

Controlling the Feral Cat Population



by Suzanne Hladun

Many neighborhoods in our area have one or more feral cats living in them. Unfortunately, unchecked, those feral cats can increase their population quickly - one female cat can have as many as 100 kittens over seven years. They can create a nuisance by making excessive noise, spraying and fighting.

People in a neighborhood can help to control the feral cat population by participating in TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) programs. These programs are designed to help citizens trap, spay/neuter and release feral cats back to their home territories. During this process, the cat is examined and given rabies and other vaccines. In an area where feral cat colony populations are altered, there is less competition for food and shelter and feral populations tends to be healthier overall, providing rodent control in their territory.

If you live near a feral cat colony and would like to help control the population, The Frederick County Humane Society is launching a new program this year to help fund feral cat spay/neuter. Please contact the FCHS for more information at 301-694-8300.