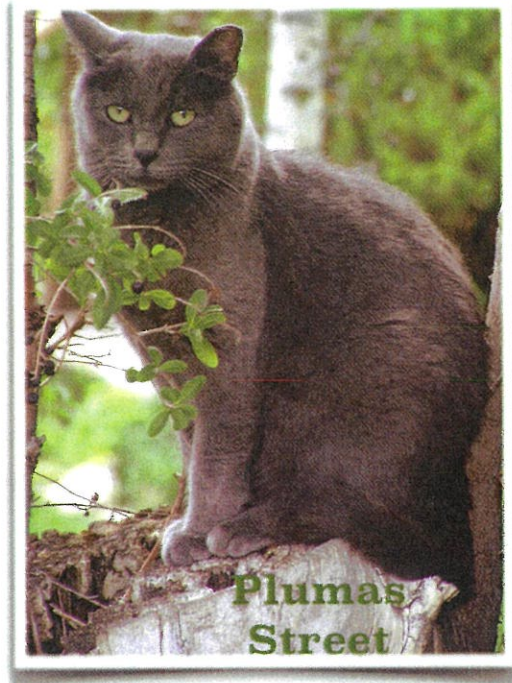


COMMUNITY CATS

A local non-profit organization serving Northern Nevada for 25 years



WCRAS Advisory Board Meeting Presentation April 26, 2024

In 1999, Community Cats started Washoe County's first organized TNR program and in 2003 became a 501(c)(3) non-profit which advocates for animal welfare and partners with organizations to provide access to quality spay/neuter services in our local area.

Reduce Suffering - Remove Obstacles - Save Lives

Community Cats endorses TNR and is dedicated to partnering throughout Northern Nevada to promote the benefits of TNR – the cost-effective, efficient and humane process to manage free-roaming cat populations.

We are grateful to all who supported us in helping cats and people in Washoe County and Northern Nevada.

Non-profit EIN #31-1823161

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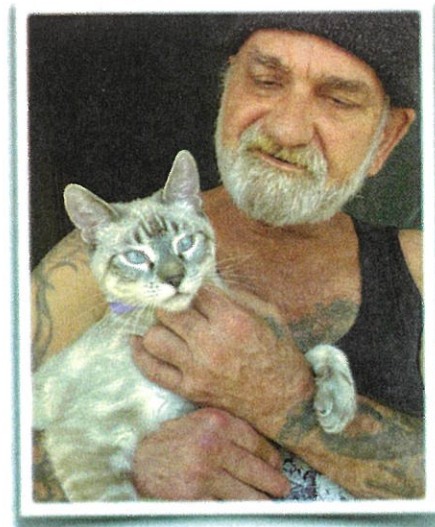
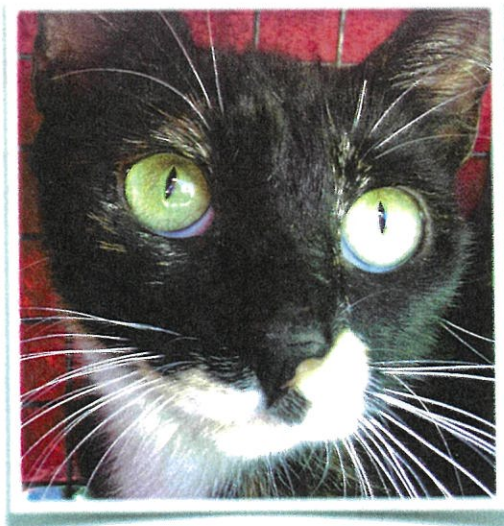
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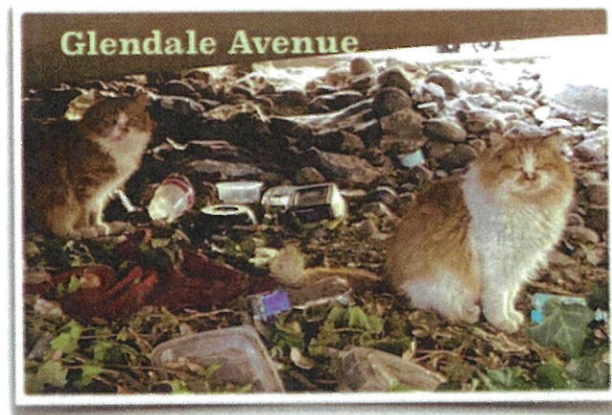
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2023 Community Cats Highlights

