

PRESENTED BY
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

A Group Effort

Improving the lives of feral cats and reducing their numbers require a communitywide effort. It takes people working together—feral cat organizations, veterinarians, animal shelters and rescue groups, municipal officials, public health officials, wildlife advocates, and feral cat caretakers—to achieve results.

Program

Day One—Friday, March 9, 2007

For feral cat organizations, veterinarians, animal shelters and rescue groups, municipal officials, public health department officials, and wildlife advocates

■ **9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon**

TNR from a Policy Perspective

The morning session will explore in-depth issues pertaining to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), including a definition of TNR and its potential benefits, alternatives to TNR and why they often fail, examples of successful TNR programs, wildlife issues, and public health issues.

■ **12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch** (provided)

■ **1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.**

Building a Communitywide TNR Program

The practice of TNR on a large, communitywide scale is a new and growing movement that requires careful planning and organization. The afternoon session, which includes a 15-minute break, will cover the necessary methods for success, including collaborating with other animal groups and agencies, working with the municipality and local laws, administering the program, forming a strategic plan and correctly allocating resources, obtaining equipment, holding training workshops, tracking results, and much more.

4:15 p.m.–5:15 p.m.

Community Collaboration Meeting

This initial meeting among representatives of local organizations will facilitate the launching of a community TNR program.

Day Two—Saturday, March 10, 2007

For feral cat caretakers and activists

■ **9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon**

Caretaker Training Workshop

This session will address the steps for setting up a managed feral cat colony, including establishing good community relations, feeding, providing winter shelter, arranging vet care, finding recovery space, safely handling feral cats, and trapping (with an emphasis on conducting a mass trapping of an entire feral colony).

■ **12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch** (provided)

■ **1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

Organizing a Grassroots TNR Movement

By following basic principles of grassroots community activism, you can start a TNR movement in your area with few resources or volunteers. You, too, can implement the strategy that helped Neighborhood Cats grow, in fewer than five years, from a few neighbors working on one colony to a citywide program.

■ **2:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m.**

Persuading Municipal Officials to Go with TNR

Because TNR impacts so many areas of municipal concern, such as public health, animal control, and wildlife issues, it is critical for feral cat activists to gain the support of local government. Learn how to effectively present your case, including what *not* to say.



Instructor

Bryan Kortis serves as executive director of Neighborhood Cats, a New York City-based nonprofit specializing in the management of feral cats using TNR. In addition to administering a citywide TNR program, Neighborhood Cats produces educational materials and conferences, assists in setting up communitywide TNR programs around the country, and is a leading voice for the humane care of feral cats. A consultant to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) on feral cat issues, Bryan is the primary author of the award-winning *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook: A Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return for the Feral Cat Caretaker*, is the codirector of the instructional video *How to Perform a Mass Trapping*, and is a featured speaker at feral cat events around the country.