

FACTS ABOUT CATS

- HSUS estimates 6-8 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year.
- Total U.S.-owned cat population – 73 million
- Alley Cat Allies estimates the total unowned/feral cat population to be in the tens of millions.
- Approximately half of the cats entering shelters are unadoptable because they are too old, sick, have serious behavior problems, or are unweaned litters of unowned feral cats.
- Only about 2% of LOST cats are reunited with their owners.
- In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.
- Most people get their pet cat from being found in their neighborhood.
- The average life span of a cat brought to a shelter is 3 days.
- The average life span of a cat living in your neighborhood is 3 years. Longer if you help.
- The average life span of a housecat is 17 years.
- We feel there must be a way to help cats so they can live longer than 3 days.

(Some sources of the above information are the Humane Society of the United States and Alley Cat Allies)

OUTDOOR CATS

ALLOW OUTDOOR
AND FERAL
CATS TO LIVE ...

OUTSIDE



It's time for a positive change.

THE MARYLAND SPCA

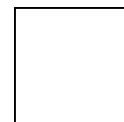
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IT IS TIME TO RETHINK HOW WE DEAL WITH CAT OVER-POPULATION.

Historically, un-owned or feral cats have been brought to shelters or animal control agencies where they are, under most circumstances, euthanized. There are more cats in shelters than there are homes for them.

Instead of euthanizing cats, The Maryland SPCA urges people to consider an alternative. Care for them. Outdoor cats can live outside if someone takes the time to set up an orderly system for care. There are experienced volunteers to help you plan for the cats. Once your system is in place, you will need to spend a few minutes a day to maintain your site.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO...

BECOME A CARETAKER

- 1) Ensure that the cats are spayed or neutered and vaccinated,
- 2) Ensure that the cats have adequate shelter from the elements,
- 3) Ensure that cats have a steady source of clean food and water.

There are several area clinics or veterinary hospitals that offer low-cost spaying and neutering of pets. There are events that work with caretakers in specific areas to fix the cats and therefore reduce the future population growth or spay and neuter the ferals at local veterinary clinics, or at Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) events. Traps can be borrowed from local sources. Typically cats are trapped the day before surgery and stay overnight within the trap after surgery. They are released back to their home site on the day following surgery.

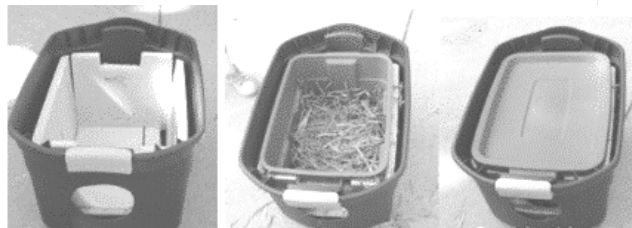
PROVIDE SHELTER

Place shelters where they will be protected from wind and snow drifts.

Depending on predators and other animals/hazards, some cats may not use shelters unless there are two exits.

A food and water source are important.

Removing trash and extra food will discourage rats and mice. This helps make the neighbors happy!



Styrofoam insulation

Container filled w/ straw

Covered container



More insulation

Final cover

Completed shelter

CHANGE THE LAWS

Speak to your representative to encourage them to support alternatives to euthanasia and to support their local animal control agencies in funding **Trap Neuter Return** programs.

AREA GROUPS THAT MAY BE ABLE TO HELP

- **Alley Cat Allies** 240-482-1980
<http://www.alleycat.org>
- **Animal Rescue, Inc.** 717-993-3232
(MD/Southern PA)
<http://www.AnimalRescueInc.org>
- **CatsRUs** (Anne Arundel Co)
410-263-1719
- **Cat Tails:** 410-433-0333
- **CROM** (Cat Rescue of Maryland)
410-685-8145
- **Lucky Cat Rescue:** 410-444-7297
LuckyCatRescue11@msn.com
- **The Maryland Feline Society**
(Baltimore Co)
<http://www.MDFelineSociety.org>
MDFelSoc@bcpl.net
- **Metro Ferals, Ruth Johnson**
410-549-2847 (Carroll/Harford Co)

Many communities, like San Diego, CA, or Madison, WI, have seen entire outdoor cat populations stabilize and be reduced over the course of a few years.

It works because cats become well adapted to their territories and can live safely and contently in backyards, parking lots, etc. A colony of cats develops very strong bonds with one another.

Relocating them won't work.