

MEOW Foundation  
Fearful or Feral Cats in Calgary

### Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Saves Lives

MEOW's business is saving lives and in order to continue to reach out and assist more cats, MEOW officially launched the first TNR program in Calgary in January, 2009. TNR is a humane population management program for feral cats which supports our no-kill mission and honours the life of all cats.

Feral cats are fearful cats. These cats fear and avoid social interaction with humans. They are the product of irresponsible human behaviour, whereby unaltered cats are allowed to roam freely and others are callously abandoned when they become inconvenient. The offspring of these cats have little or no human interaction and they become feral or fearful.

Since feral cats are not considered adoptable by most animal welfare groups, they are routinely euthanized in order to control the population. This simply does not work. Feral cats usually live in certain areas because there are food sources such as people who feed them or garbage. Over time they will move back in, breed, and soon return to their former population numbers.

MEOW promotes the implementation of feral cat population control through TNR. TNR cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, identified, spend time recovering and then they are returned to their home territories in residential, business and light industrial areas around Calgary.

MEOW will only assist in TNR when we have compassionate caregivers to care for TNR cats and/or colonies by providing food, water and some type of shelter. The caregivers are usually Calgarians who are already feeding the cats, who are concerned for their welfare and are often very fond of these cats. They call MEOW for assistance with the spay or neuters as they understand this is the best way to halt overpopulation, while providing a humane quality of life for their neighbourhood cats.

Feral cats that are part of our TNR program do not have to be licensed and they are not included in the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. All our TNR cats are permanently identified with a tattoo and/or microchip as members of MEOW Foundation. If they are accidentally surrendered to vet clinics or other shelters, MEOW will be called and the cats will be returned to their home location.

Thank you to all Calgarians for helping to build a better and kinder future for all animals. Trap Neuter Return is an integral element of our vision for a no-kill Calgary for all cats. Feral cats are Calgary community cats and together we share the responsibility to make their world a better place.

If you are feeding feral or fearful cats in your neighbourhood on regular basis and are willing to continue as their neighbourhood guardian and caregiver, please email: [info@meowfoundation.com](mailto:info@meowfoundation.com) with the heading TNR Inquiry or phone 403.230.6033 and leave a VM message on Line 2. An Intake representative will call you to discuss your situation. All medical care costs are covered by MEOW Foundation.