

**Survey to glean information about feral/stray cats in the community and a proposed Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program. Please provide your input on this program in Lawrence.**

Introduction Feedback **Your Response** Outcome Edit

Registered (203) Unregistered (228) **Both (431)**




Demographics Filter

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**431 responses**

Summary Responses (431) Survey

**How often do you notice feral (stray) cats in your neighborhood?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Often		19.8%	85
Sometimes		55.8%	240
Never		24.4%	105




**Based upon the map above, in which area of Lawrence do you live?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
A - Northwest		4.9%	21
B - North Central		9.8%	42
C - Northeast		6.3%	27
D - North of the Kansas River		5.6%	24
E - Eastern		5.3%	23
F - Central		17.7%	76
G - West Central		19.5%	84
H - West		8.1%	35
J - Southwest		8.4%	36
K - South		5.3%	23
L - Southeast		4.4%	19
Outside of Lawrence City Limits		4.7%	20

**The Trap, Neuter, Release program allows citizens to capture feral cats which are then spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and returned to where they were captured. The cat gets a special marking on its ear showing it was previously trapped and released. Would you support such a program in Lawrence?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		74.1%	317
No		25.9%	111

**TNR programs rely heavily on citizens to capture feral cats, transport them to a location where the animal can be spayed or neutered and vaccinated, and then returned. Would you be willing to personally participate in such a program, or at least call a local agency in Lawrence that participates?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		66.7%	287
No		25.6%	110
Other		7.7%	33

- I'm in favor of the trapping, neutering and vaccinating, but why would you release them afterwards? Take them to the Humane Society where hopefully they will be adopted.
- I believe feral cats are a good source of rodent control, however the drawback is they also attack birds and birds are a good source of insect control. So, where is the fine line?
- Feral cats provide no benefit and should not exist within city limits. Most feral cats are cats which owners do not want to keep inside but still take care of. Euthanize the cats that are feral and cause damage to property and people.
- I volunteer and foster for a rescue in Mission KS where we do this for KCK, it is tremendously successful!
- I enjoy having the cats around and my own cat loves to wander outside and visit the neighbors/neighborhood. He is very friendly and sociable in personality and he came from a trap/neuter/spay town! The cats also help keep pests out of the areas where they roam, killing rodents and things that may like to get into houses.
- There is a stray in my neighborhood that fights with my cats and pees on my front porch.
- Cats that are causing enough of a problem for me to call someone for help should be picked up and NOT returned to my neighborhood. That DOES NOT solve the problem. Animal control officers do a good job handling problems like this and I don't believe there needs to be a change.
- While TNR is better than no stray program, it still puts native birds and other small animals at significant risk from hunting by stray cats.
- Roaming cats are proven to decimate native bird populations. They are a nuisance and should be euthanized.
- TNR stops the breeding cycle of feral cats and cuts down the population in a humane way. I live near a colony of feral cats & would love to see them taken care of.
- Neutering feral cats--who can not be rehomed--is a simple way to decrease the number of feral cats. While not ideal (every pet should have a home), TNR helps control the population of feral cats.
- I listened to the City Commission on this topic and it seems the evidence is overwhelming supportive of this technique and a humane way to handle the feral cat population. I'm very supportive of this.
- I do not support this program because cats kill a huge, huge number of birds. Most birds are part of our ecosystem (minus starlings, etc), and they have not evolved to avoid cats that are not.
- This is the most humane and efficient way to reduce the population of feral cats.
- Feral and outdoor cats contribute to songbird population declines. Feral cats should be euthanized.
- I am concerned about the extreme harm that feral cats inflict on our birds. Their crimes include contributing to 33 extinctions around the world and counting, to say nothing of their potential to spread deadly diseases like rabies and Toxoplasmosis. Outdoor cats, on average, kill two animals per week, according to studies.  
Read more: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/moral-cost-of-cats-180960505/#dwyVqMgAekhjYVVK.99>
- Don't really understand. What happens to them in severe weather? Cold temps? Are feral cats happy?
- Who is legally responsible for the damage to personal property caused by the cats after release? Cats are not considered "wildlife" so all are considered to have owners. If the city allows TNR, will the City reimburse property owners for damage done to buildings, flower/vegetable gardens...etc? Will these cats be re-trapped annually for vaccinations (ordinance 3-201)? If a TNR cat bites a person, will the City pay for medical expenses, including rabies treatment of the victim?
- This is the most humane and effective way to reduce the population of feral cats in the community.
- It's a known fact that that feral cats harm and kill innocent wildlife, especially birds. I don't want cats in my yard. I have a 6 foot fence but that won't keep a cat out.
- TNR is the best option
- We all want to reduce the population of unowned cats in Lawrence. The shelter reports a yearly increase in the numbers of these cats, so what we are doing now isn't working. Catching and euthanizing these cats is unlikely to be acceptable to most residents. There are only so many barn homes for working cats, and because cats are territorial, relocation is problematic. That leaves TNR. I have 6 years of experience with this option.
- One of the main concerns being expressed about TNR is that outdoor cats kill wildlife. I'm not going to argue that they don't; cats are predators. But please consider the following points:
- TNR will reduce the cat population over time, through attrition of adult cats, and as fewer kittens are born. My experience has also been that some of the tamer cats will find homes with neighbors, now that they are no longer spraying in the house and fighting. Fewer cats equals fewer wildlife kills.
- Also, spayed and neutered cats have lower metabolic requirements than intact cats. Neutered males don't need to expend calories roaming in search of females and fighting. Females are freed from caloric expenditures for pregnancy and lactation, and don't have kittens they are teaching to hunt. If cats need fewer calories, they are less likely to be hunting wildlife.
- Having worked with over 50 colonies in the past 6 years, I have yet to see a dead bird or small mammal at the sites while I am trapping. Again, I am not saying that these cats don't hunt, but I have seen no evidence of even modest slaughter.
- Lastly, I assume that the Lawrence ordinance will contain a provision similar to Topeka's in which nuisance cats, who continue to kill birds, can still be picked up by Animal Control.
- I live in rural Douglas County, but have ties to Topeka, so when their TNR ordinance was passed, I was recruited to be involved. As an index of how passionate I have become about TNR, in a typical month I spend 6 days in some aspect of the process and put 450 miles on my car. Why have I become so passionate? I have seen firsthand what a difference TNR makes. To the lives of the cats: if I return to a colony several months later to trap a cat I missed, the cats we previously trapped are often visibly healthier. And to the lives of any cat caretakers, many of whom are compassionate people who put out food for a stray cat and quickly found themselves overwhelmed when that cat had kittens. I've met people who could barely put food on their own table, but 'their' cats never miss a meal. Helping them bring the cat population under control has a positive effect on their income. One woman told me "I'm getting a good night's sleep for the first time in years!" When I looked puzzled, she said "The tomcats are not yowling and fighting outside my window anymore." As an index of how much TNR is valued in Topeka, we work entirely by donation, and we have plenty of them. The program has never cost the city of Topeka or Shawnee County anything. I hope Lawrence will take the leap and join Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City, Ottawa, Scranton, Wamego and other cities throughout Kansas that are successfully implementing TNR in their communities.

