



## **Free Roaming Community Cat Management**

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) recognizes that there are no simple solutions to the cat overpopulation problem in this country, and that the management of abandoned and free roaming cats is an extremely difficult challenge for many communities. In keeping with the guidelines set forth by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), the ASV believes that under certain circumstances, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs are a viable means of addressing existing colonies of free-roaming cats with the goal of reducing or eliminating the cat colony through attrition. Colonies must not be considered as an alternate lifestyle for owned cats, or a dumping ground for unwanted animals. Relocation of free roaming cats or of cat colonies is not recommended and should only be done as a last resort and with careful consideration and planning. TNR programs should be part of an overall management strategy that includes public education and the promotion of responsible cat ownership, as well as affordable and easily accessible spay/neuter and adoption programs.

Link to [AAFP's position on feral cat management](#)

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