

Q: Besides neutering and ear-tipping, what other medical care is recommended?

A. All cats should receive the following:

Rabies vaccination (3 year)

FVRCP vaccination

Ivermectin 1% solution (0.1 ml/cat SQ treats ear mites, round and hook worms)

Procaine Penicillin G (single injection SQ or IM)

Cats that are pregnant or dehydrated should receive 150 ml SQ fluids.

Q: What about small kittens?

A: Because the mortality rate of feral kittens is 75% on average, kittens should be tamed and kept as pets or humanely euthanized. Kittens older than 3 months of age are difficult to tame. Information on taming feral kittens is available at www.feralcat.com

Q: What about sick or injured cats?

A: Unless treatment can be entirely performed at the time of neutering (ex: cleaning a wound), humane euthanasia should be performed. In most circumstances, treatment cannot be safely, reliably, and humanely administered to a feral cat.

Q: How do you recommend euthanizing a feral cat?

A: Place the trap on an exam table in a quiet room. The cat will crouch in the bottom. Gently slide the trap off one side of the table, taking care to keep it level and steady. Slide the trap far enough off so that the floor of the trap supporting the cat's ventral abdomen is no longer on the table. Using a 20 or 21 gauge, 1.5 inch needle, inject 5 ml of euthanasia solution intraperitoneally in the mid-abdomen. Avoid injecting into the most cranial aspect of the ventral abdomen since injection into the liver is painful. Replace the trap gently on the table and cover it with a towel to allow the cat to hide. Death is peaceful and rapid. (Note: 5 X the intravenous dose of euthanasia solution is used for intraperitoneal injection.) If the cat does not crouch quietly, sedation may be required prior to euthanasia and may be accomplished using the method of injection described previously.

Q: What about pregnant queens?

A: There will be a lot of these, especially from March - August. Spay them

and administer 150 ml SQ fluids before returning them to their traps. Be sure to keep them warm while they are recovering. If the kittens are near term, euthanasia solution should be injected into the uterus after it has been removed.

Q: What about lactating queens?

A: If a lactating female is trapped, the caretaker should check the area for kittens. If kittens are located, their capture may be facilitated by placing the trapped mother cat next to a baited trap. Some very young kittens can be caught without a trap, but are still too wild to be easily handled. It may be possible to capture them using a thick towel to pick them up, protecting the handler from scratching and biting. Similarly, if small kittens are captured in an area, their mother will be attracted by their sound if they are placed in a carrier near the trap. If lactating queens are captured and kittens can not be located, every effort should be made to release the mother cat within 24 hours so she can care for and nurse her kittens. Bear in mind that communal nursing is common and that other queens may be providing kitten care.

Q: What about relocating feral cats to a new site?

A: Relocation of feral cat colonies is frequently unsuccessful and is not advised since cats possess strong homing instincts and will try to return to their original home base or colony site. If relocation is necessary, cats must be confined for several weeks at their new home location prior to release.

Q: Should I be concerned about liability?

A: You should always be concerned about liability! Caretakers should sign release forms prior to initiating a TNR program for their colony. For a sample release form, visit www.operationcatnat.org.

A comprehensive instructional video produced by Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine entitled "Working With Feral Cats" is available by calling Alley Cat Allies at 240-482-1980 or visiting www.alleycat.org.



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