- I have volunteered at an animal shelter in KC and this is one of the things we did there. It is great for feral cat control as well as keeping them out in our areas because they are needed to keep the rodent population in check.
- The city's current policy forces the Humane Society to attempt to adopt out stray cats who may not make good pets. Catching and releasing these cats would prevent them from overbreeding but allow them to remain feral and control vermin.
- I love cats and have had many over the years, and still do. However, they must be kept indoors for their own safety and because of the damage they do to bird populations -- any cat outside is going to kill birds, no matter what anyone says -- statistics are widely available -- and the numbers of birds killed by cats nationwide every year are incredibly high. Cats are much safer and live longer if they are kept indoors, and songbirds, whose populations have been precipitously declining due to habitat loss and factors such as window strikes and pesticides, do not need this additional threat. The only problem TNR programs help is in whatever reduction in reproduction is achieved; and they achieve nothing to make the feral cats' lives better.
- It's the citizens that have a hoarding problem that concern me and citizens that keep cats as shelter pets and say they are rehoming them. I also think that if your asking a citizen to partake it is high risk, especially if it is diseased and has rabies. It should be a professional. Not unless you know this feline well.
- Cats kill lots of birds, and this seems like a useful program to help keep their population down.
- I wish the city would fund having animal control perform this.
- I have hardly every seen any true feral cats in Lawrence, but my own cat was a former stray. I think this program will do wonders around apartment complexes notorious for pet dumping. I have had more than a few friends rescue cats that hang around their complex and it's been a problem since I moved here in 2011. With a TNR program, shelter workers can truly decide which animals are community cats and which are terrified former pets.
- Why would the City even consider ordinance that allows stray cats. If you capture and return to area, it only encourages more cats in neighborhoods. Strays should be either sent for adoption or euthanized.
- It is not a perfect solution. Who determines that the cat is feral compared to a domestic that has escaped home or owners allow it to be outside?
- The less cost the more people will participate and appreciate this program.
- It's a great program.
- TNR has been proven to be effective in keeping the feral population of cats down. And as someone who used to work at Lawrence Humane Society there were quite a few each month.
- This system is hard on the wildlife and on the cats. If a cat is a problem, they should be taken to the Lawrence Humane Society. Not only does this allow time for an owner to be found, it also means the cat has a chance of being adopted and placed into a home. If the cat has no owner and is truly feral and truly unadoptable, then it would actually be kinder to put the cat to sleep than it would be to turn it back into a world of injury, intense cold and heat, disease, and having to live off the land.
- If cats are able to be rehomed, that should be first priority but for those who aren't, this is a great solution!
- I would support a TNR program in Lawrence as it is the most effective method of managing and reducing the number of community cats. Not only will there be fewer community cats due to spaying/neutering, but the colony will be healthier overall due to having had vaccinations. A TNR program will reduce the amount of community cats, limit the spread of disease among both owned and unowned pets, and reduce the amount of unexpected litters and stray kittens entering the humane society.
- I absolutely support this effective, evidence-based program coming to Lawrence. There are a lot of community cats in North Lawrence that would benefit from this wonderful program.
- I'm against loose cats in Lawrence but I listened to the city meeting about it and it does seem like a good modern plan.
- I would hope that all the stray cats in a certain colony can be caught so that they can be spayed/neutered, but I don't think that happens and you have to have someone who is willing to take care of the colony and note when new members arrive.
- Excellent program greatly needed in Lawrence. Lots of feral cats in Lawrence are cats abandoned by owners that manage to survive by finding a colony or banding together in smaller group. I've turned in multiple cats rescued from my neighborhood (pregnant) to Humane Society. Most are adoptable, but some are not. Those that are semi-feral, due to being abandoned or lost as kittens, have a hard time being adopted as they need fostering and socialization. If true ferals are caught as adults and fixed and returned, fewer true ferals will be born over time. Lots of abandoned cats are not fixed and they find feral protectors and breed more ferals. TNR helps reduce populations over time. Most true ferals are nocturnal, so many cats that I've managed to catch and turn into Humane Society are semi-feral, previously owned cats who do appear in daylight and/or are easier to entice with food into cages.
- Seems like a common sense approach that would provide a viable path to a longer term solution. I do not believe we have the money nor the human power to attempt a capture and adopt program. I would absolutely be against a capture and euthanize approach.
- Would the citizens trapping the cats get the traps and information regarding proper use of traps from the Animal Shelter? I would be concerned there could be issues with people not checking the traps frequently etc. I would like to see additional information on the process.
- It's humane! Less kittens means lowering the population of stray cats until they die of old age or natural causes. Reading the LJW article shocked me when I learned the LHSociety has been killing all strays! That's not humane, that's evil. Spay/neuter programs lower the population. Killing some of the strays does not stop breeding and expanding stray populations. PEOPLE, IF YOU CANNOT KEEP OR DO NOT WANT YOUR PETS, DO NOT SET THEM "free", take them to Any humane society to be cared for and to find new homes through the adoption process! (And, with all of the new construction on my side of town, there are pack rats that live and breed here! Feral cats would help keep THAT population down!)
- I've volunteered at our local shelter in the past. Negligent pet owners also contribute to ferel cats. Our community should heed any excellent input from the Humane Society staff.
- This is the most successful way to reduce the feral cat population.

