A photograph of two women in a backyard setting. The woman on the left has short red hair and is wearing a white tank top and a long yellow skirt. She is leaning over a wire cage. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts. She is also leaning over a wire cage. There are several wire cages on the grass, some containing cats. A small grey kitten is running towards the camera in the foreground. In the background, there is a green door with a purple ribbon, a coiled green hose, and some outdoor furniture.

# From the Backyard to the Front Page: Building a TNR Movement



THE  
**COMMUNITY CATS**  
PODCAST



**NEIGHBORHOODCATS**



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<sup>58</sup> Tomahawk Live Trap

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## Turn your passion for cats into action!

Join host Stacy LeBaron every week for insightful interviews, educational discussions and supportive advice for cat caregivers and animal welfare advocates.

Plus visit the website for thoughtful weekly blog posts and while you're there, apply for a Community Cats Grant. Qualifying organizations gain access to a mentoring program, plan a fundraiser for their group and earn grant money!

Learn more at [communitycatspodcast.com](https://communitycatspodcast.com).



## Check out some of our recent guests!



**Cats at Play with**  
Dr. Mikel Delgado,  
Co-Owner of Feline Minds



**Honoring Our Best Friends**  
with Cheryl Richardson,  
Author of How to Survive  
the Loss of a Pet



**How to Reunite Pets and**  
**Owners with Corinne Bourgoin,**  
Operations Coordinator, MSPCA  
Boston Adoption Center



**Same Team with Sterling**  
Davis, Atlanta's "Trap King"



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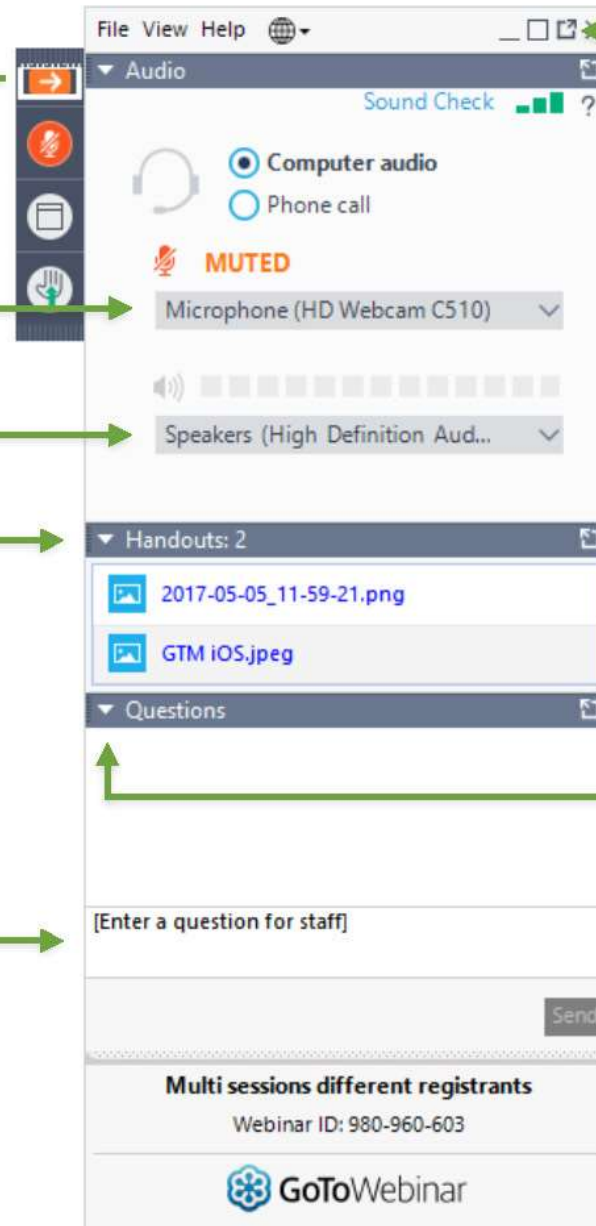
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If any section is collapsed by default, just click the arrow next to the heading and it will expand.





**Susan Richmond**

**Executive Director  
Neighborhood Cats**

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**Bryan Kortis**  
National Programs Director  
Neighborhood Cats  
[bryan@neighborhoodcats.org](mailto:bryan@neighborhoodcats.org)



# Continue to take your TNR work to the next level!



Registration at:

[communitycatspodcast.com/feb17](https://communitycatspodcast.com/feb17)



Registration at:

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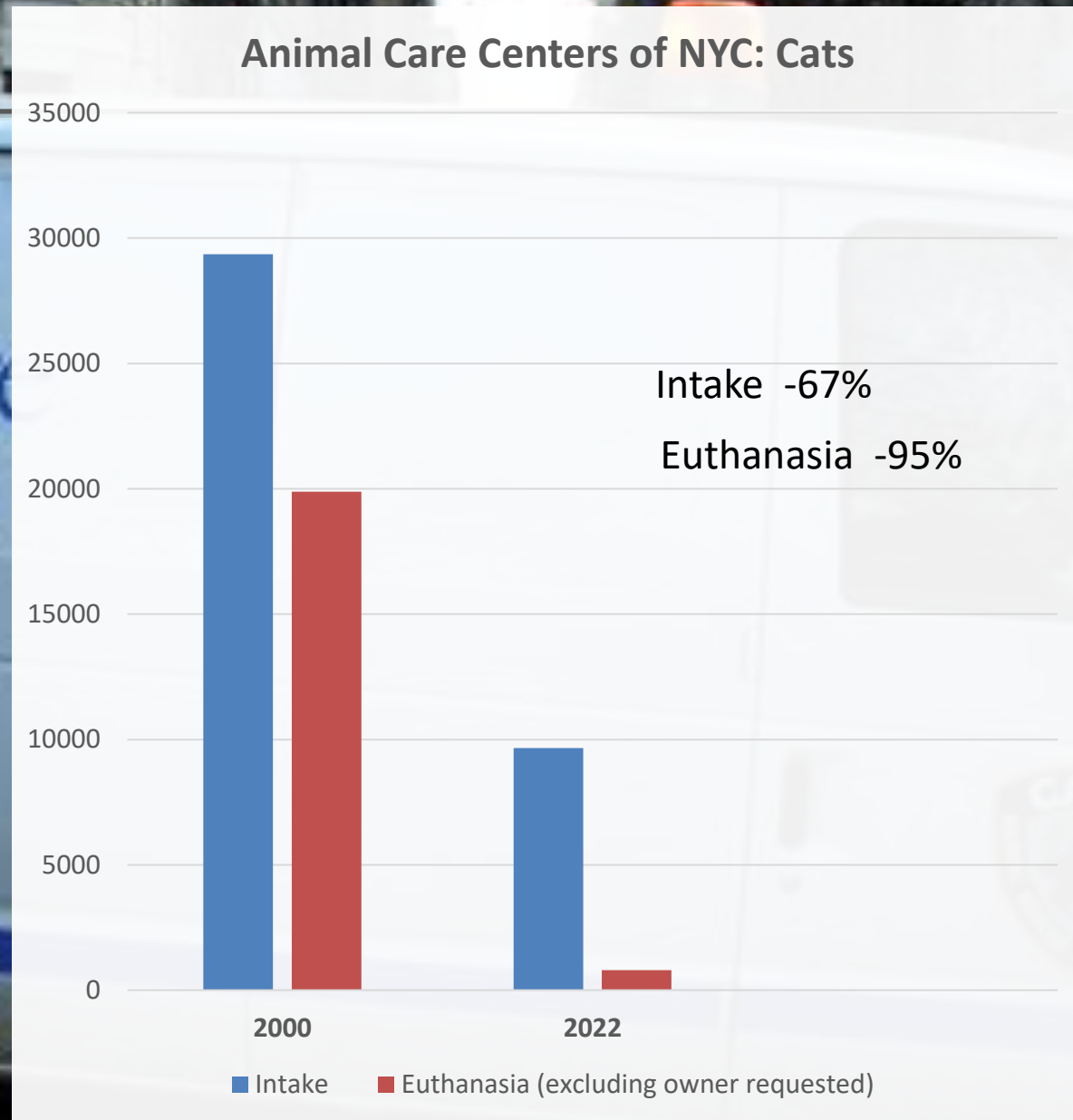


## Neighborhood Cats in 1999

- Three volunteers residing on Upper West Side of Manhattan
- Self-funded
- No spay/neuter programs for ferals in New York City
- High cat euthanasia rate at city shelters



# Progress!





A photograph of a narrow, old alleyway in an urban setting. In the upper left, a black cat sits on a metal railing. In the lower right, a calico cat sits on a concrete ledge next to a tree. The walls are made of weathered brick and concrete, and the ground is uneven. A black metal fence is visible on the right side.

## Our first colony

- Over 30 cats & kittens in interior courtyards of one square block
- Developed relationships with store owners, supers, doormen, residents
- Found local vets to fix one or two at a time



## Became our “model colony”

- Goal = 100% spayed & neutered
- All kittens and friendly adults placed in homes
- Zealous caretaking
- Documented everything – data, photos, vet records







## Success

- Colony size dropped from about 30 to 12 within one year
- Far fewer nuisance complaints
- Kittens only from one female (until we caught her after several years of trying!)

