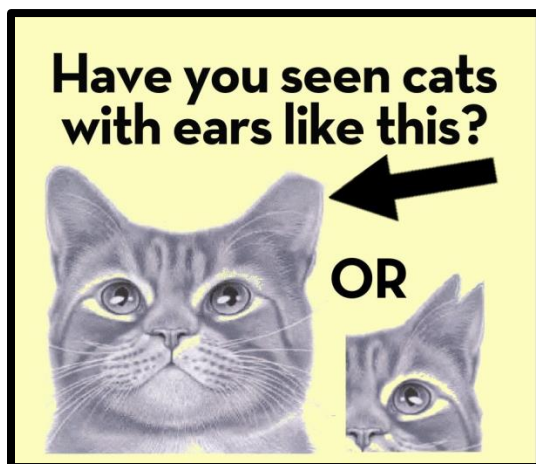


## Overview

It is estimated that there may be close to 250,000 outdoor cats in Maricopa County. Through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and other innovative community partnerships and programs, we are committed to giving outdoor cats a better quality of life by moving away from euthanasia as the only solution to our current cat overpopulation issue.

## Definitions



Through aggressive TNR programs, our goal is to first humanely control, and then humanely reduce the numbers of outdoor cats in our community. TNR initiatives effectively sterilize cats, rendering them unable to reproduce and continue to contribute to the pet overpopulation crisis.

A very important component of TNR is to “tip” the cat’s ear. “Ear-Tipping” is the universal identifier of a sterilized homeless/street/feral/outdoor cat. By “tipping” the cat’s ear, trappers will immediately know that the cat has been spayed/neutered, and we can prevent an unnecessary trapping and surgical experience for the cat. This also saves time for the trapper, as they can release the cat immediately.

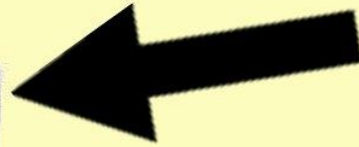
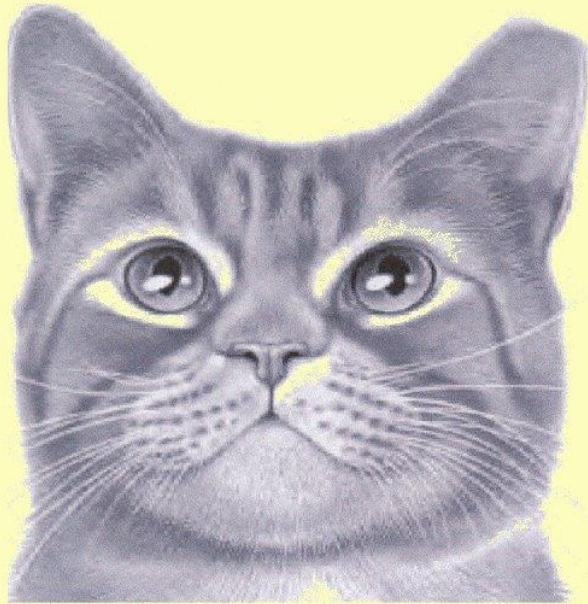
A cat who is “ear-tipped” or “notched” receives this mark surgically, while under anesthesia, during his or her neuter (for males) or spay (for females) surgery. The “tip” itself is typically seen as a slight flattening of the point of the left ear, although sometimes the right ear is “tipped”. Or, as in the second picture above, the ear may show more of a “notch” -- which still indicates that the cat has already been “TNR’d.” Ear-tipping involves little to no bleeding, is relatively painless to the cat and does not significantly alter the appearance or beauty of the cat, yet it is still visible from afar.

“Tipped” cats should never be re-trapped or brought to a shelter unless they are sick or injured. By leaving tipped cats where they are, you are helping to provide your neighborhood with cat population control. Studies indicate that tipped cats deter other cats from coming into a neighborhood, and because they have been surgically rendered unable to reproduce, there are no more litters of kittens!

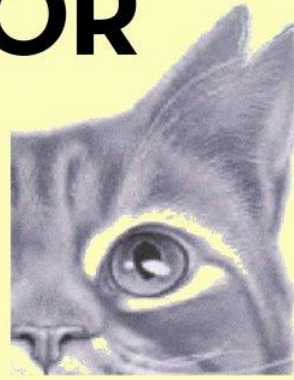
Whether cats are your favorite animal or not, TNR/Tipped cats have a very important role in restoring normalcy to our neighborhoods. The flyer on the next page may be copied and given to others in your community who may need more information about the benefits of TNR and Ear-Tipping.

For additional information on outdoor cats, visit [somanycats.org](http://somanycats.org) or [adlaz.org](http://adlaz.org).

# Have you seen cats with ears like this?



**OR**



These cats have been “ear-tipped” or “notched”. This is a surgical alteration showing that a free-living cat has been spayed/neutered. It's part of “TNR”, which means “Trap”, “Neuter”, “Return”.

These cats should never be re-trapped or brought to a shelter, unless sick. Instead, they should be left in their neighborhood to provide cat population control. Studies have shown by just being there, they prevent other cats from moving into the area. And, because they have been fixed, they will never have litters of kittens.

Even if you don't like cats, TNR ear-tipped cats have an important job to do in keeping your neighborhood a nice place to live.