- 489 cats have entered our local TNR clinics with assistance from Community Cats (2022 331 cats)
- 63 kittens and friendly cats have been rescued and entered foster care and adoption (2022 32 kittens)
- Received a proclamation from the City of Reno for Global Cat Day on October 16th, 2023
- Partnered with several local groups on cat and kitten rescue, TNR and adoptions
- Sponsored a 3rd Rural TNR Clinic event in Dayton, Nevada and 70 cats fixed in one day!
- Kicked off our Reno Ward One TNR Project with a pop-up pet food pantry



2024 Community Cats Initiatives

Coalition building and partnerships - Purpose and Goals

drafted in partnership with Humane Network

- Build increased understanding and support for humane care for cats across the community.
- Facilitate the availability of increased resources for programs that help community cats and more specifically for spay/neuter, funding and volunteers.
- Share information between entities to create effective and efficient programs to minimize the duplication of efforts and make the most of available resources and case management.
- Build a foundation of support in the community and educate the public regarding TNR and outreach for volunteer recruitment.



VISION FOR THE HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF FREE-ROAMING CATS IN RENO-SPARKS

Created by John Boone, PhD

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a well-established method for improving the well-being of free-roaming cats (FRC) and reducing the number of kittens they produce. Applying TNR at sufficient intensity and duration to reduce the number of FRC's and improve their welfare across a whole city is challenging, however. More specifically, achieving these large-scale outcomes requires good coordination between organizations; reliable information about the distribution and density of cats; a well-informed comprehensive implementation plan; access to adequate resources and capabilities; and periodic monitoring to evaluate progress. In short, it requires an approach that is proactive rather than reactive. In recent years, considerable efforts have been made by industry leaders to identify and promote this more comprehensive and systematic (and ultimately more effective) approach to FRC management. The resources and insights that they have been developed, coupled with Reno-Sparks position as a flagship community for animal welfare, leads us to believe that it is possible to develop and implement a strategy in Reno-Sparks to measurably achieve the following goals over a period of 5 – 10 years:

- 1) Reduce the size of the FRC population by 50% or more.
- 2) Improve the welfare of FRC's
- 3) Reduce the pressure that FRC's place on the sheltering (e.g. intakes) and animal control (e.g. callouts) system.
- 4) Reduce resident complaints about FRC's.

A key component of this approach will be to document these outcomes using objectively valid metrics and analysis, and to identify cost-effective means to sustain these outcomes through intelligent monitoring and maintenance.

The prerequisites to achieving this vision are gathering information about FRC populations in Reno-Sparks, establishing productive collaborative relationships and agreements, developing a strategic plan that establishes quantitative goals and timelines, and securing funding and resources needed to implement the plan. Subsequent implementation of the plan will capitalize on the expertise and experience already developed by partner organizations, guided by an active monitoring program to document progress and identify bottlenecks and shortfalls that require active attention and intervention. With proper planning and support, this could and should lead to excellent outcomes that are well-documented, and will position Reno-Sparks as an archetype for other communities to emulate.

Managing Free-Roaming Cat Populations to Meet Your Goals
Management Strategies - Selected Key Takeaways

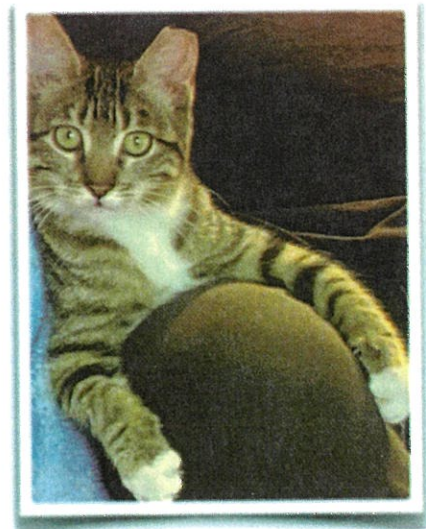
“When TNR is done more intensively in the beginning of a project, it pays off in terms of greater population size reduction, better cost efficiency and less work required later on. In short, despite its initial cost, high-intensity TNR provides more “bang for the buck.” Also referred to as ‘front loading.’ ”

