



TNR FACT SHEET

FOR APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN SAN ANTONIO

January 2023

Scope of problem: With over 200,000 free-roaming cats in San Antonio they are in most neighborhoods, apartment complexes and around businesses with a food or water source. Outside cats are legal to free-roam in San Antonio.

City of San Antonio's recommended solution: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) where cats are trapped, taken to a clinic where they are spayed or neutered, given a rabies shot, ear-tipped and returned to where they were trapped. The ear-tip is the identifying symbol of a sterilized and vaccinated outside cat. The city will not pick up these cats.

Why TNR works: 1. Cats are territorial and mark their territory to let other cats know their boundaries. If a cat chooses to come into another cat's territory they can expect a fight – which is usually over a female in heat. If all cats are removed, other cats will just move in when they do not detect the marked boundaries. This is called the “vacuum effect” and can be found online. When cats are fixed and returned, the numbers do not increase and the population stabilizes, gradually diminishing with attrition. 2. Because cats are territorial, they won't leave if a feeding ban is imposed. They will widen their search for food, have to kill to survive, drink bad water, and get sick.

Cost effective: TNR is a more efficient and cost-effective way to address cat populations that are breeding out of control. It becomes very expensive to hire someone to continually trap and remove cats. It is also illegal to dump or kill domestic animals. Volunteers do the trapping. Residents continue to feed so they will be healthy. Starving cats are more prone to disease.

Urine smell: When cats are sterilized, the smell is reduced. A solution of ½ & ½ vinegar & water will help to remove the smell.

Poop: Places that cats will prefer to use as a potty box are placed on the outskirts of the property. They like to dig and bury their poop so sand or mulch is a preferred substance. The feeder residents keep the boxes/areas scooped.

Feeding areas: Efforts are coordinated for feeding so there are not 10 different residents feeding the same 10 cats – when each resident thinks they are the only feeder. This reduces the chance of extra strays showing up which happens with over feeding. Food is never left out after dark. This attracts wildlife. Raccoons and possums love cat food! When a TNR Program is implemented, feeders can come out into the open and stop sneaking around after dark feeding.

Funding: Cats have surpassed dogs as America's favorite pet so chances are there are cat-lovers in your apartment community. They may be happy to donate \$1 a month to the “Community Cat Fund” or volunteer to keep the potty area clean.

This is SO much easier than what you are dealing with now! We are here to help so please call us to learn more.

San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition Helpline: 210-877-9067 sanantioferalcats.org