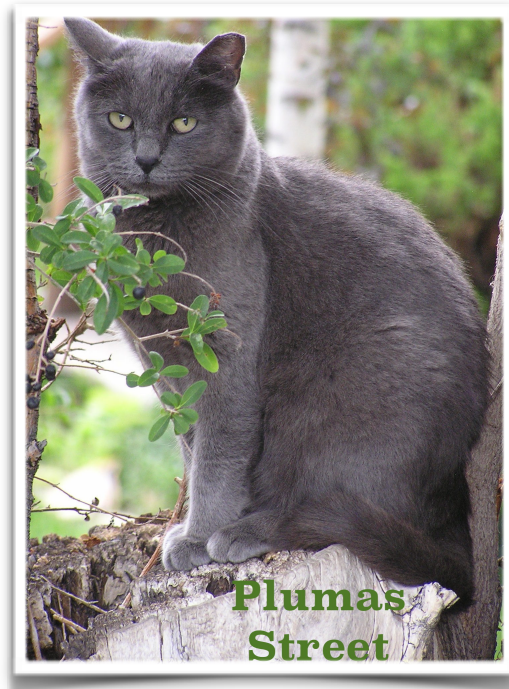


COMMUNITY CATS

A local non-profit organization serving Northern Nevada for 25 years



WCRAS Advisory Board Meeting Presentation April 26, 2024

In 1999, Community Cats started Washoe County's first organized TNR program and in 2003 became a 501(c)(3) non-profit which advocates for animal welfare and partners with organizations to provide access to quality spay/neuter services in our local area.

Reduce Suffering - Remove Obstacles - Save Lives

Community Cats endorses TNR and is dedicated to partnering throughout Northern Nevada to promote the benefits of TNR – the cost-effective, efficient and humane process to manage free-roaming cat populations.

We are grateful to all who supported us in helping cats and people in Washoe County and Northern Nevada.

Non-profit EIN #31-1823161

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2023 Community Cats Highlights

- **489 cats have entered our local TNR clinics with assistance from Community Cats**
(2022 331 cats)
- **63 kittens and friendly cats have been rescued and entered foster care and adoption**
(2022 32 kittens)
- **Received a proclamation from the City of Reno for Global Cat Day on October 16th, 2023**
- **Partnered with several local groups on cat and kitten rescue, TNR and adoptions**
- **Sponsored a 3rd Rural TNR Clinic event in Dayton, Nevada and 70 cats fixed in one day!**
- **Kicked off our Reno Ward One TNR Project with a pop-up pet food pantry**



2024 Community Cats Initiatives

Coalition building and partnerships - Purpose and Goals

drafted in partnership with Humane Network

- Build increased understanding and support for humane care for cats across the community.
- Facilitate the availability of increased resources for programs that help community cats and more specifically for spay/neuter, funding and volunteers.
- Share information between entities to create effective and efficient programs to minimize the duplication of efforts and make the most of available resources and case management.
- Build a foundation of support in the community and educate the public regarding TNR and outreach for volunteer recruitment.



VISION FOR THE HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF FREE-ROAMING CATS IN RENO-SPARKS

Created by John Boone, PhD

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a well-established method for improving the well-being of free-roaming cats (FRC) and reducing the number of kittens they produce. Applying TNR at sufficient intensity and duration to reduce the number of FRC's and improve their welfare across a whole city is challenging, however. More specifically, achieving these large-scale outcomes requires good coordination between organizations; reliable information about the distribution and density of cats; a well-informed comprehensive implementation plan; access to adequate resources and capabilities; and periodic monitoring to evaluate progress. In short, it requires an approach that is proactive rather than reactive. In recent years, considerable efforts have been made by industry leaders to identify and promote this more comprehensive and systematic (and ultimately more effective) approach to FRC management. The resources and insights that they have been developed, coupled with Reno-Sparks position as a flagship community for animal welfare, leads us to believe that it is possible to develop and implement a strategy in Reno-Sparks to measurably achieve the following goals over a period of 5 – 10 years:

- 1) Reduce the size of the FRC population by 50% or more.
- 2) Improve the welfare of FRC's
- 3) Reduce the pressure that FRC's place on the sheltering (e.g. intakes) and animal control (e.g. callouts) system.
- 4) Reduce resident complaints about FRC's.

A key component of this approach will be to document these outcomes using objectively valid metrics and analysis, and to identify cost-effective means to sustain these outcomes through intelligent monitoring and maintenance.

The prerequisites to achieving this vision are gathering information about FRC populations in Reno-Sparks, establishing productive collaborative relationships and agreements, developing a strategic plan that establishes quantitative goals and timelines, and securing funding and resources needed to implement the plan. Subsequent implementation of the plan will capitalize on the expertise and experience already developed by partner organizations, guided by an active monitoring program to document progress and identify bottlenecks and shortfalls that require active attention and intervention. With proper planning and support, this could and should lead to excellent outcomes that are well-documented, and will position Reno-Sparks as an archetype for other communities to emulate.

Managing Free-Roaming Cat Populations to Meet Your Goals
Management Strategies - Selected Key Takeaways

“When TNR is done more intensively in the beginning of a project, it pays off in terms of greater population size reduction, better cost efficiency and less work required later on. In short, despite its initial cost, high-intensity TNR provides more “bang for the buck.” Also referred to as ‘front loading.’ “

“High-intensity TNR can reduce preventable kitten deaths by over 95% (a reduction that is considerably greater than other management approaches) and increase cumulative lifesaving.”

Management Strategies
Page 4 Key Findings

“Combining TNR with outreach to reduce abandonment, adoption programs for social cats, and management of resources (e.g. food and shelter) is likely to be more effective than any single approach on its own. Engaging other organizations that may specialize in outreach and adoption can keep a TNR organization focused on the mission of high-intensity TNR.”

Management Strategies
Page 9 Integrated Management

