



MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Feral Felines (FFF) is committed to the humane management of homeless feral cats utilizing the TNR program – trap, spay/neuter, vaccinate and return to their original environment. We are committed to assisting and educating the public about feral cats through our meetings, newsletter and website.

We are a nonprofit organization and 100 percent of donated funds goes toward helping feral cats in our area. We would be unable to continue our work without generous contributions, dedicated volunteerism and community support.

Friends of Feral Felines is the only feral cat rescue group in Charlotte. FFF was organized in 1998. Through 2003, we have helped TNR over 2,250 feral cats.

FFF GOALS

- 🐾 Reduction of homeless/feral cats in our community.
- 🐾 Prevention of the birth of thousands of homeless kittens.
- 🐾 Assurance of a better quality of life for homeless/feral cats.
- 🐾 Reduction of nuisance calls, feline euthanasia at Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Control and the associated cost to our community.
- 🐾 Reduction of feline communicable disease in our community.
- 🐾 Education of the public about the non lethal approach to animal population management.

As long as killing and abandonment are considered acceptable solutions for population control...all cats will be deemed as disposable and having life without value. By implementing a positive method of controlling the population such as spay/neuter, we can live in harmony and be proud we humanely stopped the suffering of feral and homeless cats and kittens – francesca tabor-miolla

WHAT ARE FERAL FELINES

Feral felines are domestic cats that are now wild and no longer desire human contact. Some were born feral and some started off as family pets. Because of irresponsibility, these pets were abandoned and forced to survive on their own.

Feral cats exist in colonies anywhere food can be found – dumpsters, college campuses, apartment complexes, etc. If only a small amount of food can be found, ferals will reproduce and bring kittens into the world that cannot be sustained. However, for many ferals, the health and quality of life is dramatically improved through the TNR program and the loving dedication of volunteer caretakers.



Feral cat populations provide an invaluable service to our environment. They help keep the rodent and snake populations under control. If these cats are unhealthy, they can't do their job.



It is our goal to attempt to stabilize feral cat colonies through TNR rather than eradicate them.

FFF RESOURCES

- ☛ We lend humane traps and carriers.
- ☛ We provide information about low cost spay and/or neuter and vaccination.
- ☛ We conduct low cost • all volunteer Feral Angel Cat Clinics.
- ☛ We publish a quarterly newsletter, *A Cat's Tale*, and have a website, www.friendsofferalfelines.org
- ☛ We work closely with animal service organizations in our area.
- ☛ FFF has general meetings open to the public six times a year; the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December. For specifics, see our newsletter or website.

FFF POLICY ON FERAL CATS/KITTENS AND HOMELESS TAME CATS/KITTENS

- ☛ Feral cats must be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, left ear clipped and returned to the site of origin with daily food, water and a simple shelter provided by a caretaker.
- ☛ Homeless tame cats will not be accepted in our TNR program because they are not feral. However, they need to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated and rehomed. Unfortunately, we are not an adoption or relocation agency. Refer to the list of rescue/adoption groups featured in *A Cat's Tale* and on www.friendsofferalfelines.org.
- ☛ Homeless kittens between 4-12 weeks old should be screened by a vet and placed in a foster home for socialization and eventual adoption. Caretakers are responsible for adoption.
- ☛ If you find a tame homeless cat, please call Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Control at 704-336-3786 to place the cat on the Found List. It is not required to turn the cat over to CMAC.
- ☛ FFF does not remove unwanted feral cats from their location. If you want to relocate them, we can instruct you on how to properly do this. Relocation should only be done as a last resort.
- ☛ **VERY IMPORTANT - PRIVATE SPAY/NEUTER OF FERAL CATS/KITTENS**
If you do a spay/neuter outside of our veterinary network, please have the left ear clipped on the cat. This is done for identification purposes. If the cat(s) is living in Mecklenburg County, please contact FFF so we can include the cat(s) in our Tracking Database.



FFF FeLV/FIV POLICY

In a new colony, several cats should be tested based on the size of the colony. If a cat is tested and is positive, it will be humanely euthanized by the vet. We recommend testing feral cats only if:

- The colony is known to have FeLV/FIV positive members.
- The colony has a high death and/or disappearance rate.
- The vet has sufficient evidence that the cat is likely to be positive.

