



## BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER ON TNR

Lisa Tudor, Executive Director, Indyferal

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Indyferal is a nonprofit 501(c)3 TNR organization located in Indianapolis, Indiana.



# Indy Feral

INCORPORATED

A resource for caretakers and friends of stray & feral cats in central Indiana

[www.indyferal.org](http://www.indyferal.org)  
317.596.2300

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- Indyferal was founded in 2002, as a means to change the way stray and feral (wild) cats have been traditionally viewed and dealt with in our community.
- Indyferal offers Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and colony management assistance for stray and feral cats in Central Indiana.



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## Mission

Indyferal seeks to reduce the unowned stray and feral (wild) cat overpopulation through the non-lethal method of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), not trap and kill.

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## Indyferal Statistics

Since we were established in 2002 Indyferal has:

Spayed/ neutered:	17,000
Managed colonies :	over 2,500
Rehomed/adopted:	over 2,000
Eartipped cats pulled from ACC/HSI:	107
RTO cats:	8

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Indyferal serves as the TNR designee for the city of Indianapolis and maintains the colony registration database.



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Indyferal Community Programs - Overview

- ❑ Spay day clinics
- ❑ TNR program
- ❑ Shelter program
- ❑ Food bank program

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Spay Day Clinics

Indyferal provides high quality, low cost spay/neuter clinics to caretakers of unowned free-roaming cats on a weekly basis. Our clinic is specific to feral cats.

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Spay days are efficient high volume clinics in which cats and kittens are evaluated, vaccinated and sterilized. These MASH-style clinics are carried out by a staff of veterinarians, vet techs, and trained Indyferal volunteers.



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Average 50-55 cats at each clinic (spay/neuter and medical care)

3,000 cats annually



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### Source of Spay Day Cats

- Humane Society of Indianapolis
- Indianapolis Animal Care & Control
- Area animal welfare groups
- Veterinarians and clinics
- Community access channel TNR video
- Word of mouth

*Referrals are sent to Indyferal's help line for assistance and scheduling.*

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### Indyferal spay/neuter and vaccination package - \$20

- Spay/neuter surgery (including antibiotic and pain control applied at time of surgery)
- 3 year rabies vaccination
- 3-1 feline vaccination (FVRCP) for cats under 6 months of age
- Advantage-Multi flea treatment
- Basic wellness check, including ear and eye cleaning and treatment of minor wounds
- Eartip

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All cats remain at the clinic for 2 days of post-op recovery following surgery.



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**Medical care/ long term rehabilitation for colony cats**

Our veterinarian will evaluate the course of care for each injured or ill colony cat and develop an individual treatment plan which may include medical, surgical and long-term recovery care as needed until they are ready to be returned to their colony or placed with an adoption group if medically dictated.

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**TNR Program**

Indyferal provides TNR services and colony management assistance on how to care for free-roaming cats.

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Trap bank consists of 250 traps, 10 drop traps and 3 dog traps.

Colony management guidelines are provided to teach caretakers how to properly care for free-roaming cats.



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## Community Cat Captains

- Community Cat Captains (experienced volunteer trappers) are paired up with caretakers who need assistance with implementing TNR in their area.
  - ▣ They can provide transportation
  - ▣ Hands on guidance with trapping
  - ▣ Scheduling assistance for surgery or medical care
  - ▣ Proper colony set-up including feeding tips and sheltering for the cats.
  - ▣ Education and mediation with neighbors

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## Getting & Keeping Caretakers

Caretakers referrals come from Indyferal's multiple community partners.

- Subscriber email list
- Printed newsletter
- On-going resources and support (food bank, medical care, problems with neighbors, finding new colony feeders)
- Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace



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### Shelter Program

Indyferal maintains a list of resources for purchasing or building a wide variety of shelters and feeding stations to suit a wide range of budgets and abilities on our website.

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### Food Bank Program

Indyferal maintains a food bank to assist caretakers of Indyferal managed colonies in feeding their colonies. We recognize this can be difficult if people are on limited budgets or are trying to care for a large colony of cats.

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### Food is collected from the following community sources:

- Food collection bins at area PetSupply Plus and Petco stores
- Target and Walmart distribution centers provide broken bags of food
- Humane Society of Indianapolis
- Indianapolis Animal Care and Control
- Volunteers, civic groups, girl and boy scouts hold food drives
- Individuals collect Purina weight circles for the purchase of discounted food

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## How Do You Pass a TNR Ordinance?

Remain focused on the big picture.  
Be mission focused.  
Lead with integrity and always act professional.  
Cat overpopulation is a community problem and TNR offers a community solution.



