

Discover The Truth About Feral Cats And Rabies.

The fact is that the fear of rabies far outweighs any actual threat from this disease. In the United States, the danger of humans contracting rabies is extremely slight due to vaccination.

What is rabies?

Rabies is an acute viral infection of the central nervous system that, left untreated, is virtually always fatal. It is the most feared of all zoonotic diseases, meaning diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

The numbers don't lie.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 38 laboratory-confirmed human rabies cases between 1990 and 2006, with at least seven known to have originated outside the U.S. None of these cases were acquired from a cat.

Trap, neuter, and return (TNR) further reduces the risk of rabies.

In the United States, rabies is overwhelmingly a disease of wildlife. For humans, treatment is completely effective if begun within an established time frame, and the risk to humans and companion animals, which is already minimal, can be even further reduced through TNR.

(More on the other side)



Alley Cat Allies
7920 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
alleycat@alleycat.org

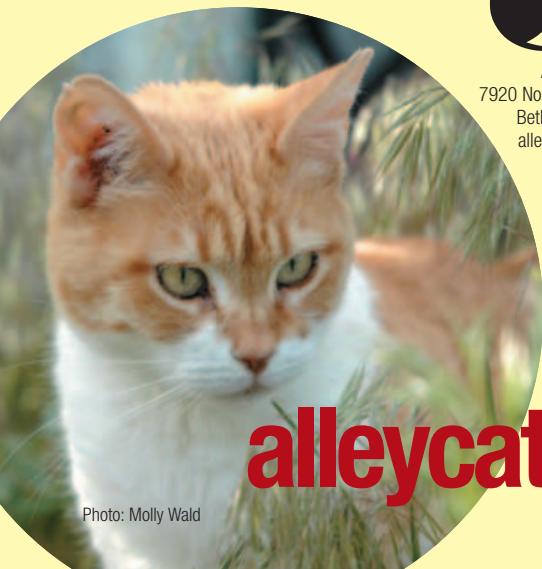


Photo: Molly Wald

alleycat.org

Discover The Truth About Feral Cats And Rabies.

(continued from the other side)

Feral cats in a TNR program are vaccinated.

If exposed to a rabid animal, a vaccinated cat will not acquire the rabies virus and so cannot transmit it to other animals or humans. TNR is the only widely available, effective, and efficient method to ensure that feral cats are protected against rabies. Plus, a vaccinated cat presents no rabies threat to a caregiver or any other human or animal.

What can you do?

You can support oral rabies vaccine programs for wildlife species susceptible to rabies. You can educate your community on how to minimize human risk from wildlife rabies by vaccinating cats and dogs, reporting sick or suspicious-acting animals to appropriate agencies, animal-proofing homes and outbuildings, and teaching children safety precautions. And, finally, you can support and promote vaccination and sterilization of all cats, especially feral cat colonies through TNR as an effective part of a comprehensive rabies control program.



Photo: Molly Wald

You can make a difference and save lives.

Together, we can help people understand how effective the humane solution, TNR, can be. To learn more or to find tools to help you educate people in your area, go to alleycat.org.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

**SUPPORT TRAP,
NEUTER, AND RETURN**
alleycat.org

