



## **Community Cat Diversion Program**

### ***Taking Action to Control the Cat Population***

Greenville County's Community Cat Diversion Program operates under the guides of the proven Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) method. With the health of the community and the animal as the priority, the TNR program is a scientifically proven method that reduces cat overpopulation in an effective and humane way.

**Here is how it works:** Community cats brought to Animal Care are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and ear tipped. After recovery, the cats are returned to their outdoor home, where they may or may not be a part of a colony. This method is used around the world and is well documented to improve the life of the cat, improve its relationship with humans, and over time, reduce the number of cats in their colony. Some friendly cats who display social skills can even become adoptable pets.

The citizen plays a vital role in the success of the Community Cat Diversion Program. The information below is provided to assist you in helping to be a part of the solution for controlling pet overpopulation.

#### **What cats will be accepted into the Community Cat Diversion Program?**

- Only unwanted or abandoned cats living outdoors full-time and brought into Greenville County Animal Care by animal control agencies or surrendered by citizens of Greenville County will qualify for this program.
- Kittens should weigh at least 2 pounds and be healthy enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery.
- Friendly or abandoned house pets do not qualify for this program as they rely solely on humans for their survival.

#### **Examples of cats who do not qualify for the Community Cat Diversion Program.**

- Friendly, well socialized house cats whose owner can no longer keep them.
- Extremely sick cats or kittens that are not healthy enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery. This is determined by the veterinarians on staff at Greenville County Animal Care.
- Kittens under 2 pounds who do not weigh enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery.

#### **I have community cats living outside near my home. What do I do?**

1. First, please confirm if the cat has any form of visible identification that might indicate that it is a lost house pet.
2. Second, check to see if the cat's left ear is tipped. If so, it has already been sterilized and should be left alone.
3. If indications are it is a community cat then you are encouraged to humanely trap the cat. If you do not have access to a humane live trap, please contact Greenville County Animal Care who will provide you with one for a small deposit of \$70 (refunded entirely to you when the trap is returned).

4. After the cat is trapped, please bring it to the Greenville County Animal Care Clinic between the hours of 9AM-3PM Mondays through Thursdays. Medical staff will verify eligibility of the cat and if necessary obtain more information (see details below for required information).
5. After full recovery from surgery, you can pick up the cat and return it to exactly where it was originally trapped. The cat will also be vaccinated and ear-tipped (the humane, universal symbol of a sterilized cat). The sterilization will result in the elimination of unwanted behavior, resulting in a better quality of life for citizens and cats.

*Note: there is no cost to citizens.*

#### **What information do we need to make the Community Cats Program successful?**

The key to TNR is to return the cat back in its own territory with its own colony mates – not to just release the cat anywhere. Community cats become well adapted to their territory and can live safely in their chosen environment. The present home of a community cat colony is the optimal place for the cat to be returned as it has probably been living there for some time. It is critical that complete and accurate information is gathered on where the cat was found and trapped. To ensure this, we will need a **complete street address**, including zip code, for where the cat was trapped. We will also need to know how the cat was acquired.