

## Removal & Complacency Do Not Work

Removal attempts may temporarily reduce the number of feral cats in a given area, but two things happen: first, unsterilized survivors continue to breed prolifically and, second, other cats move into the now available territory.

Stopping feeding will not make the cats go away. Cats bond to their territory and are opportunistic scavengers that can, if necessary, survive on garbage. Under a feeding ban, the cats suffer as they search for new sources of food.

In communities not practicing trap, neuter and return (TNR), more than 30 years of killing cats has done nothing to reduce feral cat populations. There are more cats than ever.



## NEED HELP?

CALL OUR HOTLINE FOR ASSISTANCE

**904-425-0005**



**Help us end the needless killing of pets.  
Please send in your donation today.**

### WEBSITE

[www.fcnmhp.org](http://www.fcnmhp.org)

### MAIL

P.O. Box 11870  
Jacksonville, FL 32239

We are a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) non-profit organization making  
your donation 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



Jacksonville's new approach to  
**FERAL CAT**  
POPULATION CONTROL

**FERAL FREEDOM**

{ Working towards a day when there  
are truly no more homeless pets! }

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## What Is A Feral Cat?

A cat becomes feral (wild) if he has little or no human contact during the first few weeks of life or is a lost or abandoned cat (stray) that over time reverts to a wild state.

## What is TNR?

(Trap Neuter Return)

- Feral cats are located and trapped with humane box traps.
- They are taken to a spay/neuter clinic to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated.
- The cats will be micro-chipped as well as ear-tipped. An “eartip” is the universal symbol of a sterilized feral cat.
- Cats are returned to their territory.

**Any feral cats picked up today will be sterilized and returned in a few days.**

Trap, neuter, return is the most effective solution to controlling the feral cat population.

- It costs less taxpayer dollars to sterilize than to kill feral cats.
- The population will be controlled with no new litters.
- Population will decrease as ferals live shorter life spans than domestic cats.
- Cats are vaccinated.
- Annoying behaviors like howling, fighting and marking will stop or decrease dramatically.
- It's humane.



Feral Freedom is sponsored in part by Best Friends Animal Society



## What You Can Do To Help

- Work with your neighbors to regularly put food out for feral cats. It is best to put out food at a consistent time each day, in daylight hours.
- Assist in trapping any additional feral cats you may see that are not yet ear-tipped.
- Contact First Coast No More Homeless Pets to schedule surgery for your neighborhood feral cats. Traps are also available for loan and our staff can assist you with trapping tips.
- Visit [www.fcnmhp.org](http://www.fcnmhp.org) and learn more about feral cats and how TNR works.

**SPAY NEUTER HOTLINE**

**904-425-0005**

[www.fcnmhp.com](http://www.fcnmhp.com)

## Myths & Facts About Feral Cats

**MYTH-** Feral cats present a high risk of rabies.

**FACT-** Rabies in the US is overwhelmingly a disease found in wildlife. From 1990-2002, only 36 people died from rabies in this country, and not one of them contracted the disease from a cat. All cats in the TNR program are vaccinated for rabies.

**MYTH-** Feral cats are sickly and diseased.

**FACT-** Scientific studies show that feral cats in managed colonies generally enjoy the same good health, fitness, and low occurrence of disease enjoyed by pet cats.

**MYTH-** Feral cats are a significant cause of bird and wildlife depletion.

**FACT-** Numerous studies by government and environmental groups indicate that the overwhelming cause of wildlife depletion are destruction of habitat due to human development, pollution, pesticides, and drought, not feral cats.

It is possible within the next decade to see Jacksonville end the euthanasia of adoptable pets, strays and feral cats. Spay and Neuter is the only true solution. Together we can save many thousands of animals from being killed just for existing.

