



Policy Title <b>Cat Population Control</b>	Date: <b>February 27, 2019</b>	Resolution No. <b>1054/19</b>
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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Summer Village Administration believes that the most humane, effective, and financially sustainable strategy for controlling feral (free-roaming) cat populations is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), whereby ferals are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated and returned to their colony of origin. TNR programs have the ability to stabilize the population of a feral cat colony and, over time, reduce it. At the same time, the objectionable spraying, vocalizing and fighting behaviors of cats in the colony are largely eliminated. This is a good alternative to simply trapping and removing the animals, which creates a “black hole” effect, drawing more animals into the area due to the available resources.

**PURPOSE:**

This policy includes procedures and guidelines to coordinate the humane trapping, spaying or neutering and rehoming of stray and feral cats within the Summer Village of Half Moon Bay (restricted to private property by owner request or with owner permission) to improve the health and welfare of the stray and feral cat population through a contractor-based initiative; thereby proactively addressing feral cat complaints and reducing health risk to the public. TNR cats have the right to live out their lives in the Summer Village of Half Moon Bay

In order to stabilize and eventually reduce the feral cat population through attrition, the Summer Village Administration supports the management of feral cat colonies through TNR, and public education regarding the humane management of feral cats. Ideally, the management of feral cat colonies should include trapping, scanning for the presence of a microchip/tattoo, vaccination with a modified live vaccine, sterilization, and ear “notching” side of left ear as a visible sign that the cat has been sterilized. Every effort will be made to place well-socialized free-roaming cats and kittens in new homes when feasible. On average, a female cat can have 4-6 kittens per litter, and up to 3 litters per year, up to 18 kittens per year, factoring in the average lifespan of 10 years, that’s around 180 kittens from just 1 female cat. If half of her kittens are female, that’s an additional 162 cats in 1 more year. Only 1 kitten in a litter of 5 will live its life loved and cared for. TNR programs help reduce the number of “unwanted” cats and kittens.

**DEFINITIONS:**

For the purposes of this policy:

**“Animal Control Officer”** means an employee or independent contractor appointed by the Village to enforce the provision of this Policy

**“Caregiver”** means a Village resident who has volunteered to assume the responsibility to ensure the Colony has access to food, water, and shelter as per the requirements of Section 2.1 of the Alberta Animal Protection Act

**“Feral Cat”** means an undomesticated male or female cat of any age that, in general, receives little human contact or care and lives outdoors or unconfined at all times.

**“Trap Neuter Return”** or **“TNR”** means the community-based Trap-Neuter-Return initiative operating in the Summer Village of Half Moon Bay

**“Rehome”** means to permanently adopt a cat to a new home and owner to be a house pet, support animal, mouse control/ barn cat or similarly cared for.

**“Stray Cat”** means a domestic male or female cat of any age, lost or abandoned by their owner, which lives outdoors or unconfined at all times.

**“Summer Village”** means the Summer Village of Half Moon Bay.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. The Summer Village shall arrange for a Pound to be established for the keeping and impounding of cats for the purpose of TNR and may do so by entering into an agreement with a Contractor. A Contractor or any such Pound may make rules and regulations for the operation and management of the Pound, provided they are not inconsistent with this Policy.
2. The Summer Village gives authority for the Animal Control Officer(s) to:
  - a) Safely trap and remove Stray and Feral Cats in the Summer Village; or to spay or neuter Stray and Feral Cats; and
  - b) to Rehome Stray Cats; and
  - c) Release spayed feral cats back into Half Moon Bay, provided they were originally trapped there.
3. The Summer Village appoints a volunteer colony caretaker to ensure the welfare of the cat colony, feeding and watering as necessary.
4. Once the animals are safely returned to Half Moon Bay, the Summer Village no longer assumes any responsibility of the welfare of the animals.