

Resources Compendium: A Municipal Approach to Community Cats

A Guide from the Sustainable Jersey
Animals in the Community Task Force



*Special thanks to the members of the Sustainable Jersey Task Force
who assisted in the development of this document.*

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jersey_director.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/forms/states/contact_new_jersey_director.html))

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INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

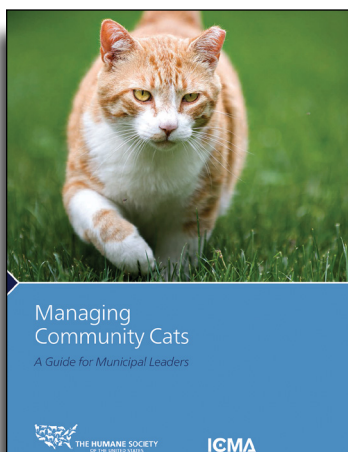
This list of resources is a companion to A Municipal Approach to a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Manage Program: A Guide to the Animals in the Community Feral Cat Program, which can be found in the Resources Section of the Sustainable Jersey “Companion Animal Management Plan” action at www.sustainablejersey.com/actions.

Below you will find information about and links to:

- Guides to setting up humane and effective municipal cat population control programs, referred to as Trap Neuter Return (TNR) or Trap Neuter Vaccinate Manage (TNVM)
- Guides to the nuts and bolts of engaging in TNR/TNVM
- Low-cost spay/neuter services
- Organizations that provide free training and technical support
- Relevant New Jersey statutes and policies
- TNR ordinances from New Jersey municipalities and a model ordinance and protocols created by the New Jersey Feral Cat and Wildlife Coalition
- Municipalities in different areas of New Jersey that can share information about their TNR programs

RESOURCE #1: MANAGING COMMUNITY CATS: A GUIDE FOR MUNICIPAL LEADERS

WWW.ANIMALSHELTERING.ORG/RESOURCES/ALL-TOPICS/CATS/MANAGING-COMMUNITY-CATS.PDF



Published by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)¹ and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)² in 2014, this guide clearly summarizes the dynamics of the issue, the stakeholders, method efficacy and addresses concerns and provides links to funding and additional resources. The recommended method of

addressing community cats is called TNVR for **T**rapping the cats, **S**terilizing, **V**accinating and **R**eleasing. Why and how TNVM is effective and why other methods fail is detailed. With graphs, charts, case examples and citations, this guide can easily assist with both internal and public communications, including media. The 32-page booklet is provided as part of Animals in the Community program. A glimpse of the table of contents is provided below.³

“The Vet PH SPIG encourages communities to discuss trap, neuter, vaccinate and return (TNVR) as a management practice to control community cats, and to adopt this practice where possible”

— American Public Health Association —
Veterinary Public Health Special Interest Group Policy

From HSUS ICMA p.6

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¹ Founded in 1954, The Humane Society of the United States is the nation’s largest animal protection organization advocating on behalf of all animals, domestic and wild.

² Founded in 1914, ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. Our mission and vision is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build sustainable communities that improve people’s lives worldwide. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and train. www.icma.org

RESOURCE #2: PETSMART CHARITIES COMMUNITY TNR: TACTICS AND TOOLS AUTHORED BY BRYAN KORTIS, PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY PETSMART CHARITIES, EDITION: ONE

www.createspace.com/4752437

The increased acceptance of Trap-Neuter-Return in recent years has led to a shift in the discussion from whether to do it to how to do it most effectively. The shift has opened a window of opportunity to implement TNR on a community-wide scale throughout the nation. This new guide provides TNR proponents a blueprint of how to use TNR to reduce pet overpopulation in the whole community. Every community is different and this guide, based on the collective experience gained since the original version, presents a variety of tactics and tools that can be adapted to fit the needs of each unique situation.

RESOURCE #3: TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR SETTING UP MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

- A. Free technical support for municipal officials on creating TNR policies and programs, including presentations, ordinance and policy drafting, and trainings:
 - 1. Animal Protection League of NJ:
www.aplnj.org/tnr-policy.php
- B. Free Training and facilitated community meetings on the nuts and bolts of TNR:
 - 1. People For Animals, on-site in Hillside and Robbinsville or in your community:
www.pfaonline.org/news/tnrworkshops/
 - 2. Animal Protection League of NJ:
www.aplnj.org/tnr-about.php
- C. Free Webinars on all aspects of TNR programs at PetSmart Charities:
 - 1. petsmartcharities.exceedlms.com/catalog/show/136692

Note: Registration is free.

