

Animal Services: Trap Neuter Release



Hannah Golden
Animal Services Manager

What Is TNR?

Different Names:

- **TNR:** Trap, Neuter, Release/Return
- **TNVR:** Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release
- **SNR:** Shelter, Neuter, Release

Similar Process:

- **Target population:** Feral cats – loose, unsocialized cats that cannot be adopted.

Distinct from Stray cats – loose cats that may or may not be owned, are socialized, and may be adoptable or returned to owners once impounded.

- **Trap → Spay/Neuter → Vaccinate → Ear-tip** (for identification) → **Return to territory**
- **Goal:** Reduce population and stop the reproduction cycle while allowing cats to live out their lives outdoors



Animal Services Stray Response

Current Ordinances:

Sec. 26-1. Definitions. “Owner” is defined:

- A person who owns, keeps, shelters, maintains, feeds, harbors or has temporary or permanent custody
- Has knowingly permitted an animal to remain on or around their premises
- Shall be any person who has harbored, fed, or sheltered for at least three days

Sec. 26-14. Restraint of animals

- Pets must be kept restrained by a leash or barrier at all times

Sec. 26-11. Number of dogs and cats at residences.

- Residents are allowed to keep 4 total cats and 4 total dogs over the age of 3 months

Sec. 26-12. Public nuisances declared unlawful

- Waste, property damage, noise

Sec. 26-34. Rabies vaccination

- Required by state, enforced by local law

Current Protocols:

“One attempt” policy:

- Specifically for stray cats

Trap lending:

- Available to residents only
- 10-day loan
- Signed acknowledgement of responsibility
- ID required
- Weather/response time considerations

Impoundment:

- Microchip scan → 5-day hold → placement assessment or humane euthanasia

TNR Benefits (Evidence-Based)

Population Control:

- Studies show TNR can stabilize cat colonies over time
- Prevents new litters from being born
- Can reduce complaints about mating behaviors (yowling, fighting, spraying)

Community Benefits:

- May reduce shelter intake and associated costs
- Vaccinated cats pose lower disease risk
- Addresses public preference for humane solutions

A national survey found Americans preferred TNR over lethal management when presented with scenarios of TNR vs humane euthanasia for unadoptable feral cats.

Study commissioned by Best Friends Animal Society, conducted by Luntz Global (2014)

TNR Challenges (Evidence-Based)

Effectiveness Concerns:

- Requires 70%+ sterilization rate to be effective at population level
- Difficulty achieving comprehensive coverage in large areas
- Cycle of new cats moving into territories ("vacuum effect" if not maintained)
- Lifespan and expected presence/community buy in

Public Health & Wildlife Impact:

- Cats continue to hunt native wildlife after TNR
- Disease transmission risks remain (toxoplasmosis, intestinal parasites, etc.)
- Feeding stations can attract inappropriate wildlife and pests

Resource Intensive:

- Estimated \$100+ per cat for complete TNR process
- Requires ongoing management and monitoring
- Maintenance from city staff or monitored citizen-led programs

Minimum Estimated Costs per cat:

- Spay/Neuter ~ \$35-\$50
- Basic Vaccinations ~ \$40-\$70
- Minimum Holding Post Surgery ~ \$150-\$400
- Hospitalization (injuries) ~ \$600-\$1,500+

“An analysis of data from 82 rehabilitation centers across North America found that cats were responsible for 52% of bird intake, and 78% of those cat-related admissions died or had to be euthanized.”

