

FERAL CAT BASICS "101" (Sacramento, CA)

Making a Plan - Getting Vouchers - Spaying/Neutering Cats (Prices effective 8/2021)

IS THE CAT FRIENDLY OR FERAL?

The most important thing to determine is if the cats are “feral” or friendly. Feral actually means wild, untouched by humans, not-domesticated. It does not mean a friendly stray/abandoned cat that has shown up on someone’s property. People sometimes use the word feral to describe a stray/abandoned cat that they do not "own". It may be that the cat still goes to clinic in a trap and is ear tipped because it will be going back to the community, but it could also mean that the cat may be adopted out and maybe should not be ear tipped. Friendliness may determine where to order a voucher and where the cat will go to get spayed/neutered and ear tipped or not. Also, if the cat is friendly you should take the cat directly to the vet, scan for a microchip to see if it is lost, and look for the owners before making any other plans.

EAR TIPPED?

Always remember to look for an ear tip. That is when the tip of the left or right ear is cut off during spay/neuter surgery making it "flat" on top. This signifies that the cat is already fixed and vaccinated and can be released, or does not need to be trapped in the first place. However, if you are uncertain the cat is ear tipped please take to the SPCA or a vet for confirmation.

HOW/WHERE TO GET TRAPS:

SSPCA, <http://www.sspca.org/general-information/trap-loan-program>. Deposit required (until trap is returned). No daily fee charged. Call 504-2818 or email feralcats@sspca.org. Feed stores rent traps for approximately \$3 per day, and rental deposit. Check out Western Feed Stores, Bradshaw Feed and Douglas Feed. Local trappers. For example, Susan, 893-1852 or email kittycaretaker1@gmail.com. No deposit or daily fee charged. They are FREE! (plus, you'll receive a lesson).

VOUCHERS:

You can reduce your clinic cost for spay/neuter and vaccinations (to the SPCA, and Community Spay Neuter) by obtaining a voucher IN ADVANCE by contacting Coalition for Community Cats, <http://www.coalition4cats.org/>. Please email: info@coalition4cats.org or mytinyein@yahoo.com. If it is an emergency (you have a cat in a trap) please type: “Emergency Voucher” in the subject line.

RTF PROGRAM

(both Sacramento County and Elk Grove offer a Return to Field program): An option to get cats spayed/neutered/vaccinated is the County shelters' TNR program, which is called Return to Field ("RTF"). This is a FREE program to unincorporated Sacramento County residents only (check your jurisdiction at 2 <http://assessorparcelviewer.sacounty.net/JSViewer/assessor.html> to make sure you are not in incorporated Sacramento City limits. Needs to say “unincorporated”). The cat is surrendered to the shelter in a trap. Inform staff it is an RTF cat. It will be spayed/neutered/vaccinated (if healthy and old enough) and you will be given a pick up date, or, if available, a volunteer will return it at their convenience. This is a great option because it is free and the shelter handles the recovery of the cat, but you do lose "ownership" of the cat, meaning if the kitten is too young it may go to foster, if too old and

sickly it may be euthanized. Some people prefer to maintain control of the cat and deal directly with the SPCA, while others prefer the convenience of the RTF program.

The County Shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd, 95827, 368-7387. Hours: Drop off for the RTF program is Sunday/Monday and Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. MAKE SURE THE COUNTY IS ACCEPTING RTF CATS BEFORE YOU TRAP!!

Elk Grove residents ONLY (or the cats are located in Elk Grove). Elk Grove Animal Shelter, 9150 Union Park Way, Elk Grove, 95624,
https://www.elkgrovecity.org/city_hall/departments_divisions/animal_services/animal_shelter/community_cats_trap_neuter_and_release accepts up to 5 walk-in cats on Mondays, and 10 cats on Wednesdays. Cats must be in separate traps, and the limit is two cats per household per week. Drop off is 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Pick up is 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Please note: the Sacramento City Animal Shelter does not currently offer a RTF program.

