



We're helping feral cats!

Feral cat overpopulation is a big concern in Ireland. Many cats are left behind or dumped when their owners are no longer willing to look after them or need to move house. Others have strayed far from home and never found their way back. These cats are starving and scavenging in order to survive, and tend to have limited life spans. Their offspring will be feral, meaning they have not had interaction with humans and **are afraid of us**.

If they are not spayed or neutered, stray and feral cats multiply quickly. Cats can start breeding from only **four months of age**. One unsprayed female cat can have roughly **18 kittens in just one year**. Within five years, that female cat can be responsible for **20,000 descendants**.

Your neighbours have decided to help out the feral cats in our community by taking part in **Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR)**.

Over the next few days/weeks we are humanely trapping the cats, taking them to the vet and having them neutered and health-checked. Then we are releasing them back here. You will know a cat has been looked after because it will have one **ear tipped**.

TNR is the best way to help our community when it comes to stray and feral cats. It is the **most humane solution** to stabilise feral cat populations, and has also been shown to be the **least costly**. Over time, the number of cats in the colony will naturally decline as TNR **stops the breeding cycle**. Simply relocating or euthanizing the cats doesn't work, because this creates a "vacuum effect." Another population of feral cats will simply take over the area in a matter of time.

Certain behaviours associated with mating such as

fighting, spraying and yowling will drastically decrease when cats are neutered. This should mean you will experience **less noise, smell and out-of-control breeding** of the colony.

Additionally, TNR improves the health of feral cats. Spaying and neutering reduces the risk of different types of cancers, infection and other illnesses. They will also be vaccinated and wormed during their vet trip.

Once these cats go through the TNR process, feeding and looking after them is no problem.

We hope you will support us throughout this process!

We ask that you don't feed the colony for 2-3 days before those listed below, or disturb the humane traps we leave in the area. It may also be a good idea to keep your own cats inside so we don't accidentally catch them.

Thank you!

Our names:

Dates we are trapping:

Contact: