

# CRC NEWS

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## Breakthrough Year for Community Cats!

2010 was a life saver for thousands of outdoor, free-roaming cats. San Jose Animal Services and Town Cats started a 'Feral Freedom' program where surrendered feral cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped, microchipped, then returned to their neighborhoods.

**Over 1,600** lives were saved in nine months! Feral Freedom worked so well that the Humane Society Silicon Valley

(HSSV) and Silicon Valley Animal Control (SVACA) have begun similar programs.

The Cat Resource Center (CRC) supports this program by replying to questions from the public, recruiting new volunteers and printing educational materials. The feedback has been very positive, as residents of most South Bay cities can now get local stray cats spayed/neutered at no charge.

The program succeeds because of the wonderful committed volunteers. Many participants drive the neutered cats back to their homes each evening, while others reply to public questions about the program.

If you would like to join this terrific, life-saving program, call the CRC at 408-335-4357 or email [info@catcenter.org](mailto:info@catcenter.org) for more information.

## Keeping the Momentum Going

Next year the Cat Resource Center will continue to act as the ombudsperson for people and cats in our community. Other CRC initiatives are also in the works, such as:

Develop TNR Resources for areas without an animal control agency. Some cities, such as Morgan Hill and Gilroy, do not currently have any resources for cat animal control functions. While these entities have begun distributing CRC contact information, there are not many volunteers able to

assist in those areas.

Work with government agencies to draft cat-friendly regulations. Many cities and county regulations could be better worded to support proper colony management practices.

Conduct public education classes. Every neighborhood has cats living outside and many residents would like to assist. Also, many cat guardians have general behavior questions and issues that can be easily resolved.

Organize cat adoption events. There are many rescue groups and independent rescuers who would benefit from a well-publicized multi-group adoption event.

Continue Administrative support for rescue groups. Most groups are busy with the day-to-day care of rescued cats. The CRC helps with recruiting volunteers, answering questions from the public, training, and education, -- allowing the groups to focus on the cats.

### 2010 Highlights:

- Feral Freedom programs started in most South Bay area cities saving over 1,600 lives.
- Over 800 public requests were addressed through the redesigned CRC website [www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org).
- Food was distributed to support over 300 colony cats.



## Cat-in-a-tree

It's a standard cliché: cat gets in a tree and can't seem to get down. After several days, somebody calls the Fire Department, who then rides to the rescue. Except that here in the South Bay – firefighters don't respond to cats in trees, and neither does any other agency. And people are left to helplessly agonize and wonder what can be done.

In this instance, the people

seeing the cat-in-the-tree called the CRC after getting nowhere with the Fire Department, Animal Control, and the Humane Society. The cat had been about 30 feet up in a large juniper for a week, meowing pitilessly, and was possibly pregnant.

CRC volunteers established that the cat looked healthy, and not pregnant, therefore an immediate rescue was not attempted.

Instead, advice and instructions were given to the homeowners, and the tree placed on "watch" - where volunteers came out every other day to check on the situation.

In the end, the cat came down on her own. So the story ended well, and without a risky rescue attempt (for both the cat and rescuers).

## Finding Solutions

A colony caretaker had properly cared for her colony – the five cats were all neutered, she was feeding the right amounts, and feeding in an inconspicuous place. But then the County noticed the cats and said they could not continue to live on County property.

The CRC mitigation team first spoke with the responsible County agency and the deadline was extended to find a solution.

Next to the County property was an apartment complex. The CRC volunteer met with the apartment manager and found that she had been speaking to a pest control company about a few feral kittens the residents had

reported. The pest control company had suggested keeping a small number of cats around for rodent control.

An agreement was made whereby the colony caretaker would TNR the cats at the apartments, and the manager would allow the feeding station to be moved from the County property to the apartment complex. This was truly a win/win for everyone, made possible by a committed colony feeder who was willing to TNR, and a wise apartment manager who recognized the value in live rodent deterrents, and the CRC volunteer who pulled it all together.

## It Works!

Hi Guys,

A few months ago I promoted the CRC to some coworkers - asking them to post flyers at vet offices etc.