- My main concern is the health and humane treatment of the cats. If these cats are trapped by citizens, I'm somewhat leary of the treatment some of these cats might have to endure. Feral cats are not appreciated by many citizens and I'm afraid some might take this program as a way to destroy these animals. I am all for catching, neutering, vaccinating and marking of feral cats, just concerned about their welfare.
- It is a measure of the \*size\* of the problem that generates such a proposal. But feral felines live a brutally short life. This proposal is designed for human comfort; not feral cats. And it's \*annual\* targeted scope and taxed cost would be dependent on a hit-or-miss volunteer or complaint-driven premise?!?
- Feral cats are unnatural predators in the city environment. The introduction of the domesticated cat has greatly reduced the number of song birds throughout the country. The feral cat problem is caused by irresponsible pet owners. The TNR program will return these unnatural predators to the environment and cause hardship for the cats. Many of these cats die cruel deaths. The program may allow people to feel they are doing the "right thing," but it is harmful to the environment and the cats. I would recommend people who believe this is a good program to visit multiple websites discussing the statistics of the impact of feral cats on the environment, such as: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/feral-cats-kill-billions-of-small-critters-each-year-7814590/>. Forcing citizens to live with stray cats in their neighborhood is unfair. Enforcing laws concerning pets in Lawrence would aid in reducing feral cat populations: It shall be unlawful for any person to own or keep a dog or cat or other animal which runs at large in the City. Knowledge or acquiescence by the owner or keeper is not an element of the offense. An animal shall not be deemed to be running at large if: (Ord. 7690) Cats are often allowed to run free in the city, unlike dogs. Owners of cats should be required to keep these pets on their property at all times.
- I think City should try this new approach. After a reasonable amount of time, if it causes problems or isn't working, then adjust. Won't know until we try it.
- Feral cats are a reality in any urban area; to control their population and leave the animals in their natural habitat is a reasonable and humane practice.
- kill and remove, even the Audubon society says cats are a killer
- trap and remove. Even the Audubon society hates feral cat.
- This program has worked wonders in other places. Lawrence should give it a try. We live outside of town and have adopted any stray cat that has come on our place, but there are some who are wild no matter what you do.
- Have you ever tried to capture a cat? It more difficult than you think. The city would have the added expense of buying traps to distribute to the public.
- I have lived around both outdoor cats and birdfeeders for decades, and the danger to wild birds from cats is way overblown. Reflective windows are much more of a hazard to birds than cats. That is actually how most of the cats get the birds. Healthy birds are very difficult for cats to get.
- According to the article in the LJW this approach seems to be working in Topeka. I would support trying it in Lawrence.
- I too love birds and understand the negative response of bird lovers to such a program. However, it is reported that TNR programs actually do reduce the feral cat population.
- This program by itself will not work to reduce the population. There would need to be a component of TNR+kitten removal, or, TE. There would also need to be implemented higher fines for people caught dumping animals. A penalty for individuals whom are continually feeding feral cats. This is a predatory invasive species. This is going to be a labor intensive program that needs to be consistent in its application to be successful. To eliminate the problem - you have to cut off the source. To be effective the trap rate would need to be 75% or higher. Read at: An Evaluation of Feral Cat Management Options Using a Decision Analysis Network
- I do not believe the feral cats pose a problem. I have seen cats in my area. However, those probably weren't feral. I took two in. Took them to the vet and gave them a home. One turns 8 this year. Without the tnr program, had someone else found him, he may have been put down. I would support the program.
- They need to be euthanized
- Feral cats spread diseases to pet cats and to humans, including cat leukemia spread to cats, and toxoplasmosis, spread to cats and people.
- In human beings, toxoplasmosis has been linked to a range of very serious neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. To protect human health and the health of pet cats, feral and unclaimed stray cats that cannot be adopted out should be humanely euthanized.
- <https://www.sciencealert.com/mind-altering-parasite-transmitted-by-cats-linked-to-several-brain-disorders>
- 1. The Humane Society states that the TNR program would result in a decreased number of feral cats over time. While it is true that neutered cats won't reproduce, the TNR cats will continue to pose problems (carry diseases, kill birds, interfere with domestic animals, trespass on private property, etc.), while euthanized cats won't reproduce and they won't continue to pose any problems.
- 2. The TNR proposal requires a significant change to the animal control ordinance. Does the city really want to undermine an ordinance that protects property, human and animal health, and civil peace?
- 3. Under the proposed TNR program, what recourse would residents have to remove feral cats from their yards? What would be the procedure and the response time?
- I prefer this option over euthanasia. According to LHS it sounds like the population of feral cats in Lawrence is growing, so we need to implement some sort of policy change that is different than what we're currently doing. This seems to be the most humane and effective option.
- This is a lawsuit waiting to happen. Some well meaning volunteer who is not trained in dealing with feral animals gets injured and then what happens? Also since animals are free roaming, there would be a never ending supply of feral animals.
- 1. The TNR proposal claims it would lower the number of feral cats in the city; euthanizing these same cats would also lower their numbers and reduce the problems (i.e., disease, negative effects on wildlife, pets, and property, etc.) with feral cats. Having lived in the Central district for many years, I can assure you that free-roaming feral cats cause significant problems.
- 2. The TNR proposal would require changes to the animal control ordinance. Does the city really want to change an ordinance that protects property, helps control diseases, and promote civil peace in the community?
- 3. How would citizens report a feral cat problem and what would be the response time under the proposed TNR proposal?

