

NORTHUMBERLAND HUMANE SOCIETY
TRAP, NEUTER, RELEASE PROGRAM (TNR)

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

The objective of a TNR program is to reduce and eliminate feral cat populations through natural attrition by trapping individual cats to be spayed/neutered and then returned to their feral community.

On average, a female cat can have 2-3 litters per year with each litter comprised of 3 to 6 kittens. Over a typical lifespan of 5 to 7 years for feral cats, a single cat could theoretically have a minimum of 30 to 42 kittens. Using the four cats per week model included in this overview, a TNR program could result in approximately 1000 unborn kittens per year.

There is currently no information regarding the population of feral cats in Port Hope other than to anecdotally describe whatever the population may be as being primarily a Ward 2, as opposed to a Ward 1, issue. Further, there are no known statistics for the feral cat community in Northumberland County at large.

This overview outlines aspects of a small-scale pilot TNR program including operational process, resource requirements and budget.

While the Northumberland Humane Society (NHS) recognizes the benefit of a TNR program within Northumberland County, NHS does not currently have the facilities or resources to support such a program. NHS does not currently house feral cats within its shelter given the risk of infection and behavioural issues with both staff and domestic cat residents.

Assumptions

1. An initial Port Hope pilot program would involve four cats per week from a specific feral community in Port Hope. Expanding this program County-wide would likely require significant additional resources and staffing, which are not sustainable by the current resources of NHS and local veterinarian clinics.
2. Veterinary services would be provided by Toronto Humane Society at no cost for up to 4 cats per week maximum.
3. Community volunteer support would be required for most aspects of the program.

Operational Process

- Day #1 Colony Caretaker to live trap maximum of 4 feral cats per week and deliver to NHS for overnight stay in a heated exterior structure on NHS premises
- Day #2 Colony Caretaker to transport cats to/from Toronto Humane Society for spay/neuter, flea/tick treatment, vaccines and rabies (full day). Cats then returned to NHS for overnight stay
- Day #3 Cat welfare check and feeding in morning and afternoon
- Day #4 Cat welfare check and feeding in morning followed by afternoon pickup by Colony Caretaker for return to feral community

Personnel Requirements

- Volunteer Program Coordinator to oversee all aspects of the program
- Volunteer Colony Caretaker(s) to be trained and assigned to support a specific feral cat Community to trap, transport and release cats
- Animal care workers to conduct welfare checks, feed cats and clean structure over four day residency period.

Facilities/Supply Requirements

- Live traps (8)
- Heated exterior structure on NHS premises
- Cat food/cleaning supplies

Budget (Resource and Funding)

Start-up Costs

Live Traps (8)	\$250 x 8 = \$2000
Heated Shed/Electricity/Insurance	\$18,000 (estimate)
Colony Caretakers training course	\$10 per person
Transport vehicle/insurance	Options to be identified

Ongoing Resource and Funding (Weekly)

Volunteer Program Coordinator	4 hours per week
Volunteer Colony Caretakers	12 hours per week
Animal Care Workers	\$90 per week (5 hours)
Travel Expenses (mileage, food, parking)	\$200 per week
Cat food	\$65 per week
Cleaning Supplies	\$25 per week

Prepared by: Northumberland Humane Society (November 2024)