

# Discover the Truth about Trap-Neuter-Return and Vaccinations

Rabies vaccinations are considered a standard and valuable element of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), a program that has been extremely successful at stabilizing colonies of community cats—also called feral cats—across the United States. The program is often called Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return. Through vaccinations, TNR protects feral cats from contracting rabies.

## A Public Health Victory

Public health experts do not consider cats to be a rabies threat. Rabies vaccination and prevention efforts in the U.S. have been a true public health victory, making rabies in cats and other domestic animals an extremely rare occurrence. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there has been no confirmed cat-to-human rabies transmission in nearly 40 years.

## Trap-Neuter-Return is Part of the Solution

It's important to vaccinate cats to decrease the rabies risk even further. Trap-Neuter-Return boosts community rabies prevention. In some communities, TNR programs are the largest provider of rabies vaccinations. Even a single dose of rabies vaccine can provide multiple years of protection. Studies show that the immunity that develops after a cat receives a rabies vaccination can last up to seven years and possibly longer in many cats.

TNR is the only effective method of stabilizing feral cat populations—and it protects cats and improves public health.



 **Alley Cat Allies**

Alley Cat Allies  
7920 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 600  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
[www.alleycat.org/Response](http://www.alleycat.org/Response)

[alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)

# The Facts on Feral Cats and Trap-Neuter-Return

- TNR involves humanely trapping community cats and having them spayed/neutered and vaccinated by a veterinarian. Unsocialized cats are marked with an eartip (the universal symbol a cat has been neutered and vaccinated) and returned to their colonies. Young kittens and socialized cats are often adopted into homes.
- TNR humanely stabilizes cat colonies, improves cats' health, and ends the breeding cycle. TNR also ends mating behaviors including yowling, roaming, and fighting—making the cats better neighbors.
- Despite the huge shift toward humane policies for community cats, many cats are still caught and brought to animal pounds and shelters where they are killed. The shelter system is the number one documented cause of death for cats in the United States. About 70% of cats who enter shelters are killed there, including virtually 100% of community cats.
- Community cats have lived alongside people for more than 10,000 years. They are the same species as pet cats—*felis catus*. Community cats, also called feral or outdoor cats, live in colonies and can thrive in every landscape. They are just as healthy as pet cats, but they are not socialized to humans and are therefore unadoptable.
- Catching and killing feral cats is cruel and ineffective at stabilizing outdoor cat populations. When cats are removed, other unneutered cats move into the area to take advantage of the resources and they breed back to capacity. This is called the Vacuum Effect.

Learn how to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return at [alleycat.org/TNR](http://alleycat.org/TNR).



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