



Hayward Animal Services Bureau TNR Program

Thank you for caring for community cats and for taking the steps necessary to prevent new kittens from being born by getting them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Studies show that Trap, Neuter and Return of community cats to their outdoor homes is the only humane and effective method to manage and reduce cat populations over time and provides cats the opportunity to live healthier lives in their communities.

Through our Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program, we help City of Hayward residents to spay/neuter community cats that they are caring for, or who have no identified caregiver but call the streets of Hayward home.

We recognize that spay/neuter resources for community cats is difficult to find in this area. Spay/Neuter clinics are a distance away and appointments are sometimes difficult to get due to the high demand.

Hayward Animal Services Bureau has a partnership with two spay/neuter clinics to provide spay/neuter services for feral (unsocialized) community cats living in the City of Hayward. We have secured a limited number of weekly appointments with our partners and offer those appointments to our community members as part of our TNR program. We also transport the cats to the clinics, so you don't have to.

As an animal services organization, we pay a higher rescue rate for services than a private citizen would pay if they were to go directly to the clinics themselves. The City of Hayward does not cover the cost of spaying/neutering these cats. In order for us to continue this program, we ask that you contribute \$75 towards the cost of fixing the cats and we subsidize the remainder of the cost through generous donations made specifically to support our TNR program. Your contribution is considered a donation and is tax deductible. If you are not able to cover the full \$75 per cat, please talk to us.

We understand you may not consider these cats as yours: they are indeed "community" cats. For this reason, we encourage you to talk with your neighbors to let them know about TNR and our program. Often residents find that their neighbors are willing to contribute towards the fees, knowing that they are helping not only the cats, but also the community.

HOW IT WORKS

- Make an appointment through us, by calling (510) 293-7200.
- You will be asked to bring the trapped cat to the shelter at 6:45 am on clinic day.
- For the safety of veterinary staff, the cat must be in a trap (not a carrier, crate or cage). If you do not have a trap, the shelter has a trap-lending program.
- **Shelter staff will evaluate an incoming trapped cat. If it is deemed friendly, we may not accept the cat for the TNR program and, instead, invite you to purchase a low-cost spay/neuter voucher.**

- Fee is \$75 and covers the spay or neuter, FVRCP and Rabies vaccinations, microchip, flea treatment and ear tip. Fees are due when dropping off the cat. If the cat requires additional medical treatment, there may be additional fees.
- We provide the transportation to and from the clinic.
- You can pick up your cat from the shelter at 6:00 pm the same day. You will receive instructions on how to “recover” the cat. In most circumstances, the cat can be released the following day.
- Return and release the cat to the location where it was trapped.
- *Pat yourself on the back. You have made a difference for that cat and in your community by providing the cat the opportunity for a healthier life, and you have prevented the birth of many unwanted kittens.*

OR:

- Make an appointment through Animal Fix Clinic in Richmond, at their website, animalfixclinic.org or by phoning (510) 215-9300. If you schedule directly with Animal Fix Clinic the fee is \$45 and covers the spay or neuter, FVRCP and Rabies vaccinations, microchip, flea treatment and ear tip.
- If you need assistance with transportation to/from the clinic, we may be able to help, however only for a Thursday clinic day. Please let us know, a week in advance, if you need transportation assistance.

Since we have limited appointments with the spay/neuter clinics, we reserve this program for free-roaming, community cats (aka feral cats). It is not for friendly/pet cats. We have a low-cost spay/neuter voucher program available for friendly/pet cats.

TRAP LENDING PROGRAM

Hayward Animal Services Bureau has traps available to borrow for the purposes of trapping cats for Trap, Neuter, and Return.

- Traps are available to City of Hayward residents.
- There is a \$100 cash deposit required. The deposit is fully refundable upon return of the trap in good working condition.
- Traps are available for one week at a time. In certain cases, we may extend that timeframe.

If purchasing your own trap, we recommend the following brands and models, which are the favorites among feral cat trappers who conduct Trap-Neuter-Return projects.

- Tomahawk Live Trap Model 606 NC (www.livetraps.com)
- Tomahawk Live Trap Model GT606 * (www.livetraps.com)
- Tru-Catch - Light Duty Animal Trap Model 30 LTD * (www.trucatchtraps.com)

* These models are "gravity" traps. When a cat steps on the trip plate, the front door drops by using gravity - no springs are involved. This makes the trap quieter than a spring-loaded model.

These models also have a back door, which allows the trapper to easily release any wildlife accidentally trapped and makes it easier to place food and water in the trap when recovering the cat following surgery.

Although these traps cost \$80+, they are sturdy and provide safety for both the cat and the trapper.

There are cheaper traps available, however most of them do not meet the standards required to ensure safety to both the cat and the shelter or veterinary staff.

Most of the cheaper brands and models are not sturdy (especially those that are collapsible). From experience, we have learned that cats can escape or get caught in the door, trying to escape. This, of course, is not only harmful to the cat, but a serious safety issue for shelter or veterinary staff with the risk of getting bitten or scratched by a feral cat.