

Catalyst for Cats, Inc. is a grass-roots, hands-on, volunteer organization which depends on the generosity of people who want to make a difference in the lives of feral cats. Please join us and become a member of our team. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year membership and the *Catalyst for Cats, Inc.* newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION CATEGORIES

\$1000: Angel \$50: Helper
 \$500: Supporter \$25: Active
 \$200: Sponsor \$10: Student/Sr.
 \$100: Contributor Other

Catalyst for Cats, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please send your donation to the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please send me a donation receipt.

I wish to designate my donation in memory of _____

• Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program. You could double or triple your donation!

• Yes, I would like to volunteer. Please contact me at: _____

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ABOUT Catalyst for Cats

Founded in 1990 by Randi Fairbrother and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1991, *Catalyst for Cats, Inc.* is dedicated to helping stray and feral cats. The organization's primary goal is to prevent the suffering of cats, and its main strategy is the reduction and control of feral cat populations within Santa Barbara County.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can become a catalyst for change in the lives of feral cats by helping in the following ways:

- Spay or neuter your household pet and encourage others to do the same. Our feral cat epidemic is largely the result of unaltered, lost, or abandoned cats. We can refer you to low-cost spay/neuter programs.
- Report breeding cat colonies to us and spread the word about our work.
- Adopt a rescued cat or kitten.
- Become a volunteer. We need fosters to bottle feed and tame kittens, neighborhood caretakers, trappers, and transporters.
- Make a donation to *Catalyst for Cats, Inc.* All contributions go directly towards preventing cruelty to animals by addressing the feline overpopulation problem.



You can help prevent the tragedy of overpopulation!



Dedicated to the Humane Reduction of Feral Cat Populations

WHAT IS A FERAL CAT?

At first they look like your pet tabby, but they are very different. Born in the wild to abandoned, lost, or neglected mothers, and denied human companionship in the first couple months of their lives, they become feral. Often called “strays” or “alley cats,” they scavenge for food near dumpsters, behind businesses, in parks, or even your own backyard.



THE LIFE OF A FERAL CAT

Hunger, harsh weather, and a constant struggle to survive characterize the lives of unaltered feral cats. They scratch out a meager existence wherever they can find food. Once they locate a food source—whether from the trash or from a well-meaning individual—they band together and form colonies. More than half the kittens born into these colonies die soon after birth. The “survivors” generally live short and difficult lives. Females may produce three litters per year and spend most of their lives pregnant or caring for their young. Tom cats roam far and wide in search of mates, often sustaining serious or even fatal injuries, infections and diseases.



THE OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM

There is probably not a town in the United States that does not have feral cats. The public pays for this overpopulation problem with their tax dollars, and the cats pay with their lives!

Most animal control agencies rely on euthanasia to deal with feral cat populations. *Catalyst for Cats*, however, believes this method is not only inhumane, but ineffective. Studies show that eliminating colonies just makes room for new cats to move into the territory. Altered cats, on the other hand, maintain their group status and protect their territory from newcomers.



Spots, from an early Catalyst colony in Isla Vista

THE HUMANE SOLUTION

The *Catalyst for Cats* TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Program is a promising alternative to solving the overpopulation problem of the feral cat colonies within Santa Barbara County. TNRs are gaining popularity nationally and internationally, because of their proven effectiveness in limiting wanton breeding.

In TNR programs the cats are humanely trapped, spayed and neutered, and one ear is “tipped” for identification. Testing for feline diseases is done selectively. After surgery and recuperation, we return the cats to their original colony under the supervision of the caregivers.

Rescued kittens are socialized, sterilized and placed into loving homes. The resulting colony is healthier and friendlier, and yowling and spraying problems are virtually eliminated. Most importantly, that vicious breeding cycle in these colonies is broken!

