

# Highlands & Monmouth County SPCA Community Cats TNR Program

## 2021 TNR Annual Report

Phone: (732) 542-0040, at the prompt choose option 8 for a TNR Animal Control Officer

Email: [TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org](mailto:TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org)

MSCPA Website: [www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services/spay-neuter-clinic/](http://www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services/spay-neuter-clinic/)

The Borough of Highlands and the MCSPCA have teamed up to find a humane solution to our feral cat issues. ***If you want to be a Community Cat Caregiver, you must fill in the Registration form and Single Colony Log form to the left and bring to the Borough Offices.*** Once your application has been approved by both the town and MCSPCA, you may begin to care for community cats.

The MCSPCA has taken a leadership role in implementing a program proven to succeed – Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in Highlands. TNR specifically addresses the burgeoning feral cat population in a humane way. Feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, and returned to the community to live in managed colonies. Kittens and “friendly” stray cats are put up for adoption at the MCSPCA, immediately reducing the population of ferals in the community. Grant funding and donations support the program and significantly reduces the cost to the municipality.

We understand that TNR is controversial. Many think the Trap-Remove, which really means Trap-Kill, is the only solution to feral cats. However, Trap-Kill has been proven NOT to work, while TNR does.

1. The Borough of Highlands TNR program is funded by the donation from a generous resident and the MCSPCA. The cost of the initiative is 100% funded by those two sources at no cost to the taxpayers for up to 100 cats per calendar year.
2. There are not enough animal control resources to trap all cats in a municipality. A female cat can start having litters at 4 months old and can have four litters in one year. One mating pair can regenerate the population very quickly. With the animal control resources available, it is impossible to trap every feral cat in a short enough time span to keep up with reproduction. TNR uses teams of local volunteers to humanely trap, transport and then care for the feral cats. More people are willing to help with TNR than Trap-kill.
3. With TNR, the cats are released into managed colonies with registered caregivers who are the only people allowed to feed feral cats. This stops late night “drive by” feeding by well-meaning people. The caregivers keep careful statistics on the population and most importantly, track the success of TNR.

Many people want to take their own measures to remove cats from their neighborhood. Once any of the cats go through the TNR program, they are identified as being owned by the Borough of Highlands and cared for by the Colony Caretakers. Also note, according to NJSA 4:22-20. Abandoning disabled animal to die in public place; abandoning domesticated animal; disorderly person's offense:

1. A person who shall abandon a maimed, sick, infirm or disabled animal or creature to die in a public place, shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.
2. A person who shall abandon a domesticated animal shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense. The violator shall be subject to the maximum \$1,000 penalty.

There are many myths out there about feral cats. The biggest one is Feral cats cannot be "rehabilitated", this is NOT true. There is no farm or sanctuary that can take all the feral cats in Monmouth County.

## Advantages of TNR

1. Population is immediately reduced via adoption of kittens and "friendlies"
2. Spayed/Neutered cats roam less, don't yowl or fight (typical mating behaviors)
3. Neutered male cats mark less often and with significantly less odor
4. Disease is reduced since the cats get vaccinated (rabies etc)
5. Fewer nuisance calls about feral cats

TNR is an effective and humane way to control feral cats. TNR works because it is a multi-tiered approach as described above. The fact is these cats are out there. TNR means they are not reproducing, are disease-free, are fed and cared for and cause less trouble in the municipality. Using TNR we stabilize the population, so the colonies reduce through natural attrition. Together we can reach our goal to significantly decrease the feral cat population in Highlands over the next five years with our Community Cats Campaign.

Please support our TNR initiative!

# BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS, N. J.

INCORPORATED 1900

42 SHORE DRIVE  
HIGHLANDS, NJ 07732  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

732-872-1224 PH  
732-872-0670 FX

WWW.HIGHLANDBOROUGH.ORG



CAROLYN BROULLON  
MAYOR

MICHAEL MUSCILLO  
ADMINISTRATOR

NANCY TRAN  
ACTING BOROUGH CLERK

## TNR ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2021

The Borough of Highlands, working with the MCSPCA and 33 Cat Colony Managers, successfully trapped 22 cats during the period of January 2021 through December 2021. As of December 31, 2021, there were 149 registered cats in Managed Colonies. This is down from 168 cats in FY 2020.

Our Memorandum of Understanding with the MCSPCA was updated on April 5, 2019 to include up to 100 cats per year paid for by a private donation directly to MCSPCA. Therefore, the first 100 cats are at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Highlands TNR Program is usually explained during the spring TNR public meeting at the Community Center located at 42 Snug Harbor. This year due to COVID19, this flyer will outline where we are with the program. Over the years, several Colony Managers and others have reached out to MCSPCA to alert them of areas where cats congregate. Contact details for MCPCA are listed below.

