART and most local pet stores.

Nuisance Prevention Tips

Cats are using my garden/yard as a litter box or digging in my flower bed.



Nuisance Prevention Tips

**Cats are sleeping under my house,
deck, shed or in my car motor.**

- The cats are seeking shelter from the elements
- Colony caretakers should provide adequate shelter for the cats so they won't use other areas.
- The complainant can also take steps to keep the cat out of unwanted areas.
- To deter the cats from an unwanted area physically seal the area with lattice or chicken wire. If this is not possible cat stops, Reppers, and other cat deterrents are available at pet supply stores.

Nuisance Prevention Tips

**Cats are sleeping under my house,
deck, shed or in my car motor.**



Nuisance Prevention Tips

The cats are getting into my trash.

- Cats are opportunistic scavengers, if no regular food source is available they will get into trash.
- Colony caretakers should provide adequate food so the cats won't need to get into trash.
- The complainant can also use trash cans and make sure they are covered/sealed.

Nuisance Prevention Tips

Cats are everywhere. Fighting, spraying, yowling, roaming, sick, injured and continuing to have kittens.

- These are “mating behaviors” displayed by cats that have not been spayed or neutered.
- Colony Caretakers practically eliminate these behaviors by utilizing TNR.
- Neighbors can help by reporting people who abandon their cats and not allow their owned animals to run loose.

Mediation Tools

- CatStop
 - Motion sensor activates a loud ultrasonic sound that scares away cats without bothering humans or dogs



CONTECH

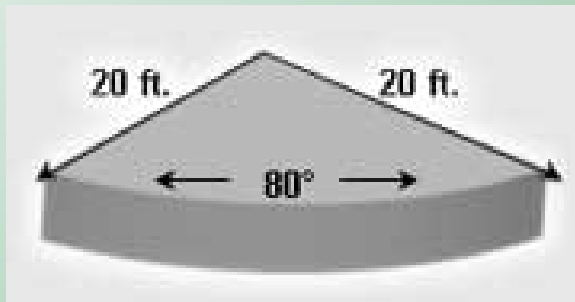
CatStop™

AUTOMATIC OUTDOOR CAT REPELLANT



Easily and safely keeps cats out of your garden and flower beds.

Protect your garden, plants or sandbox without chemicals or fences. When cats come within range, CatStop emits a loud burst of ultrasonic sound that startles them and teaches them to stay away. It can operate for up to six weeks on a single 9v alkaline battery and protects approximately 280 square feet (26 square meters). Nothing to adjust – simply place it in your garden or outdoor area you wish to protect.



Cat Fencing



Patent Pending



Keeping Cats Happy
and Safe...**Outdoors.**

Door Hangers

- **Contains**
 - **Contact Information**
 - **Brief overview of TNR**
 - **In English and Spanish**

A vertical door hanger with a white background and green accents. At the top, the title "Feeding a Stray?" is written in green. Below it is a black and white photograph of a cat. The text "If you are feeding the local outdoor cats, thanks for being a good neighbor!" is in green. A green box contains the text "Help Improve Their Quality of Life" in white. Below this, a paragraph explains TNR. A bulleted list follows, and a call to action is at the bottom. The bottom right features a photo of a cat and the website URL.

Feeding a Stray?



If you are feeding the local outdoor cats, thanks for being a good neighbor!

Help Improve Their Quality of Life

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) decreases feral and stray-cat populations without harming the cats.

- The cats will be trapped with humane (gummed) live traps and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered and vaccinated.
- The vet will also "ear-tip" them. An ear-tip is the universal symbol of a neutered/feral cat.
- We need your help to feed and care for the cats when they are returned home.
- Neutered cats make better neighbors—less howling, fighting, and no more litters of kittens!

If you feed the cats or want to get involved, please call

To learn more about Trap-Neuter-Return visit www.alleycat.org



Nuisance Sheet



Nuisance Prevention Tips for Feral (Wild) Cats



Feral (wild) cats, like raccoons and possums, have become part of our urban landscape. These cats and their offspring are the victims of abandonment, accidental loss and failure by owners to sterilize their pets. Human dwellings provide wild animals/owned cats with three things they need to survive: shelter, food and water. To overcome daily challenges to their survival, they have learned to adapt and live in close proximity to human beings.

