

## MEEKO & OLLIE'S STORY

Meeko was born outside and living among a colony of feral cats. Ollie was abandoned and left outside sick and starving, having to learn to fight to survive. One day, Meeko (only 4 months old) and Ollie (2 years old) met with a compassionate, kind person. This person was aware of TNR. Meeko and Ollie were trapped, neutered, vaccinated and given medical attention.

Afterwards they were brought to a loving foster home to recover. During recovery, they were provided with an opportunity to be socialized to the kindness of a human's voice and touch. In just a short time, their true personalities were revealed. They were not feral, just very scared. Meeko & Ollie were adopted and now are a very special member of their families.

Meeko & Ollie's story has a happy ending but that is not the case for so many feral and homeless cats. They know there are many other cats just like them that did not ask to be born or abandoned outside.

## WHAT IS A FERAL CAT?

Feral cats are domestic cats that live outside but are not socialized to humans and therefore, not adoptable. They are in our communities due to the irresponsible and cruel acts of humans. Feral cats are not like wildlife that fend for themselves for food and shelter. All cats, feral or otherwise, are domesticated animals, dependent on humans for food and shelter.

## Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is an EFFECTIVE and humane approach to addressing our feral cat communities. Feral cats are safely trapped and taken to a vet or clinic where they are neutered, vaccinated and ear-tipped (the universal symbol of a neutered and vaccinated cat). Kittens and socialized cats (cats that are friendly to humans) are placed into a foster and then put up for adoption. Healthy, adult feral cats (cats that are fearful of humans) are returned to the same site (colony) where they were originally trapped and where volunteers will continue to provide food, water and shelter.

Feral kittens can be socialized to humans only if they are caught at an early age (2- 3 months old). If feral kittens are not handled or come in contact with humans, they will remain feral and therefore, unadoptable.



## BENEFITS OF TNR

- No more feral kittens will be born which stabilizes the feral cat population. The population will decline over time through attrition. Feral cats spayed and/or neutered are happier, healthier and less likely to wander, fight or spray.
- It is important to note that TNR DOES NOT BRING THE CATS TO OUR COMMUNITIES. The cats are already there. TNR assists in stabilizing the colonies.
- TNR decreases intake and killings of cats in shelters, which is cost effective.
- An added benefit and fact is that feral cat colonies assist with rodent control.
- TNR has been proven to work!

## WHY TAKING A FERAL CAT TO A POUND OR SHELTER DOES NOT WORK

Feral cats and even kittens that are taken to animal shelters or pounds are killed because of

- overpopulation in the shelters
- because they are fearful of humans, therefore rendered unsafe and unadoptable. When feral cats are brought to a shelter, they act aggressive when all they really are is scared of humans. Even a "no kill shelter" cannot place feral cats in homes and so they are eventually killed.

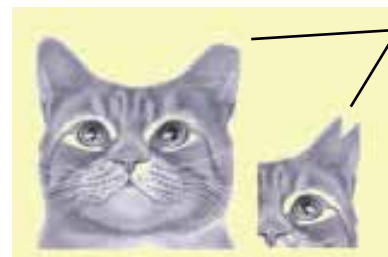
The catch and kill of feral cats is inhumane and cruel as is the attempt to "relocate" a colony. Cats are territorial and relocation is stressful and traumatic which can be fatal to the cats. Also it is widely documented that when feral cats are removed from their colony, chances are the feral cats in the new colony are not spayed or neutered so new kittens will be born and the colony will continue to grow. This is known as the "vacuum effect".

## WHAT HAPPENS TO FERAL CATS

Unfortunately, current laws do not support the humane, compassionate treatment of feral cats. Current practices to address feral cat colonies include: 1) doing nothing, 2) trapping and removing the cats to another location where the cycle continues, 3) bringing the cats to shelters where they are killed, and 4) feeding bans, forbid feeding the feral cats, rendering them to a slow death by starvation. These practices promote animal cruelty and are ineffective.

Although a few lucky ones may find a compassionate person that is willing to help, the majority will remain on properties to eventually give multiple births to litters of their own, while others will be brought to shelters to be killed. These are the horrific and sad facts. In the meantime, none of these methods are effective and have not been able to address the problem of overpopulation.

Meeko & Ollie's mission is to bring awareness to the plight of all feral cats. They would like society to take responsibility and enact humane strategies to address our feral cats. The problem of feral cat overpopulation can be alleviated if the public is educated and resources are provided to allow and support spay and neuter. Laws need to be enacted that support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and allow these cats to be returned and live in the area where they have resided. Meeko & Ollie are committed to the enactment of humane initiatives for feral cats and ultimately their goal of a "No Kill Nation!"



**NOTCHED EARS MEAN THE CAT HAS BEEN FIXED**

These cats have been "ear-tipped" or "notched". This is a surgical alteration showing that a free-living cat has been spayed/neutered. It's part of "TNR", which means Trap, Neuter, Repair.

These cats should never be re-trapped or brought to a shelter, unless sick. Instead, they should be left in their neighborhood to provide cat population control. Studies have shown by just being there, they prevent other cats from moving into the area. Since they have been fixed, they will never have litters of kittens.

**MEEKO & OLLIE'S MISSION**  
is to be a voice for the countless  
feral cat communities.



**Meeko & Ollie's Mission want to:**

- Improve the lives of feral and homeless cats by humanely stopping their breeding through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).
- Protect the welfare of cats and to promote the humane treatment and well being of these animals.
- Educate the public about the plight of stray and feral cats and the need to spay and neuter their pets.
- Bring awareness to communities that ALL LIFE should be respected.
- Spread a message of love and hope.
- End the countless and senseless deaths of feral cats. They have a right to be cared for and live in our communities.

*Meeko & Ollie's vision is to have a community where no kittens are born wild outside, where no cat capable of living in a home is lacking one and where no adult feral cats go wanting for food, water, shelter and care.*

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**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Become Aware and Educated in TNR and humane initiatives for our feral friends
- Raise money to assist in spay/neuter costs, food and any medical needs.
- Foster cats and kittens
- Adopt! Adopt! Adopt!
- Promote community awareness and advocate for governmental agencies to enact laws that promote the responsible care and treatment of all animals
- Get involved, become a volunteer, be a voice for change, after all killing should never be a solution to any problem we encounter!



*“Some people talk to animals.  
Not many listen though.  
That's the problem.”*

**A.A. MILNE, WINNIE-THE-POOH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
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