

What Is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

TNR is the method of humanely trapping feral cats, having them spayed or neutered, left ear tipped, vaccinated for rabies and then returning them to their colony to live out their lives. TNR also involves a caretaker who provides food, adequate shelter and monitors the cats' health. TNR has been shown to be the most efficient and humane way of stabilizing feral cat populations.



TNR helps the community by stabilizing the population of the feral colony and, over time, reducing it. At the same time, nuisance behaviors such as spraying, loud noise and fighting are largely eliminated and no more kittens are born. TNR also helps by reducing the number of kittens that would end up in shelters—TNR creates more space for the cats and kittens who come to these shelters from other avenues

Humane Live Trap and Carrier Rental

Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic has live traps and plastic carriers available for a \$35 deposit. The cat must be sent home in a trap or plastic carrier. The \$35 deposit will be refunded once the trap/carrier is returned.

Remember that only 1 cat is to be placed in each live trap or carrier.



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**Zionsville Country
Veterinary Clinic**

Feral Cat Spay and Neuter Project



Tel: 317-769-PETS (7387)

What Is a Feral Cat?

A cat born and raised in the wild, or who has been abandoned or lost and reverted to wild ways in order to survive, is considered a free roaming or feral cat. While some feral cats tolerate a bit of human contact, most are too fearful and wild to be handled. Ferals often live in groups, called colonies, and take refuge wherever they can find food—rodents and other small animals and garbage. They will also try to seek out abandoned buildings, deserted cars, even dig holes in the ground to keep warm in winter months and cool during the summer heat.

What's Life Like for a Feral Cat?

Simply put, it's not easy. Feral cats must endure weather extremes such as cold and snow, heat and rain. They also face starvation, infection and attacks by other animals. Unfortunately, almost half of the kittens born outdoors die from disease, exposure or parasites before their first year. That said, feral cats who live in a managed colony—a colony with a dedicated caretaker who provides spay/neuter services, regular feedings and proper shelter—can live a quite content life.



What is Ear-Tipping and Why Is it Important?

Ear-tipping is a widely accepted means of marking a feral cat who has been spayed or neutered. It also often identifies them as being part of a cared colony. Ear-tipping is the humane surgical removal of 1/4 tip of the left ear. The procedure is performed by a licensed veterinarian, typically during the spay/neuter surgery. Ear-tipping is completely safe and rarely requires special aftercare. Ear-tipping is especially important as it prevents an already spayed or neutered cat the stress of re-trapping and more importantly, an unnecessary surgery.



On Fridays in the months of February and March, Zionsville County Veterinary Clinic will offer discounted spays and neuters to the caretakers of the feral cats they feed in Boone County. The cats will receive basic medical care including an examination, rabies vaccine, flea medication, spay/neuter and ear tipping. Any additional procedures are not included in the cost.

Eligible cats must be at least 3 pounds. They must arrive (7:30-8:30am) and be sent home (3:00-5:30pm) in a live trap or plastic carrier. We also request that you have all paperwork completed prior to the scheduled surgery day. Payment and paper work are due at surgery drop off. We accept cash, Visa, Discover, or Care Credit.

If you are interested in this program, please call for an information packet to be emailed or mailed to you.

ZCVCC@tids.net

317-769-PETS (7387)

COST

Spay (Female) with ear tip
\$35

Neuter (Male) with ear tip
\$35

CLINIC POLICIES FOR SURGICAL SERVICES

Thank you for contacting Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic. Our goal for The Feral Cat Neuter Project is to help improve the lives of the felines in your life. The discounted services we provide are intended to...

- Reduce the number of free-roaming and unowned stray or abandoned cats.
- Reduce the impact of free-roaming cats on the environment.
- Improve the quality of life of free-roaming cats.
- Reduce the number of cats placed in and euthanized in area shelters.
- Increase the chances for shelter cats to be placed in homes.

All policies are in place to insure the greatest safety for the cats while they are in our care.

Please read the following information carefully. You must agree with and accept all of the clinic policies before bringing a cat for surgery. Our policies are intended to put the cats' needs first.

Ear-Tips

Ear-tipping is mandatory for cats receiving surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. One centimeter is removed from one ear-tip in order to visibly identify an altered free-roaming cat to avoid future transport, stress and anesthesia.

Appropriate Carriers

Small, sturdy plastic carriers with front opening doors or traps are required. Only one cat per carrier is allowed; multiple cats in one carrier will not be admitted. We allow litters of small, tame kittens in one carrier before surgery, as long as separate empty carriers are provided for recovery. Cardboard carriers/boxes are not accepted.

Trap/Carrier Rental

Metal live traps are accepted for feral-behaving cats. You may rent a trap from Zionsville Country Vet Clinic for a \$35 deposit. The cat must be sent home in a trap or plastic carrier. Plastic carriers are also available for a \$35 deposit. You will receive a \$35 refund once the trap or carrier is returned.

