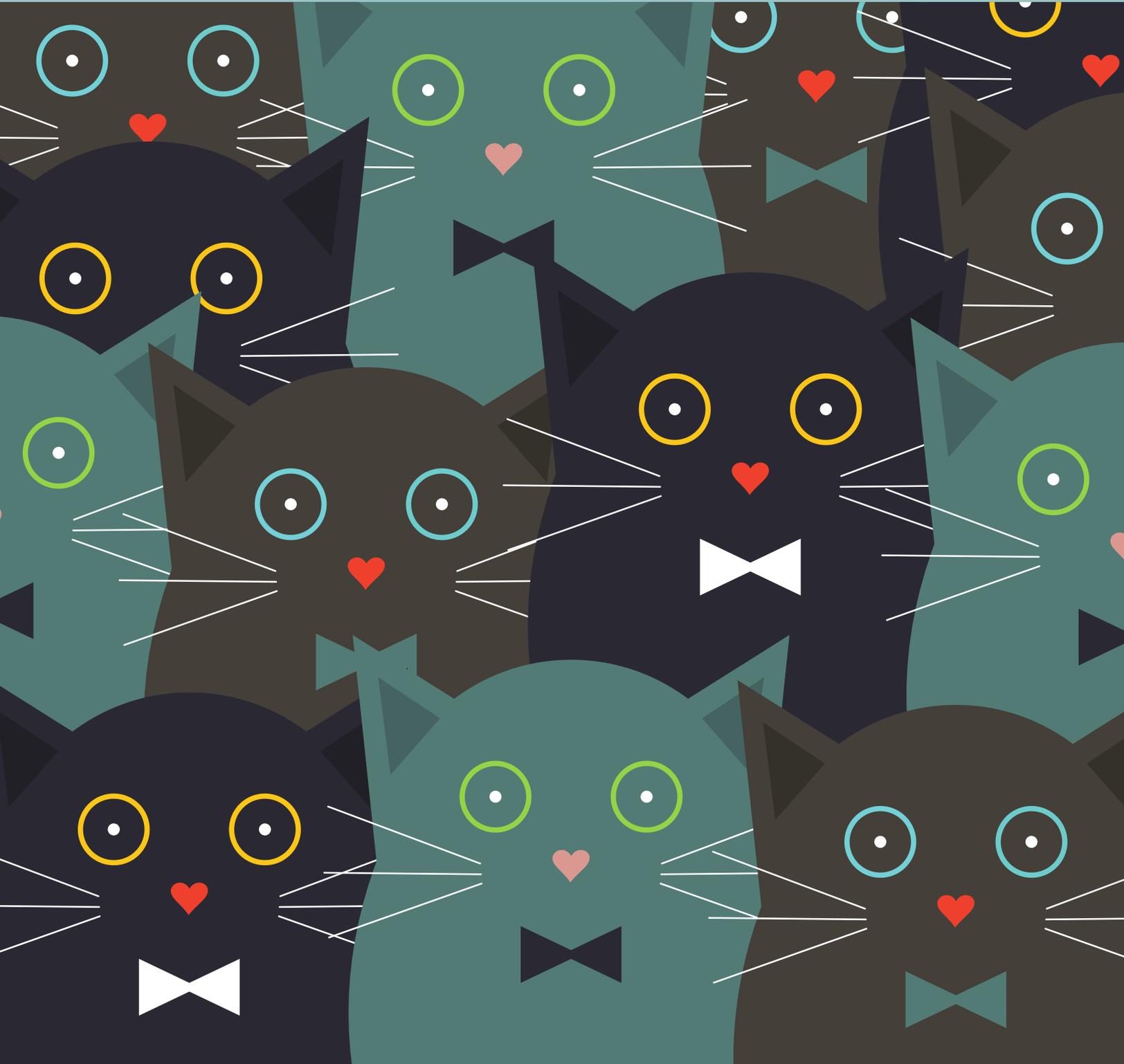




SNIP 'N' TIP

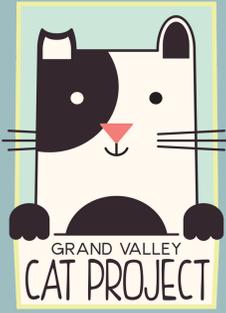
Learn to Trap-Neuter-Return cats



LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

WHO WE ARE

GRAND VALLEY CAT PROJECT



NOW A PART OF ROICE-HURST HUMANE SOCIETY

The Grand Valley Cat Coalition is now the Grand Valley Cat Project, or "GVCP" for short, and has been brought under the **Roice-Hurst Humane Society!** umbrella!