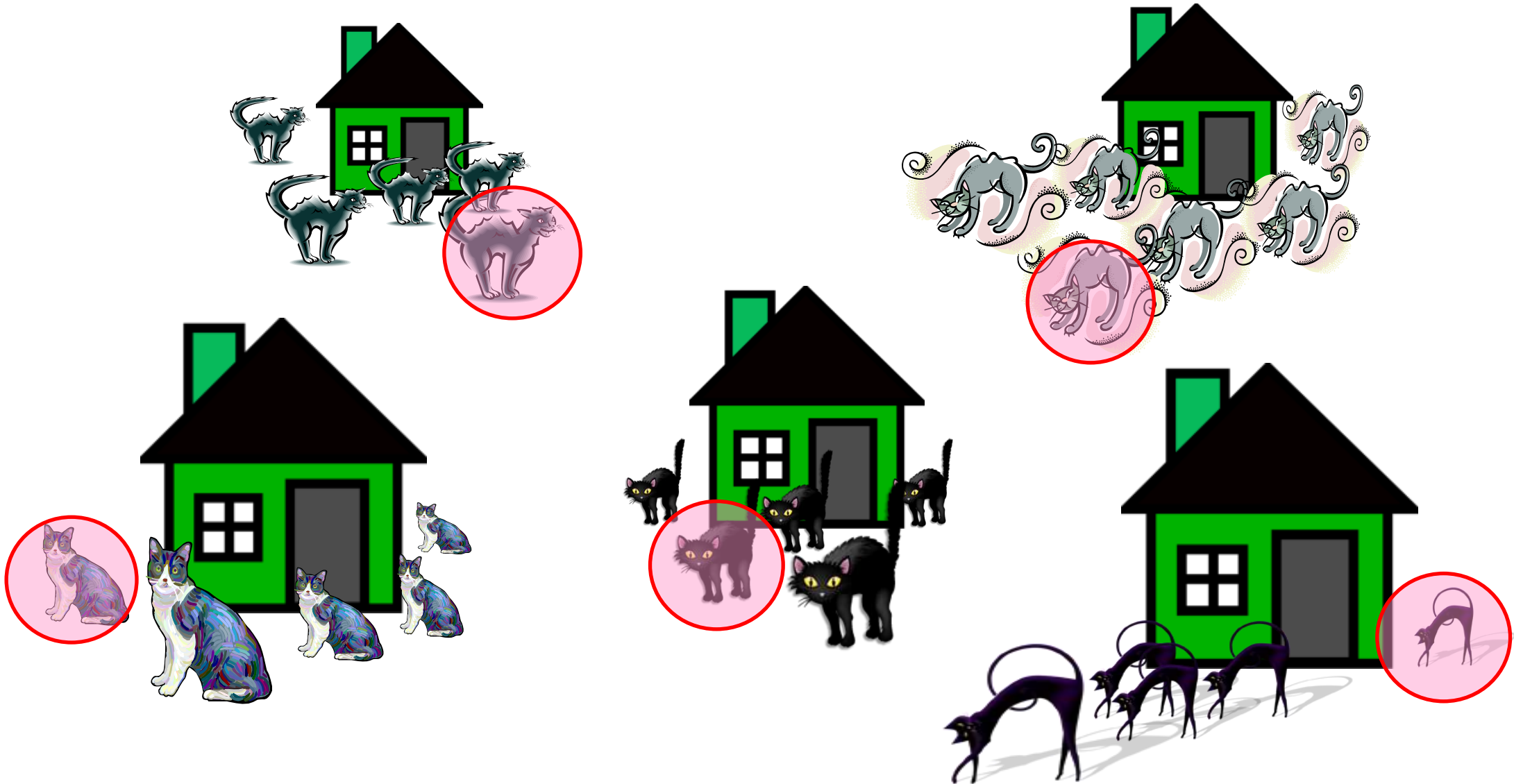


# 5 colonies / 5 surgeries



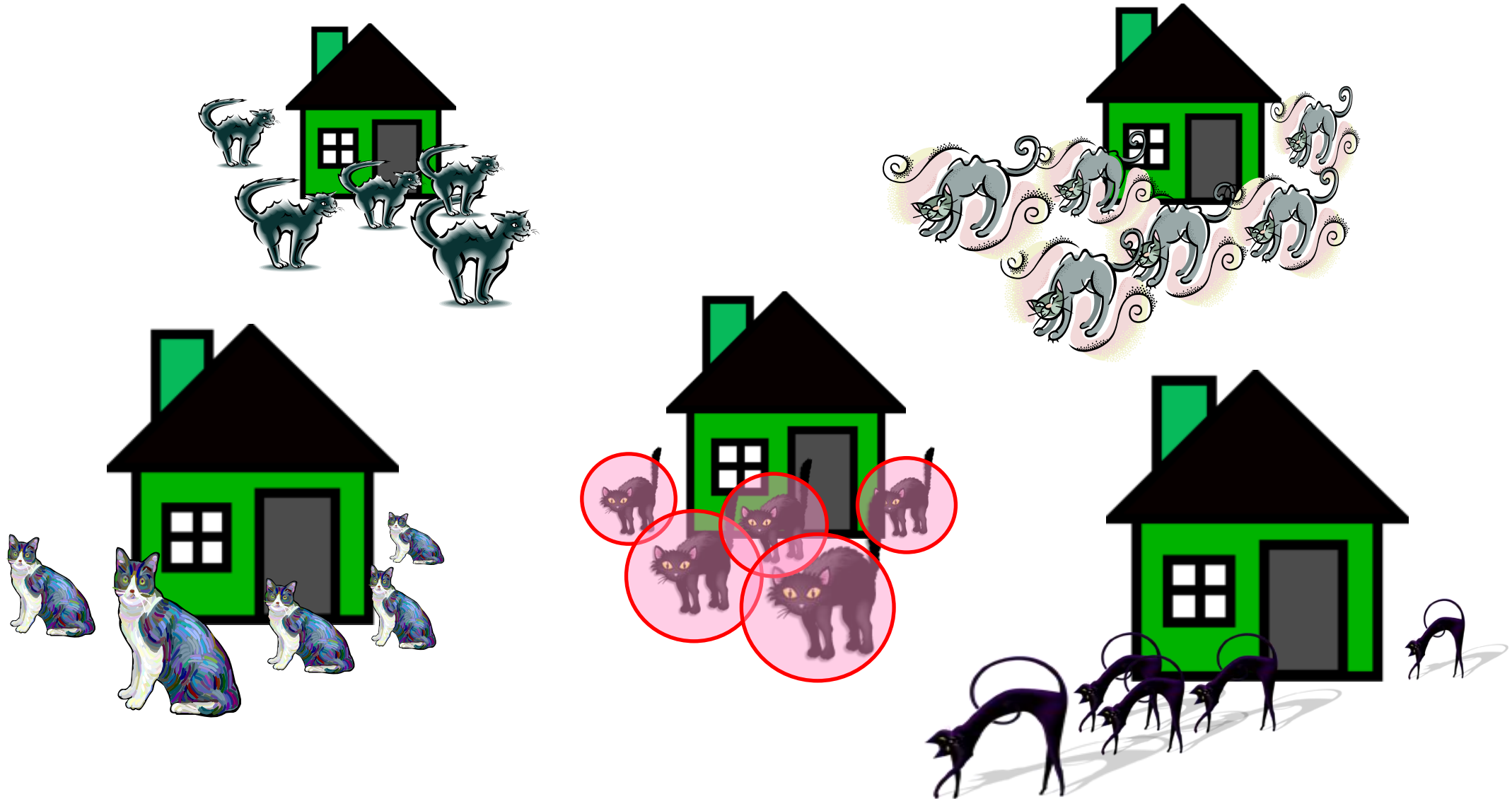


TNR 1 cat per colony = 20% sterilization rate in each





# TNR 5 cats in 1 colony = colony level targeting





## Next steps

- Word spread fast and local requests for help came in
- Next TNR'd the colony across the street, then other nearby blocks







## Maximized caretaker participation

- Trapping, holding, transport, funding, feeding, etc.
- Filled in the gaps to get the cats fixed
- Incorporated, started basic fundraising, got small grants



## TNR'd multiple colonies in local park

- Four colonies spread throughout Riverside Park (65 cats total)
- Developed strong network of caretakers
- Government involvement through the NYC Parks Dept.





