

It is estimated that there are **25,000** feral cats living in our area. Please remember to spay and neuter your pets. One cat can produce thousands of offspring within a five year period.

Feral Facts:

- Feral cats live in family groups called "colonies".
- Depending on availability of food, these colonies can vary in size from two cats to 200 or more.
- The average lifespan of a feral cat is approximately three years.
- Feral cats are especially numerous in populated areas where pet cats, many of whom are not spayed or neutered, are sometimes abandoned when their owners must relocate.



Be Responsible:

NEUTER AND SPAY

DON'T LET THEM STRAY

**City of Kawartha Lakes
and
Humane Society of
Kawartha Lakes**

Municipal Law Enforcement Office
180 Kent St. W
Lindsay, Ontario
K9V 2Y6
705-324-9411 ext. 1212
1-888-822-2225 ext. 1212
www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca

Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes
107 McLaughlin Road
Lindsay, Ontario
K9V-6K5
705-878-4618
www.hskl.ca



Feral Cats

Understanding the Issues.
Creating Solutions.



What is a Feral Cat?

Feral cats are wild offspring of domestic cats that are primarily the result of pet owners' abandonment, failure to confine, or failure to spay or neuter their animals and allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral cat colonies can be found in rural and urban areas. Feral cats are prolific breeders. They are elusive and do not trust humans.



What is the difference between a stray cat and a feral cat?

Stray cats were once pets. They are tame, friendly and will allow you to get close and pet them. Stray cats can be rescued and adopted to a home.

Feral Cats were never tamed or socialized. They avoid humans and usually run away. Feral cats are very distrustful, so much so, they will wait to get food if humans are in sight.



Why are they a problem?

- When colonies are left unmanaged, the cats constantly produce more and more kittens.
- Un-neutered male cats create a noxious odor by spraying their territory and can be loud when fighting or mating.
- In suburban areas, the cats dig up gardens and can be a nuisance for residents.
- Feral cats living in rural areas typically rely on wild birds, rodents and other native species to survive.
- People who feed groups of unaltered feral cats without having them spayed/neutered allow the colony to continue to grow and compound the problem.
- Feral cats hunt and scavenge for food in areas shared by foxes and skunks.
- The exposure of feral cats to foxes and skunks allows them to be a potential carrier of rabies to humans.

Responsible Animal Ownership

Stray cats, feral cats and owned cats that are let out are generally called "outside cats". If you have pet cats that you let out, have them spayed or neutered. Kittens as young as nine weeks can be spayed and neutered. Ask your vet if he/she performs early age spay/neuters.



Why we should care about feral cats?

Some people believe that cats will survive if they are abandoned. Most cats will not. Many more die slow, miserable deaths from starvation, disease, accidents, or attacks from predators because these animals were never truly equipped to survive.

Feral cat colonies are a result of human neglect and therefore the care of the feral cat population should be managed in a humane way.

A female cat can have up to 18 kittens a year. Approximately half of these kittens survive. They can produce their own litters within a year.

Feral cats can carry diseases. If your animal comes in contact with a feral cat, it has an increased risk of catching these diseases, especially if your animal is not vaccinated. Humans can develop ringworm, rabies and parasites such as hookworm. People with low immune systems are more at risk.