

HELP TORONTO'S FERAL CATS TODAY



[TorontoFeralCatCoalition.ca](https://torontoferalcatcoalition.ca)

Toronto Feral Cat Coalition Member Groups



communitycats.ca



416-338-7387
toronto.ca/animal_services



torontostreetcats.com
torontostreetcats@gmail.com



416-392-2273
torontohumanesociety.com
spayneuter@torontohumanesociety.com



416-538-8592
torontocatrescue.ca



416-410-3835
annexcatrescue.ca



416-462-9541
animalalliance.ca



1-888-ONT-SPCA
peac.ontariospca.ca

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is just like a house cat but it has been born outside and has had little to no human contact. Ferals tend to be fearful of people and keep their distance unless they have come to know and trust whomever cares for them. Feral cats originate from fertile domestic cats who are either lost, abandoned or free roaming.

Our Coalition also addresses homeless cats or street cats – these are cats who may have once lived in a home but are now lost or abandoned to live on the streets and may **“act feral”** because they are afraid.

Most cats living on their own are feral and live in groups called “colonies”. The cats in a colony share territory and a common food source. They may or may not be related.

TorontoFeralCatCoalition.ca



Volunteers make free clinics possible.
If you'd like to volunteer, visit
TorontoStreetCats.com
for more information.

What is TNRM? Trap/Neuter/Return/Manage

TNRM is the only humane and effective way to reduce the homeless cat population. TNRM involves trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating, and returning cats to their colony where a caretaker feeds and monitors the colony daily. For these cats, a small part of the left ear is removed when the cat is under anesthetic (known as **"ear tipping"**), which is the international symbol for a feral cat who has been sterilized.

TNRM is supported by almost all major animal welfare organizations, which is why so many local animal rescue groups are currently promoting and actively implementing TNRM in Toronto and the GTA.





The City of Toronto saves tax dollars thanks to volunteers who sterilize and care for stray and feral cat colonies.

Why is TNRM so important?

There are an estimated 100,000 homeless cats in Toronto and potentially hundreds of kittens are born outside every day during the spring and summer.

Cats are very efficient at reproduction. Kittens as young as 5 months old can become pregnant. They can have multiple litters each year and can become pregnant again almost immediately after giving birth.

Shelters and rescue groups can become quickly overwhelmed.

It doesn't have to be this way. Stray and feral cat populations will decrease, but only through the implementation of TNRM and responsible pet ownership. Feeding bans and a trap/euthanize approach simply will not work and are not socially acceptable policies in a city like Toronto.

There are resources available to help Toronto residents have cats spayed or neutered. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the groups in the Coalition if you need help.

TNRM includes the following benefits:

- 1.** No more kittens and a gradually decreasing population.
- 2.** Caretakers will notice new cats and can get them sterilized right away.
- 3.** Fewer complaints to animal services (as a result of less nuisance behaviour and roaming).
- 4.** Lower shelter intake and euthanasia rates.
- 5.** Cats are vaccinated and their physical health improves.

Caretaker Workshop

An information-packed 3-hour workshop, hosted by Community Cats Toronto, is your first step to access free services in Toronto.

Workshops are where trained professionals teach you about trapping, fixing and caring for feral cats. A workbook is included with the nominal workshop fee.

Once you take the course you will know how to care for the homeless outdoor cats in your neighbourhood. All steps in setting up a managed colony will be covered, including:

- trapping
- feeding
- sheltering
- getting the cats fixed
- working with neighbours

Community Cats Toronto is dedicated to helping people through education, advocacy and collaboration to make a difference in the lives of community (feral, stray and free-roaming) cats.

If you currently manage a feral cat colony, join the colony database. It's free!

CommunityCats.ca



Shelter-building workshops are made possible thanks to volunteers of Toronto Street Cats. This valuable work is appreciated by colony caretakers in Toronto and throughout Ontario, inspiring other communities to care for their community cats.

Recovery Centre

As part of Toronto's TNRM initiative, the Coalition operates a Feral Cat Recovery Centre. Here, volunteers from Toronto Cat Rescue provide a safe and healthy space for feral/stray cats to recover from their spay/neuter surgery before being returned to their colony.

Volunteers are needed to transport cats to and from spay/neuter clinics, to help clean the traps, provide food and water, monitor the cats' post-op health, and to keep the Recovery Centre clean. Training is provided.

