

野生化した猫を扱うときには感傷主義の入り込む余地はありません。厳しい暮らしではあっても彼らはたくましく、信じられないほど弾力性に富んでいます。私たち人間が同情と常識をうまく組み合わせて対処すれば、彼らの不幸と苦しみを軽減し、自由を保ちながら良質の生活を送れるよう援助できるのではないのでしょうか。

「野良ネコ避妊プロジェクト」の開始



避妊計画は十分な準備と資金を整え、よく検討しなければなりません。必要不可欠なものは、時間、精力、情熱、資金、人員、調査と今後の計画、正しい装備、経験と意欲のある獣医師、地域の協力、関係者間の密接な連携などです。不妊手術後群れに戻す猫は健康で、餌と寝場所が近くに得られることが条件です。監視と追跡を続け長期的な支援を怠らないこと。

何匹の猫を地区に残すか——この決定は重要です。人によく慣れた迷子の飼ひ猫や、ごく幼い猫は比較的里親を見つけや

すいのですが、傷を負っていたり病気のものは安楽死も検討します。これ以上苦しめないよう、また健康な猫が感染するのを防ぐためです。安楽死の基準については、最初に獣医師とよく話し合い関係者の間で見解の相

違がないように統一しておきます。

新聞と地元のメディアは責任ある飼ひ主を育てるため、読者／視聴者に大きな影響力を持つものです。彼らとは良好な関係を築き上げることで、メディアを通じてあなたの団体の活動を宣伝し、「避妊運動」の価値と必要性を大衆に啓発すべくあらゆる努力を惜しまないことです。

避妊活動を進めるにあたって必要な諸段階

- * 地域調査、及び問題点の事前評価
- * 私所有地の猫については行動を起こす前に、地主の許可（書面によるのが望ましい）を取りつけておく。
- * 餌を与えたり、接触している人がいれば
探し出し——猫がなついている場合はとりわけ——協力を求める
- * 一定の時間に餌を与える
（慣れさせることで猫の警戒心を解いて捕まえやすくするため）
- * 不定期に餌をやらない
（地域にいる他の猫やネズミを引きつけることになるから）
- * 不妊手術のために猫を捕えることを近隣の住人に伝えておく
- * 手術後何匹の猫を元の所に戻すかを決めておく
- * 猫の健康状態や人に慣れているかどうかの条件により
飼ってくれる人を探したり、群れに戻すのが困難な場合に
安楽死を検討するなど、手はずを整えておく。
- * 避難できる場所があることを確認しておく
- * 不妊手術済みの猫全部について記録を残し元の場所に戻した後、群れの監視を続ける
- * えさ場を清潔に保つ。汚れた皿や食べ残しは片付け水を補給すること。
- * 進行状態について関係者全員に知らせておく
- * 猫管理プログラムを効果的に進めるには「啓発」と「働きかけ」が最も大切な要素であることを肝に銘じておくこと

The Feline Advisory Bureau UK

agree on what course of action will be in the cats' best long-term welfare interests and this may not always be what makes the humans feel most comfortable. Finding a small group of like-minded individuals to share the workload is the best way to achieve success and allows everyone to have some fun at the same time - this is an important aspect of cat welfare work that is often overlooked.

There is no place for sentimentality when dealing with feral cats. Their way of life is hard but they are tough and incredibly resilient. Given help from knowledgeable humans who are able to combine compassion with commonsense, there is much that can be done to relieve their distress and suffering and which will enable them to enjoy a good quality of life in the free-living state.

Setting up a neutering project

Neutering projects need to be well organised, well funded and well monitored. Essentials are time, energy, enthusiasm, financial resources, manpower, research and forward planning, the right equipment, an experienced and willing veterinary surgeon, community cooperation and skilful liaison. Cats being returned to site following neutering must be healthy, with access to a food source and shelter and will require continuing observation and follow-up with long-term support.

It is essential to decide how many cats are to remain on site. Tame domestic strays and very young kittens may be suitable for rehoming. Euthanasia must be considered for sick, injured and diseased cats to prevent further suffering and to protect healthy cats from infection. The criteria for euthanasia should be discussed with a veterinary surgeon at the outset so there are no disagreements with anyone involved.

Newspapers and the local media are in an excellent position to influence their readers and listeners and encourage responsible pet ownership. Every effort should be made to develop good media contacts to highlight the work of your organisation and to educate the public on the value and need for neutering.

There are a number of essential steps to be followed:

- * Research the area and assess the problem
- * If the cats are on private land, obtain the consent of the owner, preferably in writing before taking any further action with regard to the cats
- * Identify any feeders or others involved, especially those emotionally attached to the cats, and obtain their co-operation
- * Establish a regular feeding time which will make trapping easier as cats get used to a routine and are less suspicious
- * Discourage casual feeding which merely attracts other cats and rodents to the area. Prevention of breeding is the prime consideration and feeding should therefore be combined with a neutering programme
- * Notify nearby residents of plans to trap cats for neutering
- * Decide how many cats are suitable to be returned to site
- * Arrange for rehoming or euthanasia of cats not to be returned, depending on state of health, whether tame, etc
- * Ensure there is some form of shelter
- * Keep records of all cats neutered and monitor the colony following its return to site
- * Keep feeding stations clean, remove dirty dishes and uneaten food, provide water
- * Keep everybody informed of progress
- * Remember that education and lobbying are essential components in any effective cat control programme.