



Spay Neuter Hotline

A program of the Animal Defense League of Arizona

P.O. Box 33093, Phoenix, AZ 85067, (602) 265-SPAY (7729)

Tips for starting a TNR project in your community :

-Identify the people who feed and feeding stations in the neighborhood

- Some people may be nervous about others trapping cats they feed, please reassure them every step of the way. Offer to include them in the trapping process and to knock on their door when you release the cats so they can see the cats are OK and are being returned.
- Try to make sure all people who feed are on board and willing to withhold food for at least 1 day prior to trapping

-Identify the total number of cats at each station and/or in the neighborhood. Is it 1 large group of cats that eat at feeding stations all over the neighborhood or are there separate groups of cats that eat only at specific feeding stations?

Tips for Identifying Cats

Make a list of:

- cat color
- cat size (kitten, teenager, adult)
- fur length (short, medium, long)
- any other distinguishing feature such as a short tail, no tail etc.....

-Depending on the size of the area the cats are in, start with sections; finish one section and move on to the next until all are fixed.

-Get the cats on a feeding schedule – This will help you to get a good handle on the actual number of cats as well as make trapping much easier. You can pick a time in the afternoon/evening and leave food out for approximately 1-2 hours only then make sure all the food is picked up. When you set your traps you can set them at their usual feeding time and in their usual feeding place. This is also a good rule for managing the colony.

-Fix EVERY cat in the colony or group

-Coordinate your trapping efforts with all involved:

- **Fund raise in your neighborhood.** We ask for a \$25/cat donation to help offset some of our cost. Financial assistance is available for those unable to donate; however, there may be a wait for this assistance. If we are offered free surgeries we will schedule those on the financial assistance list. If you are feeding cats in a zip code where funds are available, no donation is requested.
- **Make sure everyone feeding cats in your neighborhood knows when to withhold food and for how long.** The hungrier cats are the better chance you will have of trapping them.
- **Have your plan for who will trap, who will transport and where the cats will be kept for the 24 hour aftercare period.** Keep in mind during after care their body temperature can drop or they can become overheated very easily because they still have anesthesia in their system. Transportation and aftercare must be facilitated accordingly. Have a backup plan for all these just in case
- **Call Spay Hotline to schedule appointments for the spay/neuter surgeries and reserve traps.** Allow at least one week for scheduling, possibly longer depending on availability of traps and clinic appointments.
- **If possible schedule at least two consecutive nights of trapping-** Especially with a large group of cats. This way any cats you didn't catch the first night you can try for on the second night while the recently trapped cats are recovering in their traps. This will eliminate re-trapping the same cats.

-FIX ALL THE CATS in the colony / neighborhood and be on the lookout for any new comers. If you see any new cats, fix them ASAP to avoid any new kittens being born.