Minimum Weight

Three pounds is the minimum weight for surgery. Kittens weighing less than three pounds will be returned without being sedated or altered.

Microchipped Cats

All cats are scanned for microchips. If a microchip is found no further services are performed. We will attempt to contact the chip registrant and inform him/her how the cat was transported to the clinic and how best to retrieve the cat.

Rabies vaccine

All ear-tip cats weighing over three pounds receive a free rabies vaccine.

Medical Problems

The cat will receive an examination, under anesthesia, by a veterinarian. If the cat appears to be ill or injured, we will contact you. If the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering, determines that a cat is in very poor health, or believes that it is inhumane to return the cat to a free-roaming lifestyle, we may recommend euthanasia. We strive to make accurate and humane assessments. If we have questions or need further information to assist in making a decision, we will call the caretaker listed on the Medical Record.

If you have or know of a sick or suffering free-roaming cat that needs to be euthanized for humane reasons, we provide that service for a fee.

Feline Immunodeficiency Disease (FIV), Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), Heartworm Testing

We do provide a 3-in-1 test that can be performed onsite for feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and heartworms. For those interested in having this test run, we will require \$53.25 additional, required at admittance.

Medical Record and Surgical Release Forms

These forms must be completed legibly and signed prior to surgery.

Please read the documents thoroughly and return these forms the day of surgery.

Payment

Payment will be required at the time of admittance. We will accept cash or credit card.

Humane Trapping Instructions

1. Preparation for trapping

If possible, get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time of day. You might try leaving the trap **unset**, covered with a large towel and begin feeding the cats **inside** the trap. Start putting the food in front of the trap and work your way back each day during routine feeding so that the animal will get used to seeing and smelling the trap in the area. **Don't feed the cats the day/night before you are going to trap** so that the cats will be very hungry. Plan to trap so that you don't have to keep the cat too long before surgery. Trapping the night before is usually the best approach. **Cats should not eat 8-10 hours prior to surgery.**

2. Setting the traps

Plan to set traps just before or at the cats' normal feeding time. This is often at night. Dusk is usually the best time to set traps. Don't trap in the rain or the heat of day without adequate protection for the trap. Plan placement of traps on a level surface in the area where the cats usually feed or have been seen. Cats are less likely to enter the trap if it wobbles. Use canned food to bait the trap. Once the trap is set, cover it with a large towel so that only the opening is exposed. The cover will help to camouflage the trap and serve to calm the cat after it is caught.

3. Waiting for success

The trapped animal is vulnerable. Wait quietly in an area where you can still see the trap without disturbing the cat. As soon as the intended cat is trapped, completely cover the trap and remove the trap from the area. When you get the captured cat to a quiet area, lift the cover and check for signs that you have the correct animal and not a pet or previously neutered feral (identified by an ear tipped). Cover the cat back up as soon as possible. Uncovered, the animal may panic and hurt itself thrashing around in the trap.

4. Holding procedures

Place the trap with the cat in it, in a protected area. Don't feed it. Keep the cat covered and check on it periodically. They will probably be very quiet as long as they are covered. Don't stick fingers in the trap or allow children or pets near the traps. These are wild animals which scratch and bite.



**ALL ANIMAL BITES ARE
SERIOUS! IF YOU ARE
BITTEN, SEEK MEDICAL
ATTENTION AND DO NOT
RELEASE THE CAT.**

BRING THIS FORM THE DAY OF SURGERY

MEDICAL RECORD

Please fill out one form per cat

Cat #

Your name	Date
Address	Phone number
City, Zip	Phone number

Please give this cat (check all that apply):

PAYMENT DUE AT ADMITTANCE

- ☐ Spay (Female) with ear tip \$35
- ☐ Neuter (Male) with ear tip \$35
- ☐ Rabies Vaccine (No charge)
- ☐ Flea treatment (No charge)
- ☐ FeLV / FIV / Heartworm Test \$53.25

CLINIC USE ONLY

Cat arrived in: <input type="checkbox"/> Carrier <input type="checkbox"/> Trap	Cat is: <input type="checkbox"/> Tame <input type="checkbox"/> Untouchable	Hair coat length: <input type="checkbox"/> Short <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Long
		Hair coat color:

ANESTHESIA

Gender <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	Weight	Torb ml	Intubated Y / N	Gas Anesthesia Y / N	Time	Tech Initials
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PREP	CLINIC COMMENTS	SURGERY & POST-OP
<input type="checkbox"/> Chip Scan <input type="checkbox"/> Exam <input type="checkbox"/> Flea Med <input type="checkbox"/> Neuter <input type="checkbox"/> Ear Tip (Left) <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies Vac. <input type="checkbox"/> Penicillin ____ml Additional Procedures		Cat was: <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Prev. altered <input type="checkbox"/> Pyometra <input type="checkbox"/> In heat <input type="checkbox"/> Post partum <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> Early <input type="checkbox"/> Middle <input type="checkbox"/> Late <input type="checkbox"/> Crypt 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Crypt 2 Surgeon's Initials _____

