



Basic Guidelines for Colony Management

1. Perform Trap-Neuter-Return on all cats in the colony, even those which only visit the colony site occasionally. Perform TNR on any new cats promptly.
2. Provide food and water daily.
3. Keep the cats' feeding area clean. If you feed on paper plates, remove them after feeding so that they do not blow away and litter the area. If food gets wet or old, remove it promptly into a garbage bag or trash container - do not just toss it aside. Property owners and neighbors are more likely to be cooperative if a colony caretaker keeps the area fresh and clean.
4. If the area near the feeding or shelter stations gets muddy, purchase some pine needles or mulch to cover the muddy areas.
5. Provide adequate shelter.
6. Obtain prompt veterinary treatment for any cats that are ill or injured. Allowing a cat to suffer or die a slow death is inhumane. Contact FFF for assistance with treatment costs, but in case of an emergency, obtain treatment immediately.
7. Keep records of your colony including TNR status, births, deaths, adoptions, and veterinary treatments. Keep rabies vaccinations records in an accessible place in case you need to find them quickly.
8. Select an alternate caretaker, so that your colony will be cared for if you go on vacation or become ill. If you are moving, contact FFF as early as possible so that arrangements can be made for a new caretaker if your alternate is unable to care for the colony long-term. Moving colony cats is rarely successful, and is time-intensive. However, in certain situations, relocating cats is feasible. While FFF will not relocate cats for you, we can help you by providing "how to" information and guidance. See our information sheet on Relocating Community Cats.
9. If a tame cat appears at your colony, attempt to locate its owner if possible. If the owner is not found or is uninterested in providing a suitable home, and if the cat does not appear to be adapting to outdoor life, try to find an adoptive home. See our information sheets on Adoption Options and Taming Feral Kittens.
10. If members of the colony are visiting areas where they are not welcome, use humane methods to discourage them from continuing the behavior. By performing TNR, providing adequate food, water, and shelter in an approved area, you will lessen the likelihood that colony members will seek these resources elsewhere.

Thank you for caring for the Community Cats in Forsyth County and the surrounding areas!