

## What is a Feral Cat?

A Feral cat is a community cat that has no owner, lives exclusively outdoors, is not socialized, does not allow itself to be handled or touched and may be elusive and distrustful of humans. Feral cat colonies can be found in rural and urban communities. Feral cats are frequent breeders, but their life expectancy in a wild population is only 2-3 years.



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

**Stray cats** are domestic cats that have been abandoned as pets. A stray cat may not shy away from human contact. They may be tame and friendly, allowing you to get close and pet them. Stray cats, if rescued, may be socialized and adopted to a home. Overtime a stray cat may become fearful of humans and more feral.

**Feral Cats** were never tamed or socialized to humans. They avoid humans and usually run away. Feral cats are very distrustful, so much so, they will not approach their food if humans are in sight.



## What are we doing to help?

- Enhanced regulations in the Animal Control by-law, requiring cat owners in urban areas to restrict their domestic cats from roaming at large.
- Voluntary Licensing (fee charged for the registry tag).
- Foster a relationship with the Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes (HSKL)
- Created a two-year Education and TNRM pilot project with the assistance of the HSKL.
- Tracking cat feral cat colonies and colony care givers working within the municipality.

## Why should we 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.

## Responsible Animal Ownership

- If you have a domestic cat in an urban area, you must now confine the cat to your property.
- Too often owners allow their domestic cats to roam free without regard to the impact that their activities may have on neighbours, gardens and interaction with wildlife.
- Have your domestic cat vaccinated, spayed or neutered.



## Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor

- Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor (TNRM) is a cat management program that the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes are implementing in 2023.
- The purpose of the program is to effect positive humane change in the cat overpopulation crisis, locate, register and care for feral cat colonies (stray and feral cats) that live outdoors.
- Cats in these colonies are humanely trapped, given medical care and sterilized and returned.
- Friendly kittens and cats may be put up for adoption at the Humane Society or supporting organization.
- Volunteer Colony Caretakers will be registered.

## Feral Cat Facts:

While not always visible, it is estimated that there are **25,000** feral cats living in our area.

- 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 may reside in urban as well as rural areas. Many are not spayed or neutered and are often the result of being abandoned by their owners or the result of unfixed cats breeding.



## Cat Colony, Colony Caregiver

- If you wish to be a colony care giver or wish to report a potential feral cat colony, please contact the Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes or the Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Division of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Be Responsible:  
**NEUTER AND SPAY**  
Don't let them stray

## Humane Society of Kawartha Lakes

111 McLaughlin Road  
Lindsay, Ontario  
K9V-6K5  
705-878-4618  
[www.hskl.ca](http://www.hskl.ca)

## Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing

705-324-9411 Ext. 1212  
or online [www.kawarthalakes.ca](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca)

## Suspect Animal Abuse?

1-833-9ANIMAL (1-833-926-4625)  
**Crime Stoppers** 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)  
**OPP** 1-888-310-1122  
**Kawartha Lakes Police Services** 705-324-5252



# Feral Cats

**Kawartha Community Cats TNRM  
(Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage)  
Pilot Program.**



In partnership with:

**Humane Society of  
Kawartha Lakes**

