



COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

League City, TX
October 17, 2023

INTRODUCTION

American Pets Alive! (AmPA!) is the national support and outreach division of **Austin Pets Alive! (APA!)**. AmPA!'s site visits and assessments empower shelter professionals with best practices and customized solutions that help them achieve positive results.

The logo for American Pets Alive! is centered within a white circle. It features the word "american" in blue lowercase letters, "pets" in large red uppercase letters, and "alive" in red lowercase letters. A red exclamation mark is positioned to the right of "pets", and a red paw print is to the right of "alive".

american
pets!
alive

The logo for Austin Pets Alive! is a red rectangular banner with white text. It features the words "austin pets alive!" in white lowercase letters, with a white paw print at the end. The banner is tilted upwards to the right.

austin pets alive!

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

- Educational
- Informative
- Beginner Level
- Interactive

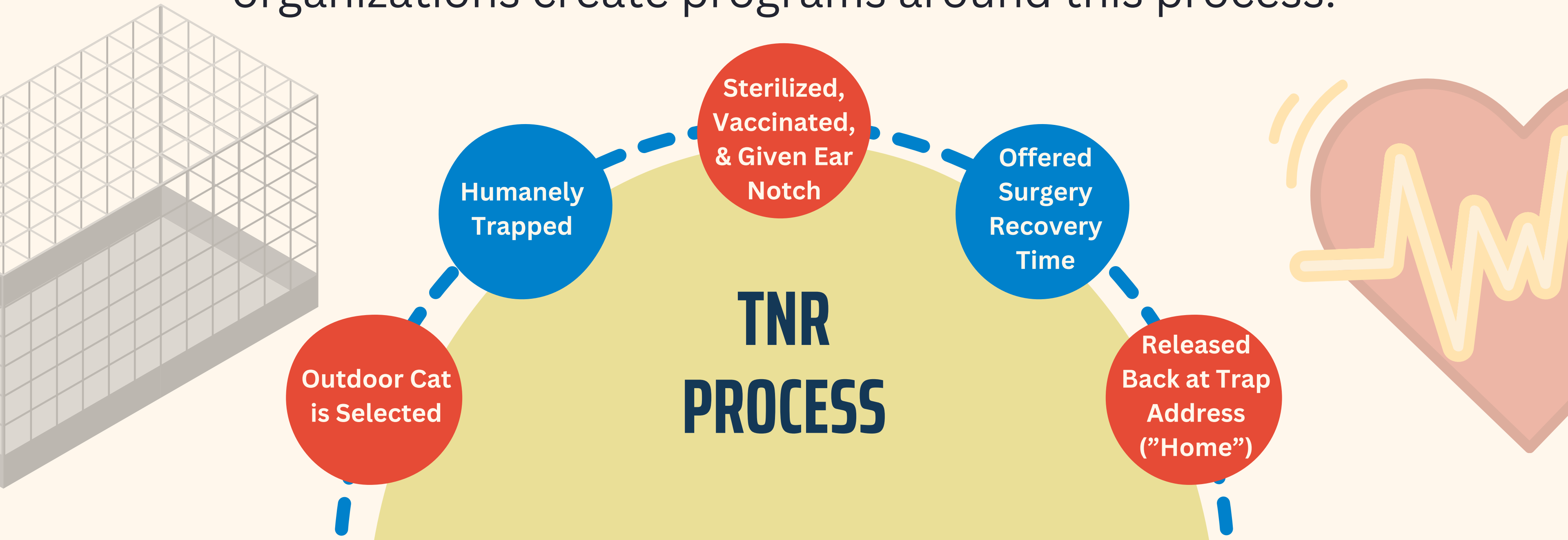


PURPOSE OF THIS LARGER PROJECT

- Assess program infrastructure
- Review existing policies
- Collect community feedback
- Compare to best practices
- Issue written recommendations

WHAT IS A “COMMUNITY CAT?”

A community cat is an outdoor cat who has gone through the “**Trap-Neuter-Return**” (TNR) process. Some cities, counties, and private organizations create programs around this process.



LEAGUE CITY ORDINANCE DEFINITION

“**Community cat** is a member of the domestic species *Felis Catus* and shall mean a free-roaming cat who may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are known or unknown; a community cat may or may not be feral. Community cats are not wildlife.”

