



TNR BECOMES MORE POPULAR IN BERKS COUNTY

The success of those involved in Trap Neuter (Vaccinate) and Return (TNR) has been incentive for others to get involved. People who had no experience in animal handling previously are learning how to safely handle feral cats. The numbers at both local Berks County clinics are growing, as the intake numbers of shelters are decreasing. You can rent, buy or borrow traps from either organization. Various manufacturers offer traps from basic to remote control. Choosing accessories is also part of the craft, from trap covers to transfer cages. How involved you want to become will determine what type of equipment you will want.

At any rate, most often you will need just a basic trap and a carrier. A transfer cage is also acceptable and is easy to transfer cats from trap to transfer cage if you are using a drop trap, or if

you need to trap more than one cat using the same trap.

Even if the stray cat you are trapping seems "friendly," a trap is needed to protect the staff, who are usually volunteers, from bites from a scared cat in a clinic setting. It is safer and easier for the cat to be injected through the trap with sedatives before handling the cat. After surgery, the cat can be put into a carrier with cozy towels for recovery. Some clinics prefer bedding the cat back in the trap for recovery, while others want the carrier. Check with your clinic. Both methods have pros and cons. Fairchild Feral Friends wants a carrier for each cat with two clean towels.

This publication will explain the "what's and why's" - why things are done the way they are, and what you will need to participate!

We will list resources so you to learn more and network with others participating in TNR. We in Berks County are fortunate to have very good, low cost spay and neuter resources for people who are dealing with un-owned cats and strays in their neighborhoods. Fairchild Feral Friends has been working for more than a decade and it's getting better every year!



Who to contact for low cost clinics

Fairchild Feral Friends runs a clinic the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Harry Brown Surgery Center located at the Animal Rescue League of Berks. Always check the website or Facebook for exact clinic dates as they are subject to change.

<http://www.fairchildcat.org/clinics/>

No Nonsense Neutering runs clinics from in Temple at 1500 Frush Valley Road every Wed. and Fri. and the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Always refer to the website for details. They also accept pets by appointment.

<http://www.nnnlv.org/>

The Animal Rescue League of Berks County has clinics for pets and ferals and they are happy to give you information on any clinics that are available.

<https://www.berksarl.org/services/veterinary-services/spay-neuter/>

Equipment choices

A **basic trap** comes in several varieties. You can purchase a basic trap anywhere from \$35.00 to \$80.00. Common brands are Havahart, Safeguard, Tomahawk and Tru Catch.



A **transfer cage** is used to transfer a cat from a drop trap or a regular trap.



A **plastic carrier** is required at Fairchild clinics to put the cat in for recovery. Please do not bring cloth carriers or cardboard carriers. They are not sturdy enough to ensure the cat's safety.



Surveillance equipment is sometimes used to monitor feral colonies for newcomers.



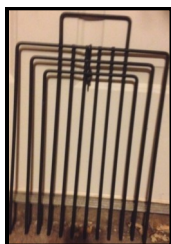
A **drop trap** is used when trapping cats that are refusing to go into a basic trap or when trapping multiple cats like litters of kittens.



Large dog **crates** are sometimes used to keep cats in for recovery if a longer recovery time is needed.



Trap forks or dividers are used to keep the cat confined in the trap in one section for reasons such as sedation at the clinic, feeding the cat in a trap, or changing bedding or paper if cat is recovering in a trap.



Trap covers and towels are needed to help keep the cat calm in a strange and scary environment and keep them warm. While awaiting surgery or in the recovery room, the cat will be surrounded by many strange cats. Covering the trap/carrier has a calming effect.

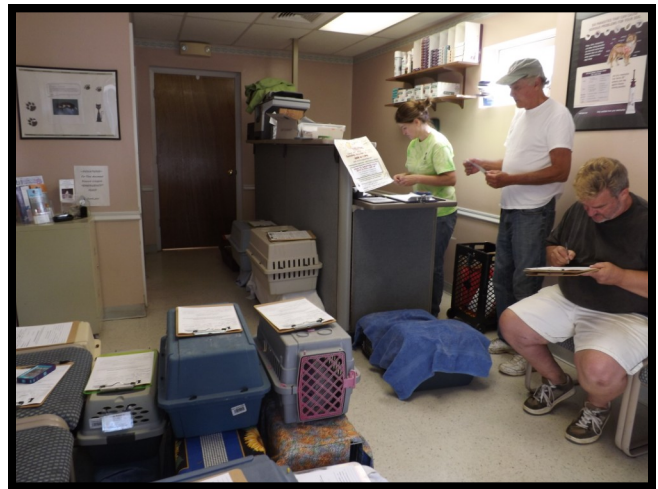
Remote control devices are sometimes used to make it easier to catch a specific cat when others are in the area.



