



Trap Neuter Return Procedures & Policies

Effective Date: March 1, 2018

- 1.) Sign-Up: Trappers wishing to participate in Midland Humane Coalition's Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Pilot Program can sign up online at midlandhumane.org/tnr
- 2.) Receive Trap Depot Assignment: Once trap is available Trap Manager will call Trapper, obtain credit/debit card info, assign them to a Trap Depot, and send email with TNR materials, forms, and contact info.
 - a. Credit Card: Trapper will be required to provide Trap Manager with a credit/debit card number over the phone to reserve trap(s). This information will be kept secure and destroyed once traps are returned in good condition.
 - i. Trapper's card will be charged a fee of \$70 per trap, for traps that are not returned in the condition they were lent out in. A \$10 cleaning fee will be charged for traps that are returned soiled.
 - ii. If Trapper does not have a credit card; a cash or check (\$70 per trap) can be given to Trap Manager to hold for a deposit.
- 3.) Receive TNR Supplies: Trap Depot calls trapper and then meets with Trapper to educate on TNR Program and loan trap(s) and supplies.
- 4.) Make TNR Vet Appointment: Trapper will make a Feral Cat Vet Appointment with participating vet for 1-2 weeks after the trap pick up date. If Trapper is a Midland County resident, Trapper will need to verify the vet participates in Midland County Voucher Program. Trapper is responsible for paying the full remaining amount after the voucher and TNR grant money have been allocated.
- 5.) Obtain \$70 Spay/Neuter Vouchers:
 - a. City of Midland Residents: Trapper will pick up their City of Midland TNR Spay/Neuter Voucher(s) at Midland Animal Services, where they will show proof of residence, before the Feral Cat Vet Appointment.
 - i. COM Vouchers are to be used within two weeks of pick up, please call Midland Animal Services if you need to extend your voucher deadline.
 - ii. Unused City vouchers will be voided by citizen by them calling Midland Animal Services.
 - b. Midland County Residents: Midland County Vouchers do not need to be preordered, simply confirm that the vet participates in the County Voucher Program when making appointment and the \$70 voucher discount will be deducted from bill.
- 6.) Trap Cat: The Trapper will begin feeding cats inside and around traps for a period of one to two weeks prior to the Feral Cat Vet Appointment date. (Food will be withheld the night prior to trapping so cats will be more likely to enter trap.) *Please follow trapping guidelines outlined in the Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook.
- 7.) Set Traps & Trap Cats: Traps will be set the night before the Feral Cat Vet Appointment.
 - a. If Trapper is unable to trap cat notify vet immediately if appointment will be missed. Then contact Trap Depot to make arrangements for trap pick up or extend trap rental if trap is available.
- 8.) Holding Area: Once trapped, trap(s) containing cats will be covered and taken to a secure and quiet holding area to wait for transport to Feral Cat Vet Appointment(s).

- 9.) Transport: Cats will then be transported to their TNR vet appointment.
- 10.) TNR Vet Appointment: While at vet, all cats participating in the TNR Program must be neutered/spayed, eartipped, and given a rabies vaccination. Some vets may have additional requirements. Midland County vouchers require a FVRCP vaccine for cats.
- 11.) Pick Up & Recovery: At the vets' allocated pick up time, the cats will be picked up by Trapper and returned to holding area for vet recommended recovery time.
- 12.) Release Cats:
 - a. Returning TNR Cats: After the cats are recovered, Trapper will return the cat to where it was trapped and release the cat according to Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook Chapter 14.
 - b. Working TNR Cats: In cases where Trappers do not want a cat returned or if there is a large colony, Midland Humane Coalition will adopt the cat out to the public as a "working cat".
 - i. Prior to being trapped, unwanted cats MUST have an approved adopter.
- 13.) Clean Traps: After emptying traps of debris, spray clean with water hose, then spray with the provided bleach water solution and allow to dry.
- 14.) Return Traps: Trapper contacts Trap Depot to return trap and any leftover TNR Kit Supplies. Trap Depot will check trap for damages and cleanliness.
- 15.) Trap Depot Restocks: Trap Depot will notify Trap Manager that trap has been returned and will restock TNR Kits for next pick up.

