

## What is the Hamilton Community Cat Network (HCCN)?

The HCCN is a collaborative of stakeholders committed to healthy, safe and wanted cats.

### Participants include:



The Cat Clinic



Copetown Animal Hospital



Hamilton

Hamilton Animal Services  
Hamilton Public Health



Community Volunteers



Hamilton/Burlington SPCA



Hamilton Street Cats

City of Hamilton By-Laws:

By-law permitting feeding of community cats only if a colony caregiver is registered through HBSPCA:

BY-LAW NO. 12-130

By-law for Responsible Pet Ownership (which prohibits free-roaming cats): BY-LAW NO. 12-031

## What are the benefits of TNVR – fixing community cats?

- A gradual decrease in the numbers of community cats.
- Improved health of community cats.
- Reduced nuisance behaviours such as fighting, yowling and spraying.
- Reduce risk of rabies spread.
- Reduced risks for birds' and other small mammal lives.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Just removing cats from the streets does not work. Other cats will move in. Fixed cats protect their "territory".



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905-574-7722 ext. 303



[www.hbspca.com/services](http://www.hbspca.com/services)



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Improving the lives of our community cats for a healthier Hamilton

# WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CATS?



- Community cats are unowned cats living in Hamilton neighbourhoods and other cities.
- Community cats include:
  - **STRAY CATS:** lost and abandoned pets who may be suitable for a home.
  - **FERAL CATS:** cats with little or no contact with people, are fearful and generally unsuitable for a home.

## Why are there so many community cats?

- Lots of cats aren't fixed (spayed or neutered).
- This results in more cats than there are homes for them.
- These cats often end up on the street.
- One female cat, as young as 5 months old, can have an average 3 litters of kittens a year (that might be up to 15 kittens!), and the cycle carries on.



## WHAT'S THE SOLUTION? REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNOWNED CATS.

### Take care of your cat

- Spay/neuter and vaccinate your cat.
- Microchip your cat. (Don't forget! Keep your microchip information updated.)
- Keep your cat safe inside. Remember, owned cats are not allowed to roam unsupervised outside. (City By-law # 12-031).
- If you are having difficulty caring for your cat, reach out for help to your local SPCA.

### Fix community cats

#### Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (TNVR) Program: What is it?

Community cats are humanely trapped by volunteers and taken to a veterinarian. The cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and the left ear tipped. Left ear tipping is the universal sign that a community cat has been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. After a short recovery, the cats are returned to their original territory. Community cats should not be brought to Hamilton Animal Services unless they are sick or injured.



The TNVR program in Hamilton is coordinated by the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA.



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### I want to help community cats. How can I get involved?

- Volunteer caregivers sign up to care for groups of cats living in colonies.
- Colony caregivers are registered with the HBSPCA.
- They commit to getting the cats fixed and vaccinated through the TNVR program.
- They follow best practices for feeding, sheltering and monitoring.
- Not a colony caregiver? Become a volunteer and help trap, transport, recover, educate and more!

### Is there help for volunteer cat colony caregivers? Yes!

- Training in community cat care and trapping
- Health and safety guidelines caring for and trapping cats
- Donated food and outdoor shelters
- A network of caregivers and supporters
- Scheduled low cost spay neuter