



# Dutch Neck Community Cat Colony Response

## Trap Neuter Release Initiative

### West Windsor Township Police Department

#### Animal Control Unit

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### Current Status



Estimated Colony Population: **15-20**  
Total Cats Sterilized to Date: **15**  
Total Cats Vaccinated: **15**  
Total Cats Adopted or in Foster Care: **0**  
Next Scheduled TNR Operation: **In Progress**

This section will be updated periodically as the initiative progresses.

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## Overview

The West Windsor Township Police Department Animal Control Officer is currently managing a community cat colony concern within the Township. This effort is being conducted in coordination with local rescue organizations, licensed veterinarians, and community stakeholders.

Our objective is to humanely stabilize the colony through a structured Trap Neuter Release program, commonly referred to as TNR, while actively identifying cats and kittens suitable for adoption or foster placement.

The Department is committed to a lawful, humane, and transparent process that prioritizes animal welfare, public health, and community safety.

## What is Trap Neuter Release (TNR)?

Trap Neuter Release is a nationally recognized method for humanely managing free roaming cat populations. Under this approach:

- Cats are humanely trapped using approved equipment
- Cats are transported to a licensed veterinarian
- Cats are spayed or neutered
- Cats are vaccinated
- Cats are ear tipped for identification
- Socialized cats and kittens are evaluated for adoption
- Non adoptable cats are returned to their original location

Ear tipping is a small, universally recognized mark on the ear that indicates a cat has already been sterilized and vaccinated. This prevents unnecessary repeat trapping.

For additional information about TNR best practices, please refer to the following resources:

Alley Cat Allies

<https://www.alleycat.org>

ASPCA

<https://www.aspca.org>

Humane Society of the United States

<https://www.humanesociety.org>

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## Timeline of Efforts

### Stage 1: Initial Report

Date: 2024-2025

A concern was reported regarding a group of free roaming cats in the area. The Animal Control Officer documented the complaint and initiated an assessment.

### Stage 2: Site Assessment and Population Estimate

Date: 2025

The Animal Control Officer conducted site visits to assess the number of cats, overall health conditions, and environmental factors. An initial population estimate was established.

### Stage 3: Partnership Outreach

Date: 1/2026

The Department contacted local rescue organizations and veterinary partners to coordinate TNR operations and explore adoption opportunities.

#### **Stage 4: First TNR Operation**

Date: 3/3/2026 Update - In Progress

Number of cats trapped: 15

Number spayed or neutered: 15

Number vaccinated: 15

Number identified as adoptable: Still TBD

#### **Stage 5: Adoption and Foster Placement**

Date: TBD

Cats and kittens suitable for socialization were transferred to partnering rescue organizations for foster placement and adoption processing.

#### **Stage 6: Ongoing Monitoring and Follow Up**

Date: Ongoing

Additional trapping dates are scheduled as needed. The colony is being monitored to ensure stabilization and reduction in population growth.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Why are the cats not simply removed?

State and national best practices recognize TNR as the most effective and humane method for managing community cat populations. Removing cats without sterilization typically results in new unsterilized cats moving into the area, which can increase long term population growth.

Are the cats vaccinated?

Yes. Cats processed through the TNR program are vaccinated at the time of sterilization.

What does ear tipped mean?

Ear tipping is a small mark on the ear that identifies a cat as having already been sterilized and vaccinated.

Is feeding permitted?

Residents are encouraged to follow Township ordinances and avoid creating conditions that may unintentionally attract wildlife. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Animal Control for guidance.

How can residents help?

Residents who observe new cats in the area or have information that may assist in trapping efforts are encouraged to contact the West Windsor Township Police Department Animal Control Officer.

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## **Community Partnerships**

This initiative is being conducted in collaboration with local rescue organizations and veterinary partners committed to humane animal care. We thank our community partners for their assistance and support.

[EASEL – Animal Rescue League](#)

[SAVE – A Friend to Homeless Animals](#)

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#### Contact Information

For additional information regarding this initiative, please contact:

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Chief Robert Garofalo

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Email: [Office Manager Grogan](#)