

## **The Evidence Against Trap, Neuter, Release**

Overwhelmingly, the scientific literature indicates that Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) programs fail to reduce feral cat populations and negatively impact people and wildlife. The following studies outline many of the failings of TNR programs.

### **Trap/Neuter/Release methods ineffective in controlling domestic cat “colonies” on public lands – Castillo and Clarke (2003)**

Data “contradict[ed] the assertion that managed cat colonies decline in size over time” and “suggest[ed] that trap, neuter, and release programs are not an effective method to help control the population of unwanted feral and free-roaming cats.”

### **Professional, ethical, and legal dilemmas of trap-neuter-return – Barrows (2004)**

“Although well meaning, many advocates of TNR lack professional training in the biological, ecologic, and wildlife sciences. Consequently, they may misunderstand, minimize, or choose to ignore the documented concerns regarding the ecologic, domestic animal and public health, legal, humane, and social nuisance impacts of feral cats, including those in TNR programs.”

### **Use of matrix population models to estimate the efficacy of euthanasia versus trap-neuter-return for management of free-roaming cats – Andersen et al. (2004)**

Results indicated that a 50% humane euthanasia rate would yield a reduction in the feral cat population by 10% per year, but even a 75% spay/neuter rate would still yield an increasing feral cat population. A spay/neuter rate as high as 88% of the feral cat population would be needed to merely stabilize population growth.

### **The welfare of feral cats and wildlife – Jessup (2004)**

“Attempting to maintain cats in colonies only compounds the problem by causing massive killing and crippling of native wildlife, jeopardizing biodiversity, undermining traditional animal control, enabling irresponsible people to abandon cats, and sending mixed messages about the...commitment to serve the welfare of all species, including cats and wildlife.” Furthermore, “[TNR]’s failures are, in part, attributable to its being based on several false assumptions.”

### **Analysis of the impact of trap-neuter-return programs on populations of feral cats – Foley et al. (2005)**

Researchers evaluated two long-term TNR programs in California and Florida. Analyses “indicated that any population-level effects were minimal” and that “no plausible combination of life history variables [e.g., survival, fecundity] would likely allow for TNR to succeed in reducing population size.”