The breakdown of the trapped cats with status is listed below:

Program Outcome	Total #	% Total	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Adopted	85	34%	13	1	33	18	2	18
Deceased/Euthanized	14	6%	0	0	2	1	0	11
Released	149	60%	9	3	34	30	24	77
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>106</b>

MCSPCA TNR Animal Control Officers can be reached at 732-542-0040, at the prompt choose option 8 if you have questions or concerns.

**Email:** [TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org](mailto:TNR@monmouthcountyspca.org)

**MCSPCA Website:** [www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services/spay-neuter-clinic/](http://www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services/spay-neuter-clinic/)

Highlands Trap Neuter and Release Program  
Colony Caretaker Registration Form

Sponsored By:  
Monmouth County  
SPCA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Colony Caretaker Rules and Regulations

I understand that as part of my participation with the Highlands TNR Program, I agree that:

1. I am responsible for keeping the feeding stations for my colony neat and clean, providing fresh food and water for my colony every day, keeping accurate data on all cats in my colony including newcomers and kittens and reporting this data to the MCSPCA on a monthly basis.
2. I will allow MCSPCA personnel to trap feral cats for sterilization and to check that proper care is given to the colony. I will only trap feral cats if I am given prior approval by the MCSPCA Officer in charge of TNR programs.
3. If I am given approval to trap feral cats, I will not use the trap(s) to knowingly capture any cat with a home; to capture a healthy animal to be euthanized; for any unlawful purpose; or to capture any cat for research/testing purposes whatsoever.
4. All feral cats in the MCSPCA Trap/Neuter/Release Program will receive a spay or neuter, rabies & distemper vaccinations, FIV/FelV test, ear tip and microchip. Any other medical treatment will be done on a case by case need by the veterinarian.
5. In some cases it may be necessary to euthanize cats and/or kittens whose physical conditions may prevent them from having a quality life and that this decision will be made by the MCSPCA veterinarians. I further agree that I will not hold the MCSPCA or veterinarian(s) liable or responsible for this decision or their actions.

Upon Signing below, I hereby agree to all rules and regulations stated above.

Caretaker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE**

MCSPCA Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Highlands Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MCSPCA Trap/Neuter/Release Program**

### **Trapping Tips**

#### **Before You Trap**

Familiarize yourself with the Trap-Neuter-Return process and plan your trapping day in advance. Throughout all of your trapping endeavors, plan ahead to ensure the safety and well-being of the cats and reduce your own stress.

- Coordinate with other caregivers who may be feeding the cats, and prepare the cats for trapping by feeding on a schedule and in a designated feeding area.
- Assess the colony to see how many cats need to be trapped.
- Determine a safe, temperature-controlled location where you will be able to hold the cats after surgery while they recover.
- Gather and prepare all of the appropriate equipment and understand how it all works ahead of time and practice. It is important to test all traps, to ensure that the trip plate works.
- Withhold food 24 hours before trapping, and you are ready to start trapping.

#### **Trapping**

- On the day-of, prepare the traps by lining the bottom with newspaper, tagging with a location description, and baiting.
- Set the traps and watch them from afar.
- Once a cat is trapped, cover the trap - this will help keep the cat calm.
- Ahead of time, learn how to deal with particularly hard-to-trap cats.
- Never leave a trap unattended
- Use stinky cat food such as, wet canned food, tuna fish, sardines or mackerel to bait the trap. Canned or Fried Chicken may also be used for tough cats
- Place a sheet over the trap once it is set, the sheet will help calm the cat down once it is trapped.

#### **Post-Surgery**

- Transport the cats safely back to your secure, indoor location where cats will be in a temperature-controlled environment, dry, and away from danger.
- Monitor the cats for any illness.
- For your safety and the cats keep them in their covered cages at all times.
- Feed the cats eight hours or so after surgery.
- Return the cats to the exact location where they were trapped.
- Clean the traps.

#### **Feeding Stations**

- Provide adequate food and water for the cats on a regular basis, year-round. Feed during daylight hours for your safety and so that you can easily assess the members of the colony. We recommend feeding colony cats at dawn and dusk.
- Some colonies find shelter for themselves in a shed or under a building where their safety is uncertain. You might want to consider building a shelter for the cats. It can keep them safe from the elements and help you control their location and deter them from neighbors' properties.

# Highlands TNR Program Colony Log

Sponsored by Monmouth SPCA

Colony Manager Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_

## Feral Cat Information

Colony Number \_\_\_\_\_

Colony Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cat No	Date Surgery	Breed/Color	Sex if known	Microchip Number	Kitten Juvenile Adult Senior	Status: Adopted Released Euthanized Unknown	Comments and Date of Comment/Status

I understand and will abide by the rules of the Highlands/Monmouth county TRAP/NEUTER/RELEASE Program

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_