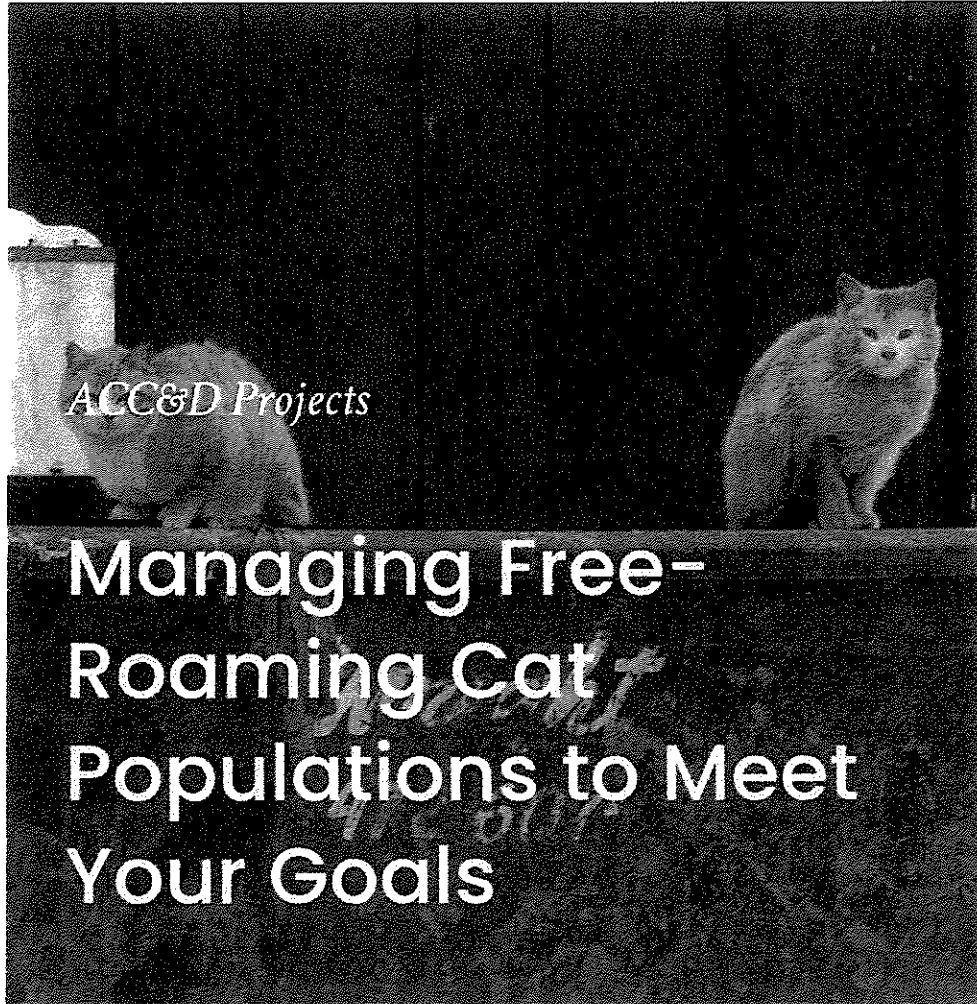
“High-intensity TNR can reduce preventable kitten deaths by over 95% (a reduction that is considerably greater than other management approaches) and increase cumulative lifesaving.”

Management Strategies
Page 4 Key Findings

“Combining TNR with outreach to reduce abandonment, adoption programs for social cats, and management of resources (e.g. food and shelter) is likely to be more effective than any single approach on its own. Engaging other organizations that may specialize in outreach and adoption can keep a TNR organization focused on the mission of high-intensity TNR.”

