



# CONTROL BY DESEXING NOT KILLING

## ANIMAL ACTIVE'S "TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN" PROGRAM FOR POPULATION CONTROL OF FREE LIVING CATS

**What is "trap/neuter & return"?** Sometimes called "de-sex and return" TN&R refers to an effective, humane and long-term solution for managing populations of unowned cat colonies living freely in lanes, derelict buildings, car parks and other non-domestic habitats in our cities.

**What's wrong with trapping and humanely killing free-living cats?** The usual practice of trapping and killing stray cats is both cruel and ineffective. It creates "habitat vacuums" that are quickly filled by other stray cats; more importantly, it is virtually impossible to catch all members of a free living colony and those that become trap-aware and escape are the smartest and strongest individuals who survive to breed up in a short space of time. It is a cat management method that results in unacceptable cruelty as mother cats are frequently caught and removed, leaving dependent kittens to starve. Trapped cats are regularly left terrified for hours without food, water or shelter before they are picked up to be killed. This method exemplifies our society's "disposable" approach to companion animals, the reason why stray cats abound in the first place. To turn away from their needs, as authorities collect and dispose of them in the same manner as with household rubbish, promotes an unfeeling and apathetic society.

**How does TN&R work?** TN&R breaks the trapping and killing cycle, overcoming the above problems and bringing the community on board to deal with what is essentially a community issue in a "hands on" and humane way. The outcome is healthy, supported, de-sexed cat colonies. By preventing population increase through breeding there is a gradual decrease of cat numbers over time.

**Animal Active** has piloted several successful TN&R programs on college campuses and in the laneways of inner-city Melbourne. One of the main strengths of TN&R is that it dispels negative attitudes against free-living cats, often resulting from frustration and ignorance, by involving the local community as an integral part of a responsible and humane solution.

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**What can you do?** We welcome you to find out more by following the links to fact sheets and further information provided on our website: <http://www.animalactive.org> and posts about recent TN&R projects on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/animalactive](http://www.facebook.com/animalactive)

If you wish to join our free-living cat TN&R team please complete and send the expression of interest form on our **Contact** page: <https://www.animalactive.org/contact>

