



# Baltimore County Animal Services

## TNR Program Guidelines: Caregivers/ Participants



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In accordance with Section 12-1-115 of the Baltimore County Code (2015) (the "Code"), Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) guidelines will be shared with anyone wishing to participate in the TNR Program. Individuals wishing to be considered a Feral Cat Caregiver in Baltimore County must register with Baltimore County Animal Services (BCAS). Registering helps to maintain healthy and lawful community cat colonies within Baltimore County and helps reduce community cat populations over time.

Feral/Community Cat Caregivers and TNR Participants are expected to make reasonable, good faith efforts to:

1. Report any bite or non-bite contact (scratch) to the appropriate authorities;
2. Adhere to all applicable confinement and observation measures pursuant to Code Article 12, Title 5 - Rabies;
3. Notify BCAS of the existence of community cat colonies, along with information concerning anyone who may be caring for the cats;
4. Maintain a colony where all cats are sterilized, ear-tipped, microchipped and vaccinated against rabies and Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia;
5. Keep all veterinary records, and provide these to BCAS, upon request;
6. Read and follow BCAS' Humane Trapping Instructions before starting any trapping for BCAS or any other TNR program;
7. Check each cat for a microchip or other sign of ownership. If signs of ownership are found, the cat must be surrendered to BCAS pursuant to Code Section 12-3-201;
8. Return TNR cats to the location where they were originally trapped;
9. Keep all rabies vaccines up to date pursuant to COMAR section 10.06.02.10. Feral Cat Caregivers may contact BCAS to request a cat trap loan for purposes of confining and transporting feral cats for a rabies booster vaccine;
10. Provide food/water and/or shelter in a way that minimizes nuisance and unsanitary conditions. Food must be left out for short periods only (10-15 minutes, two times per day), and then removed. All bowls, shelters, bedding MUST be clean/free of odors/bugs, mold, rodents and waste. Water dishes must be clean, un-tippable, and contain potable water;
11. Pick up any bowls, trash, debris or waste left by the cats;
12. Provide veterinary care to community cats who are visibly ill or injured (which may include contacting BCAS for a cat trap loan to surrender the cat for humane euthanasia);
13. Read BCAS' Humane Solutions to Cat Related Issues document, and exclude cats from other properties, upon request, as well as address and resolve complaints regarding the community cats;
14. Find another person to care for the cats during the temporary or permanent absence of the primary caregiver; and,
15. Properly dispose of any community cats found deceased (may bring to BCAS for disposal).



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## TNR Program Guidelines – BCAS' Role



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BCAS' role and responsibility in relation to the TNR program, feral/ community cat caregivers/TNR participants and mitigation of complaints/violations of the TNR Guidelines includes:

1. BCAS will provide the TNR Program Guidelines and flyers to interested parties;
2. BCAS may offer Complainants and Caregivers a link for Baltimore County's Mediation Program: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/community/mediation.html> ;
3. BCAS will continue to impound cats (TNR or otherwise) that pose an imminent health risk or danger to the public, or are severely injured or sick;
4. BCAS will comply with State of Maryland Health Department recommendations relating to rabies, quarantine, impoundment, euthanasia and any possible public health risk, as it pertains to community cats;
5. BCAS will enforce the TNR Program Guidelines listed above in the following ways:
  - a. Initial complaint: If a complainant provides the name and contact information for a feral/ community cat caregiver or participant, then BCAS will attempt to make contact to provide a copy of this document and other TNR literature to make them aware of the TNR Program guidelines and available resources. The complainant will be provided with TNR Program guidelines and humane deterrent information.
  - b. If a violation(s) is repeatedly reported and substantiated, a feral/ community cat caregiver or participant will be issued a notice to comply and will have up to 90 days to come into compliance with the TNR Program Guidelines. BCAS may reduce the time to come into compliance if the situation creates a public health or animal welfare concern.
  - c. TNR participants and/or Feral/ Community Cat caregivers who **comply** with the TNR program guidelines are not considered owners. Therefore, feeding or otherwise caring for community cats with an ear tip shall not be deemed a nuisance condition unless it is detrimental to public health, safety, and welfare of the environment.
  - d. TNR participants and/or Feral/ Community Cat caregivers who **are not** in compliance with the TNR program guidelines set forth above and in BCAS' TNR Standard Operating Procedures may not be recognized as Feral/Community Cat Caregivers and are subject to penalties under Baltimore County Code.

For more information regarding TNR in Baltimore County, including our walk in clinic, surgery package, trap loans, and informational flyers please visit:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/animalservices/tnr-program.html>