

# Stray Cats vs. Feral Cats

## Stray and Pet cats are socialized to people.

They may approach people, houses, porches, or cars.

- Will live alone, and not a part of a group



- Might walk and move like a house cat (tail up) and is friendly

- Answer to a human, "Meow"

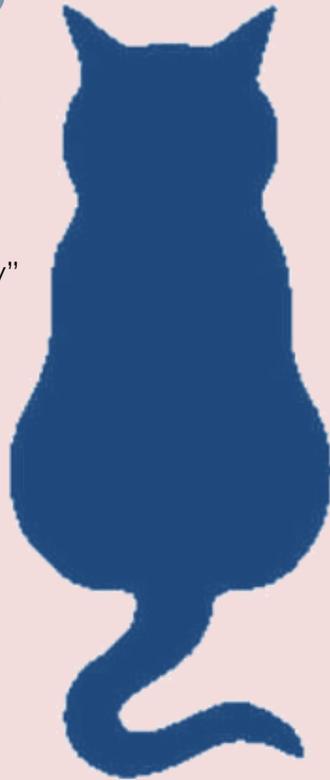
- Will be out mostly during the day

- Will look dirty, no ear tip

- May approach toys or food placed near the cage

- May respond to household sounds (cat food cans or bags being opened)

- May growl and hiss to show anxiety



## Feral Cats are not socialized to people.

They will not approach anyone and they will likely seek hiding places to avoid others.

- May belong to a colony



- May crawl, stay low to the ground, protect their body with their tail

- Won't "talk" or respond, beg or purr

- More likely to be nocturnal, than out during the day

- Will probably have a clean, well-kept coat; will have an ear-tip (part of TNR\*)

- Will ignore people and toys, even food if possible, won't show interest in household sounds

- Will more likely lash out if threatened or cornered (including ears back and dilated eyes)

- Only about 10% of feral cats are neutered  
\*If there is a litter, they are more likely to be feral cats



The Clifton Health Department is a contractual health agency  
serving the Township of Little Falls.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The cat population is over populated. Spaying or neutering community (both stray & feral) cats, using the *Trap-Neuter-Release* program, will help reduce the over-population.

## What is Trap-Neuter-Release?

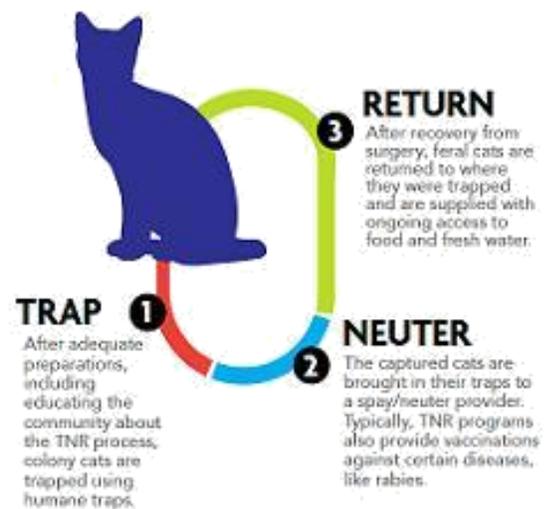
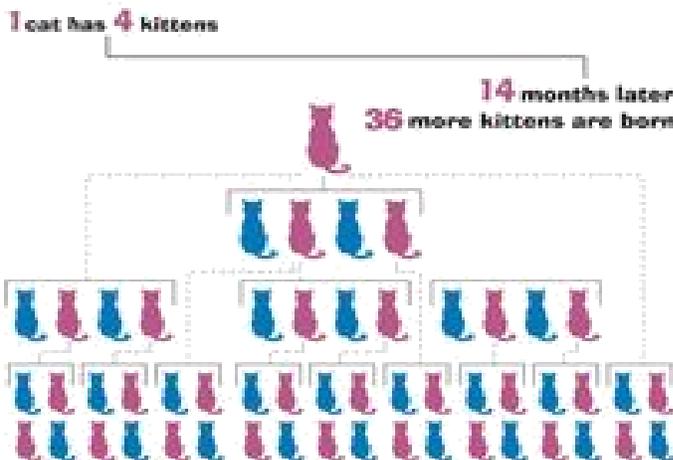
Trap-Neuter-Release is a program that is designed to reduce the number of community cats and improving the overall quality of life for cats, wildlife, and people.

**Problem:** The cats in the community are over-populated.

**Solution:** T-N-R, being a proven humane and effective way, to control the population growth.

## How does TNR work?

- Humanely trapping cats
- Spaying or neutering them
- Vaccinating them against rabies
- Surgically removing the tip of their ear  
(to recognize they have been spayed/neutered)
- Returning cats to their homes



### Resources:

\*People For Animals, 973-282-0890  
[pfaonline.org](http://pfaonline.org)



Friends of the Shelter  
900 Clifton Ave.  
Clifton NJ 07013

Sources and References:  
[www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)  
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)  
PetSmart, Infographic of TNR