

## Controlling feral cat populations

A healthy female cat can give birth to an average of three litters per year. Each litter will usually have between four and six kittens. An unsterilized male cat can impregnate innumerable female cats. Two unsterilized breeding cats that have two litters per year can produce more than 80,000 offspring in 10 years!

The most common method to control feral cat populations has been trapping and euthanization. Based on the current situation with cat overpopulation, this cruel method has proved ineffective. Cats who escape being trapped continue to mate. Additionally, when cats are removed from their territory, other cats will move in to take over the shelter and food source, and the cycle starts all over again.

## Feeding on prey

Cats are opportunistic feeders. They'll feed on what gives them the most energy for the least effort in the shortest amount of time. In the absence of a readily available food source, cats will dig in garbage bins to scavenge for food. Feral cat colonies provide cats with a readily available food source and discourages scavenging. Cats inclined to hunt are more likely to prey on rodents than songbirds, which generally prove to be too elusive for cats.

## Feral cat vs. stray cat

A stray cat is a tame cat who's become lost or has been abandoned. Stray cats have been socialized by humans at some point in their lives.

A feral cat is a cat who's had little contact with humans, is usually fearful of humans and lives outdoors. Feral cats are unable to adjust to life with people indoors.

## Presenting TNR as a Solution

Trap-neuter-release is a humane way to control free-roaming cat population growth. The practice of TNR involves safely trapping cats, sterilizing them, tattooing them for identification and then returning them to their colonies. The colonies are maintained by RCR volunteers who observe the cats daily, and provide shelter, food and water. Volunteers also watch the colonies for new cats who require TNR. Kittens born in the colonies are removed, whenever possible, to be socialized and adopted into loving homes. Stray cats who are socialized will also be removed to be adopted into loving homes.

## Benefitting the community

The benefits of maintaining healthy feral cat colonies include:

- Lowering cat intake for animal rescue shelters.
- Lowering shelter euthanasia rates.
- Preventing a new, unaltered colony from forming.
- Reducing incidence of homeless cats roaming in search of food and shelter.
- Reducing incidence of nuisance behaviours such as spraying, fighting and mating.
- Reducing rodent population in surrounding areas.
- Reducing suffering of homeless cats.



## Involving the community

A successful TNR program requires co-operation from residents and property owners. RCR relies on caring members of the community to help control Regina's feral cat population. How can you help?

- Host a backyard feral cat colony.
- Donate food and shelter supplies.
- Donate funds directed to the TNR program.
- Participate in a shelter-building bee in the fall.
- Volunteer as a feral feeder or to shovel snow for the feeders in the winter.
- Educate others in your neighbourhood about the value of feral cat colonies and TNR, and the importance of spaying/neutering their own cats.



# Get involved now!

Contact RCR for more information

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# TRAP NEUTER RELEASE

Managing feral cat overpopulation



Regina Cat Rescue (RCR) works to humanely reduce cat overpopulation through rescue, sterilization and maintenance of feral cat colonies.

We strongly support the practice of trap-neuter-release (TNR) as an effective method to manage and reduce the feral cat population in Regina. A successful TNR program will result in feral cat populations stabilizing and decreasing over time.