



Handout
Shelter Crowd Control:
Keeping Community Cats Out of Shelters Webcast
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Objective:

This webinar will provide participants an understanding of the magnitude of the community cat population and the challenges involved with humane cat management. It will also educate participants about the procedures for high-quality, high-volume community cat trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs.

Overview

- What it takes to get broad-based community support for community cats
- Secrets of non-lethal management of community cats, including confinement, neutering, and adoption
- How to do high-quality surgery in a high-volume environment
- How to get the most out of limited resources without cutting corners on infectious diseases, vaccination, and medical decisions
- Evidence that proves TNR works
- How to get your local government on your side, including language that can be provided as sample municipal code

Notes:

Felis domesticus

- Cats are the only species to domesticate themselves

- Cats have been living outdoors in the periphery of human society for 10,000 years

Controversies

- Environmental concerns

- Public health concerns

- Cat welfare concerns
- Traditional sheltering vs. No-Kill sheltering vs. Management in the field

Free-Roaming Community Cats

- Types:
 1. Stray cats
 2. Feral cats
- The Numbers—Millions and Millions of Cats
 1. 82-88 million pet cats in the U.S. (*Chu JAVMA 2009*)
 - a. 80-85% are sterilized
 2. 10-90 million free-roaming unowned cats in the U.S. (*Levy JAVMA 2003*)
 - a. ~2% are sterilized
 - b. Number ~ human population ÷ 6 (*Levy JAVMA 2004*)
 3. Alachua County = 250,000 residents ÷ 6 = 41,667 cats
- Source of the cat population

	<u>Pet Cats</u>	<u>Community cats</u>
	85 million	85 million
Female	50%	50%
Sterilization rate	85%	2%
Litters/year	1.4	1.4
Live births/litter	3	3
Kittens born/year	27 million	175 million
Kitten survival Live at 3 months	75% 20 million	50% 88 million

Public Opinion/Support

- Public opinion polls
 1. 2007 telephone survey (*Chu 2007 ACA Law & Policy Brief*)
 - a. What would you do about unowned cats in the street?
 - i. 81% would leave the cats alone
 - ii. 14% would trap and kill the cats
 - b. What if you knew the cats only lived for 2 years?
 - i. 72% would still leave the cats alone
 - ii. 21% would trap and kill the cats
- Public support
 1. Feeding unowned community cats is a common activity
 - a. Alachua County FL: 12% of households fed 3.6 cats they did not own (*Centonze JAVMA 2002*)
 - b. Santa Clara County CA: 10% of households fed 3.4 cats each (*Johnson 1993 CFA*)
 - c. San Diego County CA: 9% of households fed 2.6 cats each (*Johnson 1995*)
 - d. Massachusetts: 8% of households fed 3.7 cats each (*Manning Anthrozoos 1992*)
 - e. Ohio: 26% of households fed free-roaming cats (*Lord JAVMA 2008*)
 - f. Victoria Aust: 22% of households fed cats (*Toukhatsati Anthrozoos 2001*)
 2. About 50% of community cat feeders do not own cats

Cat Management Strategies

- Must have adequate scale to manage the size of the unowned cat population
 1. Safe for the environment
 2. Affordable
 3. Sustainable
 4. Acceptable to the public
- Historic cat control strategies
- Adoption option
- Actual outcomes at animal shelters
 1. Truly feral cats often euthanized as unhealthy/untreatable using the “Asilomar Accords”
 2. Millions of healthy cats are euthanized in shelters every year
 3. Not enough adopters
 4. Following shelter-acquired illness
 5. To prevent *potential* suffering from living in the community
 6. “Prophylactic” euthanasia costs taxpayers and animal welfare donors \$ millions
 7. Is euthanizing the vast majority of cats entering shelters compatible with the values of a humane society?

- Sanctuary option

- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) option
 1. Goals
 - a. Non-lethal population reduction
 - b. Healthier and safer cats
 - c. Lower adverse impacts
 - d. Reduced public complaints
 2. Consider “retention” in the community where cats live similar to pet “retention” in a home

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

- TNR core methods
 1. Live-trapping
 2. Spay/neuter
 3. Ear tipping
 4. Rabies vaccination
 5. Euthanasia of ill cats

- Operation Catnip

- High-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN)
 1. Procedures designed to protect individual patients and staff while attaining high levels of productivity
 - a. All patients receive appropriate and professional care, regardless of their situation
 - b. Safe anesthetic and surgical techniques
 - c. Surgical asepsis at all times
 - d. Analgesics for all patients
 - e. Medical records for all patients
 - f. Professionalism at all times

- Safety first

TNR Procedures:

- Cat check-in

- Waiting area
- Anesthesia
- Cat identification
- Transporters
- Pre-surgery
- Neuters
- Confirming previous sterilization
- Spay boards
- Spay preparation
- Spays
- Vaccines
- Medical records

- Post-surgery
- Instruments
- Recovery
- Discharge

What about Rabies, FeLV and FIV?

- Rabies vaccination
- FeLV and FIV testing

Does TNR Work?

- University of Central Florida
- Ocean Reef, Florida
- Alachua County, Florida
- Jacksonville Animal Care and Control
- Feral Freedom