- My mother works with a similar program in another city. The progress has been slow but it has been the only method to show any progress at all.
- Feral cats kill wildlife. The evidence for the TNR approach is very weak. I also know of a case where it was very probable that fleas were transferred to a domestic cat and then residents had to hire pest control and associated costs to rid the house of the infestation. I also know of cases where feral cats find their way into basements of older houses during the cold weather. Invest in greater catch efforts and continue to current approach. Reduce the retail sale of cats.
- I support euthanizing feral cats. These animals are a danger to the pet population. In addition they are nearly impossible to capture and those doing the capture risk exposure to rabies. Once identified the cat still has ample opportunity to reproduce multiple times before capture. I would rather see our funds put towards incentives for pet owners, regardless of financial ability, to spay and neuter the kittens in homes.
- Don't mind trying it but have reservations. Only support if it is easily and quickly reversible.
- We have had problems with cats spraying our doors, jumping over our fence into back yard and killing birds. I thought there was an ordinance addressing cats running loose and g  
Dogs not on leash
- 3 out of the 4 cats I have been lucky to have in my life were feral cats. I know what wonderful animals they can be.
- I strongly support the TNR program because I believe it is both humane and effective.
- My dogs are in love with the sounds of their own voices. I try to be a good neighbor and discourage the barking when they're in the yard. My dogs are both adopted and neither were raised around cats. They will go ballistic if cats are roaming around near the yard. I know for a fact one of the dogs will kill a cat and will try to dig or jump out to get to one. I have gone through great lengths to contain my dogs. I do not want to be held responsible for noise complaints or dogs escaping.  
How do we know people's pet cats who are allowed to run will not be gathered up and vaccinated spayed and neutered at everyone else's expense?  
I know this is going to wind up costing us money. There are never ideas that save us money.  
Also. The coyotes need to eat too. Sounds like expensive food for them. Neutered vaccinated food. There is nothing humane about making cats fend for themselves against hunger weather cars predators.  
We used to have feral cats in our neighborhood but animal control captured them. Before that a cat gave birth to a litter in my outbuilding. The dog discovered them - was attacked by the mother causing injury. The dog made off with a kitten and it died. Real humane. Who's going to cover the vet bills? I love all animals including cats.  
Ft Scott HS stopped taking cats. Instead they spend the money giving people grants to spay and neuter their cats. Might check w them to see if that works.
- It's worked in Venice for decades. Our neighborhood cats have been here for years. Our climate is supporting them. Let's do the right thing.
- LHS has my complete trust, and if LHS is for the program, so am I.
- Progressive communities all across the country have programs like this, and I can't believe Lawrence doesn't already have this. Even Topeka is more progressive on this matter than Lawrence. I believe in keeping pet cats inside, but it is a fact that feral colonies do exist in Lawrence. These cats do not do well indoors. I have taken in a few over the years, with mixed results. TNR at least helps to reduce the birth of more uncared for cats. It is the humane thing to do.
- I would have no idea how to trap a cat, maybe provide the public some tips on how to do this.
- I fully support whatever strategy that the Lawrence Humane Society recommends and will make a donation to assist the cause.
- If they are returned to where they were trapped they can still kill the birds at bird feeders and small dogs in their fenced yards
- I live in an East Lawrence neighborhood where in the past; before the ordinance prohibiting cats at large, there was a feral cat colony. They were causing considerable damage to my property; feces in flower beds, urine on the foundations. I was finding many dead birds and small mammals. My only recourse at the time was to coordinate with Animal Control to trap cats humanely and turn them in to the Lawrence Humane Society. If a TNR program is allowed in Lawrence and I, as a property owner, have to contend with this problem again, what are my options? Since the ordinance prohibiting "at large" cats I have noticed a big drop in feral cats in my neighborhood. We also have coyotes, owls and hawks that predate on cats, so that might be a factor, too. Also, if no ordinance is in place prohibiting people from letting cats be "at large" more people will feel free to abandon their cats thinking that this absolves them of their responsibility. The control of our overpopulation of pets should not be shifted from Humane Society to individual property owners. While habitat destruction and building strikes have been cited as other pressures on bird populations, predation by feral and owned outdoor cats is by far the greatest cause of decline of bird species. The humane society has a role to play in controlling excessive pet populations, for them to abandon that role to save cats lives "no matter what" and releasing these excess animals into the community is short sighted.
- I live in Lawrence and support this measure as an effective way to reduce the number of feral cats, which will in turn reduce the number of nuisance cats in our city.
- Killing feral cats doesn't seem to work. TNR at least lowers their population increases via reproduction. If a kitten is not exposed to humans within a couple of weeks of birth, it may remain feral all of its life.
- Killing a healthy yet abandoned cat is not humane
- I still think they are a danger to the bird population. I also think with the cats being present they will attract coyotes.
- enforce your current leash law for cats & dogs. just say no to free ranging cats, say no to free ranging feral homeless people also...
- Vaccination temporarily protects these animals against disease but does not provide for their total medical care and general or basic needs that domesticated cats usually receive from owners. Spaying and neutering does not always change a cat's behavior of marking, fighting ( aggressive behavior) nor hunting for food.
- I have witnessed that these community cats help reduce unwanted rodents which spread disease and cause damage.

- We have a cat who is now elderly and doesn't go out anymore. It was an older kitten when we adopted it, but it was raised in a barn so it always want to go out and we let it (neutered). I would guess that most of the people in my neighborhood have indoor/outdoor cats. If this program was to catch spay/neuter the wild cats that are unable to be adopted and release them I would be ok with that. Let them live out their lives as they always had but not add to the problem and with time the overpopulation of wild cats would decrease. I was raised on a farm and have always felt it was sad to take the the ability to go outside away from an animal. I am assuming all "stray" cats would be checked for a chip.. I would also love to see the city provide low cost chipping of peoples pets every other month. Maybe every other month on a set date and time a staff person (or trained volunteer) could provide this service. I think if chipping were only the cost of the chip (what, 5,00?) there would be a lot more people chipping their pets. And if they chip their pets they would maybe feel more responsible for that pet to make sure they are getting their shots, spayed and neutered.

- I have previously participated in a TNR program (Topeka). I have trapped two male cats. Following neutering and time for hormone levels to drop, they became very friendly and sweet. Perhaps they were not truly feral, but rejected by humans and struggling to survive on their own? Aside note: I have rescued cats through the years as well: a rejected adult pregnant female- I was unable to place her at Kitty City, other attempts to responsibly place her failed as well. She delivered 4 kittens. They continue to live at my ex's house. They are wonderful kitties, what cat isn't? I am a big believer in spaying/neutering. I ensure that everyone is either spayed or neutered.

A big concern of mine is: following vaccination, all of these cats exhibited vision problems: covering their eyes with their paws to avoid ligh(s) shining in their eyes, I observed one TNR cat come running to greet me outside, at night, with street lighting, (I could see quite well); I watched him crash into a very large tree. I felt so sad for him. Not long after that, he disappeared. He was otherwise a very healthy cat and very affectionate. He was an indoor/outdoor cat. He went out one evening (in Topeka) and never came back. I have been mourning him since. There is much danger out there. Tragic to say that some humans abuse/torture/kill. I hope he wasn't lured (due to his friendliness) to a situation like that.

While I think the TNR program is critical to minimize animal suffering, I regret that I did not find some way to pay (I am financially poor) to have him neutered to avoid vaccination resulting in eye problems and and discomfort he may have suffered from the ear tipping.

I rescued 3 other cats as well, two came crying to me, begging for help and one was "given" to me. Two of those have passed on, (this was many years ago, the other one also lives at the home of my ex and that cat also has vision problems following vaccination.

