

**Brevard County  
Animal Care Center**

**5100 W. Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Melbourne, Fl. 32934  
(321)633-2024**

**Hours  
Mon - Sat: 11 AM - 6 PM  
Sun: 12 PM - 4 PM**



**Adopt, Don't Shop**

[www.brevardsheriff.com](http://www.brevardsheriff.com)

## What should I do if...

**CATS ARE SLEEPING UNDER MY PORCH, SHED, ETC.**

Reason: They are looking for a dry, warm shelter.

Easy solution:

- Block open areas with lattice or chicken wire (be sure to search for any cats that may be hiding first).

**I SMELL CAT URINE.**

Reason: Tomcats spray to mark their territory.

Easy solution:

- Practice TNR! Neutered cats have less of an urge to mark and their urine is less pungent.

**FEEDING CATS ATTRACTS WILDLIFE AND INSECTS**

Reason: Food is left out too long or at inappropriate times.

Easy Solutions (and follow ordinance by):

- Keep the cat feeding area neat to avoid insects.
- Feed cats at designated time during daylight hours.
- Only provide enough food to finish in one sitting. Remaining food should be taken in before twilight.

**CATS ARE YOWLING, FIGHTING AND HAVING KITTENS**

Reason: Yowling and fighting are breeding behaviors. Cats that are not sterilized will breed frequently.

Easy Solution:

- Practice TNR! Spaying/neutering will reduce hormones causing these behaviors - male cats will stop competing and more kittens will not be born.

**Brevard County**



**Animal Care Center**



**LIVING WITH  
COMMUNITY CATS**



**Working towards a day  
when there are truly  
no more homeless pets!**

## What is a community cat?

A community cat is a cat that lives outdoors. They may be friendly, or not socialized with people. These cats have a food source(s) based on their healthy body weight and may be fed by various people in the community.

## What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

TNR means community cats are trapped, netered, vaccinated, ear tipped (the universal symbol for sterilized cat), and then returned to their outdoor home at the exact location found.



Trap-Neuter-Return, commonly referred to as "TNR," is not only humane, but it is the most effective method for controlling community cat population growth that is also beneficial to the cats and community.

## Why not trap and remove?

If you begin to trap and remove, other cats will move into the territory and will fill the space left by the removed cats. This is called the "vacuum effect."

The new cats integrate into the area and produce more kittens. This leads to renewed calls for trapping and removing and the cycle continues to repeat. Trap to euthanize does nothing to solve the problem. TNR however, stops the reproduction of the cats and protects the cats and who they may come in to contact with against rabies (because they are vaccinated at the time of surgery).

## Why should I TNR?

Whether or not you like community cats, TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR) is the answer to effectively reducing the number of these cats. TNR reduces most behaviors deemed nuisances associated with intact cats such as fighting, spraying, yowling, and roaming. TNR is a benefit to public health and safety.

## Advantages of TNR

- It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by eliminating new litters.
- Nuisance behavior often associated with intact cats is dramatically reduced, including the yowling and fighting that come with mating activity and the odor of unneutered males spraying to mark their territory.
- The returned cat guards its territory, preventing unsterilized from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior.
- TNR reduces the number of kittens and cats flowing into local shelters. This results in lower euthanasia rates and increased adoption of cats already in shelters.

## What should I do if I find a community cat?

- First, check to see if the cat's left ear is tipped. If so, it has already been sterilized and is being fed by someone in your area.
- If the cat's ear is not already tipped, the best thing you can do is borrow a humane trap, have the cat sterilized, ear tipped, rabies vaccinated, and dewormed and return it to the location found.

- Remember friendly cats found outside likely have more than one caregiver so they should be sterilized and returned to their outside home.

# TNR STOPS THE CYCLE

## What should I do if I find kittens?

- The best place for kittens younger than eight weeks old is with their mother, if safe.
- Kittens over eight weeks found outside could be socialized and placed into an adoption program or, if over twelve weeks, trapped, spayed/neutered, and returned to their home territory.

**By helping community cats in need, you will be part of the solution to the overpopulation crisis. You will also lessen the burden on overcrowded shelters and rescue groups.**

