

Questions For Evaluating a TNR Program

To properly evaluate any TNR program a specific set of evaluative questions must be answered. Depending on the circumstances at a particular colony site, additional questions may be necessary and should be addressed.

1. How many stray and feral cats roamed the targeted area before the TNR program was begun?
2. How many stray and feral cats now roam the targeted area?
3. How many stray and feral cats have been trapped, spayed/neutered, and released under your program since its inception?
4. How many stray cats have been adopted through this program? Are any cats that are *true ferals* socialized and adopted?
5. How many stray and feral cats have been euthanized due to injury or disease?
6. Does the program have registered colony caretakers? How many cats and how many colonies are they currently taking care of? How much time do they spend with each colony? Do they remove the food immediately after the cats eat every time? Are they there daily and can they monitor that *each cat* eats/drinks daily?
7. What wildlife is present at the colonies? How long and how often are they there? Which wildlife species are eating the cat food? For how long do you observe? Do you record or document incidents of cat-attacked wildlife?
8. If follow-up care is given, how is this done considering the difficulty of retrapping?
9. Are animals vaccinated? Which vaccinations are given? Are animals re-vaccinated when the initial dose expires?
10. Have any cat colonies completely disappeared as a result of the program?
11. How did this happen? Through adoption? What records or dispositions do you have on *each cat*? How long did this take?
12. Are any of the cats in the targeted area's registered colonies being maintained on property directly adjacent to waterways, beaches, sensitive or critical habitat, or state/wildlife managed lands?
13. What happens to the stray and feral cats that are not in "managed" colonies if people want them trapped and removed from their property?
14. What is the ultimate goal of your program, and how many years do you anticipate it will take to attain it?
15. Who is considered the legal owner(s) of the cat(s)? Who is liable should the cat injure someone?
16. How are nuisance complaints handled?
17. How do you respond to colony caretakers who are not performing their duties in a satisfactory and timely manner?
18. What funds sustain this program and are they grant driven? What resources do you have if funding should run out?
19. Did your program consult local laws pertaining to the licensing of cats? Anti-roaming? Limits on the number of cats knowingly permitted to remain on a property? The feeding of strays?
20. Given that an enclosed colony would best protect the cats and native wildlife and be more effective in reducing the numbers of feral cats through natural attrition, what reasons do you have as to why this cannot be done for your program?