

Did you know that Orange County residents are often eligible for **FREE spay/neuter services** for their pets? Do you have free-roaming cats living on your property that need to be spayed or neutered? Call us today for more information on our **Community Spay/Neuter Programs!** 919-942-PETS (7387)

HAVE YOU LOST OR FOUND A PET?

Please visit our Lost & Found page to file an official report:

www.orangecountync.gov/295/Lost-Found

You can also call us at 919-942-7387 for help filing a lost or found report.

*Thanks to
The Humane Society
of the United States
and Best Friends Animal Society
for providing information
in this brochure.*

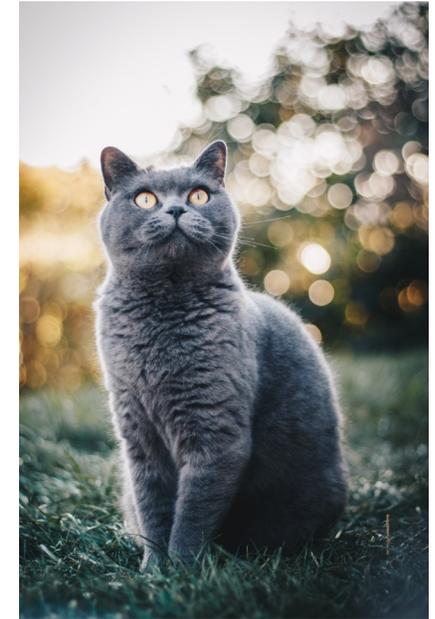
This brochure is part of a more progressive and humane approach to free-roaming cats in our own and other communities.

Traditionally, trapping and bringing free-roaming cats to shelters has been a popular choice for population control. However, many of these cats are typically euthanized in shelters and this method is often not effective. Removing the cats from an area can be an invitation for more cats to enter that territory. So, people are frequently caught in a vicious cycle where free-roaming cat populations are not controlled.



919-942-PETS (7387)
www.orangecountync.gov/animalservices

Free-Roaming Cats In Orange County, NC



What are “Free-Roaming Cats?”

Free-roaming cats exist in communities around the world. Some cats are allowed outdoors periodically but also spend time indoors with their families. Others are fed by their caretakers but live outdoors only. Some free-roaming cats are former pets that were lost or abandoned. There are also cats that have become “feral.” Feral cats spend all or most of their lives outdoors, living in a wild or semi-wild state.

How do I get rid of unwanted free-roaming cats?

HUMANE DETERRENTS!

Smells that repel cats: To keep cats out of yards or gardens, plant the herb rue or sprinkle dried rue. Citrus or lemon scents (orange peels, lemon peels), garlic, ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, mustard, citronella, or eucalyptus all deter cats as well. The scents diminish over time, so re-applying is necessary.

Motion-activated sprinklers: These have motion sensors that trigger a short blast of water.

Motion-activated, ultrasonic alarm: This alarm emits a high-pitched sound that repels cats, but can't be heard by humans.

Secure outdoor trash: Make sure your outdoor trash has a secure lid so that cats do not get into your trash to eat.

Digging deterrents: Plastic mats with flexible plastic spikes. Place on the ground with spike side up to discourage cats from digging.

Other digging deterrents: Push chopsticks into small potted plants. Use pinecones, lava rocks, concrete pavers or stones as mulch to prevent cats from digging. Place large river rocks throughout the garden or use poultry fencing or landscape wrap around plants.

Blocking off access: Cats seek out dry, warm shelter away from the elements. Block off access to the places in which you don't want cats (making sure no cats are inside before doing so). To guide cats away from those areas, provide another shelter. There are many inexpensive options for community cat shelters.

Talk to your neighbors: If anyone is feeding free-roaming cats that live on their property, have them call Orange County Animal Services to speak with someone about spay/neuter resources. We can also give them tips from this brochure on helping their community cats be good neighbors!

ARE YOU CARING FOR A FREE-ROAMING CAT?

Help community cats be good neighbors:

- Your cat(s) should be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. We also encourage microchipping. Call Orange County Animal Services for information about these and other services: 919-942-7387.
- Keep the feeding station neat and tidy. Remove all trash and leftover food promptly.
- Feed the cats at a regular place and time during daylight hours and only feed enough to last one feeding. This practice will not only help the cats get on a schedule, it will eliminate attracting other wildlife.
- Establish a litter box. Creating a sandy area that you clean regularly will help keep the cats from eliminating in areas where you don't want them to eliminate. Make sure children keep out of this box!
- Plant a bed of catnip in an area where you don't mind the cats hanging out. They'll be drawn to the catnip instead of the flowerbeds.
- Provide a shelter so the cats are not nesting in places where they are not wanted. There are many options available; search online for feral cat shelters.
- Know your local laws and ordinances. Protect yourself and the cats by knowing your legal rights.
- Educate your neighbors and keep an ongoing dialog with them. Make sure the deterrents or solutions are implemented and are working for them.