RESOURCE #4: NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE POLICIES AND LAWS

A. **The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)** statement on Free Roaming and Feral Cats: NJDOH considers management through TNR a facet of “the solution to the free-roaming and feral cat situation,” and defers to local officials to determine the appropriateness of allowing a managed cat colony at a site within a

municipality, and encourages the establishment of guidelines:

www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/stray.shtml

B. **NJ Feral Cat and Wildlife Coalition**, which included DEP, DHSS, NJ Audubon, and other organizations developed a pilot project, guidance, and model ordinance for feral cat control in areas with sensitive wildlife:

www.aplnj.org/assets/pdf/Pilot_Program_Cats_Wildlife.pdf

C. **NJ Wildlife Action Plan for Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need**, section on feral cat control:
www.aplnj.org/assets/pdf/WildlifeActionPlanFerals.pdf

D. **2010 Law and Statute** that allows CEUs for Veterinarians participating in Community Cat Management

1. N.J.S.A. 45:16-9.4a

b. The board may offset up to 10 percent of the requisite number of hours of continuing veterinary education required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1952, c.198 (C.45:16-9.4) by the number of volunteer veterinary services rendered by licensees, at a rate of one half of one hour of continuing veterinary education for each hour of volunteer veterinary services, provided that a veterinarian shall be required to complete at least the core requirements established pursuant to subsection a. of this section. In addition, the board may adopt a formula providing a minimum number of spaying or neutering procedures that shall be deemed the equivalent of one hour of continuing veterinary education...

c. As used in this section, “volunteer veterinary services” means veterinary care provided without charge to: (2) a shelter or pound licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services or a MUNICIPALLY APPROVED MANAGED CAT COLONY, PROVIDED THAT THE MUNICIPALITY OR NONPROFIT GROUP OR ORGANIZATION MANAGING THE CAT COLONY HAS ATTESTED IN WRITING TO THE VETERINARIAN THAT THE CAT TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED OR OTHERWISE TREATED BY THE VETERINARIAN IS feral or stray with no known owner.

E. **New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) information on TNR:**

1. www.njspca.org/articles/NJSPCA_articles_Feral-Cats.htm

2. www.njspca.org/awareness-animal-faq.htm#Q17

RESOURCE #5: NEW JERSEY TNR ORDINANCES

A. As of fall, 2014, there are more than 130 New Jersey municipalities with some form of officially endorsed or supported TNR program, and almost 50 of these municipalities have passed TNR-specific ordinances. A sampling of such ordinances can be found at:

www.neighborhoodcats.org/RESOURCES_ORDINANCES

(scroll down to New Jersey, or view ordinances from around the U.S.).

RESOURCE #6: GRANTS, OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING, AND LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER

A. **A Municipal Approach to a Self-Sustaining Community Animal Welfare and Enhanced License Compliance Program** found in the Resources Section of the Companion Animal Management Plan. This resource provides instructions for raising funds through enhanced licensing compliance and solicitation of donations.

B. **ASPCA:** Provides targeted TNR grants. Must be invited to apply:

www.aspcapro.org/grant/2014/01/06/spayneuter-grants

C. **Petsmart Charities:** Grants of up to \$200,000 for targeted free-roaming cat spay/neuter programs. Multiple New Jersey municipalities have received grants of \$10,000+ for TNR:

www.petsmartcharities.org/pro/grants/spayneuter-grants/free-roaming-cat-spayneuter-grants

D. **Petco Foundation: Grants** to Animal Control agencies and nonprofits for Community Cat Support (TNVM):

www.petco.com/petco_Page_PC_foundationgranttypes.aspx?CoreCat=LN_PetcoFoundation_GrantTypes

E. **SpayNJ:** A database of low-cost spay/neuter programs and providers across New Jersey with a section specific to feral cats:

1. Website: www.spaynj.org/feral-cats/feral-cat-friendly-practices-nj/

2. Telephone: 1-877-Spay-NJ1

RESOURCE #7: CONNECTING TO NJ MUNICIPALITIES WITH ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS

As of fall, 2014, there are over 130 New Jersey municipalities with some kind of municipally supported TNVM program, defined as either the municipality's animal control program doing the TNVM or the municipality overseeing residents, nonprofits, or municipally-appointed committees doing TNVM. About 1/3 of these municipalities have ordinances or resolutions, while others operate via administrative policy or protocols.