Management Strategies
Page 9 Integrated Management





Knowing the impacts of different management strategies can help people make more informed choices. It can also help create better, more cost-effective management policies.

Working to improve how free-roaming cats (FRCs) are managed

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs certainly benefit individual cats. However, many programs also strive to reduce numbers of cats at the community level, which is ACC&D's goal, too. But this raises questions:

- What's the best way to reduce numbers of FRCs?
- What must be done for humane approaches to be more effective than lethal removal?
- What is the cost?

Knowing the impacts of different management strategies can help people make more informed choices. It can also help create better, more cost-effective management policies.

ACC&D did just this, convening a team of experts to build a bioeconomic model that looks at both costs and population impacts. It helps answer crucial questions for the animal welfare community, policymakers, conservationists, and anyone seeking to manage FRCs.

Our finding, in a nutshell: TNR can work extremely well! The best population reductions and economic efficiency require that sterilizations be “frontloaded” and performed intensively early in the intervention. The most effective model sterilized 75% of cats in a first big push, and then sterilized 75% of any remaining or new intact cats during the next 6-month period. Though this requires a lot of resources upfront, it can quickly move into a less-intensive maintenance phase, and your hard work will pay off long-term. The model showed that intensive sterilization additionally leads to the lowest number of “preventable” deaths of kittens and cats of any management strategy that we evaluated.

Meanwhile, for removal to be effective, it must be done at an intensity that is not commonly practiced given the number of cats needing to be killed on a continual basis, and the inevitable community pushback. Real-world removal tends to be more sporadic, which is both inhumane and minimally effective.

The take-away: research supports TNR, but we must do it strategically to get the results that advocates want to see.

And no matter the intervention, abandonment of new cats can quickly undermine progress, speaking to the importance of holistic community policies and support for vulnerable populations of owners and pets.

ACC&D's Free-Roaming Cat Model Development Team

- Aaron Anderson, PhD - National Wildlife Research Center, USDA APHIS
- Valerie Benka, MS, MPP - Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs
- John Boone, PhD - Great Basin Bird Observatory
- Joyce Briggs, MS - Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs
- Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM - University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
- Philip Miller, PhD - IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group

- Felicia Nutter, DVM, PhD, DACZM - Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University
- Margaret Slater, DVM, PhD - ASPCA
- Chris Sloomaker, PhD - National Wildlife Research Center, USDA APHIS
- Steve Zawistowski, PhD, CAAB - ASPCA



The DC Cat Count Story

Jump to Section ▾

The DC Cat Count in Washington, D.C.

Debates about outdoor cat policy and management have often been divisive and unproductive because there was not yet an accurate estimate of cat population sizes nor widely accepted criteria to evaluate management effectiveness and outcomes. To create more common ground, the DC Cat Count was formed to adapt the tools and approaches used by wildlife scientists to quantify animal populations for use in characterizing cat

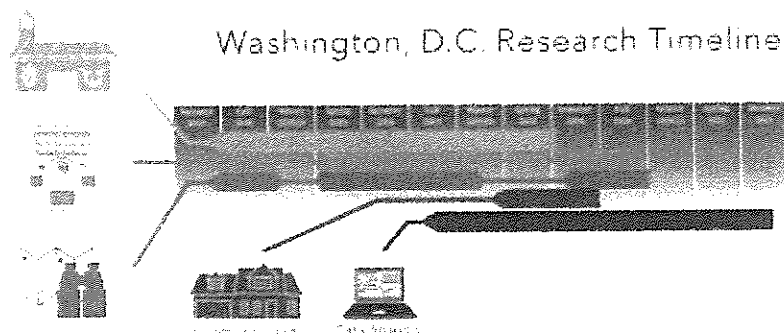
populations and to estimate how cats move among indoor, outdoor and shelter populations. The DC Cat Count is a joint pursuit by several animal welfare and conservation organizations and other professionals that serves as a model of how successful collaborations between these groups can generate practical solutions to overcome common challenges.

