

Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary's



Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary's Sterile Feral Program provides vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery for feral cats and kittens. This packet will provide you with the information you need. We require that you attend a hands-on training session so that you are able to trap cats safely and humanely. You can do this! It's easier than you think, and we are here to help! Thank you for caring about our feline companions. If you have any questions, call 860-242-9999 x318 or email laura@ourcompanions.org

Step 1: Read and sign the [Program Guidelines \(pg. 2\)](#)

Step 2: Read and sign the [Caretaker Release \(pg.3\)](#)

Step 3: Send the paperwork and payment to:

**Our Companions
Sterile Feral Program
P.O. Box 673
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

Step 4: Read Trap-Neuter-Return Manual.

Step 5: Once steps 1-4 are completed, call Our Companions at (860) 242-9999 x318 to make arrangements to pick up the required equipment and to receive the required training.

Our Companions



Step 1: Program Guidelines

Here's how our program works:

- This paperwork must be completed and returned to Our Companions with payment of \$50 per cat.
- Only feral cats and feral kittens are eligible for the Sterile Feral TNR Program.
- After paperwork and payment has been sent, call Our Companions at (860) 242-9999 x318 to confirm receipt.
- You must attend trap training class at which time we will loan you equipment and schedule surgery.
- Only cats brought to the clinic with an appointment made by Our Companions will be accepted.
- Spay/Neuter surgeries are conducted on Friday in Ashford, CT.
- The cats you bring must be in covered traps. Traps may be provided by Our Companions and require a refundable deposit.
- The decisions to vaccinate and/or perform spay/neuter surgery on any cat rests solely in the discretion of the veterinarian in charge. If, in the veterinarian's opinion, testing, vaccinating and/or performing surgery on the cat is not in the animal's best interest, the cat will be returned without having undergone these procedures.
- Sick cats may be tested for Feline Leukemia or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus at the attending veterinarian's discretion. The veterinarian may also make the decision to euthanize the cat if he/she is untreatable and suffering. They will make every effort to contact the caretaker before taking this step.
- If the cat appears healthy we will not test the cat for FeLV or FIV.
- The caregiver is responsible for maintaining all spay/neuter and rabies vaccination certificates.
- This program is for spay/neuter surgery only. Any additional procedures desired are outside this program and the responsibility of the client to make separate arrangements.
- Caregivers are responsible for providing continued food, shelter and monitoring of the feral cats after release.

At the clinic, your cats will be:

- Spayed (females) or neutered (males).
- Post surgical antibiotics and short term pain medication.
- Vaccinated for rabies and distemper.
- Treated for parasites.
- Ear tipped. This procedure allows the cat to be easily identified as having been spayed or neutered. This is a painless procedure.
- Testing for (FeLV & FIV) if the cat appears sick or symptomatic.

I have read, understand and accept the provisions of this program.

Date:

Caregiver's Name:

Caregiver Signature:

Helpline
Volunteer:



Step 2: Caretaker Release

By my signature below, I acknowledge the following:

1. To be eligible for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary's Sterile Feral Program, I understand that spay/neuter is available solely for feral cats. I certify to the best of my knowledge that these cats fit those criteria.
2. I recognize the risks feral cats face during handling, anesthesia, and surgery and hold Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, North Veterinarian Clinic, and its volunteers, employees, directors and facilities harmless should a cat experience complications, injury, escape, or death.
3. I understand and agree that any cat deemed by the veterinarian to be severely ill or injured will be humanely euthanized.
4. I release Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, North Veterinarian Clinic and its volunteers, employees, directors, and facilities from any liability for any injuries, incurred or caused, while trapping, transporting, or caring for these cats.
5. I have read this Caretaker Release and Rabies Information document and the other provided document "Trap-Neuter-Return Manual" and understand the provisions of this program and how to trap and care for feral cats safely.
6. I agree to ensure that all cats released will receive food, water, and necessary care on a regular basis when they are returned to the locations from which they were taken following surgery, and I acknowledge the possibility that once released, some cats may not return.
7. I understand that each cat entered into Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary's Sterile Feral program will have his or her ear "tipped" to allow ease of recognition upon re-release. "Tipping" involves the surgical removal of the top ¼ inch of the ear while the cat is under anesthesia.
8. I understand the cost per cat is **\$50.00** and I am enclosing payment of \$_____ for _____ cat(s) to:

Our Companions, Sterile Feral Program, P.O. Box 673, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Rabies and Wounded Cats

ABOUT THE RABIES VIRUS:

The rabies virus has reached epidemic proportions in the Eastern United States. Cats, humans, and other animals may acquire the virus through contact with the virus- laden saliva of an infected animal (such as a dog, cat, skunk, etc). Bites and scratches are the most common routes of infections. Blood and other body fluids are a much less common source of infection.

The rabies virus is 100% FATAL once an animal begins to show signs of infection.

There is no known treatment for rabies, either in humans or animals. The only test for rabies is the euthanasia, decapitation, and inspection of a suspect animal's brain tissue for identification of the virus. The only course of action for a person who has potentially been exposed is a series of post-exposure vaccinations. These shots are effective at preventing signs of the disease if started within four days of the exposure, but they are very expensive.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FERAL CATS?

Because feral and barn cats interact with both people and wild animals, they are at risk for contracting and spreading rabies. Feral cats and barn cats should be vaccinated against the rabies virus. Healthy cats admitted to the Sterile Feral Program will receive a vaccine good for one year.

State law prohibits vaccination of any cat that has bitten or scratched a human within the last 14 days. (It is strongly advised the appropriate authorities be contacted and medical attention be sought for any person involved in this situation.) If a bite or scratch occurs during the handling of any cat presented for treatment through the Sterile Feral Program it may be necessary, at the clinic's discretion, to euthanize the animal immediately to submit it the State of Connecticut lab for rabies testing.

I, (print name) _____, understand and agree to the terms and conditions above regarding rabies protocol and feral cats. To the best of my knowledge, the cat(s) presented for treatment today has not bitten or scratched anyone in the last 14 days.

Date:

Caretaker's Name:

Caretaker Signature:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Street Address:

Town:

Zip:

Location of Colony:

Our Companions



Step 3: Send Paperwork and Payment

Step 3: Send the signed *program guidelines* ([page 2](#)) and *caretaker release* ([page 3](#)) with payment to:

**Our Companions
Sterile Feral Program
P.O. Box 673
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

This can be done electronically as well.

You may scan and email the paperwork to (Laura@OurCompanions.org) or fax it to (860) 242-9999.

Payment can be made on our website, www.OurCompanions.org. If you pay online, please be sure to make a note that this is payment for the Sterile Feral program.