

# Sample Forms, Letters, and Petitions

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## Sample Letter to City Council

Date

Attn: (insert name of your district's councilman)  
(insert name of city) City Council  
Address  
Direct Email (if known)

Dear Council Member (insert last name),

I am writing this letter to express concern for (insert city name)'s homeless cat population, and to offer some suggestions as to how the situation can be managed humanely and effectively.

Only one method of feral cat population control has been *proven* to be effective, financially responsible, and humane. This method is Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR. TNR is the process of trapping, spaying/neutering, vaccinating, and then returning feral cats back to their outdoor homes. TNR reduces outdoor cat populations over time because it stops the breeding cycle. Whenever possible, TNR programs also remove kittens and cats who can be socialized from outdoor cat groups and place them with adopters, further reducing group size.

A wealth of scientific studies show the efficacy of TNR in reducing feral cat populations. I encourage you to review the examples offered on Alley Cat Rescue's website at this link: <https://www.saveacat.org/tnr-statistics.html>.

TNR truly decreases outdoor cat populations over time, as opposed to removing or eradicating groups of feral cats from an area, which is only a temporary solution. The complete removal of a colony of cats will only result in a new group or groups of cats staking out the area as the resources that attracted the original group remain and are no longer being guarded by those original cats. This is known as the "vacuum effect." TNR, on the other hand, leads to a small group of healthy, vaccinated cats that steadily dwindles over time as they die off naturally without breeding.

TNR is also the most economical option for feral cat control. This is due in large part to the fact that it is more effective than eradication. Additionally, TNR reduces intake and euthanasia rates at municipal shelters, which translates to fewer expenses for the city.

Some of the benefits of TNR can be seen immediately; nuisance complaints about cats fighting, yowling, and spraying will certainly decrease because sterilization eliminates those behaviors in cats. Perhaps the primary benefit of a TNR program in many of your constituents' opinions would be that a rabies vaccine is administered when the cats are sterilized, and that creates a buffer zone between wildlife and humans, while also of course reducing the risk of the public coming in contact with an infected cat.

The humaneness of TNR is extremely important to me personally, and I am sure that many of our city's residents also want compassionate treatment of these beloved companion animals. TNR allows feral cats to live out their lives, vaccinated against the most prevalent feline and zoonotic diseases, and it prevents kittens from being born under circumstances that are conducive to poor health, infection, suffering, and death.

A TNR program is not a fully humane operation if it does not allow some maintenance of the cats who have been sterilized and released. Maintenance should involve monitoring of and providing food for cats once they have been returned. While feral cats do find ways to subsist on their own in cities, they do so mainly by scavenging through litter and trash, and by drinking from dirty pools of water. They usually find the minimum amount of food needed to survive, and almost none of what they eat is of nutritional value. Poor nutrition greatly weakens cats' immune systems to the extent that they can die from a common upper respiratory infection. Feeding the cats could be part of a city TNR program, or the work of volunteers, and it can be done responsibly. Rules can and should be set that require feeders not to leave food out for longer than one hour, and to clean up all leftover food and trash every day.

If you would like assistance in your decision-making process or to help organize and manage a TNR program, please let Alley Cat Rescue know and they will send you resources. They can be reached at [acr@saveacat.org](mailto:acr@saveacat.org) or by calling 301-277-5595. Thank you for your time and compassion for our feline friends!

Sincerely,

(Your signature)

Your Name Printed

Your Contact Information

## Sample Petition

### Support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Programs for \_\_\_\_\_'s Stray and Feral Cats (insert city name)

**Recipient:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(insert city council or local government)

#### Background information:

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a highly effective, nonlethal method of controlling feral and stray cat populations. Through TNR programs, cats are caught with humane traps, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and returned to the site to live out their lives, supervised and provided with long-term care by dedicated volunteers. Kittens/cats who are friendly or can be socialized are placed into an adoption program (coordinated by a rescue organization) to be found permanent homes. TNR immediately reduces the size of colonies because all kittens and tame cats are removed. It further reduces the size of colonies over time by stopping the reproductive cycle of the feral cats who are returned.

