

Discover the Truth about Feral Cats

A feral cat is not socialized to humans.

Though feral cats are members of the domestic cat species and are protected under the same state anti-cruelty laws, they are typically fearful of humans.

Feral cats should not be taken to animal control pounds and shelters.

Feral cats' needs are not met by the current animal control and shelter system, because animals who are not adoptable are killed. Feral cats **live** outside, but are **killed** in shelters. Even no-kill shelters are not able to place feral cats in homes.

Feral kittens can be adopted.

Feral kittens can often be adopted into homes, but they must be socialized at an early age. There is a critical window, and if they aren't handled in time, they will remain feral and therefore unadoptable.

alleycat.org



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Feral cats can have the same lifespans as companion cats.

And they are just as healthy, too. The incidence of disease in feral cats is just as low as in pet cats. They live healthy, natural lives on their own, content in their outdoor home.

Humans are the cause of wildlife depletion.

Studies show that the overwhelming cause of wildlife depletion is destruction of natural habitat due to man-made structures, chemical pollution, pesticides, and drought — not feral cats.

Catch and Kill doesn't work.

Animal control's endless, cruel cycle is extremely costly to taxpayers. Cats choose to reside in locations for two reasons: there is a food source—(intended or not)—and shelter. When cats are removed from a location, survivors breed to capacity or new cats move in. This vacuum effect is well documented.

Trap-Neuter-Return does work.

No more kittens. The population stabilizes and their lives are improved. The behaviors and stresses associated with mating, such as yowling or fighting, stop. The cats are vaccinated before being returned to their outdoor home. Not only does Trap-Neuter-Return make good sense, it is also a responsible, humane method of care for outdoor cats.

You can make a difference and save lives.

Together, we can educate people about feral cats and the fact that they don't belong in pounds and shelters. To learn more or to find tools to help you spread the word in your area, go to alleycat.org.



**Join our movement
to protect cats.**

alleycat.org

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