LOW COST CLINICS (unless otherwise indicated clinics below available to Sacramento residents):

1. SSPCA Walk-In Program, 6201 Florin Perkins, 95828, will accept 10 feral/community cats per day, one feral cat IN A TRAP, per household, per day, M - ST, without an appointment. Check in is between 7:00 to 7:15 a.m. (but please arrive early). Pick up is 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 Spay/Neuter, includes vaccines (FVRCP and Rabies) (CURRENTLY FREE TO SACRAMENTO COUNTY FERAL CATS!! due to grant funding, or if you obtain a C4CC voucher). Feral cats need to be recovered after surgery for at least 24 hrs before releasing (meaning, bring home to a quiet, warm/contained room, lift door 2" and slide in food and water. Do NOT open the door any wider as cat could escape).
2. SSPCA SUNDAY FERAL CAT CLINIC: The SPCA, 916-504-2818, feralcats@sspca.org, offers a feral cat clinic on most Sundays (except 5th Sundays, holidays and/or special events). Cats are spayed/neutered/vaccinated/parasite treated and ear tipped. This is a WONDERFUL program and currently it is FREE to Sacramento County residents due to a grant funding.
3. Community Spay Neuter, 3839 Bradshaw Rd., 95827 (located next door to the County animal shelter), 916-368-7314, www.communityspayneuter.com. Spay/Neuter/Rabies vaccine is \$65 (CURRENTLY FREE TO SACRAMENTO COUNTY FERAL CATS!! due to grant funding, or if you obtain a C4CC voucher). Appointments are mandatory!
4. Animal Outreach, 6101 Enterprise Dr, Diamond Springs, CA 95619, 530-642-2287, <https://www.animaloutreach.net/>. Cost is \$63 Spay/\$49 Neuter/\$15.61 per each vaccine (FVRCP/Rabies). To receive a \$40 discount off total services (become an authorized user) send an email to kittycaretaker1@gmail.com.
5. Animal Spay Neuter, 3524 Koa Way, Auburn, CA 95602, 530-889-8800, <https://animalspayneuter.com/>. \$45 Spay/\$35 Neuter (discounts for kittens). \$13 FVRCP. \$12 Rabies.
6. Fieldhaven Feline Rescue, 2754 Ironwood Lane, Lincoln, 95648, 916-434-6022, <https://fieldhaven.com/>. \$60 feral package includes vaccines, chip and parasite treatment.
7. Placer County SPCA: for program specifics and to apply for a voucher go to <http://placerspca.org/snap/>, for pets and community cats.
8. Yolo County: Check out Yolo County Community Cat (Ferals) Project YC3PO, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122421151715360>, for more information.

9. Sometimes local rescues obtain grant funding and offer reduced cost spay/neuter vouchers to local vets. For example, for Citrus Heights contact Fluff Buddies, www.fluffbuddies.org, 916-214-8020, Email: info@fluffbuddies.org, and/or River City Cat Rescue, <https://www.rivercitycatrescue.org>, 916-326-0033, Email: info@rivercitycatrescue.org.
10. For Rancho Cordova vouchers, contact Whisker Warriors, www.rcwhiskerwarriors.com, 888-532-5775.

LOW COST VETS: Please contact your local vet to see if they will offer you a discount for feral/community cats. Remember appointments are normally required. Here are a few suggestions:

1. All About Pets, 6104 San Juan Ave, Citrus Heights, 95610, 916-722-0400. \$210 Spay/\$165 Neuter. \$30 Rabies. Ferals accepted on a drop-in basis Monday-Thursday
2. Bruceville Animal Hospital, 10044 Bruceville Rd., Suite 110-120, Elk Grove, 95757, 916- 690-8914. Ferals \$100, includes Rabies vaccine.
3. Cirby Sunrise Pet Hospital, 1079 Sunrise Blvd., Roseville, 95610, 916-780-0551. \$109 Spay/\$80 Neuter. \$26 FVRCP. \$23.92 Rabies
4. Family Friends Pet Hospital, 5910 Auburn Blvd., #1, Citrus Heights, 95610, 916-344-8765. \$123 Spay/\$57 Neuter. \$22 FVRCP. \$24.95 Rabies.
5. Mercy Pet Hospital, 6418 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, 723-3456. \$92 Spay/\$49 Neuter. \$48 Exam required (under sedation). Vaccines/medication additional cost. Appointment preferred (however may accept trapped cat w/o an appointment). OPEN ON SUNDAYS!!! 4
6. Petcare Veterinary Clinic, 1014 Douglas Blvd., Roseville, 95678, 916-791-9599. \$125 Spay/\$100 Neuter (50% discounted cost for ferals), includes exam and pain meds. Discounted vaccines separate cost.

