

**Florida Animal Shelter Survey:
Management of Unowned
Free-Roaming Cats**

Thank you for completing this brief survey about your shelter's response to unowned free-roaming cats in your shelter service area. Your responses will be combined with data from other shelters for our report for a statewide snapshot and won't be shared individually. This survey pertains to your **shelter's unowned free-roaming cat (community cat) management protocols** in 2019. This will enable us to correlate responses with 2019 statewide shelter data. When answering the questions, please respond with the most common protocols that were routinely followed, not exceptions or unusual circumstances

Definitions

- **"Community cat"** means any unowned free-roaming cat living outdoors. It might be a single cat or associated with a colony of cats. It might also be fed by someone who does not self-identify as the cat's owner. Community cats can span the behavior spectrum from socialized and friendly to people to unsocialized, feral, and fearful of people. Community cats are sometimes referred to as "stray cats" or "feral cats."
- **"Trap-neuter-return"** (TNR) means capturing a community cat specifically for the purpose of spay/neuter followed by return to the neighborhood it came from.
- **"Return-to-field"** means that a cat was originally admitted to the shelter and then, after assessment, was designated for spay/neuter and return to the neighborhood it came from. RTF is sometimes known as "Shelter-Neuter-Return" (SNR) or "Feral Freedom."
- **TNR** and **RTF** are very similar in that community cats have spay/neuter followed by return to their neighborhood. The only difference is the original intention by the person who wanted the cat captured – whether it was for the purpose of sterilization and return to the neighborhood (TNR) or the purpose of admitting to the shelter (RTF).

We are aiming for a complete statewide survey of Florida shelters, so would be grateful if you can submit it by **Thursday July 9, 2020**. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for taking time to contribute to this study. We know how busy you are with shelter operations during normal times and that the COVID pandemic has made everything even more demanding.

Student name redacted
Veterinary Student
Student email address redacted

Dr. Julie Levy
Professor of Shelter Medicine
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Five ways to submit:

- Online survey: <https://bit.ly/TNR-RTF>
- Email: Student email address redacted
- Fax: (352) 392-6125
- Phone interview: Student phone number redacted
- Mail: Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, College of Veterinary Medicine,
2015 SW 16th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32608

Start Survey

1. Shelter Name:
2. Primary County:
3. Organization Type (**choose 1**):
 - ☐ Municipal shelter
 - ☐ Private shelter
 - ☐ Private shelter with municipal contract

Cat Trapping

Please respond with the most common protocols that were routinely followed in 2019, not exceptions or unusual circumstances.

4. In regards to **removal of unwanted cats**, check **YES** or **NO** for each item as it was performed in 2019 (**check one box in each row**)

	Yes	No
Animal control/shelter staff provided traps for the public's use for removal of unwanted cats	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff trapped unwanted cats for removal	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff picked up unwanted cats trapped by the public for removal	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff accepted unwanted cats trapped and brought to the shelter by the public for removal	☐	☐

5. In regards to **Trap-Neuter-Return of cats**, check **YES** or **NO** for each item as it was performed in 2019 (**check one box in each row**)

	Yes	No
Animal control/shelter staff provided traps for the public's use for TNR of cats	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff trapped cats for TNR	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff picked up cats trapped by the public for TNR	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff accepted cats trapped and brought to the shelter by the public for TNR	☐	☐

Trap-Neuter-Return

6. Did your shelter routinely participate in **Trap-Neuter-Return** in any way in 2019? TNR is defined as capturing cats for the purpose of spay/neuter and return to the neighborhood. **(choose 1)**:

- ☐ **Yes – PLEASE CONTINUE** to complete the following questions
- ☐ **No – PLEASE SKIP** to the next section **Return-to-Field**

7. If your shelter participated in **TNR**, check all the ways the shelter routinely took part in 2019. Check **YES** or **NO** for each item. **(check one box in each row)**

	Yes	No
Animal control/shelter staff loaned out traps to the public for TNR	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff performed at least some trapping for TNR	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter staff accepted cats trapped by the public for TNR	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter veterinary team performed TNR surgery	☐	☐
Another organization performed TNR surgery for our shelter	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter provided financial support for another organization to perform TNR for our shelter	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter transferred cats to another organization for TNR	☐	☐

8. If your shelter routinely participated in **TNR**, who transported cats from their neighborhoods to the shelter/TNR clinic for surgery in 2019? **(check all that apply)**

- ☐ Animal control/shelter staff transported cats from their neighborhoods for TNR
- ☐ Another organization transported cats from their neighborhoods for TNR
- ☐ The public or volunteers transported cats from their neighborhoods for TNR

