

Who are Community Cats?

Community cats are unowned cats whose homes are outside. They may have been born outside, or may have lived in a home once, but have now bonded to their feline families and their outdoor homes. Many community cats are not socialized and therefore not adoptable, meaning they should not be taken to an animal shelter. Instead, the best way to control the population of community cats is to conduct Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) in the neighborhood.

What is TNVR and why should we do it?

TNVR is the process of trapping a cat in a humane trap, taking them into a clinic for neuter surgery and vaccinations, and returning to their outdoor home. TNVR prevents cats from continuing to breed and expand their population, reduces the spread of disease, and helps stop euthanasia in public shelters. Not only that, when cats are removed from an area to be killed, their empty territory is quickly filled by more unaltered felines, proving that removal or relocation is ineffective; this is known as the Vacuum Effect. Please reach out to SPCA Florida if you are interested in participating in TNVR in your neighborhood.



Are you interested in becoming a part of the solution?

SPCA Florida loans traps to members of the public looking to take part in TNVR, and, along with other clinics in the area, performs TNVR surgery for Community Cats.

To learn more, visit

www.spcafloida.org/community-cats

5850 Brannen Road
Lakeland, FL 33813

Living with Community Cats

How to deter feline nuisance behavior



Cats are getting into my trash

- A tight lid or bungee cord will help prevent access
- Cats are natural scavengers, so providing an alternative food source will prevent them getting hungry enough to want to get into trash
- Bleach, ammonia and vinegar smells will all cover up the smell of food, and citrus scents are unpleasant to cats

Cats are digging in my garden

- “Scat mats” or plastic carpet runners have small plastic spikes that are unpleasant on cats’ paws. Bury them under the soil with the spikes facing up
- Motion activated sprinklers or ultrasonic devices will keep cats out of your yard and will not inhibit your enjoyment of your space.
- Fragrance can be used to keep cats away – orange and lemon peels in the soil will stop cats digging. Coffee grounds are unpleasant to cats but great for acid-loving plants such as roses or lilies!



- Did you know that some plants repel cats? Plants that felines despise but humans love include geranium, lavender, rosemary, lemongrass and citronella (which also repels mosquitoes!)
- Deterrent sprays can be purchased from most home improvement stores



Cats are lounging on my porch, or my car

- If you are feeding the cats, move the feeding location to further away from the area that you don’t want the cats to lounge in
- Car covers prevent paw prints, and protect your vehicle from the elements too
- Ultrasonic devices can create a “no-go” field for cats around your desired area and can work for up to 25 feet.
- Many repellent plants work great in containers – potted rosemary, lemongrass or lavender will look great on your patio

Cats are sleeping under my shed

- Chicken wire or lattice will stop them getting under – be sure to check for kittens underneath first.

Cats are preying on the wildlife

- Whilst its true that cats occasionally kill birds, they are predominantly scavengers who seek scraps and easier prey, such as rodents. Cats have been a part of the US ecosystem for hundreds of years, and their removal can destabilize the balance by causing an explosion in rodent populations.

- Providing food for outdoor cats will make them less likely to predate challenging prey such as birds

Cats are yowling, fighting, spraying, roaming and having kittens

- These are all mating behaviors, which cease once the cats are spayed or neutered.
- Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) will inhibit all these behaviors, and prevent more cats being born.

