



## Community Cats FAQ's

1. **What is the difference between a community cat and a pet cat?** Pet cats are animals who are socialized with humans. They traditionally have an owner and live indoors, outdoors, or a combination of the two. Community cats, or feral cats, are unsocialized cats and are free-roaming outdoor cats. They often live in a colony with other community cats and have one or more caretakers who feed them.

It is important to remember that many cats have homes and are indoor/outdoor cats. The shelter is not the best place for these animals – less than 1% of cats are ever reclaimed by their owner after entering a shelter system nationwide. If you see a cat, please speak to your neighbors. Chances are the cat lives nearby. The best way to help a cat you find outdoors is to get them spayed or neutered.

2. **How can I tell if a cat is a community cat or if it has been spayed/neutered?** Look for a missing tip on the cat's ear. The "ear tip" is a universal sign that a cat has been altered. Most commonly the left ear is tipped, but it may be either ear. "Ear tipping" is the humane removal of the tip of a cat's ear to indicate it has been spayed or neutered.
3. **How can I help a community cat?** The best thing you can do for a community cat is get him or her altered via a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program, such as HSENGA's community cat program. After the cat is fixed, you can continue feeding on a regular basis if you choose. We strongly recommend speaking to property owners before you begin feeding a community cat.
4. **Why can't HSNEGA take feral cats?** HSNEGA already cares for and tries to find homes for untold thousands of lost, injured and abandoned cats, in addition to pet cats whose owners are unable to keep them.

Community Cats are not homeless, their home is outdoors, and just like you they don't want to be taken from their home. Taking them to a shelter is extremely stressful and their quality of life drastically decreases. That is why TNR is the best option and is a win:win for all. The cats' health improves, and they become better neighbors. There are no more kittens, and mating behaviors like spraying, fighting, and yowling decrease or disappear entirely. Another great effect of TNR is that the size of colonies stabilizes quickly, and then lowers over time.



5. **How do I trap a cat?** Hall County Animal Services (HCAS) will be lending live/humane traps (available on a first come basis). You can contact Sherry at HCAS to reserve a trap in advance at 770-531-6832 or [SMililli@hallcounty.org](mailto:SMililli@hallcounty.org)

To find out more information on community cats please visit the following resources:

- [Alley Cat Allies](#)
- [Best Friends Animal Society Feral Cat Resources](#)
- [Humane Society of the United States Feral Cats](#)