- I believe this type of program is a win-win for both the community and the feral cat population. I have read a number of Publications that document how the TNR program has positively impacted the communities in which they are in effect. The animals are not harmed, but their numbers are gradually decreased with this program. I would be happy to be involved in such a program.
- My concern would be about the need to re-vaccinate at given and recommended intervals. One vaccine might not be protective for the feral cat's life and wonder how boosting animals would come into play.
- Some animals are loose but not necessarily stray or feral. Would cats who actually belong to someone but that live mostly outside be included? If they are not marked, how would one know the difference?
- We're familiar with the TNR program in Lenexa/KCK via participating friends. It appears to be the most humane method of treatment, with the least amount of cost, for everyone!
- How do I verify a cat is indeed feral?
- Because they would remain in this area and still poop in my gardens and spray on my door. And this seems to be a area where a lot of cats are dumped.
- Had a feral cat in our neighborhood for about a year. The decrease in the rabbit population was AMAZING and gardens flourished. Bird population was unchanged. Then the cat was removed by animal control. Rabbit population exploded! Gardens ravaged again. Would love to host a feral cat(s) in our area.
- Tinykittens at Tinykittens.com is a non profit that helps manage feral cats and they do this. It shows a good example of what kinds of organization will usually crop up to assist with this issue once TNR is legal. They TNR unadoptable ferals, but foster-to-adopt ferals that socialize well. Without the option to TNR though, there is no way for an organization like this to work on socialization and to work at picking and choosing cats who would do well in homes.
- When I was a letter carrier there was a group of feral cats living by the levy. I would feed them and knew that there was also someone who owned a business in north Lawrence that fed them and ;provided hay in the winter. They were all very sweet and would run when they heard the sound of the mail truck :)
- TNR will help reduce feral cat population in the long run. Current practices have not been effective.
- A properly monitored TNR program gives feral cats a better, healthier life than leaving them alone or, of course, trapping and euthanizing them. It's also better for the neighborhoods with these colonies. If there are no suitable prey animals, the colony would not be there. The colony's presence helps keep those prey animals, usually small rodents and such, under control. Yes, songbirds are caught as well but feral cats are hardly a decimating force.
- I lived for several years in Cairo Egypt, where a TNR programme was used. It was good in that there were literally hundreds of feral cats in just the area I lived. It was also totally underfunded as it ran on donations so was not as effective as it could have been. Where it is supported by the city I see this being a successful programme.
- A former coworker has been very involved in a similar program in Topeka that has been extremely successful. Bringing a program of this sort to Lawrence would be of great benefit in reducing the feral cat population in a humane manner.
- I believe this will work well and is very humane.
- This doesn't solve the issue of feral cats roaming the neighborhood, using the kids sand boxes or flower beds as a litter box, and killing birds and small mammals. And this would not allow home owners any option to get a problematic cat removed from our neighborhood. From a cat-person perspective, these free roaming cats are not likely to get good care, shelter, or regular food. TNR does not seem very humane for the cats, as well as perpetuates a problem for Lawrence residents.

- It is a difficult decision, but if the Lawrence Humane Society feels that overall it will cause less suffering for these cats that provide us so much companionship, then we should give it a try.
- I have heard of successful TNR programs in other cities and I am sure this program will work in Lawrence, as well.
- Feral cats spread diseases to pet cats and to humans, including cat leukemia spread to cats, and toxoplasmosis, which is spread to cats and people. They also fight and injure domestic cats and kill song birds.
- In human beings, toxoplasmosis has been linked to a range of very serious neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.
- To protect the health of Lawrence residents and their cats, feral and unclaimed stray cats that cannot be adopted out should be humanely euthanized. Cats returned to neighborhoods would suffer and could spread disease to domestic cats.
- My experience indicates that feral cats use the flower/vegetable beds and other soft soil areas around my property as their personal toilets which I find completely off-putting while working in areas that provide food for me and my family. I think it is nasty, unhygienic, and unhealthy. By stalking the birdbath, they have killed numerous birds in my yard. I think the whole idea is disgusting. There is no positive benefit to the program.
- Bad idea! The Humane Society should keep the cats for adoption and also so they would have food, water. They cannot always find food and generally starve! It happened in this neighborhood not long ago!
- TNR is an interesting idea, but I have too many questions to agree to a TNR program at this time. Would Animal Control no longer enforce a cat leash law, or would only feral cats be allowed to roam? Who would determine whether a cat is truly feral or just a pet living a feral like life? Could pet cats that are not spayed or neutered be trapped as part of this program? How would vaccinations be maintained? I love cats, but living near two "cat lady" houses, I don't love a yard full of cats that do not belong to me.
- This makes so much sense. It is a humane way to protect the feral cat population which would slowly be reduced because of being neutered. This is a win/win.
- I first observed TNR in action in St. John, U.S, Virgin Islands. It was highly effective. I think it is a good solution to feral cat population control since it protects society against cat-borne diseases and avoids euthanasia.
- My niece works with a shelter who does TNR, they've been able to TNR over 10000 cats over the past 13 years alone and some colonies they started in the beginning have begun to dwindle to the point there are only a couple cats.
- I know of communities where this program has eventually reduced the feral cat population, which is better for the cats and for people in the area than simply ignoring the problem.
- TNR cats still kill birds that eat mosquitos and other insects.
- My answer is actually "yes" and "no". It is good that in the end it would cut down on the population of feral cats, but in the meantime a neighborhood might still be overrun with too many cats returned to where they were picked up. Late night cat fights and gardens being used as litter boxes are no fun...
- Feral cats provide a service by keeping rodents in check
- I participated in TNR when I lived in Sacramento, CA. The program does work when done properly and supported by the community.
- Feral cats are detrimental to the eco system, and they are not an indigenous species. There is no reason to allow feral colonies, and TNR is a great way to approach the feral colony problem.
- I think it is a humane and effective method of feral cat control.
- What actual statistics are there that TNR reduces the feral cat population? Facts , please! Also, the problem in my neighborhood is domestic cats which are allowed to roam.
- We already have issues in some areas with coyotes. This program could provide a food base for that population. Also relying on citizens to enforce city ordinances doesn't sound very responsible.
- Does not address the problem that feral cats carry toxoplasmosis. This infection that can be spread to other animals and humans can only complete its lifecycle in the gut of a cat.  
You might also want to take a look at the 3 recent cases of bubonic plague found in feral cats in Wyoming.
- When the cat is caught it should be euthanized.
- This is a much better plan than euthenizing them. With neutering there will be a drop in the numbers over time.
- This is a city priority? Is the city really this hard up to find ways to waste money?
- Feral cats destroy local wildlife and attack neighborhood pets. We don't need more animals on this planet that aren't being taken care of.
- This makes perfect sense. Trapping and neutering will protect and eventually lower the feral cat population - it's a win/win.
- feral cats very very destructive to wildlife! reduce their carbon foot print and put them to sleep.
- Spaying and neutering a feral cat colony will help reduce the population over time. If you right out kill a cat in a colony more will take it's place to fill the hole that was left. If you trap and release it then it will go back to it's place in the colony and not breed naturally reducing the population.
- I am a cat owner, but I am also a bird (and other wildlife) lover. I know personally that cats are treasured companions. But they do not belong outdoors. It has been scientifically demonstrated that cats are responsible for the deaths of billions of birds and mammals in the US every year. Essentially, feral cats are an invasive species and they do a tremendous amount of damage. As much as I love cats, I believe the proper response to this situation is to remove feral cats from the landscape/ecosystem and not permit them to return. If cats are not adoptable, I believe they should be humanely euthanized. The cats of course are just acting according to their nature, but to allow feral cat colonies to continue is to value the lives of these cats over the lives of the billions of birds and mammals that they kill. (There are no clear studies proving the effectiveness of TNR for substantially reducing the cat population. The recent article in the LJ World that showed Topeka's TNR program had achieved only a 20% reduction over a number of years was not encouraging!) Feral cats also live short and hard lives, to the extent that PETA has spoken out against TNR as inhumane to the cats.
- This is so needed in Lawrence. I have first hand seen the results in KCK & Merriam KS where I have helped family members do TNR.
- TNR has proven to work for other communities. It is humane and helpful for our pets, wildlife and for the cats themselves.