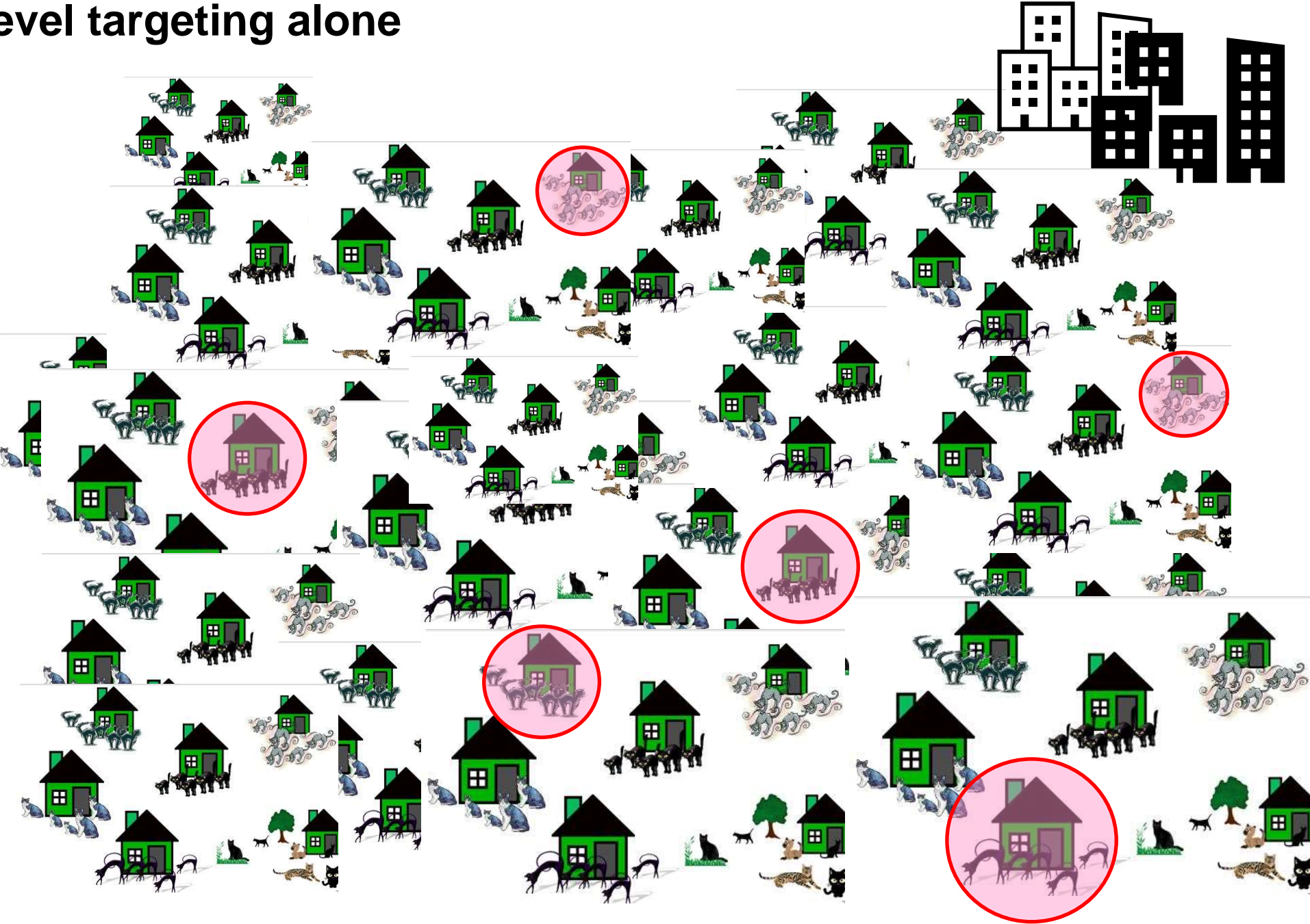
## Model neighborhood

- After 2 ½ years, all known colonies on the Upper West Side were fixed
- Stray cat intake to ACC from the Upper West Side's three ZIP codes dropped 73%