Conflicts may occur when areas on your property (decks, crawl spaces, sheds, etc.) are not properly sealed/protected or when normal food sources or shelter are scarce, as during the winter. If an animal is damaging your property, seeking shelter or scavenging in your trash, you can take care of the problem yourself with the goal of preventing the problem from reoccurring rather than killing the animal. While removal/killing of the animal seems like the solution, it only offers a quick fix and a vacancy for another animal in search of a ready made home. Humane methods of conflict prevention are less costly and more palatable to the community at large. Trap-Neuter-Return coupled with colony management and nuisance prevention techniques offer long-term solutions to feral (wild) cat nuisance behavior.



Nuisance/Complaint	Understanding the Behavior	The Solution
Cats are using my garden/yard as a litter box or digging in my flowerbed.	A cat's natural instinct is to eliminate in soft, loose soil-like mulch, sand or peat moss.	To keep a cat out of your garden: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place irregular shaped rocks or pinecones set firmly into the dirt. 2. Chicken wire can be firmly set into the dirt (sharp edges rolled under). 3. Heavy plastic carpet runner (pointed side up). 4. Cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, and pipe tobacco repels cats. 5. Spray cat repellent available at pet supply stores on typical digging areas or plants. 6. Reppers (repellent grains similar to moth balls but designed to deter cats and dogs) is available at Petsmart and most local pet stores.
Cats are sleeping under my house, shed, deck or in the car motor.	The cat is seeking a warm, dry shelter from the elements. They will use abandoned buildings and cars, brush piles, culverts and other places that provide cover and protection.	To deter cat from your area, physically block or seal the location the cat is entering like the deck, shed or under a mobile home with chicken wire or lattice.

Nuisance Sheet

Nuisance/Complaint	Understanding the Behavior	The Solution
The cats are getting into my trash.	The cats are hungry and looking for food. They are opportunistic scavengers and will feed on rodents, insects, moles or trash, etc. if no regular food source is available.	To deter cats from your property, trash should be properly covered and secured or you will attract raccoons and possums in addition to cats.
Cats are everywhere. Fighting, spraying, yowling, roaming, sick and injured, continuing to have kittens.	These are "mating behaviors" displayed by cats that have not been spayed or neutered. Cats left to breed unchecked or without proper care can become a nuisance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report the people that abandon their cats. 2. Is the cat unowned or is he/she the neighbor's owned cat causing the nuisance? 3. Humanely trap and sterilize the cats with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). This is the single most effective way to eliminate nuisance behaviors. It stops the breeding and offers a long-term solution. Contact IndyFeral at 317-596-2300 or www.indyferal.org for assistance starting TNR.



Cat Stop Automatic Outdoor Cat Deterrent – Excludes cats from areas they are not welcome. When cats come within range, Cat Stop emits a loud burst of ultra-sonic sound that startles the cats and teaches them to stay away. Safe for other animals. Operates for up to six-months on a single 9-volt battery and protects approximately 290 sq. ft. Place in your garden or mount on a wall or carport ceiling. Order at www.scamat.com or call 1-800-767-8658 or order from IndyFeral at 317-596-2300. \$35 each.

Myths and Misconceptions	Facts	Explanation
The cats pose a threat to our children.	Feral cats are naturally wary of people and will not approach humans they do not know. Feral cats will not attack unless they are cornered or threatened.	Parents and caregivers should teach their children to not approach or touch ANY unknown animal. Children should ask an adult or caregiver for help if they think an animal may be trapped, sick or injured or if they find a baby animal.
Feral cats are diseased and spread rabies.	This is a common misconception. Studies show that feral cats and owned cats share similar health status.	TNR protects the public. Vaccinating, sterilizing and treating cats for fleas and returning healthy cats to managed colonies is the best way to protect the public as it creates a barrier between humans and wildlife. In Indiana, the last known case of rabies in a cat was in 1984. Source: Indiana State Board of Animal Health.
The cats will go away if you stop feeding them.	By not feeding the cats, you will actually create a greater nuisance since cats will be forced to rely on scavenging and foraging for food.	Cats with no regular food source will encroach closer to your property and there will be an increase in chance encounters with people as they are driven by starvation. Feeding the cats on a regular feeding schedule is the first step in colony management and will allow for humane trapping and sterilization of the cats. Feeding stations can be placed in areas away from people to reduce chance encounters.

Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline – Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 1-800-893-4116 www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/wild.htm DNR Wildlife Professionals will provide expert advice on feral (wild) cats, wildlife, damage management, control techniques and nuisance wildlife control companies (people that capture or remove nuisance animals) and other resources. You can also report abuse/poisoning of wildlife to the DNR.

Be Advised: If you choose to trap cats, there are specific trapping and care and treatment ordinances you must follow. Each of these provisions can carry a fine of up to \$2500 per count! Bear in mind that over 99% of feral cats taken to Indianapolis Animal Care & Control in 2005 were euthanized. Feral cats are not socialized to humans and are not candidates for adoption. It costs the city (i.e. taxpayers) roughly \$100 for every cat that is picked up. This is very expensive for a short-term solution. **Please call IndyFeral at 317-596-2300 to seek a long-term, non-lethal solution.**

Brochures

Will you be home when your feline friend comes home from work? Or are you out for the day? If you're out for the day, your cat will be lonely and bored. But a single feline in the house is not enough. You need a companion to keep your cat company. It's not just for the cat's sake, it's for yours, too. A single cat is lonely and bored. It's not just for the cat's sake, it's for yours, too.

— **John Doe, Cat Behaviorist**
Atlanta, GA, USA

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— **Jane Smith, Cat Behaviorist**
New York, NY, USA

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— **Michael Brown, Cat Behaviorist**
Los Angeles, CA, USA

— **Robert White, Cat Behaviorist**
Chicago, IL, USA

Call for more information on our services.

1000 Main Street, Suite 100
New York, NY 10001
Phone: (212) 555-1234
Email: info@cats.com

Do you believe she deserves to live

even though she is wild?

Don't let your cat's wild nature keep her from living a happy life. Consider the consequences of letting your feline roam.

It's happening right in your own backyard

Wild cats are not just a myth. They are real. And they are in your backyard. They are hunting and killing your cats. They are taking your cats to the vet. They are taking your cats to the hospital. They are taking your cats to the grave.

FERAL OR STRAY?

What is the difference between a feral cat and a stray cat? A feral cat is a wild cat that has been born in the wild. A stray cat is a domestic cat that has been abandoned by its owner. Feral cats are wild and aggressive. Stray cats are domestic and friendly. Feral cats are a danger to your cats. Stray cats are a danger to your cats. Feral cats are a danger to your cats. Stray cats are a danger to your cats.

Millions of feral cats are killed by vehicles each year because they are unspayed.

SPAY - Spaying your cat can help reduce the number of feral cats in your neighborhood.

NEUTER - Neutering your cat can help reduce the number of feral cats in your neighborhood. It can also help reduce the number of feral cats in your neighborhood. It can also help reduce the number of feral cats in your neighborhood. It can also help reduce the number of feral cats in your neighborhood.

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is a wild cat that has been born in the wild. It is not a domestic cat. It is not a stray cat. It is a feral cat. Feral cats are wild and aggressive. They are a danger to your cats. They are a danger to your cats. They are a danger to your cats.

How can I help a feral cat?

You can help a feral cat by spaying or neutering it. You can help a feral cat by providing it with food and shelter. You can help a feral cat by providing it with a safe place to live. You can help a feral cat by providing it with a safe place to live.

Common Questions and Concerns

The cats pose a threat to our children.

Fact: Feral cats are naturally wary of people and will not approach a human they do not know. Feral cats will not attack unless they are cornered or threatened.

Fact: Parents should teach their children not to approach or touch any unknown animal. Children should ask an adult or caregiver for help if they think an animal may be trapped, sick or injured, or if they find a baby animal.

Common Questions and Concerns

Feral cats are diseased and spread rabies

Fact: Studies show that managed feral cats and owned cats share similar health status.

Fact: In Indiana the last known case of rabies in a cat was in 1984.

