

Best Friends supports community cat programs



Community cat programs (CCPs) are an integral part of operations for animal shelters across the country. This humane approach is fiscally responsible and effective, providing an immediate, lasting response for cats in and out of shelters. CCPs also free up valuable resources and increase adoption of cats not eligible for return to their neighborhoods. CCPs are as unique as the communities they serve, but all share one central belief: Trap-and-remove does not work.

Best Friends Animal Society endorses CCPs. To Best Friends, these programs can include:



- Implementing trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) and return-to-field (RTF) for community cats
- Passing local ordinances that support or, at the very least, do not work against CCPs
- Not accepting healthy community cats into a shelter program when access to spay/neuter is not available
- Using strategic intake to leave kittens outside with their nursing mom until they are of age for surgery
- Addressing complaints with meaningful nuisance mitigation
- Using TNVR in areas of limited resources only to support RTF programs or provide direct intake prevention

Through TNVR and RTF, cats:

- Are either feral or friendly
- Are at the age and weight that the spay/neuter provider deems appropriate for surgery
- Are returned after an overnight recovery period for females
- Receive one dose of FVCRP and one dose of rabies (if the cat is old enough, per local legislation)
- Are, in most cases, un-microchipped
- Are with or without known caregivers

RESOURCES

Community Cat Programs Handbook: The revised version of this handbook is fully updated with the latest research and effective practices to start or enhance a community cat program. The handbook acknowledges the unique relationships between free-roaming cats and community residents, and demonstrates how CCPs benefit everyone.

Community Cat Programs Playbook: This playbook provides a brief overview of CCPs, some details on program composition and a list of resources to aid in creating and implementing a CCP.

Community cat programs online courses: This series of free online learning courses offers information about the various components of a strong community cat program.

People, Pets and Policies: This comprehensive guide, produced with the International Municipal Lawyers Association, provides municipalities with programs and policies that encourage the humane treatment of animals.

network.bestfriends.org

