

# Feral Cats: The Veterinary Community Has a Role to Play

## **Feral cats need your voice and care.**

As a veterinarian, you can protect and improve the lives of feral cats. Because your clients will often come to you first with questions when they find a cat, one of the best things you can do is serve as a center of knowledge in your community.

## **Feral cats need a different kind of care.**

Though they are members of the domestic cat species just like pet cats, they are fearful of humans. Cared for by thousands of compassionate individuals and organizations, these cats live content, healthy lives in their outdoor homes. They do require a special veterinary approach. For instance, to ensure safety and risk reduction for professionals and cats, feral cats should be kept in humane traps until anesthetized and then handled only when fully sedated.

## **Feral cats benefit from Trap-Neuter-Return.**

Feral cats live among their own in family groups called "colonies," and unless spayed or neutered, those colonies grow. Trap-Neuter-Return is a program in which feral cats are humanely trapped and brought to a veterinarian to be evaluated, neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped, then returned to their outdoor home. This program helps outdoor cats live healthier lives, without the strains of mating or pregnancy.

## **Lend a hand—help feral cats in your community.**

You can start making a difference today. Educate your clients about feral cats and their role in your community. To learn more about feral cat health and behavior, veterinary protocols, and more, visit us online at [www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian](http://www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian).

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**Want to Know More about Feral Cats?  
Check out these topic areas at  
[www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian](http://www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian)**

- 1 Feral Cat Health:** Scientific articles on a range of health topics, including rabies and FIV/FelV
- 2 Feral Cat Behavior:** Articles on distinguishing a truly feral cat from a frightened owned or stray cat
- 3 Feral Cat Veterinary Protocol:** Resources and articles on early age spay/neuter; video demonstrations of high-volume spay/neuter techniques; and protocols for testing, vaccination, and eartipping feral cats
- 4 Trap-Neuter-Return:** Comprehensive resources about TNR, including information about its effectiveness
- 5 The Feral Cat Population:** Access to peer-reviewed research on cat populations and spay/neuter status

**WWW.ALLEYCAT.ORG**



**Alley Cat Allies**  
The cats' leading advocate

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