

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

DEAR CARING NEIGHBORS,

We desperately need your help. As you are aware, “we” have a stray cat problem on our block. If something isn’t done soon, that problem will be multiplying.

Through some research and dedication, we have found an answer to this problem, unfortunately, as many of these cats are feral and not suitable for adoption, PLACING THEM ALL IN HOMES OR TAKING THEM TO ANIMAL CONTROL IS NOT A GOOD SOLUTION FOR THE CATS OR FOR US.

Tree House Humane Society – a reputable, no-kill, cageless cat shelter located in Chicago, has recommended that we borrow traps from them, and practice a humane method to control stray and feral cats called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR is the most effective way to control the stray and feral cat overpopulation problem. All of the cats will be trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, treated for parasites, ear-tipped and after a short recovery period, the healthy cats will be released back to their colony here in our neighborhood. Kittens under 12 weeks and friendly strays will be placed in foster homes, until they can be admitted to local shelters. We anticipate the colony will be reduced to about _____ cats, from its current number of approximately _____ and growing.

We are not asking for your help to catch these cats or to transport them (although your help would be appreciated). We are asking for a small donation of \$5 or more, if you can afford it, to help us with the cost. As you can imagine, this can be very costly for just a few people, even at the reduced rates offered at area shelter clinics.

Whether you are an animal lover or not, we have a responsibility to each other and the betterment of our community. **Below is a list of the benefits of our cause. I’m sure you will find several things that will impact you personally:**

- The number of stray cats will not increase.
- Less cats digging up your grass.
- Less, if any, fleas from the grass brought into your home
- No more sick, suffering kittens.
- Noise reduction – no more crying cats in heat. No more fighting males.
- Less of a chance for bringing feline leukemia into your home.
- Spaying and Neutering almost completely stops urine-marking.

On the other hand, if we as a community do not continue to be vigilant about spaying/neutering our own pets, or identifying any new strays who join the colony, things will quickly get out of control again. **Pet Owners: Be Responsible. Make sure your animals are spayed/neutered and do not let them roam. Feral Cat Caretakers: Please make sure that if any new cats come to the neighborhood, that they be TNR’d as soon as possible so that we do not let our neighborhood colony get out of control. If you are opposed to having neighborhood cats, beware: Removing the cats does not improve the situation.** Last year a couple of concerned neighbors TNR’d this local colony only to find that they were removed shortly thereafter. Now, less than a year later, we have a new larger colony. This phenomenon is called the vacuum effect. When there is a food source and areas of shelter, cats will flourish. When a colony is removed or greatly reduced in size, new cats will move in. That’s why we need to control the colony we have and be vigilant about TNR-ing any new comers.

If you can find it in your heart to help (or feel this cause will benefit you) please contact, _____ at _____ (or your local contact, _____ at _____).

This problem affects all of us in one way or another. We all live here. Together, we can make a change. For more information please visit: tnrchicago.org, treehouseanimals.org/TNR, alleycat.org or neighborhoodcats.org