

## Information You Need To Know About

### Friends of Felines TNR Policy

Thank you for inquiring about our Trap, Neuter, Return Policy for feral cats. Here is how it works.

- You will be asked to fill out an Application for Assistance.
- At this time, we are not able to relocate any feral cats. We work with caregivers who are able and willing to provide food, water and shelter for their feral colony.
- We do have many requests for assistance, and we are working on them as fast as we can. We are a small volunteer organization and have a limited number of people who are able to do trapping. Please know that we aren't ignoring you, but taking care of those caregivers who had contacted us prior to your contact.
- Once we have your information, we will contact you by email or phone to discuss your needs, and possibly to schedule trapping.
- We work with a small number of veterinarians who are experienced with feral cats. We are fortunate to have a very good rate for the work they do for us. We suggest a donation to Friends of Felines of \$60 per cat. This donation and any donation to Friends of Felines is tax deductible. That covers the following: testing for feline leukemia virus; spay or neuter; rabies vaccination; FVRCP vaccination in some cases; eartipping; and treatment for worms, earmites and/or fleas if needed.
- You need to know that if any cat tests positive for the feline leukemia virus, it will be humanely euthanized. This virus is always fatal, and easily spreads from one cat to another by blood and body fluids.
- When we schedule the trapping of your cats, we will ask you to withhold food for 1-2 days or sometimes longer. We do this so that the cats will be hungry, and more likely to take a chance going in the trap for the bait. If the cats are not hungry, it is less likely that any will be trapped, and that would be wasting your time and ours. Never withhold water from the cats, just food. As a caregiver, you are likely to feel very bad not feeding your cats—you know they depend on you. But, a healthy cat can go without being fed for a few days without a problem. Besides, you are their main food source, but probably not their only food source. Feral cats are very street-wise, and know their territories well. They know where other food sources are, and where to catch mice to supplement. Just know that by withholding their food for a few days, you really are caring for them in the best possible way—preparing them for TNR, which will make their lives much better.
- We generally schedule trapping in the evenings, sometimes going past sundown. We will ask a caregiver to be present to help identify the cats.
- After trapping the cats in the evening, they will be taken to a secure building overnight, then to the vet in the morning. The cats will be returned to you the same evening that they have had surgery. Please be sure that they have a sheltered area for the night, as they will frequently be

groggy and disoriented. Also, you will need to provide food and water for them when we do bring them home.

- We prefer to have the donation made at the time the cats are returned to you. If, when you fill out our Application for Assistance, you indicate that you are unable to pay any or all of the amount recommended, our Board of Directors can discuss your case. We have limited funds that need to be carefully distributed for TNR.
- Trapping the cats is very stressful for them. When they realize they are trapped, they will thrash around in the trap. We quickly approach and cover them completely with a sheet. This helps them calm down almost immediately. The traps we use are humane—they do not cause any harm to the cats.
- Some caregivers indicate that they are able to pick up their feral cats, and feel that it would be less stressful if they just placed them in a carrier, rather than having the cats trapped. Feral cats do come to trust their caregivers, and sometimes the caregiver is allowed to pick up the cats. However, trying to put a feral cat into an enclosed space like a carrier frequently causes the cat to panic and try to escape. This often results in multiple deep scratches to the caregiver. Unless you have easily placed your feral cat in a carrier before, we recommend that you do not attempt to do this. Besides causing injury to the caregiver, it also destroys some of the trust the cat had in you, and makes trapping that cat more difficult. Also, the vet will not take feral cats in carriers, only in traps.
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We want to be sure that the caregivers we work with have all the knowledge that they need about feral cats.