

# Community Cats, Be Part of The Solution:



No matter where you live, you have probably encountered a community cat or two. Community cats are unowned cats who are free-roaming outdoors. Some are friendly, some are unsocialized. Unsocialized cats are often referred to as feral or wild. They live full, healthy lives in their outdoor homes. For decades the practice has been to remove and kill outdoor cats. This outdated method has done nothing to reduce the population of cats. When cats are removed and a food source remains, it is only a matter of time before new cats discover this treasure box and move in, creating more cats than were there before. TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) is the only humane, effective approach to community cats.

Getting these cats spayed or neutered will help cut down on the population of these cats. This is important, as one female cat can have up to three litters of kittens a year. Community cats are a part of the local ecosystem and thrive in an outside environment. They have lived outside the majority of their life and are naturally skilled at finding resources for themselves such as shelter and food. Community cats do not generally thrive in a shelter environment or as an indoor cat. Community cats will get stressed in these environments and that will cause potential sickness and/or behavioral issues that may develop; which would not have developed if left alone in their outdoor home. Some people may be concerned about the cat's health when they are solely outside. Many studies have shown that community cats are just as healthy as regular house cats. If you do notice a sick or injured cat, seek veterinary help or take the cat to your local shelter.

# Finding Lost or Stray Cats:

Lynchburg does not have a leash law for cats, and many cats choose to be indoor/outdoor pets. Outside cats will often live a double life. They will travel from place to place for food or attention from different people and at the end of the day will go back home. In other words, a cat may appear to be a stray cat but really he is just out to explore and will return home afterward. If you have discovered an adult cat that has suddenly appeared at your home or business, we suggest that you leave it alone. Feel free to give the cat water, but please do not feed him, or he will continue to come back. Statistics show that 66% of all lost cats will find their way home if left alone. Only between 2-4% find their way back to their owners from local shelters. There is a much greater chance for a cat to be reunited with their owner if they are left alone. If the cat is still there after a few days to a week, or if you decide to feed the cat or bring them into your home, put up posters and check with your neighbors because more often than not, they belong to someone around you. If the cat is injured or sick, then do not hesitate to take the cat to your local animal shelter. If you find tiny kittens without a mother, please do not pick them up right away. Watch from afar (where the mother cat cannot see you) and give the mom some time to come back. Mother cats have to leave their kittens to get food and find shelter. They will also move their kittens from place to place for security. If you are certain the kittens have been unattended by a mom for more than a few hours, then it may be time to intervene. Young kittens should be nursing every 2 to 4 hours (depending on their age). Contact us ([pethelp@lynchburghumane.org](mailto:pethelp@lynchburghumane.org)) for advice on how to care for the kittens or go to [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) for more information on what to do when you find a kitten, and how to care for them. If you do take the kittens, it is extremely important that you put a trap out and try to catch the mom cat as well. Kittens have a higher chance of survival if they have their mother. Once the kittens are done nursing, the mother should be fixed so you don't find more kittens in the future. If you are able to foster the kittens until they are old enough, we can give you supplies if needed. The best place for kittens that are under 8 weeks is in a home because they are so fragile and have not developed their immune systems yet. They are very susceptible to illness in a shelter environment. If you truly want to help kittens, allow them time to get older and that way they can stay healthy and get a new home more quickly. For more information on this subject and to learn more about the Lynchburg Humane Society, check our website: [www.lynchburghumane.org](http://www.lynchburghumane.org).



Lynchburg Humane Society  
1211 Old Graves Mill Road  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
(434) 448-0088

[Pethelp@lynchburghumane.org](mailto:Pethelp@lynchburghumane.org)



# How Do We Know Trap, Neuter and Return Works?

An independent study was recently done involving two different feral colony groups. In one group the ferals were trapped and taken to animal control where they were humanely euthanized. The second group instead was trapped, neutered, given vaccines and released back into the colony. Over time the second group's population numbers decreased while the first study group's population increased. TNR works!

## How to TNR:

We have humane traps available at LHS for TNR purposes. You can use these traps on YOUR property to catch community cats and transport them to our spay and neuter clinic located in Evington. Once the cat has been spayed or neutered, you **MUST** release them back exactly where you trapped them. Check out [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) for TNR tips!



**Outside/Community Cats can be spayed or neutered at our spay/neuter clinic and receive a rabies vaccination for \$25 (Ask if we have grants available)**

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**South Central Spay/Neuter Clinic (operated by LHS):**

**29 Mortimer Drive  
Evington, VA 24550  
434-207-2612**

**[spayneuter@lynchburghumane.org](mailto:spayneuter@lynchburghumane.org)**