Services Outside Sacramento Area:

1. ACT Spay/Neuter, 327 E Alpine Ave, Stockton, 95204, (209) 462-7729 (SPAY), www.acatteam.org. Will only book one cat at a time, but very reasonable - \$40 Spay/Neuter includes rabies and ear tip. \$10 FVRCP. Drop off 8-8:30 a.m. Pick up 4:00 p.m. Friendlies cost slightly more.
2. Fix Our Ferals, 12226 San Pablo Ave., Richmond (just off I-80), (510) 215-9300, <https://fixourferals.org>. Open Monday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday. Drop off 7:30-8:30 a.m. Pick up 5-5:30 p.m. \$45 Spay/Neuter, which includes Rabies, FVRCP, parasite treatment, eartip (mandatory), and microchip.
3. Harris Vet Hospital, 17112 N Highway 88, Lodi, 95240, (209) 368-8256. \$85 Spay/\$35 Neuter/\$35 kits (up to 4 mo old). \$40 FVRCP. \$15 Rabies. 4. Paws of Oroville (PAWS), 3557 Oro Dam Blvd E, Oroville, CA 95966, 530-534-0900. Feral package \$35, vaccines \$18 each
4. Pet Advocate, 1973 N Tracy Blvd, Tracy, 95376, (209) 879-9367, (209) 780-0551, <https://www.thepetadvocatevet.com>. Drop off 8:30 a.m. Pickup 3:30 p.m. \$90 Spay (additional cost if prego)/\$65 Neuter. \$15 Pain meds. \$25 FVRCP. \$20 Rabies. Also, offer dental cleanings for \$450.

TRAPPING INFORMATION:

For anyone that has any questions on learning how to trap, trapping in general, or borrowing traps, feel free to contact me Susan Heaton at 916-893-1852; or SacFerals <http://www.sacferals.com/> is an excellent local resource. Information/instructions or a request for help can be made here. Just remember, SacFerals is very short staffed and unless someone is elderly/disabled, they will probably not be able to provide trappers to assist with that specific project.

Alley Cat Allies: This is a national organization devoted to feral cats. If you are interested in learning more generally about feral cats, check out <http://alleycatallies.org>.

Neighborhood Cats: <http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/>. Neighborhood Cats has an excellent feral TNR handbook at <http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/resources/books-videos-more>.

ASPCA: www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/TNR_workshop_handbook.3.pdf 5

BASIC TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Below are some very basic trapping instructions (please read SacFeral/Alley CatAllies instructions for more thorough information):

REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT TRAPPING A FERAL CAT IS TO KEEP THE TRAP MOSTLY COVERED DURING TRAPPING PROCESS TO KEEP THE CAT CALM. Once cat is trapped, cover completely and move from the area so the other cats do not see what is going on.

FIRST, KNOW WHERE YOU ARE TAKING THE CAT BEFORE TRAPPING AND HAVE YOUR VOUCHER IN HAND SECOND, know how the trap operates before using it and use a reliable trap such as a Havahart or a Tru-catch. DO NOT USE A HARBOR FREIGHT TRAP. They are poorly made, cats escape, then they are trap savvy.

Line the trap with newspaper (couple of pieces of tape to secure). Place trap level in area where you normally feed cats. Make sure cats are hungry by missing an earlier meal. Partially cover the trap, at least the top/sides with a beach towel. Place food (sardines, mackerel, tuna in oil, KFC chicken, etc. – something stinky) in far back of trap on something flat (piece of foil, torn paper plate). Move away, but monitor the area, and be quiet.

DO NOT RELEASE ANY CATS, EVER, UNTIL TAKEN TO CLINIC/VET TO BE SPAYED/NEUTERED (or confirm it has an ear tip).

Once you trap a cat, then release it prior to spaying/neutering it, it is trap savvy and you may NEVER catch it again.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THIS MISTAKE!