Cost & Funding

- 1.) TNR Program Funding: Funding from the TNR Program is made possible by \$70 Spay/Neuter Vouchers paid for by the City of Midland and Midland County which is available at many local clinics. In addition to the \$70 voucher, trappers can further reduce cost by locating a vet participating in MHC's TNR Program which offers an additional \$30* of grant money per feral cat.
- 2.) Vet Pricing: Each veterinarian participating in the TNR Program will decide upon their own pricing. It is the responsibility of the trapper to get an estimate before appointment and pay the balance.
- 3.) Vet Clinic Reimbursement: Participating clinics will be required to track the number of cats participating in the TNR Program by updating a TNR Log Sheet. At the end of each month, the participating clinic will email the TNR Log Sheet to MHC and MHC will reimburse the vet \$30* of grant money per feral cat. This tracking and reimbursement process will be very similar to that of the current Midland County Voucher Program.
 - a. *Extra Vet Care Required: When a cat needs extra vet care, the participating vet will call MHC to determine if extra grant money can be allocated. Ex.: cat with undescended testicles, cat in heat.

Participating Vets

- 1.) All vets are invited to participate in MHC's TNR Program. A list of participating vets will be maintained on Midland Humane Coalition's website.
- 2.) A Feral Cat Vet Appointment can be made at any vet, however only participating vets listed on Midland Humane Coalition's website will be able to allocate MHC's TNR grant money to the Feral Cat Vet Appointment.
- 3.) Trappers are responsible for vet bills.

Policies

- 1.) Kittens: MHC will make efforts to find homes for some weaned TNR kittens rather than releasing them. Fostering & rehoming kittens will be limited by availability.
- 2.) Minimum TNR age for kittens: Most vets require kittens be at least 4 months or older to be spayed or neutered. Please check with your participating vet.
 - a. Trapper's will refer to the Aging a Kitten Handout and use their best judgement. If there is a question about the age of kittens, Trapper will call a MHC representative.
- 3.) FeLV/FIV: Cats are not required to be tested for FeLV/FIV. Participating veterinarians may require testing.
- 4.) Vaccinations: All cats participating in TNR must receive a rabies vaccination. Participating veterinarians may require additional vaccinations.
 - a. City of Midland Residents: Additional vaccinations are recommended, but not required by Midland Humane Coalition or the City of Midland to participate in the City of Midland's S/N Voucher Program.
 - b. Midland County Residents: Participating cats must receive a FVRCP+FELV vaccination is required to utilize the Midland County S/N Voucher Program.
- 5.) Wildlife: If wildlife is trapped, the Trapper must stay away from the trap and call a 432-558-8255 so a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator can be sent to assess the situation.
- 6.) Arrive in a trap: All participating cats must be taken to vet for their Feral Cat Vet Appointment in a humane trap, unless the cat can safely be handled by clinic staff.
- 7.) Midland Humane Coalition's Trap Neuter Return Program is a pilot program permitted by the City of Midland. The City of Midland reserves the right to end the TNR Program.

TNR Vocabulary

Trapper - citizen wishing to trap cat

Trap Depot - MHC volunteer who stores traps and kits and meets trapper to educate them on TNR Process and deliver traps and TNR kits. Trapper then returns traps to Trap Depot

Trap Depot Kit - 5 gallon bucket, 1 gallon bleach, 1 gallon sprayer, toilet bowl brush, binder of necessary documents

TNR Kits - will contain: 13 cans cat food, 1-2 towels, 1 blanket or sheet, 2 trash bags, bleach spray bottle, and all necessary documents

Trap Manager: MHC Staff Member in charge of keeping trap schedule and connecting Trap Depots to Trappers, and obtaining credit/debit card info for incidentals

TNR Program Manager: MHC Volunteer in charge of managing TNR Program