



H.A.R.T. Feral Cat Program

“To help reduce the population of free roaming, feral cats by implementing TNR practices and educating caretakers on feral cat care”

How It Works

A request for assistance is made by a caretaker. A HART member gathers information such as:

- Location and type of property i.e. apartment complex, farm, single family home?
- # of cats
- Are they feral? Friendly?
- Ages (kitten, teenager, adult)
- Are they fed at a regular time each day?
- Are any noticeably sick or pregnant?

After the information is gathered, a HART member will work to organize a plan to implement TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). Depending on how many requests we are handling, this can take some time. It can be sped up by:

- offering to help trap the cats (we will teach you)
- offering to transport cats to/from our veterinarian
- offering to do the recovery care (we will teach you)
- offering to pay in full for veterinarian care (at our discounted rate)

When the trap date has been determined, the caretaker will be instructed to withhold food for 2 days before the trap date. This is done to ensure the cats are hungry, which increases the success rate of trapping the cats. The morning of the trap date, a HART member will contact the caretaker to ensure NO food has been offered to the cats. If this request has been fulfilled, the trapper will come to the location and begin the TNR process. Please note this process can take from 2 days or 2 months. Some cats are harder to trap than others and trapping large numbers of cats can take even longer.

Once a cat is trapped, it is taken to a holding location until the day of its veterinarian appointment. Plastic carriers are NOT allowed for transporting a feral cat. The cat is taken to the vet in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. It gets spay/neutered, a rabies vaccine, ear tip, and any other necessary medical attention. It needs to spend a minimum of 24 hours in its cage to recover from the surgery. Aftercare is provided by a HART member or other designated person.

After the cat has recovered, it is taken back to the trap location and released. If there are more cats to be trapped at that location, the HART member will work with the caretaker to plan out dates for the trapper to continue their work.

This is a general overview of the process from start to finish. Each situation is unique and addressed slightly different. Please see the FAQ below to help answer any questions you might have. If you have further questions not addressed in the FAQ, please see contact info at the end of this packet.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is TNR?

TNR stands for Trap-Neuter-Return. It is the process of trapping a feral or community cat, getting it fixed and vaccination and returning it to its outside home. A cat that is TNR'd receives an ear tip, which involves removing the tip of their ear, while they are under anesthesia. This procedure does not hurt or hinder them in any way. It is a universal marking that allows trappers to determine if that cat has been spayed/neutered before.

Why can't you relocate/remove the feral cats I need help with?

Relocation of a feral cat is a time consuming and difficult process. A feral cat knows how to survive in its current home. Relocating it somewhere new and strange without the proper procedure could spell disaster for the cat. We do not encourage relocation.

What if some of the cats/kittens are friendly?

We will check with our foster homes to see if anyone has space to foster the cats while their health and temperament are evaluated. We rely entirely on fosters for this service. At no time during the year can we guarantee we have space to take in a friendly cat or litter of abandoned kittens.

How much does your program cost?

We do not charge for our services. However, we do rely on donations to continue the operation of our program. Without donations, we are unable to offer assistance and may be required to deny requests for assistance. Any donation amount is appreciated!

Why does it take so long to receive help?

We are a small group of volunteers. No one gets paid to do this and most of us hold full time jobs. There is a large feral cat population in this county and we are usually helping more than 1 person at a time. Each situation is different and may require a different approach to be successful. We are limited in our assistance depending on available funds for this program.

What can I do to help?

You can help to expedite the process by offering to trap yourself (we can teach and loan the traps), offering to help transport to/from the vet or offering to do the aftercare (we can offer instruction). Each step of the process is easy to learn. We greatly appreciate any help the caretaker can provide.

Why can't I use plastic carriers for the feral cats?

The metal traps we use are the safest carrier for them (and us). Our veterinarian requires feral cats be brought in metal traps to help ensure everyone's safety during surgery and transport.

Help! My feral cats have not come back for food after being released.

This is normal behavior. The cats have undergone a stressful situation and may not return for a few days or weeks. There is always a chance the cat will not return and move on to a new location.

Will you help me pay to fix my pet cat?

No. This program is for free roaming feral cats only. **No exceptions.** Please contact Wags and Whiskers for financial assistance with pet cats. (931) 788-2201



Contact Information and Resources

Jennifer Hall
Feral Cat Coordinator
931-250-1254 (Call/text)

Helping Animals Rescue Team
helpinganimalsrescueteam@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/HartRescue
www.hartrescue.weebly.com

Donations for TNR

Wet cat food (preferably in gravy)

Sardines in oil (no extra flavoring)

Gas Cards

Puppy Pads

Flannel back PEVA tablecloths (\$4 at Walmart)

26" Cat Trap with One Trap Door and Rear Access
Door from livetrap.com

Sanitizing Wipes

TNR Plastic Trap Tag from livetrap.com

Dry cat food (any brand)

Snuggle Safe Microwave Heat Pad

All donations are tax deductible. Just ask for a donation receipt!