

Feral Cats

Concerned with animal health and safety, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) strongly suggests that cat owners keep their cats indoors.

At this time, city and county ordinances do not address roaming cats or feral cat colonies, nor can feral cat colonies be controlled by legislation alone. All members of the community must work through the challenges of reducing feral cat populations. There are various methods used in controlling colonies, all with a varying degree of success and failure. Two opposing strategies are the catch and kill method of population control, which involves trapping a cat and taking it to a shelter to be euthanized, and the Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) method in which cats are humanely trapped and sterilized. The cats are ear-tipped to identify they are part of a managed colony, and returned back to the environment in which they were living. Caretakers provide the cats with food, water and shelters. While there are proponents to both methods, TNR is recognized as an effective, humane option in eventually eradicating a feral cat colony

Inherent in all decisions about whether to maintain a particular colony is the potential negative impact on local wildlife. The goal of any program is to lessen the impact on wildlife by reducing the number of feral cats and eventually eliminating their presence from the environment. The location of colonies is an extremely important issue, and reinforces the need for a community-based approach to ensure that colonies are managed so that impacts on wildlife are minimized.

PACC recognizes the challenges in reducing the numbers of feral cats currently living on the streets in Pima County. This statement is meant to encourage all community members to work together toward a humane goal of feral cat management. Successful control of free-roaming cats requires a combination of approaches; doing nothing is not a viable option when faced with nuisance complaints, public health concerns and predation.

There is an abundance of additional information concerning cat colonies. See the TNR link on the Animal Welfare Alliance of Southern Arizona (AWASA) at <http://www.awasa.org/tnrinfo.html>

or call Margo Elson at 520-850-0001

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/fact.html>

Ms. Elson will not remove animals from an area, but provides local contact and resource information.