- Not only is TNR a humane way to reduce feral cat population, it is the only practical way, as trap and kill merely opens space for breeding of those cats not caught to keep the population up. Furthermore, a neutered cat colony that is cared for by volunteers will be less aggressive against wildlife such as birds, for which I also deeply care. I have a live trap and would gladly be active in an TNR program.  
I am the administrator for The Lawrence Lost & Found Pets Facebook group with over 3000 members.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LawrenceKSLostFoundPets/>
- I have participated in TNR programs in KCK & Johnson Cty KS & the results are great. We need to change policy in Lawrence to allow TNR immediately
- I think it might be a good program we don't want more cats, I feel sorry for them and don't want them harmed or captured just to kill them because it was humans that cause the problem to start with and they may not all be all fetal
- This amounts to cat abandonment. Dumping these cats back outdoors perpetuates the problems associated with feral cats. It doesn't solve anything. Scientific studies have repeatedly found that TNR does not effectively reduce cat populations. They breed too rapidly to overcome the slow process. Furthermore, these cats would threaten local wildlife and create a nuisance in areas where they've been re-abandoned. Who takes on the liability once the cat is dumped back outdoors? This program is a nightmare.
- Rather than abdicate responsibility for animal control, the cats should be taken to an animal shelter and given an opportunity for adoption or placement in a sanctuary. Under no circumstances should these cats be tossed back outdoors.
- This is the most humane and effective way to take care of the feral cat population.
- It is better for the cats, and will be better for birds and people too.
- I've lived in several cities with TNR programs, and as I recall they've been generally successful. The idea is that the breeding population of feral cats is gradually decreased, thus diminishing the problem long-term. Other programs clip the cat's ear--is that what you mean by "a special marking"?
- Not enough evidence that it is effective.
- I 100% support the TNR program that the City of Lawrence should inherent!
- I'd be willing to trap but neither do I have a trap, nor can I afford one.
- Feral cats interfere with domesticated animals and are devastating to songbird populations. We need to get the feline population down in a humane and caring fashion. TNR could be the answer.
- This is the most humane way to approach the issue of feral cats. Many of these colonies began as a result of irresponsible ownership of not spaying/neutering cats. By safely spaying/neutering and vaccinating, the population will naturally decline and disease will be less apt to spread.
- I feel feral cats should be killed if not adopted
- I don't want the cats returned to the neighborhood. That program won't work to reduce the feral cat population. We need feral cats removed and pet cats micro-chipped and contained on their owner's property.
- The local TNR proponent told the Lawrence-Journal World, "You're not going to see an immediate decline, but you will see a decline," Schmitz said. There is zero evidence to support that claim. TNR colonies usually only go down because of adoptions-- and they take decades to decline. Consider this article from the CDC: "TNVR has not been shown to reliably reduce feral cat colony populations because of low implementation rates, inconsistent maintenance, and immigration of unsterilized cats into colonies. For these reasons, TNVR programs are not effective methods for reducing public health concerns or for controlling feral cat populations. Instead, responsible pet ownership, universal rabies vaccination of pets, and removal of strays remain integral components to control rabies and other diseases." [https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/43106/cdc\\_43106\\_DS1.pdf](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/43106/cdc_43106_DS1.pdf)  
Moreover, a TNR program set up City-wide in Jacksonville Florida over ten years ago has decreased cats, but failed to reduce kittens. In August 2008, Best Friends and PetSmart Charities funded a program called "Feral Freedom" for free-roaming community cats in Jacksonville, Florida. Fast forward 8 years to 2016 in Jacksonville: 42 percent, of the 5,778 animals taken in at the society were kittens. At the city shelter, 3,764, or 32 percent, of the total 11,610 animals taken in were kittens. "The dog numbers are down. The cat numbers are down," Deisler said. "Why aren't the kitten numbers declining?" Good question. Why aren't the kitten numbers declining in Jacksonville if TNR works over time? <https://www.jacksonville.com/news/metro/2017-03-23/foster-homes-critical-part-effort-save-lives-homeless-kittens-jacksonville>  
More importantly: Jacksonville issued a "rabies advisory" for a Jacksonville suburb – noting a feral cat tested positive for rabies.  
<https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20180905/clay-county-issues-rabies-alert>
- I already volunteer with the Humane Society. Would be glad to help with a spay-neuter program. We need it in Lawrence because it's an effective way to control the feral cat population
- Similar to Topeka, KS, a TNR program promotes the overall life of cats, while reducing strain on LHS budget and animal control and law enforcement resources, while contributing into an overall reduction in the feral cat population.
- Right now we have only a few feral cats, maybe due to our neighborhood coyote. We rescued a very small dog a few years ago, and neighborhood cats made her life miserable. They come in the yard and hiss and scare her on our porch. I also am concerned about fleas and disease. Our indoor cat got fleas and we don't know why. What a mess. Love animals, but they need human "families". The cats use my bird feeding station as a bird buffet. A few years ago, a feral cat tried to attack me as I was rescuing kittens from a window well. Only the near by water hose saved me!
- TNR programs have proven effective for controlling feral cat populations elsewhere. Given enough support, Lawrence should begin a similar program.
- Feral cat colonies can be humanely treated by trapping, treating, and sterilizing, which has been proven to greatly reduce colony numbers. This program will help educate the public on how to take care of community cats, especially how to make warm homes for them during our harsh winters. I volunteer at the shelter and know partnering with them will help create a vibrant TNR program. As feral cats are also detrimental to wildlife, reducing their numbers through this humane program will also reduce the detrimental effects to wildlife.



