

## Community Cats

Presentation to the Creedmoor City Commissioners, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
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Feral cats live wherever they can find food and shelter; often around our trash. They aren't going anywhere so long as these resources are available. Soft-hearted people contribute by feeding strays, attracting more cats. Those cats make more cats and so on until the numbers become a heartbreaking problem. Euthanizing them is resource consuming and a public relations issue that has been in use since Granville funded an Animal Control Dept. but has not solved the problem. Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release, TNVR (often referred to as TNR) offers a humane alternative for those wanting an option.

Alley cats were here long before the availability of spay/neuter (S/N) programs became widespread enough to help control their population. TNVR allows for "Community Cats" to hold their places in their environment by not allowing other cats to move in on their food and shelter. Since these managed colonies are not reproducing and are vaccinated, they become a stable, and often well-liked, neighborhood rodent control unit.

This is supported by studies showing that spayed/neutered, vaccinated, well cared-for colonies do not pose disease risk higher than associated with indoor/outdoor pet cats; when their numbers are controlled they don't destroy wild bird populations; colonies decline in number with attrition once most cats in the group are altered.  
*Reference: JK Levy, DW Gale and LA Gale; Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2003;222:42-46.*

"Community cat means any un-owned cat that has been altered to prevent reproduction, vaccinated against rabies/feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia, and earclipped (cropped or eartipped). These cats are cared for but reside outdoors in the community." Quoted from Chapter 11, *Animals, Granville County Ordinance (Muni-Code), definitions.*



Granville County Animal Control is supportive of TNR and loans traps for the purpose. Manager for Animal Services, Matt Katz can be reached at [matt.katz@granvillecounty.org](mailto:matt.katz@granvillecounty.org) (919) 693-6749.

Various local animal welfare groups have long supported caregivers for TNR: Trap Neuter Release through assistance with spay/neuter costs and vaccinations/re-vaccinations. Cats altered through the Humane Society of Granville County (HSGC) are also tattooed in the long ear with a green number for identification. Our contact info is: [hsgcncinfo@gmail.com](mailto:hsgcncinfo@gmail.com) and messages (919)691-9114.

Public TNR assistance can be obtained through Operation Catnip (free! <http://www.ocraleigh.org> to register for appt at monthly clinic & vouchers to area vet clinics), Safe Haven for Cats (<https://www.safehavenforcats.org>, located at Garvey Drive, Raleigh). Independent Animal Rescue (<http://www.animalrescue.net>) also offers low-cost vouchers and assistance in Granville County and have been instrumental in getting colonies S/N'ed here.

Community cats are working cats, they have been protecting human food supplies from rodent infestation for centuries. Granville County is rural and cats still have jobs here; jobs that are needed for the health of its human population. Managing feral cat populations by creating more community cats to work, but not reproduce through TNVR, is a winning proposition for animal lovers and for Creedmoor.

Creedmoor veterinarian Dr Lori Scappino, of Mule Town Veterinary Hospital on Main Street, has offered her insights to any of you who would like to discuss TNR further. She has years of experience working with Operation Catnip and with local groups. Her contact is: [info@MuleTownVet.com](mailto:info@MuleTownVet.com) (919)529-2066.

More information on feral cat management is available from: Alley Cat Allies at <http://www.alleycat.org/>