



## Five Easy Tips On Living With Cats In Your Neighborhood

- 1** Talk to your neighbors. Determine whether the cat is a pet, stray, or feral, and if he has been neutered. If not, try to get it done.
- 2** Apply nontoxic deterrents around your yard.
- 3** Put a tight lid on your trash can.
- 4** Block gaps in the foundations of all sheds and outbuildings.
- 5** Use a car cover.

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**Alley Cat Allies**  
The cats' leading advocate

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# Discover the Truth about How To Live With Cats In Your Neighborhood

## What is a feral cat?

Feral cats are members of the domestic cat species, but are not socialized to humans and are therefore not adoptable. Cats have been living outdoors near humans for more than 10,000 years. They typically live in groups called colonies and have strong social bonds with their colony members.

## So, you're seeing cats in your yard...

Like all animals, feral cats make their home where they find shelter and food, often in close proximity to humans. Coupled with Trap-Neuter-Return and ongoing care, the quick tips on the back of this card can help you live with and appreciate your neighborhood cats!

Because feral cats are not socialized and not adoptable, they do not belong in animal pounds or shelters, where they will likely be killed.

Trap-Neuter-Return is the effective and humane approach to stabilizing feral cat populations.

Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian, where they are neutered and vaccinated. Kittens and socialized cats (cats who are friendly to humans) are placed into loving homes. Healthy, adult feral cats (cats who are fearful of human contact) are returned to their colony site, where they are often provided continuing care by volunteers.

Trap-Neuter-Return works. No more kittens. Their lives are improved, and the population stabilizes and declines over time. The behaviors and stresses associated with mating, such as yowling and fighting, stop.

Removing animals from an area creates a vacuum. Animal control's traditional approach to feral cats—catch and kill—won't keep an area free of cats for long. Catch and kill is cruel, inhumane, and creates a vacuum, as do attempts to "relocate" cats. Known as the vacuum effect, this is a documented phenomenon in a variety of animal species throughout the world. Once the cats are removed from a territory, other cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources and breed, forming a new colony. Catch and kill is an endless and costly cycle.