The Recovery Centre has an ongoing need for donated supplies. Please visit our website for more information about our services, how to volunteer or how to donate.

FeralCatRecoveryCentre.com



Question

Should I try to trap feral cats and take them to the Humane Society?

Answer

All animal shelters in the GTA are overcrowded. Also, feral cats do not respond well to living in cages. You should be aware that cats who cannot be tamed or adopted may face euthanasia at a shelter. Talk to your local animal shelter about their feral cat policy before surrendering a cat to them. As an alternative, consider how you can improve the lives of feral cats and the health of your neighbourhood at the same time, by organizing or participating in a Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM) program.

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Becoming Lost

A common misconception is that domestic cats – like their wild big cat cousins – need to roam freely in the outdoors. In truth, unlike lions or leopards, domestic cats are poorly equipped to navigate the minefield of outdoor risks that exist.

Cats may not always be able to find their way home, or they may be mistaken as strays and end up at an animal shelter. Lost and “stray” cats risk being euthanized by animal shelters struggling with limited resources to care for the continuous flood of animals arriving at their doors. Far too often, cats simply don’t return home one day, and the owners never find out what really happened.

Source: www.ontariospca.ca



Overwintering Shelters

In harsh Toronto winters, shelter can be just as important as food for feral cats. In spite of their thickened winter coat, without adequate, warm shelter, exposure to the frigid temperatures can mean death for these animals. With a little ingenuity, caretakers can construct homemade shelters to save lives.

Toronto Street Cats volunteers meet (at the Toronto Humane Society) bi-monthly throughout the fall and winter months, to build inexpensive warm shelters for homeless cats. These shelters are made available at a nominal price to colony caretakers, who maintain them for colonies in need.

Since 2010 volunteers have built thousands of shelters for homeless cats.

Shelters are made from plastic tote bins, lined with Durofoam, and filled with straw for extra warmth. They have a tunnel entrance that prevents wind, snow, and large predators from entering.

TorontoStreetCats.com

What you can do:

The formation of the Coalition has meant that caretakers receive the assistance they need to trap, neuter and return cats to their colonies.

To better support our community of caretakers, the Coalition is seeking volunteers. Training and mentorship is provided for new volunteers.

You can help by sterilizing, licensing and micro-chipping your pets and supporting your neighbourhood Colony Caretakers in their efforts to manage and TNRM the colony.

Volunteers are needed to:

1. Trap feral cats

Training and mentorship will be provided for those interested in learning to trap feral cats. The ultimate goal is to place you on a list where the Coalition could contact you to help with trapping colony cats.

2. Educate the community

Enjoy talking to people? Help us educate the public on TNRM by joining our Community Relations Task Force!

Working closely with volunteer trappers, we need volunteers to help go door to door to notify residents that trapping is going to take place in their area. This way owned cats can be kept inside (and not accidentally trapped). As well as educating and talking to people about TNR in general, there will be times where neighbours are in conflict with each other and volunteers are needed to try to resolve concerns. Again, training and printed materials will be provided.

To submit a
volunteer registration form visit:
TorontoFeralCatCoalition.ca

3. Foster cats and kittens

If you have a spare room or bathroom that you can share with a homeless kitty, please consider hosting a four-legged house guest.

If you're an experienced cat-person, please consider fostering a frightened cat or kitten who needs to be socialized, or re-socialized, after a rough time. Remember that YOU can make all the difference in a homeless kitty's life!

And if you have no previous cat experience, you'll be matched with a low-maintenance feline friend and provided with all the information you'll need.

Visit Annex Cat Rescue, Toronto Cat Rescue, Toronto Animal Services and the Toronto Humane Society websites today to learn more.

MYTH

“The cats are in our neighbourhood because someone is feeding them. If they didn’t feed the cats they would go away.”

FACT

The cats were already in the neighbourhood as a result of lost or abandoned unsterilized cats reproducing. The caretaker feeding the cats is providing an important community service by keeping the cats healthy and implementing TNRM to prevent further reproduction.



Animal Alliance of Canada is a member of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition, a coalition of municipal services, animal welfare groups, humane organizations and rescue groups working collectively to address and improve the lives of homeless and feral cats.

We thank you,
on behalf of the feral cats.



*Dr. Jo Cooate & Dr. Hanna Booth,
Toronto Street Cats*