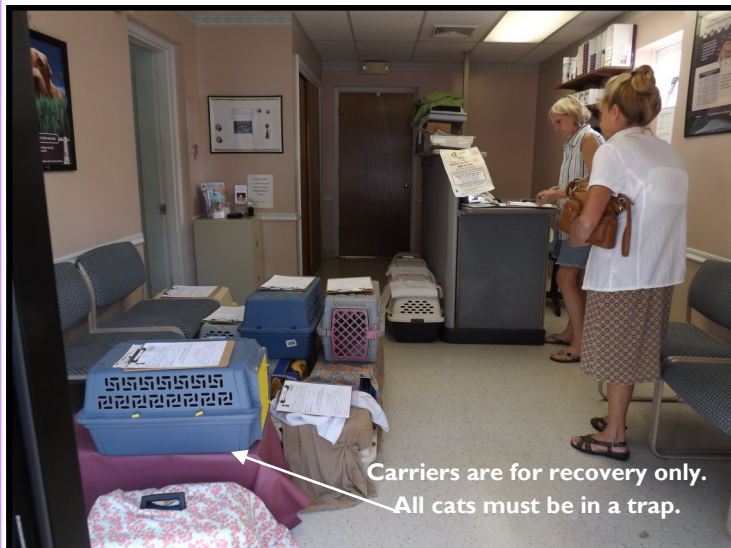
When you arrive at the Fairchild Feral clinic

When you arrive at the clinic **with your cat in a covered trap**, and your carrier with two clean towels for recovery, you will be asked to fill out paperwork and give each cat a name. Please make sure your trap and carrier are both labeled to match your paperwork with your name and cat's name to make sure there is no confusion. With often 50 plus cats at a clinic, we must be as organized as possible, and labeling your equipment and cat is your part.

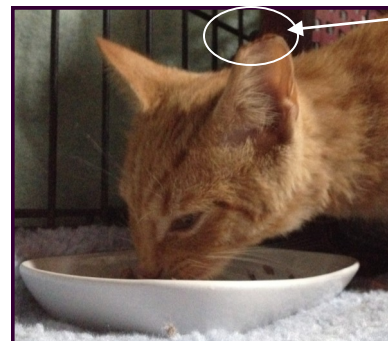
The fee is generally \$35.00 and that includes everything your cat needs. Because this clinic is staffed by volunteers, and volunteers work all year long to raise funds to run these clinics, these services can be provided for you for that small co pay. We know these did not start out as "your cats" and you are just trying to help keep the population down, so we try to keep the cost as low as possible for you.



If you can afford more please do donate!

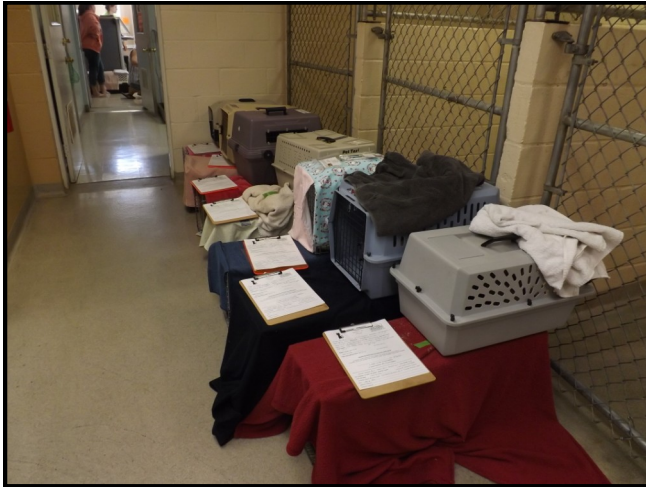


Carriers are for recovery only.
All cats must be in a trap.