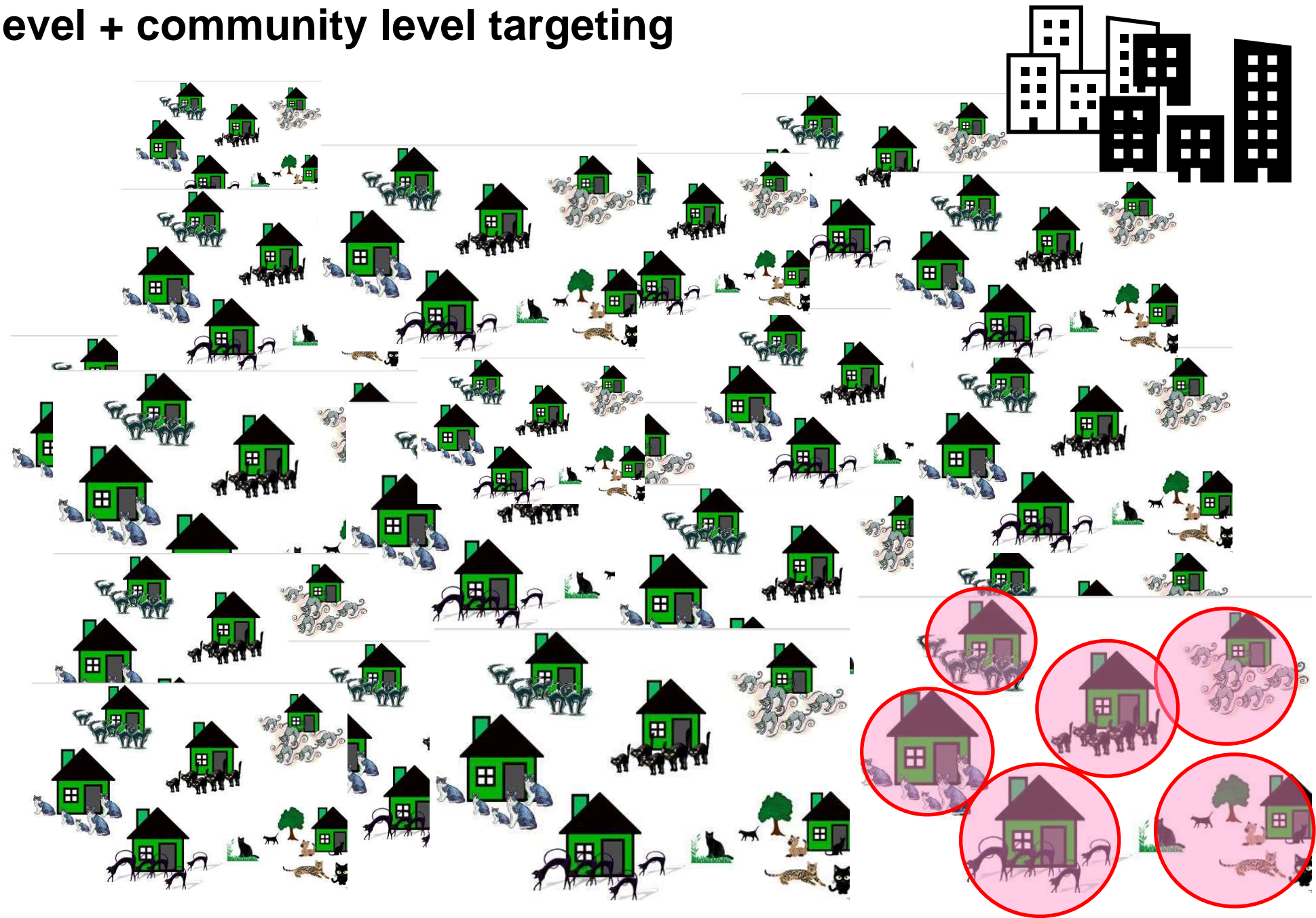


# Colony level targeting alone





# Colony level + community level targeting





## Success breeds success

- Real-life examples more persuasive than theory
- People facing similar issues see you have a solution
- Attracts donors, grantors
- Provides a foundation for expanding into the wider community





## Document everything!

- Before/after numbers (to track impact on colony size)
- Outcomes: returned, adopted, etc.
- Impact: shelter data (esp. intake), requests for assistance, complaint calls, DOA, rabies exposures.
- Photos, videos







# CAT STATS

A PROGRAM OF NEIGHBORHOOD CATS



**DONATE TODAY**

[HOME](#)

[START HERE](#)

[FAQS](#)

## **INTRODUCING CAT STATS!**

Create an online colony database  
for your TNR program

**START HERE**





## Expanding: Gain more TNR resources

- Approached city shelter
- Approached larger local animal welfare agencies
- Pilot projects



# Roles for animal control

- Provide support for official approval of TNR (ordinances, policies)
- Refer complaints and inquiries
- Eartipped cat alerts
- Collect and share data
- Joint projects!





## Pilot projects

- Select site(s) carefully
- Not the most difficult to work
- Strong caretakers
- Adequate resources available





## Prioritize government agencies

- Lots of agencies manage land with cat populations (Parks, Sanitation, Transportation, Police, Corrections, Fire)
- Build municipal support and acceptance





# Fresh Kills Landfill

Staten Island, New York





## Seek out high profile projects – media magnets

- Jails/prisons
- Sports stadiums
- Tourist attractions
- College campus







## Growing the grassroots: training workshops

- Basic TNR protocols
- How to access local services
- “Certification” = entry point into network of services



**We're on a break -  
back soon with Cat Trivia!**







**CAT TRIVIA!**



# Steps for caretaker/residents (NYC)



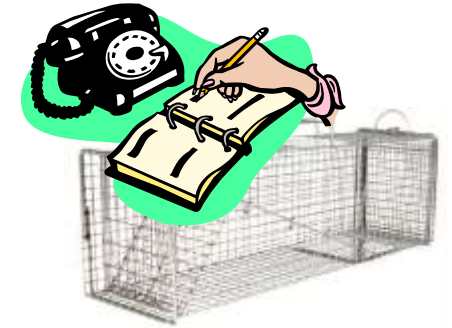
1. Outreach



2. Contact TNR program



3. Attend training



4. Schedule s/n and equipment



5. Trap



6. Bring for spay/neuter & recover post-surgery



7. Release



# Outreach

- Callers/emails seeking assistance
- Online: website, social media
- Other service providers/partners
- Donated space (malls)

***Are there stray cats in your yard or neighborhood?***

***Have you been feeding these cats and wish you could do more?***



**Learn how you can help the cats in your neighborhood.**

**Come to a workshop and learn "Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)."**



TNR involves trapping all the cats living in an area, having them neutered, vaccinated for rabies and marked for identification and then returning them to their original territory.

Log on to **feralcat.org** to find out how you can attend a TNR workshop and help the cats in your community.



***Are there stray cats in your yard or neighborhood?***  
***Have you been feeding cats and wish you could do more?***

**Come learn how you can help the cats in your neighborhood.**

Come to a workshop and learn "Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)." Then take advantage of the many services available, including expert advice, free equipment and free spay/neuter surgery.

TNR involves trapping all the cats living in an area, having them neutered, vaccinated for rabies and marked for identification, then returning them to their original territory.

Why TNR works:

- No more litters of unwanted kittens
- No more howling and fighting at night
- No more foul-smelling urine

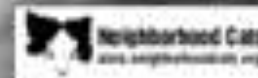
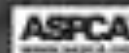
Attend a Neighborhood Cats workshop at the ASPCA and learn everything you need to know about how you can implement Trap-Neuter-Return in your community.

**Saturday, August 6, 2005, 1–4 p.m. or September 3, 2005, 1–4 p.m.**

**ASPCA** 424 E. 92nd Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY

RSVP (required) to: 212-662-5761 or [headcat@neighborhoodcats.org](mailto:headcat@neighborhoodcats.org)

(\$15 donation suggested, but not required)







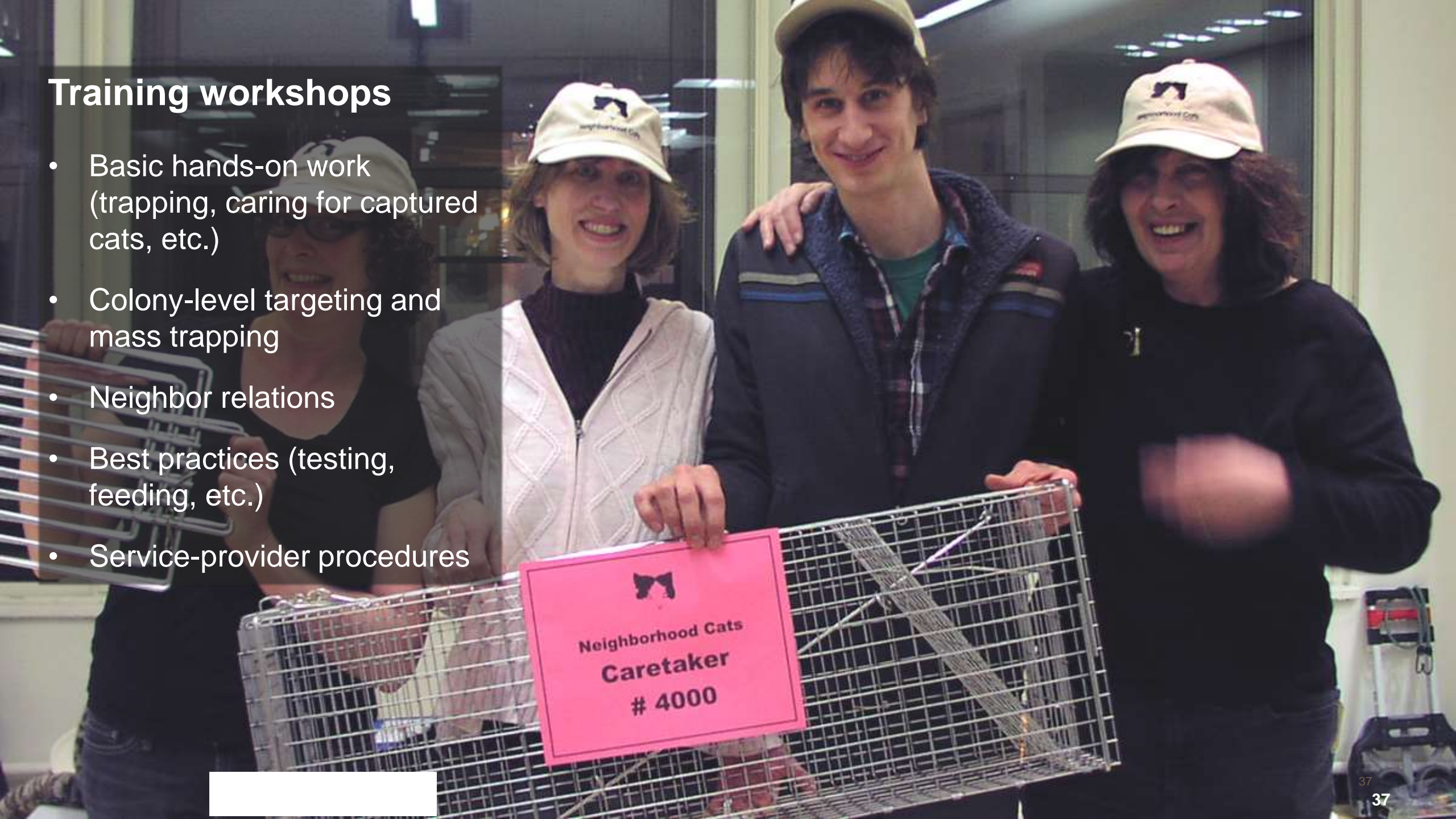
## Prioritize requests

1. Willing and able – steer to training or next step in your program's protocol
2. Willing but not able (special needs like elderly, disabled) – assist as resources allow
3. Able but not willing - track info for possible future assistance, consider offering paid help



## Training workshops

- Basic hands-on work (trapping, caring for captured cats, etc.)
- Colony-level targeting and mass trapping
- Neighbor relations
- Best practices (testing, feeding, etc.)
- Service-provider procedures





# TNR Certification

Make services contingent upon training:

- Free or discount spay/neuter
- Trap banks
- Extra assistance (coaches, transportation, holding space, etc.)
- Food, shelter giveaways

Share certification list or provide cards or certificates





# TNR CERTIFICATION



**Saturday, March 9th**  
**2:00-4:45 PM EST.**  
**Registration at:**  
**communitycatspodcast.com**



## **Now NACA Approved for CE Credits!**

This course/webinar/series/conference has been approved for Continuing Educational Units by the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA). National certificate holders can submit for credit consistent with the NACA CEU policy located at <https://nacatraining.org/continuing-education-recertification/>



