



Spay, Neuter and Protect is a program of Columbia Second Chance, a non-profit volunteer-based organization in Columbia, which focuses on spaying and neutering Columbia's feral cats. When individuals and businesses contact SNAP, we will help them trap the feral cats, arrange for reduced-price spay or neuters and rabies vaccinations and teach them how to care for the cats upon release. We do not require payment for spays and neuters but ask that each individual pay as much as they can afford. Donations are greatly appreciated due to limited funding and volunteers are always needed.

What is a feral cat? You've probably seen them gathered around dumpsters and in parking lots -- homeless cats that flee from humans. These cats, referred to as "feral," are the result of both the failure of people to spay or neuter their cats and cat abandonment.

What is TNR? Trap/neuter/release, commonly referred to as "TNR," is the only method proven to be humane and effective at controlling feral cat population growth. Using this technique, all the feral cats in a colony are trapped, neutered or spayed, vaccinated and then returned to their territory where ideally caretakers provide them with regular food and shelter.

How does TNR work? TNR has many advantages. It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by eliminating new litters. The nuisance behavior often associated with feral cats is dramatically reduced; including the yowling and fighting that come with mating activity and the odor of non-neutered males spraying to mark their territory. The neutered colony also guards its territory, preventing unaltered cats from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior anew. Particularly in urban areas, the cats continue to provide natural rodent control.

Another significant advantage to TNR is that, when practiced on a large scale, it lessens the number of kittens and cats flowing into local shelters. **This results in lower euthanasia rates and the increased adoption of cats already in the shelters.** revised 4/09

Visit our web site at www.snap@ranly.com, email csc_snap@yahoo.com or leave a message at 573-445-5598.