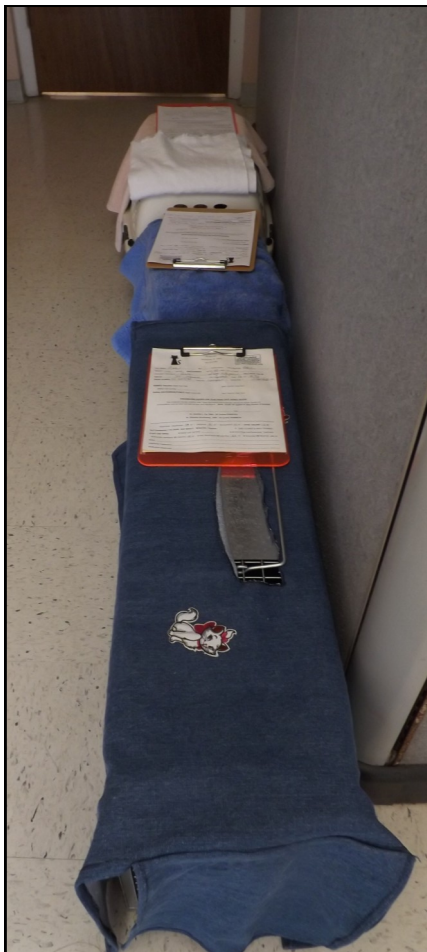
EAR TIP

Where does your cat go after you drop off?



After you leave your cats with the volunteers of Fairchild Feral Friends Foundation, they are lined up **in the traps**, with their carrier and the clipboard with their paper work. There will be a lot of cats so it is important to keep things in order. The trap will be moved several times so it is important to have a cover that will stay in place to make it easier on the volunteers doing the transport.

A few cats (in traps) at a time are moved to the hallway to go into the room where they are sedated and prepped. The carriers are moved to the area where the cats will go after surgery, and only the trap and paperwork go into the prep room. This is why both trap and carrier must be labeled. During this time cats are still being brought in and checked in, and the volunteers keep the flow moving while also trying to keep everything as quiet and calm as possible.



THE VOLUNTEERS ARE DEALING WITH CATS PRIMARILY OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. IT IS NOT KNOWN, BUT UNLIKELY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN VACCINATED FOR RABIES. THERE IS A LOT OF ACTIVITY AT THE CLINIC IN ORDER TO DO AS MANY CATS AS ARE BROUGHT EACH MONTH. THE SAFEST AND LEAST STRESSFUL WAY TO SEDATE THE CAT IS BY USING A TRAP FORK OR DIVIDER TO CONFINE THE CAT IN THE CORNER, AND INJECT IT THROUGH THE HOLES IN THE TRAP. THIS IS NOT LIKE THE ENVIRONMENT AT YOUR VET'S, SO IT IS HANDLED THIS WAY FOR SAFETY.



Sedation and pre-surgical preparation



Here the cat is scanned to see if there is a microchip, just in case the stray cat in the neighborhood is actually someone's cat that is missing. The cat has already been sedated while in the trap so there is no risk of any injury while doing blood work and preparing the cat for the surgical staff to work on it.

Blood is drawn from the sedated cat and a test kit is used to test the cat for serious communicable disease. This test kit is a little pricey, (it could cost you at least \$50.00 at your vet) but is important to keep colonies safe from infection from other cats and to prevent cats from being released if they are already sick without proper controls.



Cats are prepped by shaving and scrubbing the surgical site with antiseptic. Their ears are also cleaned, nails are trimmed. They are checked for wounds, fleas, tapeworms, and other issues while awaiting the results of the feline leukemia/FiV test, which takes ten minutes.

And in the meantime..



So many things are going on behind the scenes. Volunteers are getting vaccines ready, preparing flea preparations, (Revolution), scrubbing and sterilizing surgical equipment, and helping the Doctors with keeping things ready and at hand. These are all the people who called it an early night Saturday, so they could be fresh and up early in the morning to support the trappers (many who were up late trapping cats and tending them) by managing this clinic! Some of these volunteers are veterinary medical technicians, and some have been trained on site. The amount of volunteers it takes to pull

off a clinic of this size correctly is **many**. The amount of money it takes just to cover expenses for this size clinic is **a lot**. This is why, all year long, money is being raised to provide good supplies and equipment. Just because these are not someone's pets, does not mean they get lower quality care for their surgical experience. Some of the volunteers are students who are learning hands-on to be Veterinarians and Veterinary Medical Assistants. They are being taught how to be the best for their careers in the veterinary field. Safety and good care are of the utmost



importance for these cats. Some of the volunteers already are working all week long in an animal care facility, and are giving up their Sundays to be here and support this amazing project.



There are normally at least two Veterinarians at the clinic. While the surgery is being done, the Doctor is also checking for things like wounds that need to be treated and general medical issues. The cats are injected with a 24 hour pain medication and a long lasting antibiotic, vaccinated and treated with Revolution (which treats for fleas, ear mites, roundworms and hookworms), tapeworm treatment if indicated, **and they are ear tipped.** The right ear will be tattooed with its name in purple ink. If the cat is female, the surgical incision will also be tattooed with purple ink, making it easier to see it's a girl and spayed.

