

## What should I do if... ?

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

**Reason:**

They are looking for a dry, warm shelter.

**Easy Solutions:**

- Block open areas with lattice or chicken wire. Be sure to search for anyone hiding first.
- Provide a shelter, like a small dog house that is hidden away.

**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:**

- Keep the cat feeding area neat to avoid insects.
- Feed cats at a 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 less kittens will be born.

## Community Cats Trap • Neuter • Return



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## Living With COMMUNITY CATS

*Working towards making  
Richland County a  
no-kill  
community.*



**Richland County  
Animal Care**



### What is a community cat?

A community cat is a cat that lives outdoors and does not have a particular home or owner. They may be friendly or, in some cases, not socialized with people. These cats typically depend on humans for their food, whether it is a neighborhood caretaker, dumpster or other source.

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

Trap-Neuter-Return, commonly referred to as "TNR", is humane and is the most effective method for controlling feral cat population growth.

TNR benefits the cats and the community. Using this technique, community cats living outside are trapped, neutered, ear tipped (the universal symbol of a sterilized cat), and then returned to their outdoor home.

### 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 behind by the removed cats. This is called the "Vacuum Effect."

The new cats integrate into the area and produce more kittens. This leads to additional calls for trapping and removal and the cycle continues to repeat.

**TNR STOPS THE CYCLE!**



### **Why should I practice TNR?**

Whether you love or loathe community cats, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the answer to effectively reducing the number of these cats. TNR reduces most cat-related nuisances and is a benefit to public health and safety.

### **Advantages of TNR**

- It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by eliminating new litters.
- The nuisance behavior often associated with feral 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 colony guards its territory, preventing unsterilized cats from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior.
- To reduce the number of kittens and cats flowing into local shelters. This results in lower euthanasia rates and increased adoption of cats already in the shelters.



### **Who qualifies as a community cat?**

- Unwanted or abandoned cats living outdoors full-time.
- Kittens should weigh at least two pounds and be healthy enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery.
- House pets DO NOT qualify, as they rely solely on humans for their survival.

### **What should I do if I find kittens?**

- The best place for kittens younger than eight weeks old is with their mother, if at all possible.
- Community kittens should be trapped, spayed/neutered and returned to their home territory.
- Friendly kittens can be adopted into loving homes after they are fixed.