I was talking to one of them today and she told me that she contacted the CRC because she discovered a small colony not far from her apartment and wanted to get some advice. A CRC member got back to her and my co-worker got all the information she needed. Not only does she feed those cats now but she made a couple of small shelters out of plastic boxes for them.

It's nice to hear that it really helped someone!! Thanks a lot!!

*From a CRC Member*

*Most pet cats are spayed/ neutered. Unspayed cats can have 2-3 litters (15 kittens) each year.*

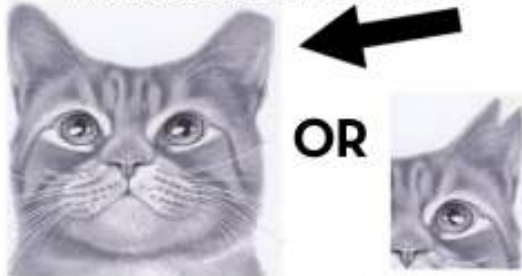
The coolest thing happened yesterday. I had to pass this on to you.

I let a cat out yesterday. It ran, as most of them do, then stopped. Two other cats came over from across the street. No hissing, no nothing. They just looked at each other, then walked off in the same direction.

I'm thinking this guy is back where he belongs. *From a Feral Freedom Driver*

## What happened to her ears?

**Have you seen cats with ears like this?**



These cats have been "ear-tipped" or "notched". This is a surgical alteration showing that a free-living cat has been spayed or neutered. It's part of "TNR", which means "Trap", "Neuter", "Return".

These cats should never be re-trapped or brought to a shelter, unless sick. Instead, they should be left in their neighborhood for cat population control. Studies have shown by just being there, they prevent other cats from moving into the area. And, because they have been fixed, they will never have litters of kittens.

Even if you don't like cats, TNR ear-tipped cats have an important job to do in helping to keep your neighborhood a nice place to live.

For more information contact: Cat Resource Center  
(408) 335-4357 (HELP) or [www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org)

This informative note was developed by the CRC to explain the purpose of ear tips and notches. It is distributed to people who surrender cats to Feral Freedom programs and is used by animal control officers to help describe TNR.

Many people do not know that free-roaming cats can have long and healthy lives outdoors. And if they are spayed/neutered, the unwanted behaviors decrease (fighting, howling, spraying).

We encourage pet cats to be kept indoor only. Outdoor, free-roaming cats can be cared for using proper colony management practices. Find out more at [www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org).

*Colony cats eat around one cup of dry food per day, slightly more in the winter months.*



## How are donations spent?

### Colony Cat Food

In this tough economy, many colony feeders are experiencing financial hardships. Unemployed and fixed-income feeders have the time but not the funds. CRC helps with providing food for properly managed colonies.

### Educational Materials

CRC develops and publishes informational materials like doorhangers and ear tip notes (see above). These are distributed as part of the Feral Freedom program and handed out by animal control agencies.

### Colony Cat Support

Many TNR rescue groups and individuals continue to personally pay for spay/neutering and vaccinations of colony cats. We support these efforts by helping with flea treatments and other colony management supplies.



**CAT RESOURCE CENTER**

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*CRC is an  
all-volunteer  
non-profit 501(c)(3)  
organization.*



## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are the key to helping community cats.

### Help Desk Support

We receive about 100 requests each month. The help desk volunteer contacts the requestor to obtain more information, then distributes the request to CRC members.

### Cat Trappers

Trappers focus on fixing the root cause of the cat overpopulation problem by neutering free-living, reproducing cats. With the Feral Freedom programs, this process is much easier (and free).

### Colony Feeders

Free-living cats are everywhere. Feeders can

manage a colony near their home or work on their own schedule.

### Foster Caregivers

Many kittens and adult cats need temporary homes. Fosters provide food, shelter, and most of all, love, to needy felines.

Contact us to find out more [www.catcenter.org](http://www.catcenter.org).

## About the CRC...

We are the link between rescue groups, volunteers, government agencies, and the public. We:

- Act as the ombudsperson to find a satisfactory resolution to cat-related issues.
- Promote and provide education about cats.
- Improve communication between various groups.
- Support proper cat colony management.
- Coordinate efforts between experienced cat volunteers and the public.
- Demonstrate outstanding integrity.

*Thank You!  
Your donations  
are appreciated.*



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