

Community Cats

in your neighborhood.



Eartip will be the cat's left ear, as shown.

MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY ARE CARING FOR OUTDOOR CATS THROUGH TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR).

The city of Des Moines approved an ordinance that went into effect on March 1, 2019, to allow TNR (trap-neuter-return) for community cats. Members of your neighborhood will be trapping these cats to be spayed/neutered and they will be returned to their outdoor home.

Once returned, the cats will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped (the universal symbol of a neutered and vaccinated cat). Returning these cats to their home means no other species will move in, cats will no longer reproduce, and there will be no more mating behaviors. Neutered male cats no longer fight, spray, or roam. Spayed female cats stop yowling and having kittens. After spay/neuter, hormones leave their system and the behaviors usually stop entirely within three weeks.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) improves their lives and yours.

Don't take outdoor cats to animal shelters.

For more than 10,000 years, cats have been happy and healthy living outside coexisting with people. Community cats are generally afraid of humans and are not candidates for being adopted into homes. If you see cats with their ears tipped, please do not call animal control or take them to a shelter.

Get Involved.

If you are interested in providing continued care for the community cats in your neighborhood, contact your neighborhood contact below. It's best to work together to coordinate feeding schedules and also provide shelter during the harsh weather months.

Cat Deterrents

If you prefer to keep community cats away from your property, you'll find a few humane solutions below. Additional solutions to cat behaviors can be found at:

ARL-iowa.org/TNR Neighborhood.

- 1 If the cat is a neighbor's pet, find out if they are intending the cat to be a community cat or if they will consider keeping their cat inside their home (recommended).
- 2 Apply nontoxic deterrents around your yard. Things like oranges (cut open) and other citrus scents are a natural deterrent or motion detection sprinklers that go off when a cat comes into the area also works.
- 3 Put a tight lid on your trash can (removes a food source) and keep all garbage in cans.
- 4 Block gaps in the foundation of all sheds and outbuildings because cats will look for warm and dry areas to hang out.
- 5 Use a car cover if cats are laying on your car.

QUESTIONS? Your neighborhood contact is:



ARL-IOWA.ORG/TNR