TRAPPING AND TRANSPORTING FERAL CATS TO THE VET

WARNING

**Please use extreme caution
Feral cats are wild animals
Never underestimate a feral cat**

- 🐾 **BEFORE any cat is trapped, call FFF and a representative will make an appointment for you at a vet clinic. ALWAYS BRING THE CAT TO THE VET IN THE TRAP; not in the prepared carrier.** If the cat is not in the trap, the vet will refuse to perform the surgery
- 🐾 **ALWAYS TRAP THE CAT IN THE EARLY OR LATE EVENING THE DAY BEFORE SCHEDULED SURGERY.**
- 🐾 Bait the trap with **no more than two tea-spoons** of canned jack mackerel. One adult cat per trap. When trapping kittens or very young cats, more than one may get in the trap. Do not attempt to separate them. You may risk getting injured and the cats could get away.
- 🐾 Once the cat is trapped, immediately cover the trap with a sheet or towel. This reduces their stress level.
- 🐾 Use sheets of plastic to protect your vehicle from bodily waste. On top of the plastic, place a thick layer of newspaper to absorb the waste. Put the trap on top of the newspapers.
- 🐾 **PLEASE FOLLOW THIS RULE:**
The cat is to remain in the trap overnight WITHOUT ANY FOOD AND WATER. Giving food and water presents a health risk to the cat. They can throw up during or after surgery and choke.
- 🐾 **Do not leave the covered trap unattended or outside. Keep the cat at a comfortable temperature and away from other animals.**
- 🐾 Transport the cat to the vet the following morning (day of scheduled surgery) in the trap. Protect your vehicle from bodily waste.

TRAPPING AND TRANSPORTING

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- 🐾 A prepared recovery carrier accompanies each cat to the vet. Prepare the recovery carrier by placing thick layers of newspaper for padding, then place individual sheets or shredded newspaper over the padding for bodily waste. Place a towel in the back half of the carrier. The carrier should have food and water dishes attached to the inside of the door. Litter boxes are not used.
- 🐾 **Remember to remind the vet the left ear is to be clipped straight across the top, 1/4-inch from the top. Cat also receives a rabies shot.**
- 🐾 **Confirm the pickup time for the cat.**

RECOVERY FOR FERAL CATS

- 🐾 The cat will recover in the prepared recovery carrier.
- 🐾 For a routine neuter, males usually recover by the next morning. In rare cases of cryptorchid (undescended testicles), the male cat would have full surgery and recovery would take up to 48 hours.
- 🐾 Recovery for females takes 48 hours and pregnant females takes 48 to 72 hours.
- 🐾 Do not open the carrier door to water or feed. Use a squirt bottle to fill the water container. Use a utensil to get the dry or canned food into the food container.
- 🐾 If the door must be opened, protect yourself by using heavy gloves and a long sleeved shirt. Only open the door enough to get your wrist in. **USE CAUTION** because the cat may lunge forward, causing injury.
- 🐾 Judge the cat's recovery by its behavior. Alertness, growling and hissing are signs the cat is ready to be released. According to the founder of Alley Cats, Inc., it is inhumane to keep a feral cat for more than 3-4 days.
- 🐾 Feral cats are to be released to the site of origin with daily food, water and simple shelter.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your cash donations are always needed and very much appreciated. Make your check payable to Friends of Feral Felines. Your donation is tax deductible.

Donate dry and/or canned cat food, watering and feeding bowls, towels, blankets, carriers, doghouses or other shelters.

Generously volunteer your time for any of the following. Call our hotline at 704-348-1578 for specifics.

- Caretaker and foster care
- Publicity and marketing
- Newsletter & website
- Special & fund-raising events
- Vets, vet techs & lay volunteers
- Facility to hold our clinics
- Corporate sponsorship
- Grant writing & research

There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. – General Jimmy Doolittle

FERAL CAT FACTS

A pair of breeding cats can exponentially produce 420,000 offspring in a 7-year period.

No one knows exactly how many feral cats live in the U.S., but the number is estimated in the tens of millions.

Because of sickness and inadequate nourishment, the mortality rate for kittens can be over 50 percent.

Most feral cats and kittens are born, suffer and die without anyone ever knowing of their existence.

ATTENTION FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Can you provide a home for sterilized and vaccinated feral cats that cannot be returned to the original site? You provide food, water and simple shelter and they provide you rodent control.



DISCLAIMER

Friends of Feral Felines or any of its representatives are not liable for any fees, injuries and/or damages that occur as a result of interaction with feral and/or domestic cats. Fees, injuries and/or damages are the responsibility of the individual.



For more information on feral cats, log on to
www.friendsofferalfelines.org
www.alleycat.org
www.feralcat.com