



2009 Feral Cat Colony Caretaker Survey Results

Results Published on March 31, 2010

Summary Statement

The 2009 survey results demonstrate the success of a carefully managed TNR program. A net reduction of 32% in the number of cats currently present within the Triple R Pets' managed colonies clearly demonstrates the population decrease effect seen with Trap-Neuter-Return programs. In addition, of the reporting managed colonies, 72% demonstrated a decrease in the overall colony population.

Survey Objective

Take a complete census count of every cat registered to Triple R Pets through our community TNR programs. Leverage the results to:

- Follow-up with colonies that have new residents
- Reach out to every caretaker to offer further assistance and ensure the overall health of the colony is intact
- Provide statistics about the changes in population within managed colonies
- Increase the outreach of TNR programs for Triple R Pets and other TNR organizations

Methodology

Send a paper survey with a self-addressed return envelope to every active caretaker in the database.

Total Cats in the Triple R Pets Database	1,431
Cats excluded from survey	117
Known Death/Euthanasia	26
Prior Adoption	16
Prior Surrender to Other Agency	21
Caretakers No Longer in Program*	<u>54</u>
	117
Cats Included in the Survey	1,314

* Caretaker has relocated, cats were relocated, caretaker refused to comply with Triple R Pets' standards of Caretaker Responsibility

Triple R Pets TNR Database Overview

Every cat that Triple R Pets assists with spay/neuter and vaccination updates is registered and kept up to date in our on-line database (SQL architecture). Through our network of volunteers, all TNR activities are logged by cat and colony; collecting key pieces of information about both the colony and the cats.

Survey Results: By Cat

- Results were returned for 87% of the cats in the survey field or 1,139 cats with known current status

	Individual Cat Counts	% of Cats Surveyed
Cats Surveyed	1,314	
Cat remains present with colony	627	48%
Cat has been adopted or surrendered for adoption	225	17%
Cat has gone missing	200	15%
Cat was confirmed dead / euthanized	77	6%
Cat was relocated to another colony	10	1%
Total Respondents	1,139	87%
No data received from caretaker	175	13%

Table 1 Individual Cat Response Data

- The caretaker's diligence in updating the records was thorough. Names were corrected, if any medical care had been provided, it was clearly notes on the survey forms (several actual result copies are attached).

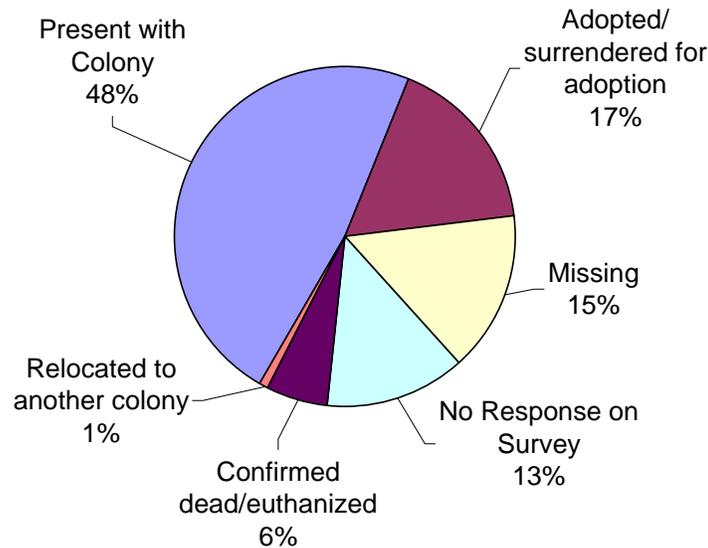


Figure 1 Individual Cat Disposition Results

- A net decrease in the overall population was noted. 425 fewer cats in the colonies reported or a 37% population decrease.
- The largest driver of the population decrease was socialization of kittens and adoptions – these are all cats that without a TNR program, would have grown to become breeding adults.
- Natural attrition of the population (missing cats) is the second largest driver in they decrease. Many of these colonies are near “forest preserves,” Triple R Pets, through mapping of the colonies, sees larger colonies and significantly more colonies in neighborhoods near “forest preserves.” There are several hypothesis around the driver for this trend including
 - Notable increase in “dumping” of cats in this area
 - Animal Control Officers direct statements that they “release” trapped cats into the woods to avoid euthanizing the cats
 - Food source in the woods
- The coyote population has also been a concern in these areas and we believe that many of the cats fall prey to the coyotes