Our goal is to control the cat population in our community by providing barrier-free access to spay/neuter surgeries and resources for owned and street cats.

You can contact our Outreach and Field Coordinator, Mila Reville, at: **(970) 261-3760** or catproject@rhumanesociety.org .

WHAT WE DO

HONOR OUR VALUES

Compassion
Collaboration
Stewardship
Leadership
Excellence

#MORETHANASHELTER

Grand Valley Cat Project offers FREE spay and neuter surgeries for all cats in the 81501 zip code.

This includes community cats AND owned cats.

Training and equipment are provided.

Roice-Hurst Humane Society also provides:

- Foster care for dogs and cats
- Community health programs
- Volunteering opportunities
- Adoptions and sheltering for homeless pets

HOW WE DO IT

TARGETED TRAPPING = WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

This means we collect as much information on the cat colony as possible before trapping to ensure we spay and neuter ALL cats in that area, and END the cycle of reproduction in the neighborhood.

This method produces measurable results and maximizes resources.

When we are done with one zip code, we will move on to others.



LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

Did you know?

- Female cats can go into their first heat at around 4 months of age.
- A cat gestation lasts 2 to 2.5 months.
- The average litter size is 4 kittens.



Ineffective and inhumane methods of cat population control:

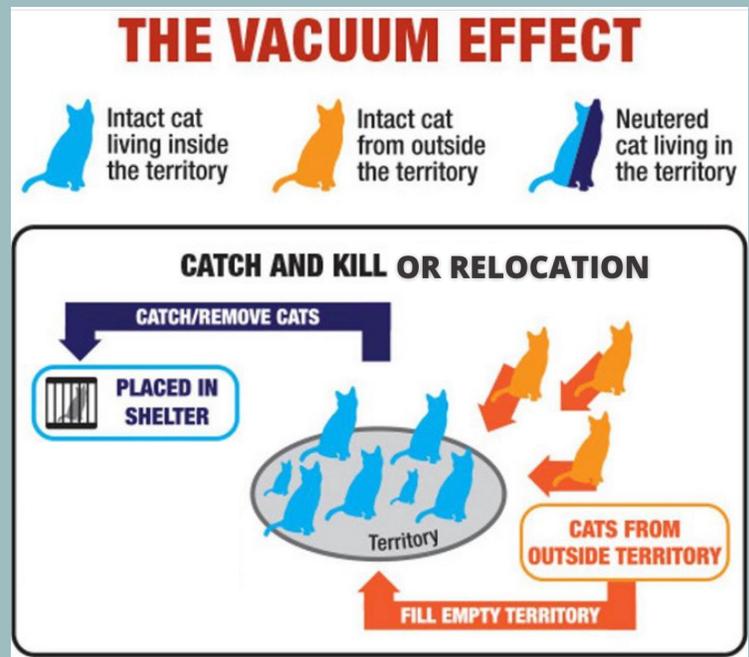
Just feeding the cats Catch and Kill Relocation

✗ WHY IT DOESN'T WORK:

None of these 3 methods stop new cats from moving into the territory or more kittens from being born. In fact, they encourage it.

If cats are not fixed they will welcome new cats to join the colony due to their need to mate. If cats are taken away (either by "catch and kill" or "relocation"), new cats will take their place due to an abundance of resources such as water, food and shelter.

In addition, when cats are moved to a new area, they do not know where to find these important resources critical to their survival.



LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

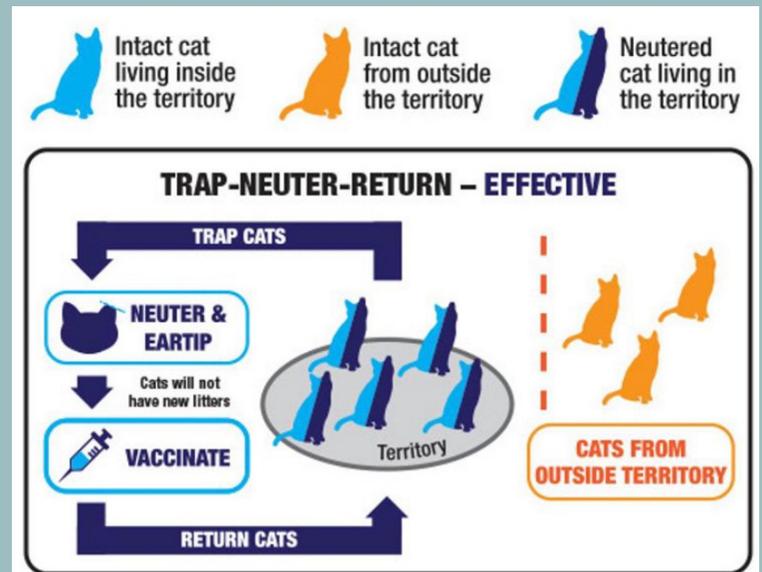
Effective and humane method of cat population control: Trap-Neuter-Return



WHY IT WORKS:

Altered cats typically do not welcome new cats into their territory unlike unaltered cats that need to find mating partners.

Trap-Neuter-Return, or "TNR" for short, stabilizes and *over time* decreases population numbers.



ADDITIONAL TNR BENEFITS:



Reduces behaviors associated with mating hormones (yowling, spraying, fighting, etc).



Reduces number of animals in shelters, making more room for cats looking for their forever homes.



Improves public health (and feline health) through vaccinations.

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

COMMUNITY CATS

Also commonly referred to as: feral cats, outdoor cats, stray cats, alley cats, street cats, barn cats, etc...

All cats that live outdoors are a part of the community just like people, and can be referred to by the broad term **community cats**.

"Feral" is a term which defines their under socialized behavior. Feral cats typically do not make good pets, which is why you should not bring them into a shelter to be placed for adoption. Undersocialized cats are a big drain on shelter's resources, hard to find homes for, and have a much higher rate of returns. They are afraid of people and are happier staying far away.

"Stray" is a cat who was at some point socialized with people and ended up living outdoors. They are a lot more dependent on humans to survive. You may find a friendly or a shy stray cat on the streets whose trust you will easily gain with a little patience.



FERAL = UNDERSOCIALIZED

Unlikely to approach people. Likely to hide

May belong to a cat colony

Unlikely to make eye contact

Will NOT vocalize with humans

Likely crepuscular or nocturnal habits

Likely has a clean, well kept coat*



STRAY = SOCIALIZED

May approach people

Likely lives alone, not part of a group

May make eye contact, even slow blink

May vocalize with humans (meow, purr)

May be visible during the day

May have a dirty, ragged coat

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

TRAP



NEUTER



RETURN



TNR is also known as:

- **TNRM** (Trap-Neuter-Return-**Monitor**)
- **TNVR** (Trap-Neuter-**Vaccinate**-Return)

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

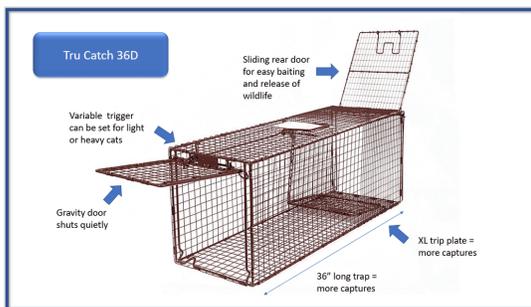
TRAP

Trap using humane traps with bait. Once trapped, cover the trap with a towel or sheet to calm the cat down.

Always pick a **safe location** to place your traps; ensure you place them on stable, level ground; and make them as **discreet** as possible to avoid cats' suspicion. For bait, utilize what your cats will consider **high-value food** - this will vary depending on the cat. It is recommended you try different kinds of bait (chicken, tuna, salmon, wet cat food, dry cat food, etc.) in different traps to see what they prefer. Always **watch your traps from afar**, and never leave them unattended for long periods of time. If trapping in a public location, never leave your traps unattended.

