



HART Community Cat TNR Program

“To help reduce the population of free roaming, community cats by implementing TNR practices and educating caregivers on community cat care”

How It Works

A request for assistance is made by a caregiver. A HART volunteer gathers information such as:

- Location and type of property i.e. apartment complex, farm, single family home?
- # of cats
- Are they feral? Friendly?
- Ages (kitten, teenager, adult)
- Are they fed at a regular time each day?
- Are any noticeably sick, injured or pregnant?

After the information is gathered, a HART volunteer will work to organize a plan to implement TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). Depending on how many requests we are handling, this can take some time. It can be sped up by: offering to help trap (we can teach you), offering to transport to/from vet, offering to do the recovery care (we can teach you) or offering to pay in full for vet care (at our discounted rate).

Once the trapping date is set, the caregiver will be instructed to withhold food for 2-3 days before the set trap date. This is done to ensure the cats are hungry, which significantly increases the success rate of trapping. The morning of the trapping, the HART volunteer will contact the caregiver to ensure NO food has been offered to the cats. If this request has been fulfilled, the trapper will come to the location and begin the TNR process. Please note this process could take 2 days or 2 months. Some cats are harder to trap than others and trapping large numbers of cats (20+) can take even longer.

Once a cat is trapped, it is taken to its recovery location, unless otherwise arranged with the caregiver. The cat will spend 2-3 days in the trap, depending on when its vet appointment is. Plastic carriers are NOT allowed for transporting a community cat. The cat is taken to the vet the next morning and picked up that afternoon. It gets spayed or neutered, a rabies vaccine, ear tip, and any other necessary medical attention. It needs to spend a minimum of 24 hours in its cage to recover from the surgery. Aftercare is provided by the HART volunteer but we encourage the caregiver to become involved

Now that the cat is recovered, it is taken back to the trap location and released. If there are more cats to be trapped at that location, the HART volunteer will work with the caregiver to plan out dates for the trapper to continue their work.

This is a general overview of the process from start to finish. Each situation is unique. Please see the FAQ below to help answer any questions you might have. If you have further questions not addressed in the FAQ, please see contact info at the end of this packet.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is TNR?

TNR stands for Trap-Neuter-Return. It is the process of trapping a community cat, getting it spayed or neutered, vaccinated and returning it back outside. A cat that is TNR'd receives an ear tip. This procedure does not hurt or hinder them in any way. It is a universal marking that allows trappers to determine if that cat has been spayed/neutered before.

Why can't you relocate/remove the community cats I need help with?

Relocation of a community cat is a time consuming and difficult process. A community cat knows how to survive in its current home. Relocating it somewhere new and strange without the proper procedure could spell disaster for the cat. We do not encourage relocation. **We do not relocate community cats.**

What if some of the cats/kittens are friendly?

We will check with our foster homes to see if anyone has space to foster the cats while their health and temperament is evaluated. We rely entirely on fosters for this service. At no time during the year can we guarantee we have space to take in a friendly cat or litter of abandoned kittens.

What if there is a pregnant cat?

We do spay pregnant females as long as the procedure would not endanger the mother's life. If they are too far along, we will try to find a foster home for her to have her kittens in safely. If no space is available, we will allow her to have them in the wild and we will return to trap her and her kittens for the TNR program. **We do not fix kittens without fixing the mom cat as well.**

How much does your program cost?

We do not charge for our services. However, we do rely on donations to continue the operation of this program. Without donations, we are unable to offer assistance and may be required to put requests on a waiting list. Any donation amount is appreciated, even if only a few cans of cat food!

Why does it take so long to receive help?

We are a small group of volunteers; no one gets paid to do this and we work full time jobs. There is a large community cat population in this county and we are usually coordinating multiple locations. Each situation is different and may require a different approach to be successful.

What can I do to help?

You can help to expedite the process by offering to trap yourself (we can teach and loan the traps), offering to help transport to/from the vet and offering to do the aftercare (we can offer instruction and supplies). PLEASE follow our request to withhold food prior to trapping. We cannot help you if you do not withhold food from the cats.



Why can't I use plastic carriers for the community cats?

The metal traps we use are the safest carrier for them. The traps cannot be rolled and are grated so any feces or urine is dropped through the bottom. We simply have to replace the liner under the trap to keep the cat in a sanitary trap. Also, there is a tool used by vets and caregivers alike that allows us access to the cat through the trap safely. This tool can ONLY be used with our metal traps.

Help! My community cats have not come back for food after being released.

This is normal behavior. The cats have undergone a stressful situation and may not return for a few days. If you were able to touch them before TNR, they may be a little scared of you for a while. Give it time.

Will you help me pay to fix my pet cat?

No. This program is for free roaming community cats only. **No exceptions.**

Contact Information and Resources

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TNR Coordinators

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Helping Animals Rescue Team

helpinganimalsrescueteam@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/HartRescue

www.hartrescue.weebly.com

Donations for TNR

Wet cat food (preferably in gravy)

Gas Cards

Pillowcases (cut open)

Sanitizing Wipes

Dry cat food (any brand)

Sardines in oil (no extra flavoring)

Puppy Pads (any size)

26" Cat Trap with One Trap Door and Rear Access Door from livetrap.com

Snuggle Safe Microwave Heat Pad (Amazon)

All monetary and product donations are tax deductible. Just ask for a donation tax receipt!
Visit [Alley Cat Allies](#) for more information on community cats. They are a great resource!