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- Feral cats are a threat to well cared for pets, wildlife, and property. They should be aggressively trapped and humanely killed. My only concern is to ensure that temporarily lost pet cats do not get erroneously exterminated.
- TNR is the most humane way to deal with the feral cat issue.
- I'm unsure if the roaming cats are feral or a product of irresponsible owners.
- This sounds like an excellent strategy to address this issue in our community. I am so glad we are moving toward a strategy that has been proven effective in countless other cities.
- I have lived in Baldwin for several years which didn't have the strict leash laws. There were several stray cats there that helped keep the rodent population down. I support the Lawrence proposal as it will keep the feral breeding down and reduce feline illness in the area.
- I think TNR is the only responsible program for the residents, private companies, and city government to pursue.
- TNR is a humane method of allowing these animals to stay in their colonies. It is difficult to place captured feral cats on farms or in homes, as they've often had little contact with humans. Neutering would greatly reduce cats roaming to breed and the instinctual drive to replace lost colony members with new litters. TNR has proven to be an effective method of controlling this population in nearby communities.
- The trap and release program would not lower feral cat populations as evidenced by many scientific studies. Also, the city has a cat leash law that should be enforced, rather than giving up on reducing the population because we are too sensitive to kill non native species (feral cats) that are causing devastating damage to property and local native wildlife.
- Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. It is a fact that the removal and killing of outdoor cats that animal control has been pursuing for decades is never ending and futile. Since feral cats are not adoptable, they are killed in pounds and shelters. With a successful program like Trap-Neuter-Return to turn to, it's hard to believe that animal control agencies continue to kill cats, even though that approach has shown zero results.  
During an 11-year study of TNR at the University of Florida, the number of cats on campus declined by 66%, with no new kittens being born after the first four years of operation.) Levy, Julie K., David W. Gale, and Leslie A. Gale. "Evaluation of the Effect of a Long-Term Trap-Neuter-Return and Adoption Program on a Free-Roaming Cat Population." *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 222, no. 1 (2003): 42-46.)  
A study of the impact of TNR on feral cat colonies in Rome, Italy, also observed colony size decrease between 16% and 32% over a 10-year period. ( Trap-Neuter-Return quickly stabilizes feral cat populations by instantly ending reproduction and by removing socialized cats from the colony.
- A TNR program at Texas A&M University neutered 123 cats in its first year, and found no new litters of kittens the following year. (Hughes, Kathy L. and Margaret R. Slater: Implementation of a Feral Cat Management Program on a University Campus (JAAWS Vol. 5 No. 1, 2002)  
Over the course of the same study, 20% of the cats trapped were found to be socialized stray cats and adopted. (Content cited from: <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/why-trap-neuter-return-feral-cats-the-case-for-tnr/>
- Why should cats be allowed to run free. Apparently people are not taking care of their pets. They're in my yard, they're in my pond, they're in my garden. And now they're in my wallet.
- TNR has been shown to be effective in cities throughout the country. It is a humane way to manage feral cat populations, improving the lives of cats who cannot be domesticated and ultimately reducing the size of their colonies. Over time, TNR will also reduce costs to our Humane Society by reducing the number of feral cats who are brought there.
- We think it might be helpful to first try to find the cat a home and then if not able to do this program
- No, national resources that I trust do not recommend TNR programs. <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/> a better solution is capture and euthanize. I have friends and family in other parts of Lawrence where feral cats are an issue and those neighborhoods include several feral cat abettors. A better solution, including euthanizing the feral cats would be to make it illegal to feed feral cats. If you feed them, they should be considered yours and you should be fined for not keeping them locked up. My perspective is NOT heartless. Rather I'm trying to reverse the false and harmful human environment we've created and protect nature- which includes the birds, insects, and reptiles that are at risk when feral cat colonies are permitted

- ONE MORE THING: I think I like TNR as a solution for getting free services for feral cats -- neutering, shots, perhaps treatment. If a kitty showed up in my yard in obvious need of medical attention, under TNR, I could bring her in with the hope that she'd get treatment, but be re-released, and I'd not have to take on her medical expenses. TNR has a possible additional benefit.
- Feral cats are a threat to birds and other wildlife. They should not be released.
- These cats are destructive, kill the birds and ruin gardens. Need to be exterminated not released.
- This type of plan has been enacted in Topeka and is doing well there.  
This program will save money over time, be more humane, and is the right step forward for the city.
- population of neutered cats would prevent a population of feral breeding cats.
- This is a responsible plan to manage the feral cat population!
- We were involved with Topeka neuter program and had a colony of feral cat at our home in rural SN county. As a physician and cat owner, this program makes huge sense to control the feral cat population. We caught and neutered at least a dozen feral cats on our property. We fed and shelters them and it did help control them and I, believe it did help control the wild bird loss by cats. I believe it is humane and realistic. It works and helps the cats and the community!  
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- I truly believe the TNR program is the most effective and humane means of reducing the feral cat population while also reducing the over all cat euthanasia rate.
- Absolutely support a TNR program! Many studies have shown that TNR is the most effective way to decrease feral cat populations, because the spayed/neutered cats continue to feed reducing food supply for other cats and decreasing future birth rates.
- This seems like a sensible solution to deal with the feral cat population in Lawrence. My wife has been a Registered Veterinary Technician for over 25 years and she supports this program.
- I don't know how you can be sure a cat is feral or if it's someone's pet without a collar/name tag.
- Outdoor cats, including feral cats, are well recognized by conservation scientists to play a major role in killing wild bird populations. The trap neuter release program will not change this result.  
I also would like to see the evidence for the efficacy of these programs based on scientific studies. A quick look at the scientific literature suggests that efficacy of these programs depends on very high success at neutering cats (71-94% of cats) to stop population growth (Patrick Foley, Janet E. Foley, Julie K. Levy, Terry Paik J Am Vet Med Assoc 2005;227:1775-1781. December 1, 2005) and that these programs are most effective with localized cat populations (not the case in Lawrence). I understand the appeal of trap neuter release programs to the general public but we should be looking at the whole ecosystem and data on efficacy and not base decisions on emotion.
- I have seen results of several studies attempting to control wild animal populations by contraception rather than culling. I don't recall ever seeing one that was effective. If only a small fraction of the population evades the program, the evaders can easily make up for the lost reproduction of the strays that get captured. Also, given the lifespan of cats, we would not have any way to know if the program is working for at least 5, maybe 10 or 15 years. TNR sounds humane and makes people feel good because no killing is involved, but I am extremely skeptical that a system that depends on volunteers bringing in stray cats can include a high enough percentage of the stray population to be effective. I know people hate the idea of killing cats, but if you really want to seriously reduce the feral population, for cats that can't be socialized or placed as work cats, culling is by far the most effective option.
- Over the past few years, stray cats have gotten into my basement, and had to be removed by Animal Control (it was a several day effort). They have sprayed my garage, and when they skulk around the back yard, the numerous birds go still. They are menacing to song birds. I will not allow my grandchildren outside when there are stray dogs and cats roaming. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, and for making this process so easy to use.
- The idea is flawed because it won't fix the real problem. Vets charge TOO MUCH (\$300-\$400) to spay/neuter. Only the rich can spay/neuter/vacc. their cats. Contact Linda Spurlin at mypurrfectworld@gmail.com re a low-cost spay/neuter/vacc. program that works! (also call her at 509-675-2575. A lost pet can be caught in a TNR program with no way for owner to find it. Yes, cat's should be fixed but to turn them back out anytime (but especially during a Kansas winter) means they will suffer horrible cold (or heat), have NO WATER/FOOD, & be killed by predators (ie dogs, raccoons, AND humans) and, of course, traffic. And ravaged by fleas/ticks. Cats with no homes were someone's pet at one time (or its progeny). Any trapped animal should be kept for a minimum of a month during which time heavy advertising should take place with photos so the lost could be retrieved or adopted. Cats aren't a "wild" specie. Ms. Spurlin's organization has spayed/neutered THOUSANDS of cats since it's inception. You must contact her to educate yourselves about their program that could be started in Lawrence! Their fee is approx. \$20 including shots with a rabies shot \$10 extra if desired.
- I have seen the success of this program in reducing the free-roaming cat population and shelter intake numbers in Topeka, and I'm confident we can achieve similar results in Lawrence.
- TNR needs to be done right to be effective, and the current situation makes it impossible to do it right (since any person or group who took it upon themselves to spay/neuter a large number of cats would face hefty fines). The proposed program would allow TNR advocates and Animal Control to work with residents who feed free-roaming cats to ensure that they are receiving adequate food, water, and shelter while not adding new kittens to the population.
- A trap-kill approach will never gain sufficient community support to be effective because trapping a sufficient number of cats to control and reduce the population requires cooperation from community members who care for free-roaming cats.
- TNR is the best way to harness community support to reduce the free-roaming cat population, which will also reduce nuisance behaviors and environmental impact. As someone experienced with TNR, I would be happy to help implement a program in Lawrence.

