



The MCSPCA has taken a leadership role in implementing a program proven to succeed in saving lives – Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR specifically addresses the burgeoning feral cat population in a humane way. Feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned to the community to live in managed colonies. Kittens and “friendly” stray cats are put up for adoption at the MCSPCA, immediately reducing the population of ferals in the community. Grant funding and donations support the program and significantly reduces the cost to the Borough of Matawan.

Advantages of TNR:

1. Population is immediately reduced via adoption of kittens and “friendlies”
2. Spayed/Neutered cats roam less, don’t yowl or fight (typical mating behaviors)
3. Neutered male cats mark less often and with significantly less odor
4. Disease is reduced since the cats get vaccinated (rabies etc)
5. Fewer nuisance calls about feral cats
6. Most importantly, lives are saved!

TNR is an effective and humane way to control feral cats. TNR works because it is a multi-tiered approach. TNR humanely stops the reproductive cycle, adoptable kittens and cats are brought into the MCSPCA and not released back out, feral colonies are actually managed, and most importantly, comprehensive community education is provided to change human behavior. The fact is these cats are out there. TNR means they are not reproducing, are disease-free, are fed and cared for and cause less trouble in the municipality. Our plan is to stabilize the population, so the colonies reduce in population through natural attrition. Together we can reach our goal to significantly decrease the feral cat population in Monmouth County. Help us save lives, support our TNR initiatives.

Guidelines for Colony Caretakers in the TNR Program

1. The Site

- The colony caretaker must keep the feeding station neat and clean. This is vital for the health of the cats.
- No articles of food, empty dishes, cans, etc. should be left out after feeding time other than water.
- The colony caretaker is responsible for ensuring that their cats are not damaging their neighbor's property and are cleaning up feces in the neighborhood outside of their own property when possible.

2. When to Feed

- It is recommended that feeding take place no later than 8AM. The cats can eat all day and there is a less chance for attracting wildlife to feeding stations at night.
- Food must be removed no later than 8PM. Clean water can remain overnight but must be changed every day.

3. What to Feed

- Dry food is recommended for colony feeding because it can remain out all day and not spoil.
- If the colony caretaker decides to feed wet food, they must do so in a separate plate or bowl, rather than mixing it in with the dry food. Wet food will spoil if not eaten, attracts ants and other insects.
- The colony caretaker must provide fresh food and water for the colony every day.

4. New Cats and Kittens

- The colony caretaker is responsible for reporting any additional animals that are staying in their colony and/or sick cats in a timely fashion to the MCSPCA.

Interested in learning more or becoming a Caretaker?

Please contact the MCSPCA at: TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org