9. If your shelter routinely participated in **TNR**, who returned the cats back to their neighborhoods after surgery in 2019? **(check all that apply)**

- ☐ Animal control/shelter staff returned TNR cats back to their neighborhoods
- ☐ Another organization returned TNR cats back to their neighborhoods
- ☐ The public or volunteers returned TNR cats back to their neighborhoods

10. If your shelter participated in **TNR**, what medical services were routinely provided to TNR cats in addition to spay/neuter in 2019? **(check at least one box in each row)**

	No Cats	Some Cats	All Cats
FVRCP vaccination	☐	☐	☐
Rabies vaccination	☐	☐	☐
Ear-tipping	☐	☐	☐
Sterilization tattoo	☐	☐	☐
FeLV testing	☐	☐	☐
FIV testing	☐	☐	☐
Internal parasite treatment	☐	☐	☐
External parasite treatment	☐	☐	☐
Treatment of injuries/illnesses	☐	☐	☐
Humane euthanasia for debilitating conditions	☐	☐	☐
No additional medical services were routinely provided	☐	☐	☐

11. If your shelter participated in **TNR**, were any alternative placement options used in addition to returning trapped cats to the original neighborhood in 2019? **(check all that apply)**

- ☐ Yes, some cats were adopted
- ☐ Yes, some cats were transferred to another organization
- ☐ Yes, some cats were relocated to a new site
- ☐ No, all cats were returned to their neighborhoods

12. If your shelter participated in **TNR**, what was the minimum age/weight routinely used in 2019?

- ☐ There was no minimum age
- ☐ The minimum age was 6 weeks or 1.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 7 weeks or 1.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 8 weeks or 2 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 9 weeks or 2.25 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 10 weeks or 2.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 11 weeks or 2.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 12 weeks or 3 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 13 weeks or 3.25 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 14 weeks or 3.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 15 weeks or 3.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 16 weeks or 4 pounds
- ☐ Other:

13. If you selected "OTHER," please explain.

Return-to-Field

14. Did your shelter routinely participate in **Return-to-Field** in any way in 2019? TNR is defined as capturing cats for the purpose of spay/neuter and return to the neighborhood. **(choose 1):**

- ☐ **Yes – PLEASE CONTINUE** to complete the following questions
- ☐ **No – PLEASE SKIP** to the next section **Wrapping Up**

15. If your shelter participated in **RTF**, check all the ways the shelter routinely took part in 2019. Check **YES** or **NO** for each item. **(check one box in each row)**

	Yes	No
Animal control/shelter veterinary team performed RTF surgery	☐	☐
Another organization performed RTF surgery for our shelter	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter provided financial support for another organization to perform RTF for our shelter	☐	☐
Animal control/shelter transferred cats to another organization for RTF	☐	☐

16. If your shelter routinely participated in **RTF**, who returned the cats back to their neighborhoods after surgery in 2019? **(check all that apply)**

- ☐ Animal control/shelter staff returned RTF cats back to their neighborhoods
- ☐ Another organization returned RTF cats back to their neighborhoods
- ☐ The public or volunteers returned RTF cats back to their neighborhoods

17. If your shelter participated in **RTF**, what medical services were routinely provided to TNR cats in addition to spay/neuter in 2019? **(check at least one box in each row)**

	No Cats	Some Cats	All Cats
FVRCP vaccination	☐	☐	☐
Rabies vaccination	☐	☐	☐
Ear-tipping	☐	☐	☐
Sterilization tattoo	☐	☐	☐
FelV testing	☐	☐	☐
FIV testing	☐	☐	☐
Internal parasite treatment	☐	☐	☐
External parasite treatment	☐	☐	☐
Treatment of injuries/illnesses	☐	☐	☐
Humane euthanasia for debilitating conditions	☐	☐	☐
No additional medical services were routinely provided	☐	☐	☐

18. If your shelter participated in **RTF**, what was the minimum age/weight routinely used in 2019?

- ☐ There was no minimum age
- ☐ The minimum age was 6 weeks or 1.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 7 weeks or 1.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 8 weeks or 2 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 9 weeks or 2.25 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 10 weeks or 2.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 11 weeks or 2.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 12 weeks or 3 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 13 weeks or 3.25 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 14 weeks or 3.5 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 15 weeks or 3.75 pounds
- ☐ The minimum age was 16 weeks or 4 pounds
- ☐ Other:

19. If you selected "OTHER," please explain.

Wrapping Up

20. Is there anything else you would like to add?

21. Are you aware of other groups in your county that participate in TNR/RTF? If so, please list them and how they participate (trapping, transporting, funding, surgery, etc). Include the name and contact information for those other groups, if available, so we can include them in this survey.

22. Submitter name:

23. Email:

24. Phone:

25. Position: