



Ask Your Vet – Guidelines

Neighborhood Cats' "Ask Your Vet" program is meant to increase spay/neuter capacity for trappers and colony caretakers in New York City. The goal is to leverage already existing relationships with veterinarians who are not currently providing low cost spay/neuter services for the animal welfare community. To help make this happen, Neighborhood Cats will subsidize the cost of surgeries at private veterinarians. Amount of subsidies is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible cats:

- Cats being TNR'd or cats or kittens from colonies being removed for adoption or foster care.

Eligible veterinary clinics:

- Veterinarians in NYC who are not currently offering low cost rates for rescue or TNR cats.
- Willing to provide spay/neuter, eartip (for TNR cats) and rabies vaccine.

Eligible persons:

- Must be TNR-certified.

Other requirements:

- All TNR cats must be eartipped as part of the surgery.
- Application forms for this program must be submitted to Neighborhood Cats and approved before surgery.
- Subsidized services are limited to spay/neuter, eartip and rabies vaccine.

Additional:

- Resources for veterinary clinics for managing and treating community cats can be found at <https://www.neighborhoodcats.org/tnr-in-nyc/ask-your-vet>



Ask Your Vet – Application Form

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Street Address:

Are you TNR certified? Yes___ No___

If yes, certifying organization:

Date of workshop:

Is your colony registered in Cat Stats NYC (www.catstats.org/nyc) Yes___ No___

Number of cats or kittens you're applying for:

Expected outcome for each cat (TNR, adopt, foster):

Location where each cat was found:

Name of veterinary clinic:

Phone:

Street address:

Have you received a quote for spay/neuter, eartip and rabies vaccine: Yes___ No___

If yes, please attach a copy of the quote.

Please note: your application must be approved before surgery. Any expenses beyond spay or neuter, eartip and rabies vaccine are the responsibility of the applicant. Funding for additional medical expenses may be provided at the sole discretion of Neighborhood Cats.

Return your completed application to jackie@neighborhoodcats.org



Ask Your Vet – Talking Points

Before you approach your veterinarian, it's a good idea to have a plan for what you're going to say. The goal is to quickly convey your desire to help the community cats in your neighborhood and the need for your vet's assistance. Consider the following talking points as you prepare for your meeting:

- There is currently an overpopulation of feral and stray cats living on the streets of New York City. These are commonly referred to as "community cats."
- Thousands of compassionate people, including myself, feed and watch over the cats in their neighborhoods.
- I'm doing the best I can, but unless I can get the cats in my colony spayed or neutered, the situation is going to get worse.
- There is currently a severe shortage of affordable spay/neuter services for community cats.
- The nonprofit, Neighborhood Cats, has a program which subsidizes spay/neuter surgeries performed by private veterinarians.
- Standard treatment under the program includes spay or neuter, rabies vaccine and ear-tipping (the universal mark of a fixed community cat).
- Would you be interested in participating in the program by spaying or neutering community cats? Any number of surgeries, even one, would be a big help.
- Can you offer a discounted rate?

You can also inform your veterinarian that on our website, Neighborhood Cats offers instructional materials from veterinary experts on safely handling community cats, anesthesia protocols, ear-tipping techniques, and more. The link is <https://tinyurl.com/AskYourVet>.

If your veterinarian wants more information or needs equipment for handling feral cats in their clinic, please contact our NYC Community Cat Program Director, Jackie Borodan, at jackie@neighborhoodcats.org.