

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF?

Cats are sleeping in my porch, shed, etc.?

Reason:

- They are looking for a dry warm shelter.

Easy Solutions:

- Block open areas with lattice or chicken wire (be sure to search for anyone hiding first).
- Provide a shelter, like a small dog house, hidden away.

I smell cat urine.

Reason:

- Tomcats spray to mark their territory

Easy Solution:

- Practice TNR! Neutered cats have less of an urge to mark their territory and their urine is less pungent

Feeding cats attract wildlife and insects.

Reason:

- Food is left out too long or at inappropriate times.

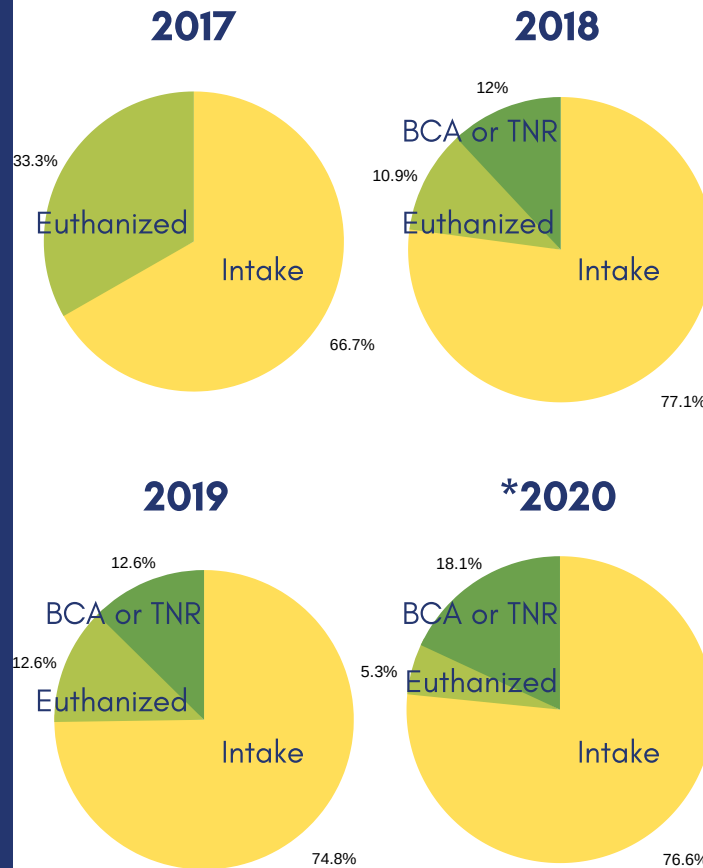
Easy Solutions:

- Keep the cat feeding area neat to avoid insects.
- Feed cats at a designated time during daylight hours.
- Only provide enough food to finish in one sitting. Remaining food should be taken in before dark

TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN

There are at least 8,000 feral and community cats in Pickens County.

Trap, neuter, and returning feral and community cats effectively reduces overpopulation and costs taxpayers 35% less than current methods of trapping, sheltering, and euthanizing.



*Data Impacted by COVID and only includes through May



Pickens County Animal Shelter
193 County Farm Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Phone: (864) 898-5936

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM

FAQ

What is a community cat?

A community cat is a cat that lives outdoors and does not have a particular home or owner. They may be friendly or, in some cases not socialized with people. These cats typically depend on humans for their food, whether it is a neighborhood caretaker, dumpster, or other source.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

Trap-Neuter-Return, commonly referred to as "TNR," is humane and is the most effective method for controlling feral cat population growth. TNR benefits the cats and the community. Using this technique, community cats living outside are trapped, neutered, ear tipped (the universal symbol of a sterilized cat), and then returned to their outdoor home.

Why not trap and remove?

If you begin to trap and remove, other cats will move into the territory and will fill the space left behind by the removed cats. This is called the "Vacuum Effect." The new cats integrate into the area and produce more kittens. This leads to renewed calls for trapping and removal and the cycle continues to repeat.

WHY SHOULD I TNR?

Whether you love or loathe community cats, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the answer to effectively reducing the number of these cats. TNR reduces most cat-related nuisances and is a benefit to public health and safety.

Advantages of TNR:

- It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by eliminating new litters.
- The nuisance behavior often associated with feral cats is dramatically reduced, including the yowling and fighting that come with mating activity and the odor of unneutered males spraying to mark their territory.
- The returned colony guards its territory, preventing unsterilized cats from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior.
- To reduce the number of kittens and cats flowing into local shelters. This results in lower euthanasia rates and the increased adoption of cats already in shelters.

By helping community cats in need, you will be part of the solution to the overpopulation crisis. You will also lessen the burden on overcrowded shelters and rescue groups.

TNR STOPS THE CYCLE!

Who qualifies as a community cat?

- Unwanted or abandoned cats living outdoors full-time
- Kittens should weigh at least 2 pounds and be healthy enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery
- House pets DO NOT qualify, as they rely solely on humans for their survival

What should I do if I find kittens?

- The best place for kittens younger than eight weeks old is with their mother, if at all possible
- Community kittens should be trapped, spayed/neutered, and returned to their home territory.
- Friendly kittens can be adopted into loving homes after they are fixed.

What are Barn Cat Adoptions?

- Barn cat programs (also known as Barn Cat Adoptions) place fully vetted cats into a safe, independent loving setting such as a barn, outbuilding or even a factory or warehouse.

