



Dear Concerned Cat Advocate,

You are receiving this letter because you have requested assistance with one or more feral cats. Feral cats are wild or untamed cats that are not able to be adopted out as companion animals. However, with your care, they may be able to live perfectly happy, healthy lives in a managed environment. Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue (MMCR) has begun providing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) assistance to cat advocates who are willing to be the caretaker's for feral cats.

Here are some of the ways we will be able to assist you with these efforts:

- Loan live traps and educational materials on how to use them.
- Information on caring for feral cats, and working with feral, or semi feral cats (see our website for more detailed information)
- How to care and socialize feral kittens so they have a chance at being adopted
- Low cost spay/neutering programs and possibly other medical services
- Low-income homes may qualify for additional assistance with spay/neuter costs by requesting a "Free Spay/Neuter Voucher Application; call and leave your name and full address on our voicemail if you would like one of these mailed to you, 517-622-4653

Please remember one of the biggest things you can do to help the cat or cats you are concerned about is to have them spayed or neutered. **In Michigan, over 76,000 cats are euthanized every year because there aren't enough homes for them.** It is estimated that 80% of the euthanized cats in Michigan are from feral mothers. It is important to help the wild cats you have found by having them fixed to reduce the huge number of wild kittens born and then subsequently euthanized every year in our state. If you are interested in working with MMCR to get your feral cats spay/neutered, please send back the Feral Cat Assistance Program Application and the Colony Log. We will contact you as soon as we receive these. Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue is a non-profit organization consisting solely of volunteers dedicated to locating new and loving homes for abused, neglected, and owner-relinquished cats and kittens. As such, our available volunteer base, materials, and monetary resources limit the number of cats we can effectively care for. If you wish to assist us in our efforts or for more information on cat care, please visit our website at [midmichigancatrescue.org](http://midmichigancatrescue.org)

We thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of these cats. Please mail back forms to address below.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vicary  
*Founder and Director*

Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, INC.  
1117 Tulip St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517)622-4653 [midmichigancatrescue.org](http://midmichigancatrescue.org)



**Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, Inc.** is a non-profit, non-state and non-federally funded, 501.c(3) volunteer based organization in the Mid-Michigan area that depends solely on donations from the general public and fundraisers in the Mid-Michigan area.

We are dedicated to finding lifetime homes for abused, abandoned, neglected or owner surrendered cats and kittens. All rescued cats or kittens are temporarily fostered in our foster homes (not a shelter) until a qualified, responsible applicant can be matched to each individual cat and permanently adopted. We maintain the highest standards of comprehensive veterinary care for all animals in our care.

We are a non-euthanasia organization (except when injury, disease or temperament makes other options impossible) and do not sell to research facilities.

We accept personal, lifetime responsibility for any animal that has been in our care and make every attempt to adopt healthy, well socialized and mentally sound cats and kittens. We keep the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in care including love, tenderness, dignity, and compassion for our foster cats. We are a dedicated and responsible group of volunteers with many years of in home foster care experience that are motivated and focused on cat and kitten rescue.

### ***Did you know?***

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. – and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy, loving cats, dogs, kittens and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, animals, and cruel humans. What can you do to stop the suffering? ***Spay and neuter your pets!*** Work with Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, Inc. and together we can make a difference.

An un-spayed female, her mate and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

- 1 year: 12 CATS!
- 2 years: 67
- 3 years: 376
- 4 years: 2,107
- 5 years: 11,801
- 6 years: 66,088
- 7 years: 370,092

## **Important reasons to spay or neuter a cat**

### **Spaying a female cat**

No heat cycles  
Less desire to roam  
Risk of mammary gland tumors, ovarian and/or uterine cancer is reduced or eliminated

### **Neutering a male cat**

Risk of testicular cancer is eliminated  
Reduce or eliminate spraying  
Less desire to roam



**Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, Inc.  
Low Cost Spay/Neuter Area Vets  
Feral Cat Resources**

**Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue  
Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program  
517-622-4653**

We use a local, high quality veterinary clinic for all our low-cost spay/neutering. All spay/neuters must go through us to receive the discount. The more cats we bring to our vet, the more the costs go down for their services.

