

About Hill Country Cats

Hill Country Cats is a charitable nonprofit organization whose mission is to manage and reduce the feral cat population in Burnet and Llano counties through low-cost Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) and related services. Our volunteers provide consultation and resources for caring for individuals who feed, sterilize, and care for feral cats in our community.



Our long-term goals are to significantly reduce the feral cat population over time and to stop ineffective animal control practices like trap-and-kill. We actively promote TNR as the preferred, proven, and accepted method of feral cat population control.



Hill Country Cats was founded in 2006 in response to an overwhelming feral cat problem in Burnet and Llano counties. Since its founding, HCC has provided TNR for almost 7,000 cats! The grassroots, volunteer-based organization consists of a board of directors, TNR team leaders, trappers, transporters, and many caregivers and colony managers.



What is Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)?

TNR is a comprehensive plan for managing individual feral cats or entire colonies.

Cats are humanely trapped, evaluated, vaccinated for rabies, and sterilized by veterinarians. Under anesthesia their left ear is also painlessly tipped to indicate they are sterilized. Most adult cats are then returned to their familiar habitat to live out their lives under the care of neighborhood volunteers. Kittens (and a few suitable adults) may be fostered, tamed and placed for adoption.

TNR is a humane, effective, nonlethal method of cat population control that works by stopping the reproductive cycle.

It is statistically proven to be more effective than euthanasia in controlling feral cat populations. For every euthanized cat, many more continue to reproduce unless managed by TNR.

TNR is a cost-effective program that reduces animal control costs to taxpayers.

Euthanasia requires far more taxpayer dollars for trapping, intake, housing, handling, killing, and disposal. TNR programs like Hill Country Cats are privately funded and operated by volunteers, at no taxpayer expense.

TNR has beneficial side effects for neighborhoods and communities.

Nuisance behaviors associated with cat breeding, such as yowling and spraying, are virtually eliminated. Disease and malnutrition are greatly reduced. The cats live healthy, safe, and peaceful lives in their territories, where they act as natural vermin control.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs about feral cats

Q: Is there a difference between stray and feral cat?

A: Yes, A stray cat is a domesticated pet that has been abandoned or has strayed from home and become lost. Because stray cats once knew human companionship, they can usually be re-socialized for adoption. A feral cat (also known as “free-roaming” or “community” cat) is born and raised outside with little or no human contact or is a stray that has lived outside long enough to revert to a wild state. Adult feral cats usually cannot be tamed and are most content living outside. Feral kittens up to eight or ten weeks of age, on the other hand, can often be tamed and placed in homes.

Q: How can I tell if a cat is stray or feral?

A: A stray cat is likely to approach you, although usually not close enough for you to touch him. If you put food down, a stray cat will likely start to eat it right away. A stray cat is often vocal, sometimes insistently, and may look disheveled, as if unused to dealing with outdoor conditions. A stray cat may be seen at all hours of the day.

A feral cat is silent, will not approach humans, and generally will be seen only from dusk to dawn, unless extraordinarily hungry and seeking food. A feral cat has adapted to outdoor conditions and is likely to appear well groomed. If you put food down for a feral cat, he will wait till you move away from the area before approaching the food.

Q: Are feral cats more likely to be sick and spread diseases?

A: No. Scientific studies show that feral cats, especially those managed through TNR, generally have the same good health, fitness, and low occurrence of diseases as pet cats.

Q: Are feral cats more likely to have rabies?

A: No. Cats in general are much less susceptible to rabies than other animals. No human has contracted rabies from feral or domesticated cats in four decades.

Q: Whom should I contact if I need help with feral cats in my area?

A: In Llano or Burnet counties, contact Hill Country Cats. For other areas, see the resources menu on our website or call us for referrals.



P.O. Box 8418

Horseshoe Bay, Texas 78657-8418

(830)598-9883

Visit Hillcountrycats.org for more info

Our Services

Locate feral cats in Burnet & Llano counties that need Trap/Neuter/Return(TNR).

We accept requests and referrals from the public, businesses, organizations, and animal control agencies. Our volunteers also proactively identify and Trap/Neuter/Return cats in their area.

Provide special traps for humane capture.

We can loan a trap, or tell you where to buy one, and train you on how to use it safely and effectively.

Arrange reduced-cost spay/neuter services.

Once a cat is trapped, we arrange inexpensive spay or neuter surgery and rabies vaccination through a participating veterinarian or clinic. We also can help with surgical aftercare.

Education & Outreach. We train caregivers and the public about TNR and ongoing care of feral cats. We also do community education on TNR through newspapers, radio, website, local events, and public speaking.



**Call 830-598-9883
or visit
hillcountrycats.org
for more information**

How Can I Help?

Donate Volunteer

We Need Your Support

Yes, I want to help HCC sterilize and protect feral and community cats!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donate

Hill Country Cats is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. Your gift is tax deductible.

My gift is ___\$25___\$50___\$75___\$100___Other

My Employer _____
has a matching gift program.

Volunteer

Volunteer jobs include trap, transport, and care for community cats in their immediate area; help with public education and outreach; and assist with administrative tasks.

___I want to volunteer! Best time to call me to discuss opportunities _____

Mail To: **Hill Country Cats**
P.O. Box 8418
Horseshoe Bay, Texas
78657-8418

Your donation of money or time will help save lives!



Hill Country Cats

Trap/Neuter/Return for Feral Cats in Burnet & Llano Counties
830-598-9883 HillCountryCats.org