

### **Feral cat? What's that?**

- A feral cat is a wild animal, not to be confused with stray and free-roaming cats that are, or once were, someone's pet.
- Feral cats are afraid of humans. They do their very best to keep away from people.
- A feral cat cannot be safely held or picked-up, they need to be trapped in order to transport them. Sometimes, after a relationship is long established, caregivers can touch a feral cat but not actually pick it up.
- Some feral cats have a notch or straight slice of their left ear missing. This is called an "ear-tip." Veterinarians use an ear tip as a permanent marker to distinguish that the cat is spayed or neutered before the cat is returned outdoors.

### **Why doesn't Capital Area Humane Society admit feral cats?**

- Our sheltering program is focused on adoption. We find homes for homeless pets. We hold stray cats for a period before making them available for adoption so that families have an opportunity to find their lost animal.
- Feral cats are not pets and therefore we cannot make them available for adoption as a pet.
- Because feral cats are un-owned and therefore will not be claimed by a family, we do not offer a holding period. (The exception would be an ear-tipped or microchipped feral that is part of a managed feral cat colony. If we discover either form of identification, we will make an attempt to contact the caregiver/colony manager.)
- For these reasons, a feral cat abandoned at our shelter will be a candidate for immediate and humane euthanasia.

### **What about sick or injured cats?**

- Capital Area Humane Society is committed to providing high quality of care to all animals in immediate need or danger. Because sick or injured feral cats cannot receive treatment in their natural setting, we provide euthanasia services to prevent and eliminate suffering.

## What's Trap Neuter & Return? (TNR)

- Trap, Neuter, and Return is the most effective and humane way of managing feral cat overpopulation and many of the problem behaviors that can make feral cats difficult neighbors like spraying, mating, and fighting.
- The first step is to trap the feral cats using humane traps. These are available for purchase or rental in many hardware stores.
- Once trapped, the cat can be taken to a veterinary clinic providing spay and neuter surgeries for feral cats. At most clinics, the cats will also receive vaccinations, an ear-tip, and general health check. Many clinics also offer microchipping and testing for Feline Leukemia and FIV.
- Finally, once the cat has recovered from surgery, the cat is returned back to the original trapping site where they can live out their lives happily and in good health.

## How can Capital Area Humane Society help me?

- Capital Area Humane Society is active in providing and promoting spay/neuter services for feral cats. If you are interested in beginning a TNR program, we can help get you started!
- We provide a limited number of feral cat spay and neuter surgeries every week. This service is provided by appointment only, so please call well in advance of trapping.
- Because we work with several feral cat caregivers throughout Central Ohio, we can play a role in connecting you with other caregivers to share insight, tips, and best practices.

## Where can I get more information?

- Low Cost Spay/Neuter Services for Feral Cats are available at the following locations:
  - SOS Clinic— 614-396-8707
  - RASCAL Unit— 614-791-7729
  - Citizens for Humane Action— 614-891-5280
- Visit us online at [www.CAHS-pets.org](http://www.CAHS-pets.org)
- Contact our Community Programs Coordinator at: 614-777-7387 ext. 246