**Dansville Veterinary Hospital**

Dansville, MI 48819  
517-623-6541

**Perry Animal Clinic**

Perry, MI 48872  
517-625-3747

**Spay Neuter Express**

11610 East Fulton Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
616-897-8865  
www.spayneuterexpress.com  
(See website for more information on hours and locations)

**C-Snip**

1675 Viewpond SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-455-8220  
[info@csnip.org](mailto:info@csnip.org)

**Alley Cat Angels**

Battle Creek Area  
Feral/stray cat sterilization  
1-877-636-9669

**Silver Lake Animal Rescue League**

Dixie Highway  
Waterford, MI  
248-545-6583, ext.5

**Humane Society of Huron Valley**

Ann Arbor, MI  
313-662-4365

**Having a cat spayed or neutered greatly increases their chances of finding a loving home, decreases the chance of injury, spread of diseases and helps with the overwhelming population growth.**

**We highly recommend that you contact a veterinary for assistance with the cat you are trying to help.**

**National Resources**

**Spay USA**

National Hotline  
1-800-248-SPAY

**Feral Cat Information and Assistance**

**Alley Cat Allies**—will send you a list of local groups & individuals with TNR expertise that can provide assistance.

1-240-482-1980

[www.alleycat.org/feralfriends](http://www.alleycat.org/feralfriends)

**Alley Cat Rescue**

1-301-277-5595

[www.saveecat.org](http://www.saveecat.org)

**Neighborhood Cats**

[www.neighborhoodcats.org](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org)

**Live Trap Rentals**

(Deposits usually required)

**Ingham County Animal Shelter**

600 Curtis  
Mason, MI 48854  
517-676-8370



**Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue**  
1117 Tulip St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
517-622-4653

[www.tractorsupply.com](http://www.tractorsupply.com)  
1-877-718-6750

**Tractor Supply Co.**

## **Socializing Feral Kittens**

If feral kittens are caught and handled at a young enough age, they can be socialized and placed in loving homes. Kittens under 4 weeks old can usually be socialized in a matter of days; 8-week old feral kittens take approximately 2-4 weeks to socialize. At age 10-12 weeks, kittens can also be tamed but it may take longer.

**Getting Started** – Feral kittens cannot be socialized while they are still in their colony. They can be taken from their feral mothers when they begin weaning at approximately 4-6 weeks of age. They must be brought inside and confined so you have regular access to them. If you cannot do this, have the kitten(s) neutered/spayed as soon as old enough and return them to their colony.

**Housing the Kittens** – You will need to confine the kitten(s) at first – preferable in a dog crate, large pet carrier, cat condo, or cage in a small room. The cage should contain a small litter box, food and water dishes, and something to cuddle in like a towel or piece of clothing. If possible, kittens should be separated from each other to facilitate taming. If not separated, be sure to spend time alone with each of them.

**Socializing** - Food is the key to taming. Make dry food available at all times and give the kitten a small amount of wet food at least twice a day. Do not give kitten(s) cow's milk – it can make them sick. Try chicken-flavored baby food as a special treat that almost no kitten can resist. Eventually the kitten will associate your presence with food. Start by offering baby food or wet food on a spoon through the cage. Once they are used to this, you can begin handling them.

**Holding the Kitten** – Younger and less feral kittens can be picked up right away. Be gentle and wrap the kitten in a towel allowing the head to stick out. Offer baby food or wet food on a spoon. If she does not respond, dab a tiny bit on the end of his/her nose. When petting a feral kitten, approach from behind the head. Gradually begin to pet the kitten's face, chin, and behind the ears while talking gently. Do this several times a day, if possible. Once the kitten no longer runs away from you but instead comes toward you – seeking to be fed, held or petted, you can confine the kitten to a small kitten-proofed room rather than a cage. Leave their case/crate open for them at first. Then you can remove it if they don't use it.

**Important Tips** – **PATIENCE IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE PROCESS OF TAMING A**



**FERAL CAT.** Handle feral kittens cautiously – nails and teeth are sharp. Once he comes to you, expose kittens to a variety of people – using low voices at first and approaching the kittens in a non-threatening manner. You might want to leave a television or radio on (not too loud) during the day so the kittens get used to human voices. **FERAL CATS MAKE WONDERFUL DEVOTED CATS WHEN TAMED!**

**Provided to you compliments of Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, Inc.**  
1117 Tulip Street – Grand Ledge MI 48837 – 517-622-4653 – midmichigancatrescue.org

### Feral Cat Assistance Program Application

To apply for feral cat assistance, simply complete this form and return it to us by mail. Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue (MMCR) will review it and if approved, MMCR will contact you regarding scheduling a vet appointment. We will provide assistance, as funding allows, until all of the cats identified below are sterilized. Do not use this form for companion cats living in your home. **Please read this form carefully and completely.**

This program exists solely on donations. **Unfortunately, at this time MMCR must require a minimum donation to cover the cost of altering each colony cat which is \$35 per cat.** This program was created to assist colony caregivers who are unable to afford the cost of taking the colony cats to a private veterinarian. Please consider making a donation in addition to the minimum donation to help this program continue.