Each cat is an individual and they often need special attention. Since most of these cats are feral, treating them can be a bit of a challenge sometimes. As much as possible that can be done, will be done, while this cat is sedated. After the surgery is finished a reversal drug is given to help them wake up sooner so they can come home shortly after surgery for their recovery. The ear tip is important for a free roaming cat and can save its life! It is the universal sign that means this cat is neutered and vaccinated. It prevents the same cat from being re-trapped and put under anesthetic needlessly.



Fairchild Feral Friends Provides

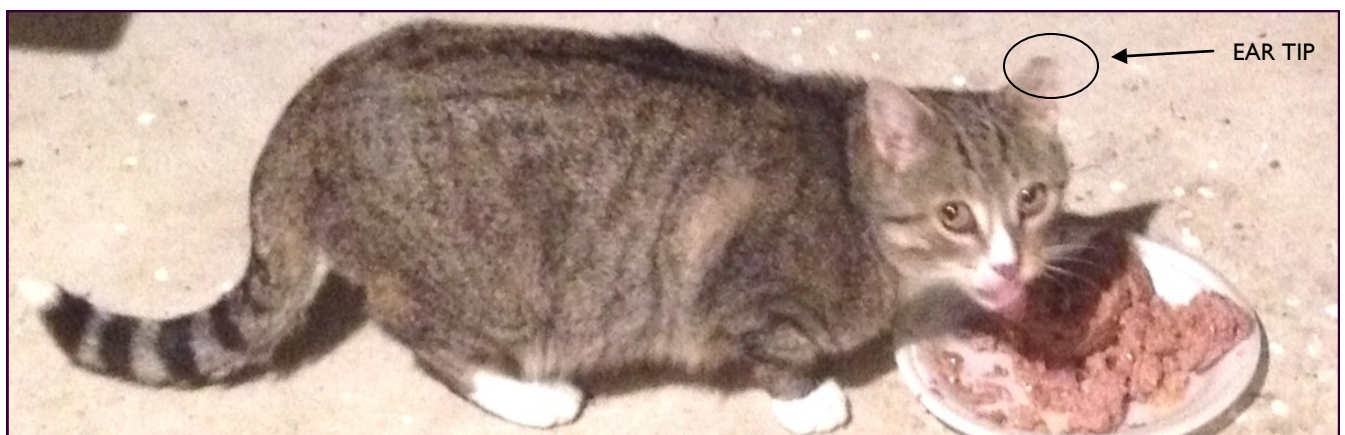
- Spay or neuter surgery
- Left ear tip / right ear tattoo
- Ear cleaning and nail trim
- Treatment for fleas / parasites
- Feline Leukemia /FIV test
- Antibiotic injection
- 24-hour pain medication



As each cat is finished in surgery, it is placed with a cozy towel in a (towel-covered) carrier, with its paperwork clipboard. Volunteers monitor the cats to make sure they are waking up alright. When caretakers pick up their cat, it will still be groggy, so should remain in the carrier. If this is new to you, the volunteer providing discharge instructions will be happy to answer any of your questions at this time.

When the cat has been cleared by the medical team for discharge, the caretakers are called to pick up the cat. They pick up their trap outside, and their cat inside. The caretaker is given a copy of the paper work and the rabies vaccine tag. Many times this is the first time the caretaker finds out important information like, “it’s a girl!”.

Discharge instructions are provided, and the cat is sent home to recover in a quiet place until anesthetic is completely worn off.



*The Fairchild Foundation is a Pennsylvania based not for profit corporation
Entity # 3062334 and is recognized as a Federal Exempt not for profit corporation
under Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN # 43-195-3878*



There are many ways you can help finance this mission.

- Send a direct donation of money to the organization at :
PO Box 6431, Wyomissing PA 19610
or you can donate online through pay pal using the link at the bottom of
our home page.
- Purchase and donate traps for loaning to caretakers without their own
equipment.
- Set your Amazon account to Amazon Smiles and select Fairchild Feral
Friends as your smiles giving charity.
- Save your Redner's receipts using your perks card and mail them to Fair-
child Feral Friends. Redner's gives a donation based on the
receipts totals.
- Promote us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fairchildcat/>
and follow our fundraisers and activities on our webpage [http://
www.fairchildcat.org/](http://www.fairchildcat.org/)



You can network with others
doing TNR on our Facebook!
There are also other feral
friendly groups there as well.