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## Passing TNR ordinances

### Marion County, Indiana

City of Indianapolis - TNR ordinance - 2005

City of Lawrence - TNR ordinance - 2006

Town of Speedway - TNR ordinance - 2006

City of Southport - TNR ordinance - vote pending

City of Beech Grove - projected for 2010

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## Identify and Educate Your Stakeholders

Who? Animal Control Administration, Animal Control Officers, City Councilors, Prosecutors, Veterinarians, Humane Society other Local Rescue Groups



Know what resonates with your individual audiences:

City councilors want to hear about tax savings, enhanced public safety

Animal control officers want to see a reduction in cat nuisance calls

Veterinarians/Humane Society want to address quality of life issues

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## Make Your Stakeholders Your Advocates for TNR

- Letters of public support for TNR from caretakers
- Visits to our spay day clinic or managed colony sites
- Viewing of the TNR video provided by Alley Cat Allies
- TNR works: collect your data to state your case



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*Angela L. Mansfield*  
*Indianapolis City-County Councilor*

"TNR enables people to be part of the solution. It gives people the tools and resources they need to improve the lives of feral cats in ways they can't do otherwise. TNR acts as a safety net for the cats and offers a long-term solution that benefits communities for years to come. The success we are seeing in Indianapolis is due to the dedication of the Indyferal volunteers working together with the veterinarian community, city officials and neighborhoods. Clearly a need is being met through Indyferal. I would encourage other municipalities to adopt a TNR program as an additional resource to help humanely combat the free-roaming cat overpopulation crisis."

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*Dr. Sandra Norman, DVM*  
*Director, Companion Animal/Equine, IN State Board of Animal Health*

"TNR helps by protecting public health. Studies show feral and owned cats share similar health status. Vaccinating, sterilizing and returning healthy cats to managed colonies are the best ways to protect the public from the spread of disease."

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*Cara Gardner, DVM, CVA  
Indyferal volunteer veterinarian*

"Feral cats are not socialized to humans and are more content to live outside, but that doesn't mean their lives should be valued any less than domestic cats. Feral cats just need a different kind of care. By participating in a TNR program such as that offered by IndyFeral, which provides life-saving spay/neuter and medical care of each feral cat colony, veterinarians have a unique opportunity to lead the way in ensuring that these homeless cats have a better quality of life."

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*Lt. Jerry Bippus, Operations Manager  
Indianapolis Animal Care and Control*

"TNR has reduced the complaints that Animal Care and Control has received regarding the nuisance of free-roaming cats in the city and county of Indianapolis. This has allowed ACC to concentrate on more serious public safety issues. This program has improved the quality of life for the cats within the city and county of Indianapolis."

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*John Aleshire, Executive Director,  
Humane Society of Indianapolis*

"Feral cats do not belong in animal shelters. They are not candidates for adoption since they are not socialized to humans. Feral cats are most content living outside. TNR provides a more humane existence for ferals while reducing the behaviors that make them unwelcome neighbors. TNR is a positive step forward for a community that cares about all its animals."

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## How to Obtain City Funding of TNR

TNR provides a positive impact

- Allows Animal Care and Control to concentrate on more serious public safety issues by reducing the nuisance complaints associated with free-roaming cats.
- Managing free-roaming cats thru TNR is more humane and acceptable to the community at large. By allowing for TNR, city officials can support that segment of the community that wants a non-lethal method to help reduce cat overpopulation.
- TNR save tax dollars




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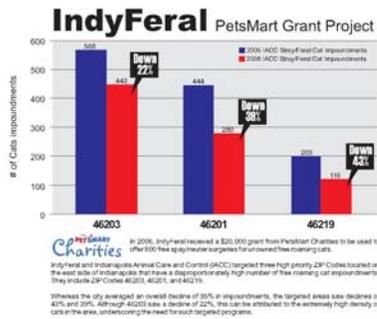
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## Petsmart Grant Project




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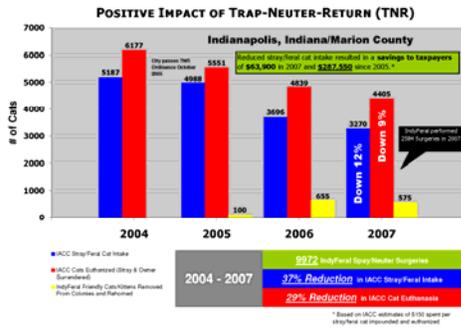
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## Positive Impact of TNR




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## Building Community Partnerships

The key is to reach out and share IndyFeral's mission.



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## Educate Local Groups on TNR

Let people know that you're not just lopping off ears and putting the cats out in the snow...

Don't assume that even animal welfare groups understand the comprehensive nature of TNR and managed colony care.



Don't be afraid to ask for help.