Below is a sampling of New Jersey municipalities with programs that have withstood the test of time for at least five years or, if more recent, have tracked data establishing the success of their programs, and which may be able to provide guidance to your municipality. The examples below were chosen for diversity in demographics, geography, and program structure, and do not represent endorsement of any particular programs as models. For a fuller list of New Jersey municipalities with TNR programs, broken down by county, contact the Animal Protection League of New Jersey at 732-446-6808.

A. COUNTY LEVEL:

1. **Burlington County:** At the urging of the Burlington County Health Department, the Freeholders passed a resolution in 2005 encouraging the county's municipalities to adopt sponsor-based TNR ordinances and programs, and providing a model sponsor-based ordinance. The county animal shelter and health department have tracked the differences in results between the municipalities it serves which have TNR programs and those which do not.

B. LARGE MUNICIPALITIES (pop. 50,000+):

1. **Edison Township (Middlesex County).** The township can be characterized as suburban with density, and apartment complexes, with a population of approximately 100,000. Animal Control Officers do TNR in Edison and two other municipalities via administrative policy. Program is relatively new but has already achieved statistically significant results.

C. MEDIUM SIZED MUNICIPALITIES (pop. 20,000-49,000)

1. **Atlantic City (Atlantic County).** Atlantic City is a beach town with population of approximately 40,000. They use a sponsorship model via administrative policy. The Health Department oversees a boardwalk project managed by a nonprofit.

2. **Englewood (Bergen County)**. Englewood is suburban, with a population of approximately 27,000. They use a sponsorship model via administrative policy and contract. Several nonprofits do TNR under the supervision of the animal control officer.

3. **Hillsborough (Somerset County)**. Hillsborough is suburban and rural, with a population of approximately 38,000. Their contracted animal control/impoundment facility does TNR and provides vouchers to residents doing TNR.

4. **Mt. Olive Township (Morris County)**. The township is suburban/rural with large apartment complexes, and a population of approximately 28,000. They utilize a sponsorship model via ordinance with a nonprofit serving as sponsor.

5. **Randolph (Morris County)**. Randolph is suburban and rural, with a population of approximately 26,000. Animal Control Officers do TNR in Randolph and four other municipalities using funds raised by “Friends Of” organizations.

D. **SMALL MUNICIPALITIES (pop. 1,000 – 19,000)**

Note: Includes several towns with populations that increase exponentially in the summer

1. **Cape May (Cape May County)**. Cape May is a beach town, with a year-round population of approximately 3,500, but expands to 40,000-50,000 over the summer. They use a caregiver registration model via ordinance, with residents registering TNR’d colonies directly with the Animal Control Officer.

2. **Gloucester City (Camden County)**. Gloucester City is suburban with a large trailer park, and a population of approximately 11,000. They have an ordinance that clarifies TNR is permitted and not subject to city’s laws regarding owned cats. They utilize a sponsorship model with a municipal committee of appointed volunteers serving as the sponsor.

3. **Fredon (Sussex County)** is a rural community with a population of approximately 3,500. The town

works with local veterinarians who do the TNR and spay/neuter, and pays for the (discounted) spay/neuter.

4. **Hightstown (Mercer County)** is a suburban community with a population of approximately 5,000. A town committee set up by council resolution does TNR.

5. **Tabernacle Township (Burlington County)**. Tabernacle is a rural/suburban community with a population of approximately 7,000. They use a sponsorship model via ordinance that sets out detailed guidelines, rights and responsibilities, with a nonprofit as sponsor.

6. **Point Pleasant Beach (Ocean County)**. Point Pleasant is a beach town, with a population of approximately 5,000 year-round with a large summer influx. They use a sponsorship model via ordinance with a municipal Animal Welfare Committee serving as sponsor.

