

LOCAL INSTITUTION'S TNR PROGRAM

In 2002, Castaway Critters partnered with Stray Cat Alliance, PAWS and SNAP to assist a large local institution in implementing a TNR program for its stray and feral cat population. The facility had been contracting with the local Humane Society to accept feral and stray cats found on its premises. The facility had 7 traps it uses to trap cats and periodically contacted the Humane Society at a cost of \$120 per pick up plus an additional \$40 charge per cat. The facility's annual animal control budget is \$3,000. The program, implemented in February 2002, has endured successfully for 3 years.

In the table below, the facility loosely "maintains" the initial cat population and as it grows, periodically traps and contacts the contracted shelter to pick up the cats who are then euthanized at the shelter if feral. Initial number of cats is 20 which grew to 43 in a 6 month period.

The following assumptions were made when creating this report: The cat population is 50% female; average litter size is 3, with females capable of having 3 litters per year; half of the litter survives.

	# of Unaltered Cats	# of pickups @ \$120 ea	Facility Costs @ \$40 per cat	Remaining	Grows by	Total cats killed	Per cat removal cost	# of altered cats	# of cats removed (adptn, other)	# altered cats @ facility	Facility spay/neuter costs @ \$50 cat
Initial #				20	23			20	4	16	\$800
6 m	43	4	\$2,200	15	17	28	\$79	34	8	26	\$500
1 year	32	3	\$1,635	11	12	21	\$78	28	1	27	\$50
18 m	23	1	\$1,044	16	18	7	\$149	28	0	28	\$50
2 year	34	3	\$1,729	13	15	21	\$82	28	0	28	\$0
30 m	28	2	\$1,365	14	16	14	\$97	28	0	28	\$0
3 year	30	2	\$1,440	16	18	14	\$103	28	0	28	\$0
TOTAL			\$9,414			105	\$90				\$1,400

Between 2002 and 2005, a total of 13 cats were adopted, and 2 have passed away leaving the population steady at 28. This number has remained steady due to the maintenance of the feral cat colony by staff. If TNR had not been implemented, there would be a very different story...with multiple litters of kittens being born...in fact at the 3 year mark, there would be 2,080 cats... although many of these would be killed with funds being spent – repeatedly and unsuccessfully – on trap and kill.

The institution realized that rather than spend \$9,413.53 to kill 105 cats at a cost of approximately \$89.65 per cat PER YEAR; they would rather spend \$1,400.00 at a cost of approximately \$50 per cat to implement trap-neuter-return (TNR).

Since inception of the TNR program, the institution has not received any animal nuisance behavior-related complaints.

By simply redirecting funds and utilizing local services available (see attached), you will find that people who are "already" feeding the cats will be cooperative in implementing TNR programs as opposed to trap-and-kill programs. This also means volunteers are providing a free service by doing their own trapping, transporting to and from the veterinarian or spay/neuter clinic.