Wildlife Damage Management Technical Series
U.S. Department of Agriculture (2021)

Regional Comparison

Cities/Municipalities with Active TNR Programs:

Dallas: Comprehensive "Community Cat" program

- City subsidizes full TNR services for residents
- Monthly walk-up clinics and appointment services
- Service Request system for caretakers

Richardson: Active program

- Mandatory release of all stray cats
- On-site release with resident permission, otherwise 100 yards from capture site

Arlington: Established TNR program

- Multiple resources available online

Animal Community Cat Program

Use this service request to report stray cats that do not have any visible signs of injury or illness. Service requests of this nature will be dispatched to our Community Cat Team who will reach out to assess your service needs. You will be contacted within 3-5 business days. If you are interested in trap-neuter-return services, use this SR number to have free-roaming cats spayed or neutered at no cost. This service request is automatically closed, however, we will contact you as soon as possible. More information can be found at: <https://spayneuternet.org/feral-cats/> - If the cat appears ill, injured, or underage, please submit a request for "Animal Lack of Care."

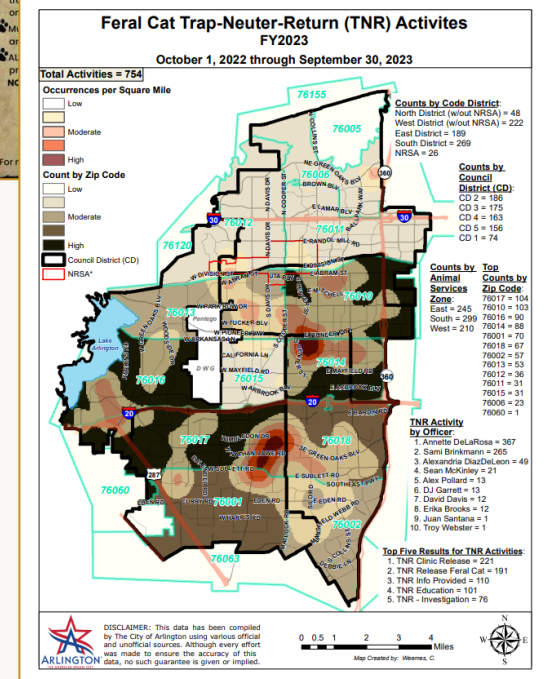
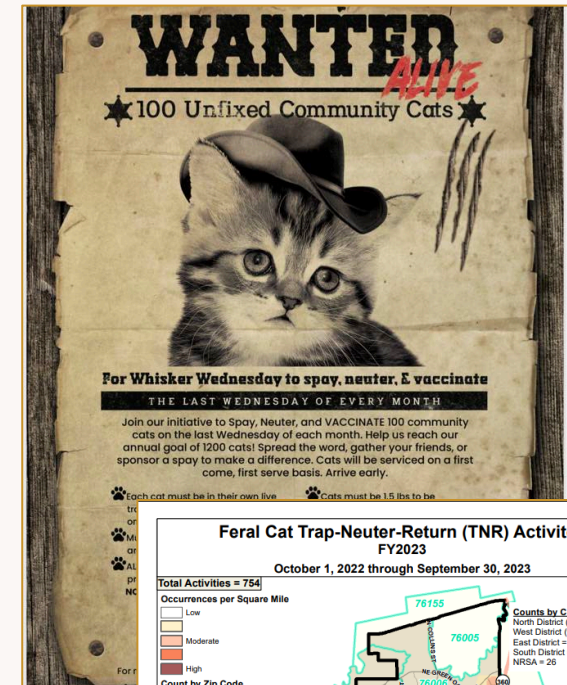


DEPARTMENT
Dallas Animal Services



RESOLUTION ESTIMATE
1 Business Days

Request This Service



Regional Comparison



Cities/Municipalities Not Currently Offering TNR Programs:

Plano: Suspended Program

- Operations suspended due to panleukopenia outbreak

Allen: No active program.

- Ordinances do not currently allow for TNR

Collin County: Does not allow TNR

- Free adoption for semi-feral barn cats
- Aggressive or feral cats humanely euthanized

Key Takeaway

Mixed approach in region - some cities fully embracing, others cautious due to disease, resource, and welfare concerns.

Questions?

Contact Animal Services:
animalcontrol@mckinneytexas.org

3rd Floor
401 E. Virginia St.
McKinney, TX 75069

Ph 972-547-7483
Ph 972-547-7445
F 972-547-2606

THANK YOU