

CatVando's **primary** mission is to help reduce and care for cats living in our communities.

Our **secondary** mission is to promote respect for life.

Respect for Life

We have unfortunately run into a number of situations where neighbors who don't like cats have poisoned them. This deplorable, violent behavior and complete lack of respect for life is at the core of today's problems. To treat any life with such malice is to treat all of life with malice.

We understand that not everyone likes cats. There are effective, humane deterrents to keep them off your property.

Become a CatVando Supporter and Volunteer

CatVando is a non-profit relying solely on donations from individuals and businesses. Any financial support you can provide is greatly appreciated. Become a CatVando supporter and receive our quarterly online newsletter. Join us on facebook, our blog, petfinder.com

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

\$____ is my donation. Yes, ____ contact me about volunteering.

\$50 TNR package per cat. \$____ cat food \$____ medical expense

So, you're seeing cats in your neighborhood. . . .



You're not alone. Towns are seeing growing numbers of cats in the streets. Something needs to be done and soon. Due to the economy, more pet cats are being abandoned, adding to the population. There is an effective solution to curb this problem, that also provides care for the cats called **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)**.

Cats:

A '**feral**' is afraid of humans, is un-socialized and avoids human contact. Pet cats who are forced to fend for themselves on the streets and kittens who are not socialized all can become feral. They live in colonies in their home territory. If they're lucky, they are under the care of someone that feeds, monitors and cares for them.

A '**stray**' has been someone's pet that has been abandoned, booted to the street or lost. It's been trained to be fed and cared for and now has no home, food and water. Their numbers are growing, adding to the numbers of cats in our communities.

Alarming Facts

- Kittens can have their own kittens at 6 months.
- Cats can have one to five litters a year.
- There are approximately 45 cats and dogs for every person born.
- One out of ten dogs ever gets a home. One out of 12 cats ever do.
- Approximately 800 dogs & cats are KILLED each HOUR in the United States, because there are not enough homes for them!

Please SPAY and NEUTER your pets!

CatVando

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Cat VanGogh

TNR is the Law! On November 16, 2007, Cook County's Feral Cat Management Ordinance took effect. (Chap 10, Animals, Article IV, Section 95-99) The ordinance endorses and encourages TNR as the ONLY effective, humane method of reducing and caring for street cats. Once cats are TNR'd and Sponsored by us, they are legally protected by the Ordinance. **Trap and remove is a euphemism for trapping and killing cats** and is costly, ineffective and inhumane. Statistically, removing cats creates an even bigger problem. The well documented 'Vacuum Effect' happens - new cats move in and females have bigger litters, faster. The costly cycle of trap, kill, pay begins. In addition, the violence of killing cats because they bother us is an attitude that is core to the violence perpetuated against humans. Disrespect for any form of life is disrespect for all forms of life. The Ordinance supersedes any municipal ordinance. Once TNR'd it IS legal to feed.

Where did all these cats come from? The sad truth is that most are descendents of un-spayed or un-neutered pets that were put out, left behind, or were lost. Cats procreate at a rapid pace. Statistics vary, one indicates the number of outside cats in an area can be calculated by taking the population of the area and dividing by 6. This varies by community. The Humane Society of the United States believes that feral cat overpopulation is a community-generated problem and that every community has a responsibility to work toward a solution. A community-based TNR program is the most viable, long-term approach to reduce street cat populations.

You can be part of the solution... Feral cats belong on the streets—it's their home. Cats are homebodies and usually stay in their territory. They roam to mate. Placing a true feral in a home where he hides throughout his life isn't a good life. Left alone, they become sickly, starve, freeze and procreate. **If you currently caring for street cats, we want to help you get your cats TNR'd so they don't multiply, remain healthy and are not a nuisance to your neighbors.** We don't share your identity or the location of your colony with anyone without your permission. We're sensitive to your fear of exposing you or your cats. If you don't feed but would like to help, give us a call or send an email. There are many ways you can help.

TNR Trap-Neuter-Return

Is a program of Sterilization, Vaccination, Identification and Care. **TNR is the only economical, effective and humane way to reduce street cat populations.** It's practiced all over the world in growing numbers. Traditional methods of 'trap and remove' do not work, are inhumane, costly and ineffective. Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a low cost veterinary clinic, where they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated for distemper and rabies, given Revolution for fleas, ticks, ear mites and parasites. They are micro chipped and ear tipped for tracking and identification. Each cat is given a wellness exam and treated, when possible for illness or injury. After a recovery period, they return to their home territory where Colony Managers (people who feed and care for cats) continue to provide for their care. Colony Managers also monitor for new cats in need of TNR and for illness or injury.



Benefits of a Successful TNR Program

- No more unwanted litters of kittens, no more sick, suffering kittens
- Fewer outside cats through natural attrition
- No more nuisance behaviors related to breeding, such as howling, fighting, and urine marking
- Cats live healthier, safer lives
- Lowered risk of parasites like fleas and worms infecting household pets
- Lowered risk of euthanasia by animal control for ear-tipped, micro-chipped cats
- Less cats born equates to less cats killed in shelters because there is no home for them

Interesting Money Facts

A business caring for a TNR'd cat colony can write off the cost of their expenses as 'rodent abatement', a deductible business expense. Learn about our **Working Cats Program**.

✓ According to a June 2011 IRS Tax court ruling, individuals involved in rescue and foster care, working with a 501(C)3 organization may also be eligible for deductions for expenses involved in colony and foster care

✓ "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."- Mahatma Gandhi