Fact: TNR protects the public. Vaccinating, sterilizing and treating cats for fleas and returning them to managed colonies is the best way to protect the public as it creates a barrier between humans and wildlife.

Common Questions and Concerns

Feral cats will kill all of the birds in the area they are allowed to roam.

Fact: Cats are rodent specialists and birds make up a tiny percentage of their diet.

Fact: The number one cause in the decline of bird and wildlife populations is the destruction of their habitat, pollution and pesticides.

Common Questions and Concerns

The cats will go away if you stop feeding them.

Fact: By not feeding the cats, you will actually create a greater nuisance since cats will be forced to rely on scavenging and foraging for food.

Fact: Feeding the cats on a regular feeding schedule is the first step in colony management and will allow for humane trapping and sterilization. Feeding stations can be placed in areas away from people to reduce chance encounters.

Common Questions and Concerns

Who is financially responsible if a cat in a managed colony bites, scratches, or causes property damage.

Fact: The Indianapolis law previously did not and currently does not establish financial responsibility for bites or damage caused by unowned animals.

Fact: This would be no different than a wild animal (raccoon, squirrel etc) biting someone or causing property damage.

Benefits of TNR

- Cat population is reduced
 - Stops breeding without harming the cats
 - Adoptable cats are put up for adoption and don't return to the colony
 - When a healthy colony of spayed/neutered cats occupies a territory, it maintains a stable population in the area and diminishes naturally over time

Benefits of TNR

- Nuisance complaints decrease
 - Mating behaviors cease within a short period of time
 - Need to roam for food and shelter is eliminated
 - By providing food and shelter the cats will not seek shelter under decks, in car engines or dump trash cans for food
 - By providing a place for the cats to eliminate themselves they no longer need to use the neighbors garden or flowerbed

Benefits of TNR

- Health benefits
 - By providing the cats with fresh food and water on a regular basis they become healthier
 - By eliminating the mating and fighting the risk of cats spreading diseases among themselves is greatly reduced
 - By vaccinating the cats they no longer become likely carriers of diseases

Benefits of TNR

- Health benefits



Benefits of TNR

“TNR helps by protecting public health. Studies show feral and owned cats share similar health status. Vaccinating sterilizing and returning healthy cats to managed colonies are the best ways to protect the public from the spread of disease.”

Sandra K. L. Norman, DVM
Director, Companion Animal/Equine
Indiana State Board of Animal Health

Benefits of TNR

- Community Support
 - TNR is a non-lethal tool for managing free roaming cat populations which the public overwhelmingly supports

TNR is endorsed by many well-respected organizations

- HSUS (Humane Society of the United States)
- AHA (American Humane Association)
- ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
- Cat Fancier's Association

TNR Benefits the City

- City does not have to provide food, shelter, medical care for the cats or use resources to trap, euthanize, and dispose of the cats. (The national average cost to pick up a cat in a trap, bring it to the shelter, house and feed for the stray hold period, euthanize the cat and dispose of it is \$130.²)
- For every \$1 a city spends up front for spay/neuter it saves \$3.³

TNR Benefits the City

- Euthanasia rates decrease because you are not bringing in un-adoptable feral cats
- A larger percentage of cats coming into the shelter are adoptable, and can be placed into homes
- Handling feral cats can cause injury and is very stressful to the animals and employees
- When you care for free-roaming cats you set an example to others on how to humanely care for all animals that are part of our community

TNR is effective in reducing the number of cats entering shelters and is cost efficient

- San Diego, California: In 1992, San Diego Department of Animal Control euthanized 15,525 cats at a cost of \$121 per cat.
- That year, Feral Cat Coalition San Diego, a private, volunteer organization began aggressive spay/neuter programs.
- By 1998, the number of animals killed each year dropped more than 45 percent with a tax savings of \$859,221.

TNR Benefits the City

“TNR reduces the number of free-roaming cats and the volume of nuisance complaints associated with them. Further, it enables Animal Care and Control officers to focus on more serious public safety and animal welfare issues; thus enhancing our overall service to the community.”

Leslie Fatum, Administrator
Indianapolis Animal Care and Control

Sources

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