

# Jacksonville's Guide to Community Cats



## Resources for Cats and Kittens in Northeast Florida



JACKSONVILLE  
**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**



Animal Care & Protective Services  
NEVER STRAY FROM HOPE.





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## What's missing?.....

When a community cat is spayed or neutered, the tip of their ear is humanely removed during the surgery.

This is the universal sign that the cat is altered and does not need to be trapped or brought to a shelter.

This is referred to as an "eartip".



# What is a Community Cat?

**Community cats, sometimes called free-roaming or feral cats, are common in Jacksonville.**

Community cats do not have traditional homes and may have several owners. They may be social or unsocial.

In order to keep our city no-kill, community cats in Jacksonville are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned to the location at which they were found, using a method called Trap Neuter Return.



This cat is in a humane trap, ready for surgery!

**Trap Neuter Return, or “TNR” for short,** involves a cat being safely trapped, altered, vaccinated, and returned to its territory. This is most often done by a caring community member – like you!

If you feed unfixed community cats or know of a colony with cats who are not spayed or neutered, you can be their hero and use community resources for proper veterinary care and the prevention of population growth.

# TRAP - NEUTER - RETURN

This information is subject to change. Check websites for the most up-to-date information.

"FCNMHP"



6817 Norwood Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32208  
fcmhnp.org  
904.425.0005

Community Cat resources are only available at the Norwood location.

FCNMHP is proud to support the feral freedom program for the city of Jacksonville, originally launched in 2008 in an effort to save stray and community cats.

Free spay/neuter and vaccination services are available for these Duval County cats arriving to the facility in a humane trap.

Community cats can be dropped off at the Norwood location 6 days per week, Monday - Saturday.  
Kittens must weigh at least 2 pounds.

Please visit [www.fcmhnp.org](http://www.fcmhnp.org) for more information. Community cat programs are subject to change based on available resources.

"JHS"



8464 Beach Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
[jaxhumane.org](http://jaxhumane.org)  
904.725.8766 or [FF@jaxhumane.org](mailto:FF@jaxhumane.org)

JHS offers free surgeries for community cats on Thursdays in the fall and winter on a limited basis. Cats must be in traps. Drop off and pickup are on the same day.

We do ask that reservations be made in advance which you can do on our website.  
All cats must be from Duval County.

Visit our website for dates and times.

If you are interested in trapping on a large scale, please email [FF@jaxhumane.org](mailto:FF@jaxhumane.org).

"ACPS"



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2020 Forest St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
[coj.net/pets](http://coj.net/pets)  
[jaxpets@coj.net](mailto:jaxpets@coj.net) or 904.630-CITY

ACPS funds the Duval Cat Fix, a free spay and neuter program for pet and community cats. This program allows residents of Duval County to request up to six free cat spay or neuter surgeries each month when funding is available.

Surgeries are performed at FCNMHP.  
Call 904-425-0005 to check for availability.

If you have questions regarding available resources for community cats, you may reach our pet resource center staff by emailing [JaxPets@coj.net](mailto:JaxPets@coj.net).



# CLAY COUNTY

"CCAC"



3984 FL-16,  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
claycountygov.com  
animalcontrol@claycountygov.com  
904-269-6342

CCAC offers free TNR services on Tuesdays. Drop off is at 7:15 a.m. and pickup is the same day, later in the afternoon.

All cats must be in traps.

The first 40 cats are accepted.

First come, first served.

Check our website for more info.

## Trapping Supplies



Humane Trap



Bait



Towel or Cloth

## How to Trap a Cat

- If possible, skip the feeding time prior to when you plan to trap. Cats need to be hungry and temptable.
- Use a humane live trap 30-36 inches long with a front and rear door. Traps can be purchased at Tractor Supply, Ace Hardware, Lowes or Home Depot.
- Bait the trap with a generous amount of canned cat food, tuna, etc. and place a small amount a few feet away from the front door.
- Camouflage the trap with leaves and branches and place in a shady location. Make sure the rear and front doors are not covered.
- Check the trap frequently but stay out of sight.
- Once trapped, cover the trap completely with a cloth to help calm the cat. Place the trapped cat in a safe place.
- Bring the cat to the shelter or facility in the trap.

**Visit [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) for more tips and instructional videos.**

# Why TNR Works

Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane and effective approach for unaltered community cats. Now in practice for decades in the US, scientific studies show that Trap-Neuter-Return:

- improves the lives of feral cats
- improves their relationships with the people who live near them
- decreases the size of colonies over time
- controls the population more effectively than other methods.



## Did you know?

When Jacksonville's Feral Freedom program was introduced in 2008, it was the first public-private collaboration in the nation to save all community cats that entered the city's shelters.

Prior to this, cats were brought to the shelter and euthanized. Meanwhile, the cat population continued to grow. It was not a humane or effective solution.

Now, with TNR resources in Jacksonville, our city remains no-kill and serves as a leader for other communities who wish to improve lifesaving.

**FUN FACT:** TNR helps cease mating behavior in cats, including yowling, spraying, roaming and fighting!



# 9 REASONS TO RETURN CATS TO THEIR HOMES

Think that outdoor cat is lost? Think again! The practice of returning cats to their outdoor territories saves lives and reunites cats with caretakers. Here are 9 reasons why this is the best option for cats in our community:



## 1 LESS THAN 2%

This is the national average for cats who are reunited with their owners after coming to a shelter. A cat's best chance at being found by its family is to stay close to home.

## 2 NON-TRADITIONAL HOMES

Not all cats need or want a traditional home. Some outdoor cats have several caretakers who provide food, water and shelter, often calling more than one house "home."

## 3 HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Cats who are adjusted to living outdoors do not thrive in the shelter, especially when placed into kennels. This causes them extreme stress which leads to illness and can prolong any chance at adoption.

## 4 BEHAVIOR

Forcing a cat from its outdoor habitat into a shelter setting can lead to unwanted behavior, including biting and scratching. This puts cats in the shelter at risk.

## 5 KITTEN OVERLOAD

Underage, orphaned kittens flood our community shelters by the thousands every year. Returning healthy adult cats to their homes leaves room for babies in need.

## 6 SPAY & NEUTER

After sterilization surgery, cats can no longer reproduce! This helps control the cat population and prevents unwanted litters. The vaccinations will also prevent the spread of disease.

## 7 COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Studies show that a sterilized cat in your neighborhood is a deterrent to other cats. Cats who are spayed or neutered are also less likely to spray, fight, roam, and reproduce.

## 8 SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Studies show that outdoor cats with caretakers who provide food are less likely to disturb wildlife, while also keeping other cats away and stopping the birth cycle of more felines.

## 9 EXPERTS AGREE

Return to home is endorsed by Best Friends Animal Society, Million Cat Challenge, Alley Cat Allies and Maddie's Fund.

### Not-So-Fun-Fact:

Cats can get pregnant as young as four months old.



# Remember ...

**TNR is a solution to a community problem. It is not intended to be used for pet cats or cats who will be placed for adoption.**

Abusing local programs puts our community at risk of losing funding for TNR resources.



If you need low-cost veterinary care for your pets, there are many options and we are here to help guide you.

**Low cost veterinary care: [fcnmhp.org](http://fcnmhp.org)**

## Don't Kitnap Kittens

**If you find a litter of kittens, please leave them be.**

Watch and wait.  
The mother cat almost always returns. Their best chance of survival is to stay with her.



If you take the kittens, be prepared to see it through.  
Contact your local veterinarian for support.  
We have guides and options to help you.

**More info: [jaxhumane.org/kittenhelp](http://jaxhumane.org/kittenhelp)**



**Thank you for supporting community cats.**



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