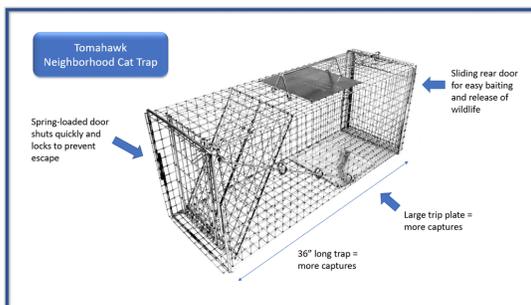
 **Quick Tip:** Creating a feeding schedule for a week or two makes it easier to predict when they will be around for trapping, and skipping a meal makes the cats more willing to go inside the trap!

BOX TRAPS:



Easy to set up and transport.
Recommended for beginner and experienced trappers
Tru Catch and Tomahawk are reliable brands

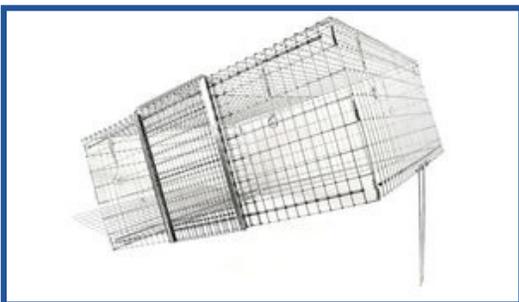
- Gravity doors are quieter, however also easier for cats to get out if not placed on stable and level ground.
- Use the sliding back door to insert trap lining (newspaper) and bait inside.



- Spring-loaded doors are louder.
- More secure and very difficult for the cat to get out.

DROP TRAP:

Ideal for elusive cats
Recommended for more experienced trappers
Need to be combined with a box trap for transport



- Requires your focused attention to pull it shut when the cat is under it.
- You can make your own drop trap using guides found online.

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

NEUTER

Spay/Neuter, vaccinate and ear tip



The clinic will **spay** (female) or **neuter** (male) the cat, **vaccinate for Rabies** (if over 4 months of age) and give the cat an **ear tip**.

Ear tips are the **standard identification** used around the globe for outdoor cats who are fixed. It is typically done on the **left ear**. A small top part of their ear is surgically removed while under anesthesia and then cauterized to accelerate healing and leaving a straight line on the cat's ear. Despite common belief, it does not hurt them and it makes it easy to spot cats who are fixed from far away. Think of this as their "**hall pass**," so if you trap an ear tipped cat, release it right away.

Other communities and clinics prefer to use **ear notches**, which create a "V" shape instead. No other method of identification has proven to be as safe or as effective as eartipping for community cats. Other methods such as tattooing, placing ear tags or collars, and microchipping are not supported by humane societies and other organizations due to their lack of safety and effectiveness, especially the ferals, which cannot be approached.



The Cat Project has partnered with a high volume spay and neuter clinic in Grand Junction called Animal Birth Control, or ABC for short.

If the cat was trapped **in the 81501** ZIP code and you have alerted the GVCP Coordinator prior to your trapping, she will meet you at the clinic for check in. and authorize the surgery If you cannot transport the cats to the clinic, let our Coordinator know before trapping and we will arrange transportation for you.

If you are planning on TNR'ing a cat residing **outside the 81501** ZIP code and need financial assistance for the surgery, reach out to Mesa County Animal Services or Grand Valley Pets Alive for a voucher BEFORE you trap.

The requirements below apply to all cats going in for surgery at ABC:

-Check-in time for cats is 8am-9am from Monday through Thursday, which is why we recommend trapping cats only Sundays through Wednesdays.

-Each cat must have a hard-sided plastic carrier for recovery (GVCP can provide this item for you if you are in the 81501 zip code area).



-Withdraw food the night before: do not give the cat anything besides what is in the trap. It may be life threatening if they have a full stomach during surgery.

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

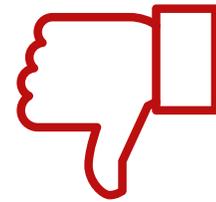
RETURN

Cats must be returned to the exact location where they were trapped



DO's

- DO release when the cat is awake, alert and responsive.
- DO remove carrier cover first, and allow the cat a minute to recognize the location.
- DO follow the veterinary clinic's post-operation instructions if any are given.



DON'Ts

- DO NOT release if the cat seems lethargic/groggy.
- DO NOT release without removing trap cover.
- DO NOT release in the rain or other inclement weather: find appropriate sheltered location.

