

Fast Facts

Science Supports Trap-Neuter-Return

Numerous scientific studies have shown that Trap-Neuter-Return (or TNR) is the humane, compassionate, and effective approach for managing feral cats.

- **Studies show Trap-Neuter-Return improves cats' health.**

Trap-Neuter-Return ends the strains of mating behavior and pregnancy. Studies show that after neutering, cats become healthier and gain weight. Cats in TNR colonies also enjoy long lives—one long-term study of a TNR program showed 83% of cats had lived there for at least 6 years—comparable to the average 7.1-year lifespan of pet cats.

- **Studies show Trap-Neuter-Return stabilizes the size of feral cat colonies over time.**

Multiple long-term studies show that the sizes of neutered feral cat colonies decrease over time. One study found a 66% decrease in the population over 11 years. Another 10-year study showed colony size decreases of up to 32%.

- **Studies show Trap-Neuter-Return improves relationships with human neighbors.**

Trap-Neuter-Return puts an end to the behaviors associated with mating—yowling, roaming, and fighting—that are often cited as concerns by residents. One study found that after Trap-Neuter-Return was implemented, citizen calls about cats decreased—even though the human population increased.



For more detailed information, see the Alley Cat Allies Fact Sheet “Key Scientific Studies on Trap-Neuter-Return” or visit alleycat.org/TNRStudies.