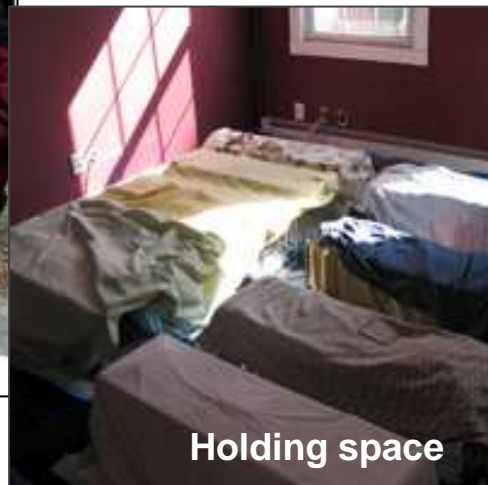


- **In-field training**
- When workshops are not a viable approach (population base or target area are small):
- Training limited to hands-on work, usually only trapping, but could also include care of captured cats and transport



# Network of services

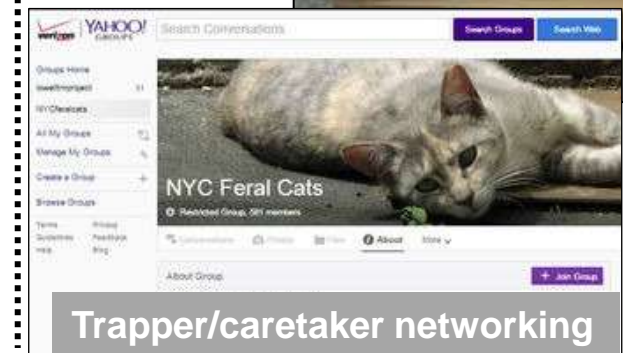
## Field Work



## Veterinary



## Caretaking





## Trap bank

- Traps: 30" to 36" in length with rear sliding door
- Trap dividers/isolators: Must be strong enough (Tomahawk or Tru-Catch)
- Drop traps ([www.livetrapped.com](http://www.livetrapped.com))







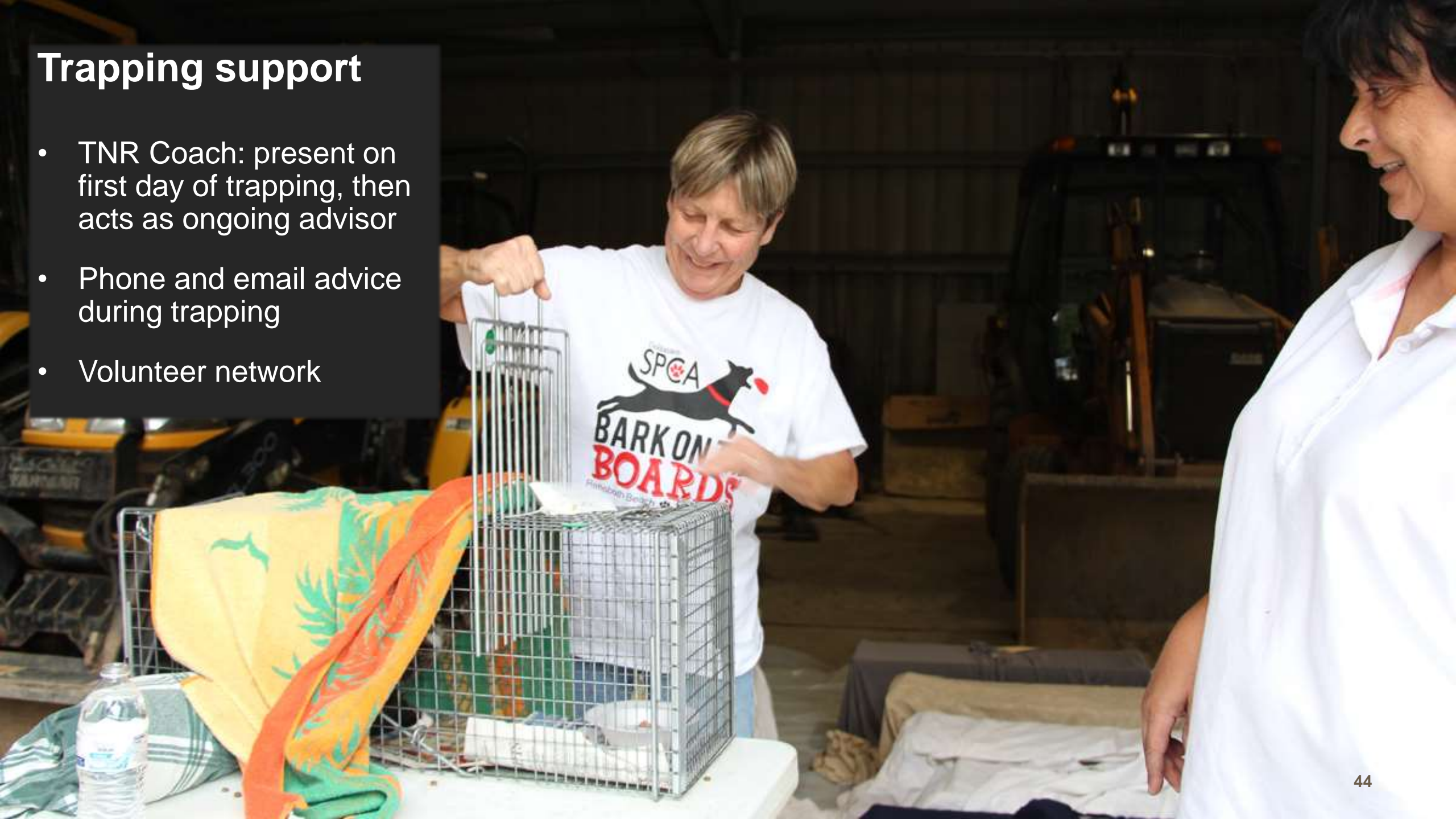
### Rule of thumb:

- Number of traps = spay/neuter capacity per week x 2  
(e.g., 20 s/n a week = 40 traps)
- Pick-up and drop-off at designated times, not by appointment