TNR reduces euthanasia rates at shelters in two ways; by reducing the number of unwanted kittens being born, which frees up shelter space for cats who are relinquished by their owners, and by creating an alternative option for unsocialized outdoor cats who cannot be adopted.

TNR is also more effective than eradication (catch-and-kill) attempts. Catch-and-kill attempts fail and can even be counterproductive. The complete removal of a colony of cats results in a new group or groups of cats moving into the area as the resources that attracted the original group remain. This is known as the "vacuum effect." As Biologist Roger Tabor explains, "if a colony is neutered and returned to its area it will continue to hold the location and keep other cats out by its presence." Ineffectiveness leads to greater costs as eradication campaigns need to be repeated every few years.

Community members benefit from TNR programs because a rabies vaccine is administered when the cats are sterilized and that creates a buffer zone between wildlife and humans, while also of course reducing the risk of the public coming in contact with an infected cat. Additionally, sterilization also eliminates common complaints associated with mating behaviors, such as fighting, yowling, and spraying.

TNR is the most effective, most humane solution for outdoor cats and it fosters compassion within communities.



## Sample Cat Adoption Contract



# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

**Adopted Cat(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chip #** \_\_\_\_\_

Adopter wishes to adopt a cat from Alley Cat Rescue. Alley Cat Rescue, and the Adopter wish to enter into this Cat Adoption Agreement to provide the cat with a suitable forever home. Adopter represents that the information provided in the adoption process is true and correct to the best of the Adopter's information and belief.

**1. Return Policy** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter agrees that in the event that he or she is unable to care for the cat, he or she agrees to contact the Rescue and return the cat to the location specified by the Rescue. The Adopter understands that he or she is responsible for the care of the cat until he or she has delivered it to the Rescue, and will safely return the cat with up-to-date veterinary records.

**2. Identification** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter agrees to update the cat's microchip information so that the Adopter can be contacted in the event the cat is found as a stray. The Adopter agrees to obtain the proper municipal license if required under law.

**3. Veterinary Care** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter agrees to provide the cat with the necessary vaccinations as advised by his or her veterinarian. The Adopter agrees to obtain immediate veterinary care should the cat become sick or injured, and to take full financial responsibility for any veterinary expenses.

**4. Care of the Cat** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter understands that the adopted cat is an indoor pet, aside from working cats. The adopter agrees to provide the cat with fresh water, food, adequate exercise, access to a clean litter box and loving attention.

**5. Declawing** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter agrees NOT to declaw the cat, or allow anyone else to declaw the cat. Adopter understands that this causes unnecessary pain for the cat.

**6. No Representations** \_\_\_\_\_ **(initial)**

The Adopter understands that Alley Cat Rescue does not make any guarantees regarding the health, temperament, or training of the above described cat.

**7. Seizure or impoundment of the Cat \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)**

If the cat for any reason is picked up by local law enforcement or animal control, the Adopter will make immediate arrangements to reclaim the cat.

The Adopter agrees that he/she is legally competent to enter into this agreement, and this Agreement is binding upon the personal representatives and executors of both parties.

Agent for Rescue: \_\_\_\_\_  
[acr@saveecat.org](mailto:acr@saveecat.org)

**Adopter's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adopters Information**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**License #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact (name and number):**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Guidelines for Adopting a Cat or Kitten

Alley Cat Rescue wants our rescued cats placed in homes where they will be treated as a member of the family for the rest of their lives. When you adopted a cat from Alley Cat Rescue, you signed a contract stating that you will comply with our requirements; which are to give him/her a long, healthy life in a loving home.

There are many helpful books on cat care and cat behavior. Books and magazines can be an excellent resource for answering your questions about your cat. *There is also a wide variety of information readily available on the internet.*

- The Wild Life of the Domestic Cat, by Roger Tabor
- Understanding Cats, by Roger Tabor
- Adopting Cats & Kittens, by Connie Jankowski
- The New Natural Cat: The complete Guide for Finicky Owners, by Anitra Frazier
- The Purina Encyclopedia of Cat Care, by Amy Shojai
- The Stray Cat Handbook, by Tamara Kruez
- Kitten Care & Training, by Amy Shojai
- Magazines: Cat Fancy Magazine, The Whole Cat Journal, Catnip, and Cat Watch