RESOURCE #8: EDISON, NJ’S OUTLINE FOR MANAGING FERAL CATS THROUGH ANIMAL CONTROL

A. Edison Township received a Sustainable Jersey grant to begin a comprehensive TNVM program. In Edison’s program, Animal Control does the TNVM. Edison provided the following outline breaking down and explaining exactly what its ACOs do when they TNVM a colony:

1. Identify where feral/community cats exist. This initial site identification arises from residents or commercial property owners calling in with a cat “problem;” talking with people requesting traps to capture cats; rescue groups calling to ask for assistance with cats at a particular location, residents asking to surrender indoor/outdoor cats, and assessing animal control data.

2. Animal Control goes to the area to survey the situation and to attempt to determine the numbers of cats involved.

3. Animal Control does a “360” canvas of the area, talking to neighbors and property owners to determine who the caregivers/feeders are. Multiple residents may be feeding the same cats, and the cooperation of all of them is needed as food must be withheld during trapping.

4. Animal Control speaks to all caregivers and property owners about the benefits of TNVM, and efforts are made to persuade the caregivers to allow the township to do TNVM. In Edison, 100 percent of



the caregivers have agreed to the program, particularly when they realize that they will not have to assume the costs and that in the long term the cats will be healthier and reduced in number.

5. Dates for trapping are established.

6. All caregivers are instructed to withhold food from the cats for 24 hours prior to trapping.

7. Traps are set in the early morning with bait such as tuna or salmon, and monitored either by the caregiver or animal control.

8. Once animal control or the caregiver observes a cat in the trap, animal control picks up the cat for transport to the veterinarian. Other programs may use a holding area for cats so that they can be transported en masse to a clinic the next day.

9. Upon arrival at the veterinarian's office, the cat is anesthetized, examined, surgically altered, vaccinated for rabies and ear tipped. Edison does not test for FIV/FelV unless there is some clinical indication for it. Universal testing is not recommended because of the expense, the very small number of infected cats, the fact that it only affects felines, and the fact that neutering stops the primary means of transmission.

10. The cat is observed post-surgery. Most feral cat care organizations, veterinarians, and municipal programs recommend holding cats for at least 24 hours post-surgery before releasing them to the colony. The caregiver is contacted that the release has occurred and reminded to feed at set times each day and once the cats have eaten to pull the food bowls to prevent other animals from being drawn to the feeding points.

11. Colony management of the cats now becomes the responsibility of the caregiver. The colony caregiver/manager or the sponsor entity begins the process of record keeping and observation of the health of the cats.

RESOURCE #9: GUIDE TO THE HANDS-ON ELEMENTS OF TNR (TRAPPING, EQUIPMENT, POST-OP CARE, ETC.)

A. Alley Cat Allies

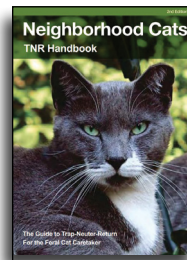
1. Conduct TNR Guide:

www.alleycat.org/page.aspx?pid=88

2. Alley Cat Allies program highlight: Spartanburg, South Carolina: www.alleycat.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1536.

B. Neighborhood Cats free booklet

www.neighborhoodcats.org/uploads/File/Resources/NC%20TNR%20Handbook_WEB_v5-4.pdf



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A. American Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) statement on TNR:

www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-on-feral-cat-management

B. International Cat Management Coalition's document, "Humane Cat Population Management Guidance":

www.ifaw.org/sites/default/files/ICAM-Humane%20cat%20population.pdf

C. National Animal Care and Control Association (then President) explains why the organization changed its feral cat control policy to endorse TNR:

www.animalsheltering.org/resources/magazine/sep_oct_2008/taking_a_broader_viewof_cats.html

D. New Jersey Audubon protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats:

www.njaudubon.org/

E. New York City Department of Health Information about TNR:

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/environmental/animals-tnr.shtml

F. Sustainable Jersey's A Municipal Approach to a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Manage Program: A Guide to the Animals in the Community Feral Cat Program

found in Resources section of the Companion Animal Management Plan action:

www.sustainablejersey.com/actions

G. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS):

1. Policy on TNR: www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/facts/cat_statement.html

2. Creating Safer Communities for Cats and Wildlife" Wayne Pacelle: A Humane Nation (Link to article: www.hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2014/04/cats-and-wildlife.html)

H. The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association statement on TNR:

www.hsvma.org/vet_involvement_critical_reduce_feral_cat_population_040610#.U8RXDrHyAZM

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Animals in the Community