## Trapping support

- TNR Coach: present on first day of trapping, then acts as ongoing advisor
- Phone and email advice during trapping
- Volunteer network





## Holding space

- Space for 2-3 days before surgery, 1-2 days after
- Warm, dry & secure





## Transport

- Pick-up and drop-off traps
- To and from spay/neuter clinic
- From colony site to holding space and back





# Spay/neuter

- Lower the cost, higher the participation
- Schedule by colony, not caretaker
- All TNR-rate cats must be eartipped
- One cat per trap, covered
- Train veterinary staff how to handle ferals (keeping in traps, feeding, cleaning, etc.)
- Provide clinic with necessary equipment, like trap dividers

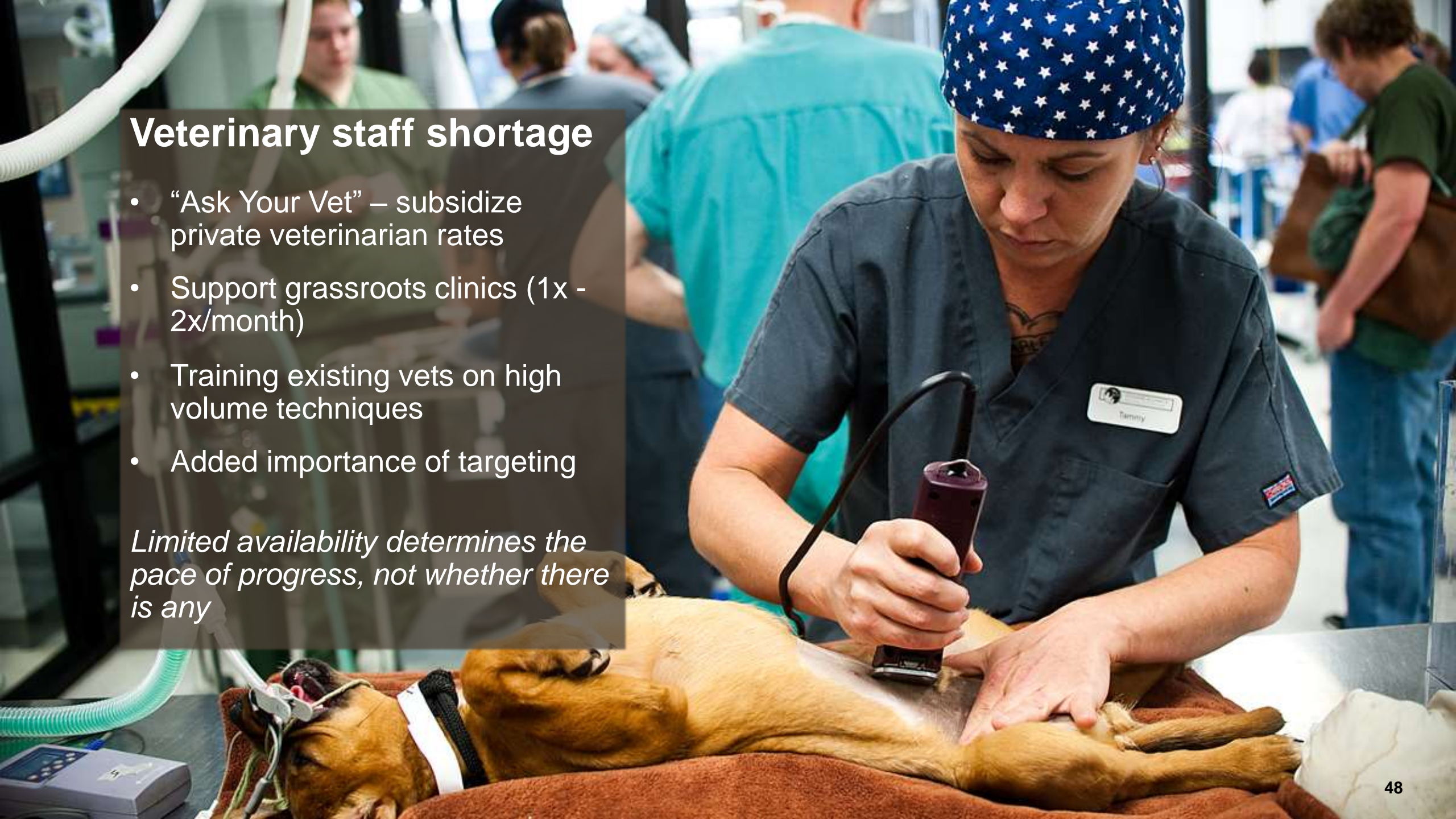




## Veterinary staff shortage

- “Ask Your Vet” – subsidize private veterinarian rates
- Support grassroots clinics (1x - 2x/month)
- Training existing vets on high volume techniques
- Added importance of targeting

*Limited availability determines the pace of progress, not whether there is any*







## Caretaker network

- Online discussion group
- Email network
- Advocacy / mediation
- Social events

### Maui Cat Coalition



+ Invite



Discussion

Featured

Reels

Members

Media

Files



Write something...



Reel



Photo/video



Room

#### Featured

6 new



#### About

This group was created in 2019 to help people help cats on the island of Maui.

The mission: "Community cat" is the term for a free roaming stray or unsocialized cat who lives outside, either on its own or in a managed, TNR (trap neuter return) colony with a caretaker. This group was created as a networking resource for those who help community cats through TNR, fostering, rescuing, and caring for community cat colonies and for helping those wanting to learn or who need



## Food

- Obtain and distribute food donations
- Holiday food drives
- Caretaker-in-need fund





**Shelter & straw  
giveaways & sales**





# JOIN THE COMMUNITY



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@NbrhoodCats



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...or visit our site at [neighborhoodcats.org](https://neighborhoodcats.org)



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# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