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

TNR STEP-BY STEP

- 1 Establish a feeding schedule** and gather information on the cats you wish to trap to increase your chances of success in getting the entire colony. Establish a contingency plan beforehand in case you trap sick/injured cats or kittens that might need medical intervention right away.
- 2 Warn neighbors** when you are doing TNR so they can keep their cats inside to avoid conflict. This is also an opportunity to help educate others about TNR, and to recruit help if you need it.
- 3 Withhold food** from the cats the day prior to trapping or skip a meal so they are hungry enough to go in the traps. Also ask your neighbors to do the same.
- 4 Place high value bait** as far back in the trap as possible. **Cover the trap with a sheet or towel.**
- 5 Choose a safe location** for trapping and **stable ground** on which to place your traps. Appropriate locations for traps are shaded and shielded from rain or snow. **Watch your traps for afar** and never leave them unattended in public places. **Check if cat is ear tipped** and, if so, release it. If no ear tip is found, keep trapped cat away from other animals and in a temperature controlled location until surgery. **Keep cover on and DO NOT open the trap once the cat is in.** DO NOT feed the cat any more food before surgery as a full stomach can be life threatening during surgery.
- 6 Return the cat** only when fully awake and alert to ensure it is able to keep itself safe. Timing depends on the individual cat but is typically 24 hours after surgery. Giving food right after surgery will make the cat sick. Ask the clinic when is appropriate to feed the cat and how much food to give. Return cats to the **same location where they were trapped** in appropriate weather. Remove the carrier cover first so the cat can recognize the area, step out of the way, then open the door to release them. If possible, keep an eye on the cat and leave food and water out for the next few days to aid their healing.

LEARN TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

TNR SUPPORTIVE STUDIES:



DECREASING POPULATION NUMBERS

After just 3 years of TNR, the Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department announced that in the municipal shelter in NM, feline **euthanasia rates decreased by 84.1%, intake dropped by 37.6%**, and the live release rate increased by 47.7%. Additionally, the shelter saw an **increase in cats returned to their owners** and adoptions, as well as **fewer calls to the city about deceased cats**.

Spehar, D. D. and P. J. Wolf (2018). "The Impact of an Integrated Program of Return-to-Field and Targeted Trap-Neuter-Return on Feline Intake and Euthanasia at a Municipal Animal Shelter." *Animals: an open access journal from MDPI*. 8(4): 55.



REDUCING NUISANCE BEHAVIOR AND COMPLAINTS

Neutering = less hormones = less aggression

This 2011 study compared four free-roaming cat colonies in urban areas: Less aggression was observed in the neutered groups, which resulted in **reduced fighting and vocalizations**. The study concluded that TNR reduced the noise associated with mating and fighting, and leads to fewer nuisance complaints.

Finkler H, Gunther I, and Terkel J. "Behavioral differences between urban feeding groups of neutered and sexually intact free-roaming cats following a trap-neuter-return procedure." *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 238, no. 9 (2011); 1141-1149.



PREVENTING RABIES INCREASES PUBLIC HEALTH

Cats who are a part of TNR are vaccinated for Rabies, thus **reducing risk of infection to other cats and exposure to the community**: *"The number of human rabies deaths in the United States (...) has been steadily declining since the 1970's thanks to animal control and vaccination programs, successful outreach programs, and the availability of modern rabies biologics"* -CDC

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/location/usa/surveillance/human_rabies.html



LESS CALLS TO HUMANE SOCIETIES AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Between 2009 and 2015, after implementing TNR, the number of calls to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (Virginia) **plummeted 95%**, from 913 to 47, thus creating more time for the staff to attend to the animals in their care.

<https://www.alleycat.org/biography-alice-burton-associate-director-of-animal-shelter-animal-control-engagement/>



REDUCING SHELTER INTAKE & EUTHANASIA NUMBERS

In San Jose, CA, after four years of TNR, the shelter's program resulted in **decrease in cat intakes from 70% to 23%**, cat and kitten impounds decreased by 29.1%, and euthanasia for Upper Respiratory Disease decreased by 99%. They fixed, vaccinated, ear tipped and returned all community cats healthy enough to live outdoors.

Johnson, K.L. and Cicirelli, (2014). Study of the effect on shelter cat intakes and euthanasia from a shelter neuter return project of 10,080 cats from March 2010 to June 2014. *PeerJ*. 2:e646. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.646>