- I am fortunate that we have little evidence of feral cats in our neighborhood but I am very concerned about a Trap Neuter and Release program. As a biologist I understand how such a program could work in theory but the actual application of the theory that relies so much on citizen involvement makes attainment of the goals highly unlikely. I am particularly concerned with the almost anecdotal evidence being offered to support that the idea can work. The peer review papers I have found dispute the efficacy of the idea. IF the city chooses to go this route then do it right. Establish and develop a sound research program to evaluate how well it is working. And be willing to abandon the program when it no longer works. This is a university town with graduate students in mammalogy. Fund the study to get actual data.
- From experience at the Honda dealership, the number of feral cats can go from two to twenty-five in only a few years. The parts manager was willing to feed them to keep the rodents down, but 25 was a burden on his pocketbook. TNR would have kept the number manageable.
- This is a humane way to solve unwanted litters of kittens, and to enable the adult cats to live out their lives in relative peace. I have seen few feral cats in and around my neighborhood. I would hope the Animal Shelter will continue to accept cats and kittens to adopt out to RESPONSIBLE adults/families. Between the two ways to help unwanted cats/kittens, they have a chance to live. It is barbaric to kill them in the shelters. I think bigger birds kill song birds, more than stray cats do. And as far as that goes, cat owners need to keep their cats indoors. The indoor cats live a long, healthy, and happy life.
- I absolutely support that the city implement a TNR program.
- I grew up in Lawrence and live in NYC now, but I plan to move back to Lawrence in the next year or two. There are tons of feral and stray cats in NYC and the ASPCA and various other groups, along with multitudes of private citizens work together to provide TNR for as many cats as they can. The ASPCA provides free spay/neuter services to certified citizens and rescue groups who bring in the cats and return them afterward.
- TNR is the most humane method of dealing with truly feral cats (not friendly abandoned or stray cats that would do well in a home). Feral cats cannot just be adopted out, they grew up wild and in most cases, after they reach a certain age, cannot move well into a home environment. TNR allows them to live out their natural lives and helps reduce the population by preventing kittens. The cats are healthier with less fighting, less spraying, less wear and tear on their bodies through multiple pregnancies. If a colony is trapped and euthanized, other stray cats will most often move into the area so that option is both inhumane, and also doesn't help keep feral cats out of neighborhoods.
- I pick up some concern that people are worried about citizens trapping the cats and treating them cruelly. The thing is, if someone wants to do that, they will do it even if no TNR program is set up - if they do that, they aren't planning to use the program. However, there are ways to trap that are safer and better for the cats than others. I highly recommend that the city provides trapping classes to go along with the TNR program. For example, in NYC, one cannot use the ASPCA free services unless one has become a certified trapper - the class is just a few hours long to be certified and teaches the basics of safety for both the trapper and the cat.
- Regarding wildlife - TNR would work to slowly lessen the population of feral and stray cats which would, in turn, lessen impact on wildlife. Furthermore, when a colony remains a smaller stable size, caretakers are better able to feed and care for them which would lessen their need to hunt to survive. The ASPCA's position on this is: "While the challenges faced by wildlife are significant and complex, community cats are, at times, erroneously singled out as a convenient target. Indeed, it is well accepted that human impacts like construction, roads, nest disturbance, light pollution, pesticides, destruction of habitat, etc. are the primary threats to wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, as well as changes in the environment. The existence of community cats is ultimately traceable to human activity, and communities bear responsibility for solving the problems they themselves have created. It is unscientific and irrational to choose a single factor, like the presence of cats, and assign blame for the challenges faced by wildlife. Furthermore, even if the presence of cats is shown to impact wildlife, community cat programs, which have as their goal a humane reduction in cat population, remain a desirable solution to minimizing any actual (rather than perceived) threats to other species." (for their full position statement on TNR, see <https://www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-community-cats-and-community-cat> )
- I have read of communities where citizen groups take it in turn to feed various colonies at various feeding locations - specifically it was on college campus in the case I read about. This might work for some neighborhoods that wanted to work together to lessen the number of feral cats in the area in a humane manner. It would work on the KU campus as well.
- TNR is the most humane way to handle the feral cat population. It keeps the number of feral cats down, and the cat colonies keep other feral cats from moving into the area. Other cities have successfully employed this method. Keeping the cat population down and feeding them also helps protect other wildlife. Not only would I be willing to participate in the program, but I have already trapped feral cats and taken them to the Humane Society in Overland Park to be neutered and vaccinated.