In order to be considered for this program we require the applicant thoroughly read through the attached articles provided: “Humane Trapping of Feral Cats”, and “Trapping Guidelines”. MMCR also highly suggests that reading the attached information sheets including: “Did You Know”, “Low Cost Spay/Neuter”, “Vets and Feral Cat Resources”, “Owning a Formerly Feral Cat”, “Socializing Feral Kittens”, and the brochure Caring for Orphaned Kittens. We also encourage you to utilize the list of websites provided under “Feral Cat Resources” for other important basic feral cat issues concerning TNR, ear tipping, feral cat handling, colony relocation, feral cat identification protocol and colony tracking information.

Trap Loan: MMCR maintains a small pool of live traps for transporting feral cats to/from the veterinary clinic. The number of live traps issued will depend on how many cats are in your colony, typically we can loan between 2-4 traps at a time. The traps will only be issued once a surgery date is scheduled and they must be returned immediately after the cats are released from the traps following surgery. A refundable deposit may be required.

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#### Caretaker Information

Caretaker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Colony Information

Property Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner's Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of cats in colony: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of cats in colony previously altered: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeding Schedule:  Once daily  Twice Daily  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Food: \_\_\_\_\_

Shelter:  Barn  Garage  Porch  Dog or Cat House  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Assistance with Shelter Requirements:  Yes  No Do you need to borrow live traps:  Yes  No

Preferred day of the week for surgery scheduling, pick one:  Tuesday or  Thursday

### Spay/Neuter Assistance

Assistance includes the following services: spay/neuter and ear tipping (left ear). Services will not be rendered if declawing is requested or ear tipping is refused. Any other services provided by the vet at your request will be your financial responsibility. Cats must be dropped off and picked up the same day of surgery; no exceptions can be made. Assistance will be provided by the veterinarian of MMCR's choice. All arrangements for appointments and payment will be made by MMCR. MMCR reserves the right to change or discontinue this program at anytime. Please indicate your agreement to and understanding of the following statements by placing your initials on each line.

#### I certify that:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. To be eligible for assistance, I understand that spay/neuter is available only for wild/unowned cats (feral or stray), and I certify that to the best of my knowledge these cats are unowned. I did not purchase the subject cats, obtain them from a shelter or another person, nor have I relocated the cats from another location. I understand the benefits of TNR (trap/neuter/return) for the humane management of feral cat colonies.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. I own the property identified above as the colony location and give permission for the cats listed above to live out their lives on this property as outdoor wildlife. (If not, I have secured the property owner's/manager's permission as evidenced by their signature included in this application.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. I agree to complete a colony log which will provide accurate information regarding the members of the colony for Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue and vet identification and tracking purposes. I agree to allow this information to be shared with animal control agencies as deemed appropriate by Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. I recognize the risks all animals face during handling, anesthesia, and surgery and hold Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue and its volunteers and agents and facilities harmless should a cat experience complications or death. I also release Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue and its volunteers and agents and facilities from any liability for any injuries which I may incur or cause while trapping, transporting or caring for these cats.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. I promise to see that spayed/neutered cats will receive food and water and necessary care on a regular basis when they are returned to the location from which they were taken following surgery and I acknowledge the possibility that once released, some cats may not return. On days that I am unable to care for the colony, I will endeavor to find a substitute caregiver to assist.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Since these are homeless cats, I agree to relinquish them for adoption should a suitable home become available. I understand a Pet Relinquishment Form will be used as my complete ownership transfer for any such animals deemed adoptable as decided solely by the authority and judgment of the veterinarian.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. I agree to drop off and pick up the listed feral cats on the specified day and at the specified time deemed by the veterinarian and will adhere to all of the rules and instructions pertaining thereto (example: All cats must be contained safely following spay/neuter



surgery for up to 2 days or more as deemed by the vet.) Any cats not picked up will be considered abandoned and taken to the local animal control agency, and a report of illegal animal abandonment will be made

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. I will indemnify and hold harmless Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue, its directors, staff and volunteers from any liability based on my participation in this program, and release them from any claims of past, present, or future.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. I will use this program solely to benefit the listed cats and not to commit any unlawful acts. I will trap cats only for the purpose of sterilization performed by Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue.