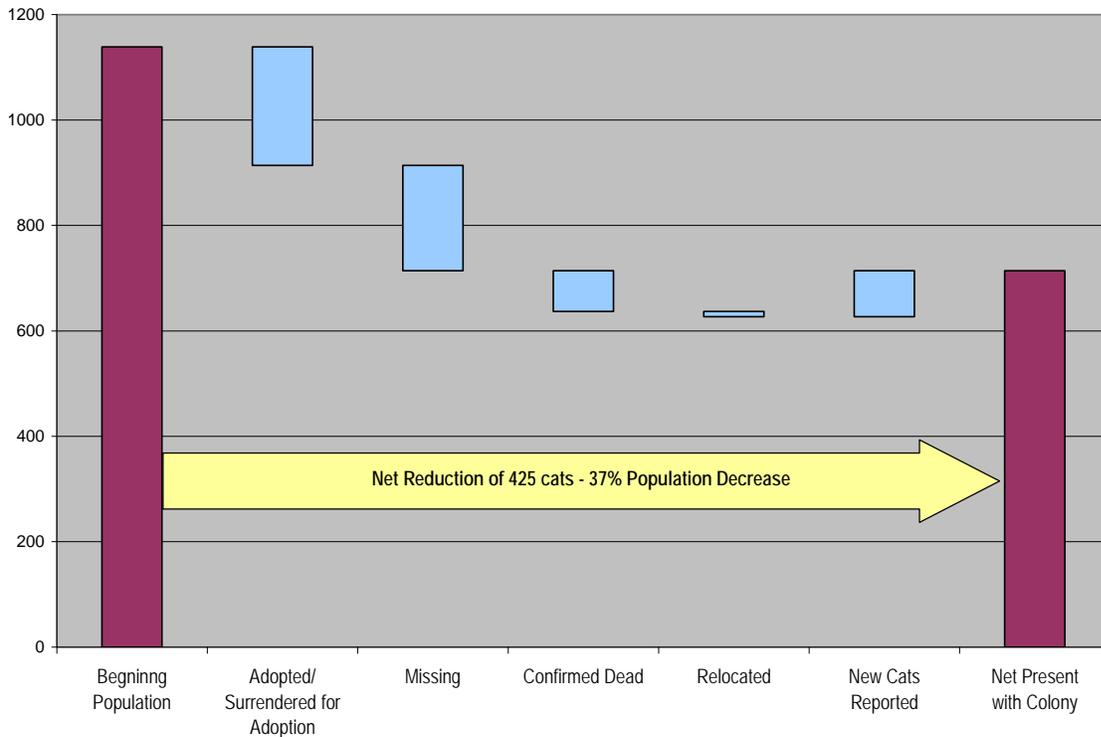


Figure 2 Population Change Bridge Diagram

Survey Results: By Colony

- Results were returned for 86% of the colonies in the survey field or 151 colonies responding out of 176 surveyed

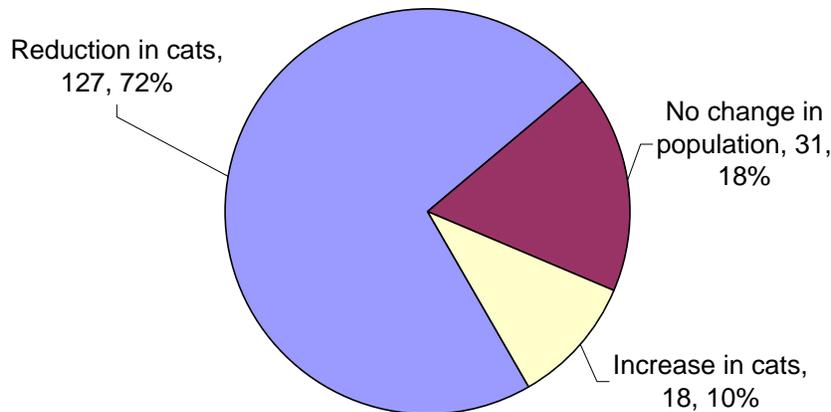


Figure 3 Colony Size Change Results

- For those colonies reporting an increase in cats, the average prior colony size was 5.6 cats and increased to 7.1 cats per colony
- For colonies reporting no change in population, the average colony size is 4.2 cats
- For colonies reporting a reduction in cats, the average prior colony size was 8.9 cats and the new average colony size is 4.4 cats

Conclusion

The data presented clearly shows the positive effect of managed TNR programs. We couple this data with our first early spring trappings of 2010 that are not resulting in the same number of kittens or breeding females that we have seen in prior years at this time in neighborhoods with managed care programs. This leading indicator supports the data presented that the overall population in the managed care colony neighborhoods is decreasing.

Triple R Pets' Mission Statement

Triple R Pets is a volunteer-staffed, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of animals and their human companions through sustained disaster relief services and on-going programs designed to support animal shelters nationwide in their efforts to promote animal welfare.