Washington, D.C. was selected as the perfect study area for this project for three reasons. First, the District's proximity to many animal welfare and conservation leaders established a history of collaboration that benefited this new project. Second, as the only sheltering organization in Washington, D.C., the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA) had consolidated all animal shelter records from the District, which greatly simplified data collection, and HRA's foundation of trust and history with District residents fostered widespread community support. Third, Washington, D.C. offered a diverse landscape to study cat and wildlife populations, ranging from the forests of Rock Creek Park to the winding alleys of residential neighborhoods to the city center surrounding the National Mall.

The DC Cat Count was launched in 2018 with the following objectives:

1. Rigorously quantify all segments of the cat population (owned, outdoor, and shelter) within Washington, D.C. using the best scientific methods.
2. Estimate the rates at which cats move among these population segments (via adoption, abandonment, relinquishment, etc.) to define a cat population network.
3. Determine the points within this network where management interventions might most effectively and efficiently achieve common goals.
4. Evaluate the utility of broadly feasible methods, such as transect counts, for tracking outdoor cat populations and assessing management impacts.

In pursuit of these objectives, we developed three research components to collect data on each cat population segment in the District (a camera survey for the outdoor population, a household survey for the indoor population, and analysis of HRA shelter records for the shelter population) and one component to validate and refine resource efficient methods for monitoring outdoor populations (transect counts). DC Cat Count Field Technicians and researchers completed three field seasons of camera placements and transect counts. Simultaneously, the DC Cat Count researchers collected HRA shelter records and administered an online questionnaire for District residents. Between August 2018 and November 2020, the DC Cat Count completed data collection and succeeded in creating the most intensive cat census on record.



When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Washington, D.C. in the final year of the project, the benefits of a resilient coalition of partners became apparent. DC Cat Count researchers and staff overcame the challenges imposed by the pandemic by adapting field work protocols to ensure staff safety and reorganizing tasks to complete data collection and analysis of each component on schedule. Finally, results from the four research components were combined into an integrated model to characterize the relationships and flows between owned, outdoor, and shelter population segments and identify optimal intervention points for management.

The DC Cat Count's work in Washington, D.C. culminates in Summer 2021

with the creation of a toolkit of resources and recommendations for counting cats based on our experience that is accessible for projects of any size and with any level of expertise. Our hope is that the success of the research conducted in Washington, D.C. and the validated tools and guidance that have been produced from our efforts will support constructive and collaborative cat counting activities in other communities as a foundation for data-driven cat population management policies.

To realize this ambition, we are actively planning the transition to an implementation phase in which the tools we have created will be used to guide and inform cat programs. We aim to establish collaborative implementation projects in multiple communities that will encompass diverse organizational partners, stakeholders, scales, geographies, levels of technical complexity, and specific objectives, while sharing a commitment to evidence-based management. By actively cultivating partnerships with early adopters, we can ensure good outcomes while mentoring a larger pool of industry experts. This, in turn, will help to promote and facilitate adoption of these approaches among a broader pool of potential users. Additionally, many of our tools and approaches have clear application to other systems of interest to animal welfare and could help the field to fully realize its long-standing aspirations and efforts towards evidence-based mission pursuit.

The DC Cat Count Coalition

Governance Committee

The governance committee is a team of individuals who brought to the project

Funding

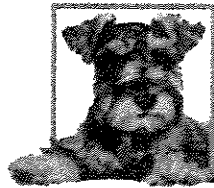
We are deeply grateful to the organizations and individuals who have supported this project.




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ASPCA

WE ARE THEIR VOICE



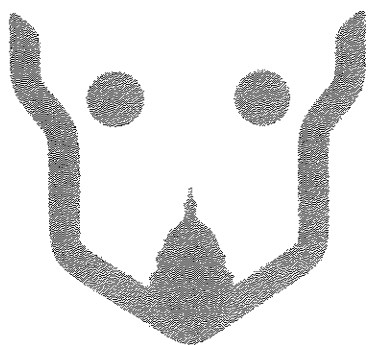
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EveryCAT
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