



# UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY CAT CALCULATOR

The Community Cat Calculator is designed to help organizations and individuals understand the volume of spay/neuter services needed for owned cats, as well as Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts, to successfully reduce the outdoor cat population. It translates the concepts from the Community Cat Pyramid into concrete numbers, giving you tangible goals to aim for.

This tool offers a quick needs assessment for your county without the hassle of doing all the groundwork yourself. You can easily adjust the figures to see what's feasible for your area or what a collaborative effort could achieve.

## Methodology

In developing the Community Cat Calculator, we've provided background information specific to your county. Below are some details about our methodology. Our sources include data from DC Cat Count, 24-7 Animals, AVMA, and collective knowledge from years of experience working with various groups.

The bold numbers represent the key takeaways, and these are region-specific. You may need to collaborate with multiple organizations to ensure you're meeting your spay/neuter and TNR targets.

Category	Description	Example
Total Number of People (TOP)	This is the total population of the county the specified zip code is in.	Example: 100,000
All Cat Multiplier (ACM)	Approximately 29% of the general population owns cats.*	0.29
Number of Owned Cats (NOC)	The TOP (100,000) x ACM (.29) will tell you the approximate number of owned cats in the county.	Example: 29,000
Owned Indoor Cats (OIC)	Approximately 50% of owned cats are indoor-only pets so NOC (29,000) x OIC (.50) will tell you how many of the cats in the county will not be outdoors in the county.	Example: 14,500
Sterilized Owned Cats (SOC)	The sterilization rate for indoor & outdoor owned cats is 85% so NOC (29,000) x OIC (.50) x SOC (.85) will tell you how many owned cats are already spayed/neutered in the county.	Example: 12,325
Owned Cats Needing Spay/Neuter Annually	To find the number of owned cats who will need spay/neuter services you will use the following formula: OIC (14,500) x .15. Alternatively, you can use OIC (14,500) - SOC (12,325) to reach a similar conclusion.	<b>Example: 2175</b>
Feral Cat Multiplier (FCM)	There are approximately .004 feral cats for each person in the county.	.004
Estimated Number of Feral Cats (NFC)	The TOP (100,000) x FCM (.004) will tell you approximately how many feral cats are in the county.	Example: 400
Current TNR Reduction Rate (CRR)	If there is a current TNR program in place, you can assume there has been a 30% reduction in feral cats.	.3
Total TNR (Returned) Cats in Community on an Annual Basis	To find the number of feral cats that will need TNR services you will use the following formula: NFC (400) x CRR (.3).	<b>Example: 280</b>

\*.29 Multiplier source: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/25969/americans-their-pets.aspx>

## Conclusions

This calculation is intended as a general guide, not a strict rule. Your group can adjust the numbers based on local conditions. The goal is to illustrate how much more spay/neuter services need to be provided to cat owners in order to reduce the number of cats requiring TNR or rescue.

**Now that you understand the Community Cat Calculator, you can apply it to smaller towns, cities, and even neighborhoods to run the numbers yourself!**