Caregiver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Acknowledgement of Property Owner's Permission**

#### **I certify that:**

- I am the owner of the property on which the colony identified on the "Colony Log" lives.
- I understand the benefits of TNR (trap/neuter/return) for the humane management of feral cat colonies.
- I allow the colony to be so managed on this property.
- I will indemnify and hold harmless Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue and its agents, employees, and volunteers from any liability based on the existence of the cats on this property.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



### Colony Log

A copy of the log will be issued to our veterinarian for accurate identification and tracking of altered cats. If you would like other **optional services such as:** rabies vaccine, internal/external parasite treatment (includes basic wormer, flea and ear mites treatment) and distemper vaccine (highly recommended) or FIV/FeLV testing, you will need to pay the associated fee in addition to the minimum donation for each cat. If you have more than 12 cats, please attach them on an additional list to this form. MMCR will schedule surgery dates for 2 cats at a time at our veterinary till all the cats listed are sterilized. Our veterinarian is located in the Lansing area.

Cat	Cat's Name	Color-Markings Example: Short or long hair- Brown tiger or gray and white	Sex: Male or Female	Approx Age: Kitten or Adult	S/N Date	Alter- Spay or Neuter <b>\$35 per cat REQUIRED DONATION</b>	Internal – External Parasite Treatment and Distemper Vaccine <b>\$10 per cat (Opt.)</b>	Rabies Vaccine <b>\$9 per cat (Opt.)</b>	FIV- FeLV Test <b>\$18 per cat (Opt.)</b>	Total per cat
01										
02										
03										
04										
05										
06										
07										
08										
09										
10										

**Total amount due for first 2 cats:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional donation amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_





**Send check or money order to: MMCR, 1117 Tulip St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837 with this application. MMCR will typically contact you within 2 weeks to set up your first surgery date, through the mail.**



## OWNING A FORMERLY FERAL CAT



Congratulations! You have rescued or adopted a formerly feral cat. A tamed feral kitty is still connected to his/her feral roots and easily become stressed or frightened. Prepare yourself for a different and possibly challenging experience when you first bring her/him home. The key to a successful transition is **PATIENCE**. This kitty will let you know when you can move onto the next stage – you can't force it. Always remember – the reward for your **PATIENCE** is an enduring, loving, and trusting bond between you and your new cat. Here are some suggestions for your first days/weeks with your kitty.

**A ROOM OF THEIR OWN** – Isolation is a must at first. Make sure you put your kitty into a separate enclosed room. Smaller is preferable—even a bathroom works well. Set up kitty's bedding, food, water bowl, litter box, toys and scratching post. Make sure there is some way for kitty to hide in that room. This makes them feel safe and can get away from a perceived threat. A small box or bed or fleece bedding under a bed or in a closet will work. Kitty will let you know which area she favors – put bedding in that area. Never force your kitty out of her/his safe space.

**RESPECT BOUNDARIES** – Your kitty may let you pet her while he/she is in her safe space. Petting is an important part of the bonding process but DON'T FORCE IT. Just continually be persistent, but back off if kitty seems too scared. Try interactive toys but use a soft, gentle voice when you and kitty are interacting. Be aware of things that may frighten former feral kittens such as sudden movements, loud noises, loud voices and strangers. You can eventually introduce your kitty to all of the members of the household – one at a time and very gently. The first week is NOT the time to introduce kitty to all your friends.

**EXPAND BOUNDARIES GRADUALLY** – You might try and see if you can coax kitty out of hiding with toys or food after a couple of days. Keep him/her on the same food for the first few days-then try a little canned food or tuna juice. You could also try setting up a cozy bed outside of the safety zone and see if the kitty will start using that as a second home.

**HOW LONG WILL THIS GO ON?** You might find that you are making progress and something spooks kitty and he/she is back in hiding. Just trust that you are making progress and things will change. Some may be fine after a day or so but others may need two weeks or even a month. Just keep trying to have bonding moments with your kitty.

**FOLLOW KITTY'S CUES** – Your kitty will let you know when he/she is ready to explore the rest of the house. Experiment and open the door and see what happens. Don't ever grab or try to make the kitty leave the room. You can try the food or toy method, enticing her with goodies outside the room.

