

# Best Practices for Feral Cat Caregivers

*Feral cat caregivers and neighbors often come into conflicts when it comes to the care and management of feral cats. When caregivers follow best practices, it helps enhance the wellbeing of the neighborhood and the cats. Check out the following tips for strategic caregiving, and peaceful neighbor relations.*



## Trap-Neuter-Return

TNR is a humane and effective method to help maintain a stable and healthy population. Cats are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, ear-clipped, and returned to their environment. This approach also minimizes issues among cats such as fighting, destructive behavior, and predation. The Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) has a Spay and Neuter Hotline that connects people with TNR services. For more information, contact the Spay Neuter Hotline at (602) 265-7729 or visit their website at [adlaz.org](http://adlaz.org).



## Feed Responsibly

Place food in a visible area to help the cats identify the food source and to create a safe space for feeding. Leave food out for no more than 1 hour and then remove leftovers to help minimize wildlife from encroaching. Maintain a sanitary environment by picking up containers and leaving a clean area.



## Local Ordinances

Become familiar with local ordinances to help develop a respectable connection with neighbors and the surrounding community. Within the city limits of Mesa, there is no feeding allowed on sidewalks or other public spaces. Feeding areas need to be on private property with the permission of the property owner.



## Coordinate & Monitor

Team up with neighbors for support. Build a community of caregivers by collaborating with others who are feeding. This eliminates over feeding and allows for proper monitoring. Keeping track of the number of cats will help with TNR efforts and observing their health conditions.



## Troubleshoot

To maintain peaceful neighbor relations and a safe environment for cats consider creating a designated outdoor litterbox, shelter, and shaded areas on private property. These will provide a comfortable place to rest or keep warm, to dig for cooling off, and a safe location for cats to do their business. Modifications like these will assist with keeping cats away from areas they are not welcomed. Try using wooden frames and sand for an attractive zone. Routine cleaning is suggested for maintaining sanitary conditions.