

HUMANE CARE FOR STRAY CATS



Have you seen stray cats in your neighborhood? Are you feeding cats? You may have good intentions to save stray cats by feeding them, but that is not the answer to the problem and can even increase the number of stray cats in your area.

Over 100 million stray cats roam the streets of the United States. Too feral (wild) to be placed in homes, the cats make their new homes on the streets. These wild cats breed rapidly. A pair of cats can produce two or more litters per year which can result in 400,000 cats in seven years.

THE SOLUTION

Don't exterminate the cats

Because cats congregate around food sources, a new colony of cats will move in and start to multiply as soon as you remove the old colony. Stabilizing the population by spaying and neutering the colony keeps new cats and rodents away.

Don't poison the cats

Poisoning is ineffective and illegal, punishable by a fine and/or jail if convicted.

Don't just feed the cats

Because you feed and care for your colony, they are healthy enough to breed if left unaltered and will continue to give you more mouths to feed. A spayed and neutered colony prevents competition for food and shelter, thus increasing your colony's survival rate.

Do practice Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

TNR is the universally recognized humane method of controlling the growth of feral cat colonies. It entails trapping all the cats in a colony, neutering them, adopting out the kittens and friendly cats, then returning the feral adults to their territory and providing them with food and shelter. TNR is humane for these reasons:

1. Spaying and neutering ensures longer, healthier lives and decreases the spread of diseases like FIV and leukemia.

2. Spaying and neutering eliminates annoying behavioral problems, making the colony more tolerable among your neighbors. In fact your neighbors won't even see or smell them anymore!

- Altered cats roam less because they won't be in search of a mate.
- Neutered male cats fight less because there is no competition for mating.
- Neutered male cats don't spray foul smelling urine.
- Spayed female cats don't howl because they will no longer go into heat.

3. Cats will stay close to their food source and shelter, thus mitigating the risks of living outdoors, such as poisoning, being hit by a car, etc.

Do spay and neuter your own cats

Do not add to the problem by allowing your own cats to go unaltered. Outdoor cats and indoor cats alike should be spayed and neutered to prevent an increase of unwanted kittens. Even if your cat is strictly indoors, it is possible for your cat to accidentally slip outside.



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