

I write to urge your support for the Horry County Animal Care Center (HCACC), and specifically their TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) program.

As you know, all animal shelters in and adjacent to the county are over capacity. Transient populations and non-existent spay/neuter laws cause this homeless animal population. Homeless cats is a longstanding issue because of these issues and the only solution is sterilization, but like most municipalities, my town does not offer spay/neuter resources.

Fortunately, HCACC currently has a TNR program. Because of a grant, HCACC one day a week offers appointments for spay/neuter of these homeless cats. There is an army of citizen cat trappers in Horry County. Horry county residents trap in neighborhoods, in mobile home parks, near resorts, in the rural outposts of our county. Residents buy the traps, watch the videos on how to catch the kitties, make the appointment, and HCACC stops the cycle of homelessness one cat at a time. AND the cats get their rabies shots. Currently because of the grant, this hard work is at no charge to the TNR trappers. I do not know if a foundation provided the funds or the county, but I write for the **county** to fund this vital program.

The COUNTY RESIDENTS pay for the traps, the gas to drive to HCACC, the food for the cats once returned to where they call home on the streets. But the goal is that over time, the “colony” will naturally die out because the cats once “fixed” cannot reproduce.

Without this COUNTY program, the closest spay program to is in another STATE- Winnabow, NC where they charge \$38 per trap. But HCACC appointments are nearly impossible to obtain because of the high demand of COUNTY RESIDENTS doing the right thing and volunteering their time and money to fix a problem not created by them.

My point is, the Horry County citizens love animals. We are buying the traps. We are spending our time, our labor, trapping the cats in all types of weather. We buy the gas and drive long distances to and from for surgery and pick up. So the County gets a great benefit of getting all of these homeless cats fixed, simply by having HCACC provide safe, clean, predictable services to the county residents at no charge for TNR. Without this, animal control would have to be called and the cats killed, because they are not adoptable. That is a more expensive alternative to the free labor of the citizens in exchange for free feral cat surgery.

PLEASE help HCACC obtain steady, year over year COUNTY funding to offer free spay neuter (TNR)/rabies shots services for Horry County residents performing TNR services. Horry County citizens are willing to continue to do the hard and heartbreaking work to trap and get these homeless cats fixed, please help us continue this work.

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/why-trap-neuter-return-feral-cats-the-case-for-tnr/>