BRING THIS FORM THE DAY OF SURGERY

SURGICAL RELEASE FORM

CAT(S) #

I, the undersigned, hereby request surgical spay/neuter at Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic thru The Feral Cat Neuter Project. I declare under penalty of perjury that I care for the cat(s) listed above, and/or that I am properly authorized to present the cat(s) for the indicated surgery. I have read, understood and agree to the "Clinic Policies For Surgical Services," have had the opportunity to ask questions concerning anything that I do not understand.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the cat(s) I present to Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic for The Feral Cat Neuter Project has not bitten anyone in the preceding 10 days.

I understand that these cat(s) will be scanned for microchips, and that if a microchip is found, further procedures will not be performed. Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic will attempt to contact the registrant of the microchip and inform him/her how the cat was transported to the clinic and how best to retrieve the cat.

I have read, understood and agree to the policies for ear tipping in "Clinic Policies For Surgical Services." I agree that each cat and kitten spayed/neutered, or deemed previously spayed/neutered, will have a rabies vaccine and one ear tipped to allow ease of recognition upon re-release.

I recognize and understand the risks inherent to anesthesia and surgery, particularly for cat(s) that are pregnant, in heat, injured, sick, and/or have no medical history available.

I understand that the cat(s) do not undergo pre-anesthetic bloodwork. By presenting these cat(s) for surgery, I accept the risks for any underlying health problem that would complicate recovery and/or survival from anesthesia and/or surgery. I agree to hold Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic harmless should any cat(s) die before, during or after surgery, or experience complications not resulting in death.

I agree to pick up the cat(s) following surgery as directed. I understand that if I fail to pick up the cat(s) as directed, the cat(s) may be declared abandoned and will be handled as such.

I promise to see that all cats receive food, water and necessary care on a regular basis when returned after surgery to the location from which they were collected or to an alternate location if prohibited from returning to their original location. I acknowledge that once released, some cats may not return.

I agree to hold harmless and indemnify Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic, its' agents, officers, employees from any losses, injuries and damages to myself and/or to the cat(s) arising out of, or in any way connected to, the services requested herein. This includes, but is not limited to, trapping, transport, treatment, sedation, viral testing, vaccinations, surgery, recovery and release of the cat(s).

In the circumstance that the cat has been previously spayed/neutered, there will be a \$35 fee for ear tipping and rabies vaccine.

In the circumstance that the cat were to bite an employee/staff member of Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic, Indiana state law requires the cat to be quarantined for 10 days or euthanasia with rabies testing done. This will be done at the cost to the undersigned.

I certify that I am fully informed of the contents of this packet, including the "Surgical Release Form", "Clinic Policies For Surgical Services Form" and the "Humane Trapping Instructions." I agree that the "Medical Record" has been filled out truthfully and accurately. I completely understand and agree with this packet contents before signing it.

Initial _____

Print Name

Date

Signature

Phone #1

Phone #2

Post-Surgical Care & Release Instructions

ACCOMODATIONS

All feral cats should **be kept in their traps** until they are ready for release. Always keep the trap covered with a towel to help calm the cat. They will still be recovering from the anesthesia and must be kept somewhere warm and covered in a protected place such as a garage or covered porch. It is a good idea to elevate the trap slightly, above newspaper over plastic to allow feces and urine to fall through the trap and away from the cat. Check the cat periodically to make sure it is breathing and is not bleeding heavily.

FOOD & WATER

Anesthesia may cause nausea. Therefore food and water should not be offered until the next morning. This is done by slipping a small cat food can inside the trap by gently opening the front of the trap just enough to squeeze it in. Water can then be poured in through the top of the trap into the cup or lid.

RELEASE

Release the cats the morning after surgery. If a cat gets very aggravated or will not urinate, eat or drink, you should release sooner. When cats are ready for release, return to the area in which they were captured and release them there. **Do not relocate the animal!** Make sure the spot you pick for release does not encourage the cat to run into danger (like a busy street) to get away from you. It is safest to release at night, for the cat's sake and yours. Keep the trap covered until you are ready to release. When ready, simply hold the trap with the door facing **away** from you and open the door. The cat will probably bolt immediately out of the trap. If it is confused, just tilt the trap so the back is slightly up and tap on the back of the trap to encourage it to leave. Never put your hand in the trap! If the animal still will not leave, prop the door open with a stick and leave it for a while. After releasing the cats, hose off traps and disinfect them with bleach.

SUTURES DO NOT NEED REMOVED

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