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## City of Indianapolis

- TNR ordinance
- \$15,000 annual funding support
- Broadcast of the "Alley Cat Allies" TNR video on government access channel



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## Indianapolis Animal Care and Control

- Return of eartipped cats from the shelter
- Refer people feeding cats to Indyferal
- Animal cruelty investigation and enforcement
- TNR liaison for mediation cases
- Emergency medical assistance through VCA
- Monthly and statistical information on feral cat impoundments/euthanasia for grant reports and planning of services
- Hand out informational door hangers and nuisance brochures to the publ
- Supply food donations as available to help supplement our food bank



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## Veterinarians

*Paid positions:*  
Dr. Carolyn Kacocha - lead vet/medical advisor  
Paula Jones – medical coordinator

*Community support:*  
16 Volunteer veterinarians that donate their time  
2 Registered vet techs

- Volunteer at spay days
- Volunteer at medical days
- Collect medications, supplies and food from a “vet wish list” we provide them
- Promote TNR/Indyferal on TV or radio when the opportunity arises
- Recruit and educate other veterinarians
- Many refer their clients to us if they are feeding outdoor cats



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## Corporate Partner

### Pet Supplies Plus Stores

- Donated a years supply of wet cat food to feed our post-op surgical cats
- Donated a years supply of Yesterday's News litter for medical cats that are rehabbing
- Provided T-shirts to all of our volunteers
- Hosts our annual mum fundraiser
- Serves as our title sponsor for our annual calendar fundraiser and sells it in his stores



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## Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic

- Performed 1,240 feral cat surgeries for Indyferal in 2008
- Provides mass spay days just for feral cats
- Trap bank available
- Offers minor medical care for feral cats including dental
- Educational/nuisance prevention materials available to the public
- 2009 – offered a \$20 feral cat package to the public
- Serves as the TNR designee for their county



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## Cats Haven

*Sanctuary for special- needs cats and kittens and senior cats who outlived their owners.*

- Fosters feral/ friendly momma cats that had kittens in their traps
- Accept friendly senior and special needs cats/kittens we remove from colonies
- Provide hospice for senior cats from colonies
- At-risk colonies- helps tame feral kittens that we may need to find a home
- Provides TNR/Indyferal information to the public
- Offer traps to the public for TNR



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## FIDO – Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside

*Focuses on helping dog owners to improve the quality of life for their outside dogs, specifically by helping owners find alternatives to continuous chaining as a method of dog containment.*

- Work collaboratively when doing outreach and provide each other's info to the public
- Share donated supplies



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## Spay Neuter Services of Indiana

- Provides a monthly allotment of free surgeries for IndyFeral to offer to members of the community that can't afford to pay
- Offers discount surgery coupons for caretakers to distribute when out in the community doing outreach



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## Humane Society of Indianapolis

- Adoption partner for friendly cats and kittens removed from colonies
- Offers FIV+ cats for adoption
- Adoption of healthy Felv+ cats through foster care
- Cat swap/feral safe program
- Hosts workshops for bottle feeding kittens/taming feral kittens
- Emergency medical care for colony cats
- Makes food pantry available to IndyFeral caretakers



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## Humane Society of Indianapolis cont.

- IndyFeral spayed some in-heat females and then trained HSI to handle them internally. Agreed to assist with colony placement if spaying doesn't calm the cat.
- Permanent TNR/Indyferal educational display set up at the shelter
- HSI purchased a "feral den" for feral cats that get surrendered
- Intercepts people trying to surrender cats in traps



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## New Spay/Neuter Clinic and Animal Welfare Center

The Humane Society of Indianapolis will soon establish the first collaborative low-cost spay/neuter and animal welfare center in Indianapolis. The center will offer low-cost spay/neuter and vaccinations to pets of families in need, TNR assistance and medical care for feral cats, community resources, and more. We plan to sterilize 5,000 cats and dogs in the first year and ramp up to 10,000 - 12,000 within three years.



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## Future Plans for Indyferal and Humane Society of Indianapolis Partnership

- HSI will become Indyferal's primary surgical provider in an effort to increase surgical capacity for feral cats in the city
- Design a clinic with the special needs in mind to care, recover and rehab feral cats.
- Expand free or low-cost TNR surgeries for targeted zip codes with the highest rate of cat impoundments at city shelter
- Development of a community feral cat fund
- Expanded capacity for medical care and long-term recovery for injured/ill feral cats
- Provide a training center for vets and techs who want to learn how to work with feral cats

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## Future plans continued...

- Transport assistance to caretakers or Indyferal mass trapping efforts
- Expansion of trap banks in the city
- Developing and hosting TNR workshops at the shelter to build capacity in the community
- Expansion of the food bank for caretakers
- Development of a feral cat council
- Assistance with targeted outreach and TNR education
- Development of a managed relocation site

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