**OTHER COMPANION ANIMALS** – The basic rules of introducing companion animals to the new kitty still apply. Keep them separate, let them smell and hear each other through the closed door. Give it time. With a feral kitty, it is recommended that you invite your other animals, one at a time, into the kitty's room. The kitty may be more comfortable and outgoing around your other cats/dog than she is with you. There may be hissing or growling. Be sure to monitor the two animals, but give them the space to explore each other.

**THE DAY WILL COME** – Your kitty is now an integrated member of your household – playing in your living room, sitting in your lap or next to you, eating in the kitchen or even sleeping in your bed. He/she may always be a kitty who does a fifty-yard dash when the doorbell rings or lightning strikes, but that is just part of what make your new kitty special!



## FERAL KITTEN FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS



The first thing to do is determine how old the kittens are. You can do this by weighing them and using the [Chart A](#) to figure their age. Remember, these are only approximate numbers, and a veterinarian is the best authority on how to care for your kittens. After estimating the kittens' age, you can then determine how much and how often to feed them from [Chart B](#). Another rule to go by is 2 tablespoons per 4 ounces of body weight per day.

Chart A		Chart B		
Age (in days)	Weight (in ounces)	Age (in weeks)	Formula per day (mL)	Feedings per day
1	2.5 to 4.75	1	32	6
5	3 to 7	2	56	4
10	4.25 to 9.75	3	80	3
15	6 to 11.75	4	104	3
20	7.25	5	128	3
25	8 to 16.75			

### **Bottle Feeding**

Bottle feeding kittens is the best method. It allows them to suckle like they would if feeding from their mother. Do not use a human baby bottle. Instead, purchase a bottle from your local pet store. Rest the kitten on its stomach and insert the bottle into its mouth. Kittens will usually stop feeding when they are full. If you notice formula bubbling out of the kitten's nose, the formula is coming out of the bottle too fast and you need to find a nipple that has a smaller hole.

### **Eyedropper**

If you cannot obtain a bottle, using an eyedropper can serve as a temporary alternative. Follow the same method as you would for bottle feeding. Make sure to squeeze the formula out slowly to avoid forcing fluid into the kitten's lungs.

### **Tube Feeding**

Tube feeding should be used only as a last resort when the kitten is too weak to suckle. Always consult a veterinarian for hands-on training before attempted to tube feed. You can obtain the necessary equipment for tube feeding from your veterinarian.



First measure the distance from the kitten's last rib to the tip of the nose on the feeding tube and mark the distance with a marker or piece of tape. Fill the syringe with the proper amount of formula and attach the tube. Moisten the feeding tube with water and slide it gently over the tongue and down the throat until you reach the mark. NEVER force the feeding tube in! If you encounter resistance before reaching the tape mark, remove the tube. It may be in the kitten's trachea.

Once the tube is in place, empty the syringe very slowly to prevent fluid from passing into the lungs. If your kitten begins to choke, remove the tube and wait for it to recover. Once the syringe is completely empty of formula, crimp the tube to prevent formula from flowing back into it and remove the feeding tube.

### **Burping & Washing**

Always burp your kitten after feeding time. Hold the kitten upright against your chest and rub its back gently. Kittens also need to be cleaned regularly. Never immerse a kitten in water— this can cause respiratory problems. Using a warm, damp washcloth, rub each kitten using short, gently strokes to imitate a mother cat's tongue. Towel each kitten dry.

### **Stimulation for Elimination**

Kittens younger than three weeks cannot go to the bathroom by themselves. Moisten a cotton ball with warm water and after each feeding, rub the kitten's stomach and bottom. Wait and make sure each kitten goes to the bathroom.

### **Formula**

You can purchase a commercial milk substitute at your local pet store, or you can prepare your own using the recipe provided below. This recipe has been approved by veterinarians.

-One 12 oz. can evaporated skim milk

-One 4 oz. can of evaporated whole cow's milk

-4 oz. plain yogurt

-3 egg yolks

Mix all ingredients well and strain. To heat the formula, fill the feeding device (syringe/bottle) and place in a bowl of water. Microwave until formula is slightly warmer than room temperature (99-101 degrees Fahrenheit). You can test a few drops of formula on your wrist to check the temperature. Keep unused formula refrigerated and always check to make sure the formula is still fresh before using.

**\*\*\*Make sure to sterilize all feeding equipment and wash your hands frequently! \*\*\***