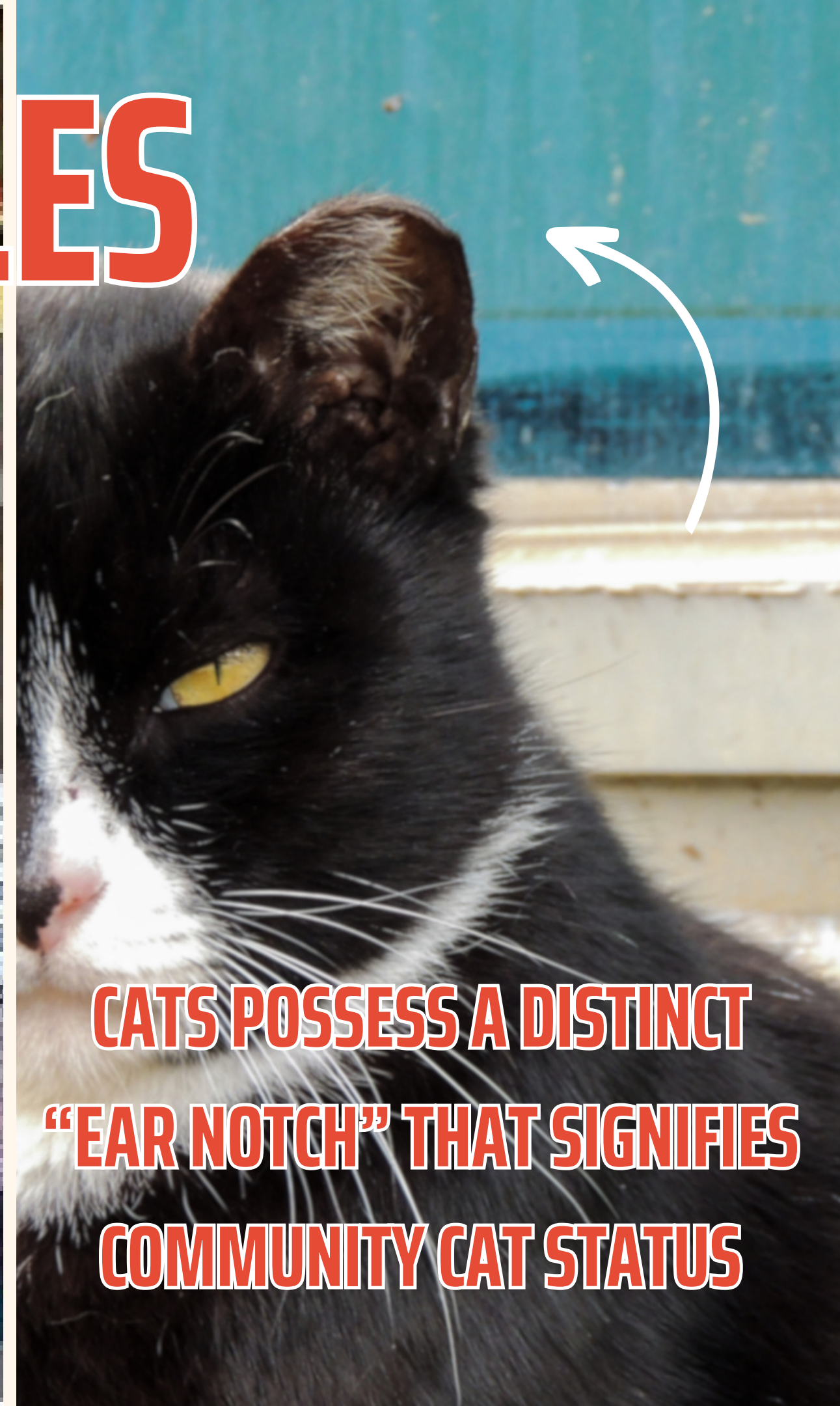
TNR VISUAL EXAMPLES



**HUMANE TRAPS ARE
PAINLESS, SET OVERNIGHT,
LURE CATS WITH HIGH-VALUE
FOOD**



**RECOVERY ROOMS POST-
SURGERY ARE LOW-
STIMULATION AND LOW-
STRESS**



**CATS POSSESS A DISTINCT
“EAR NOTCH” THAT SIGNIFIES
COMMUNITY CAT STATUS**



WHY TNR?



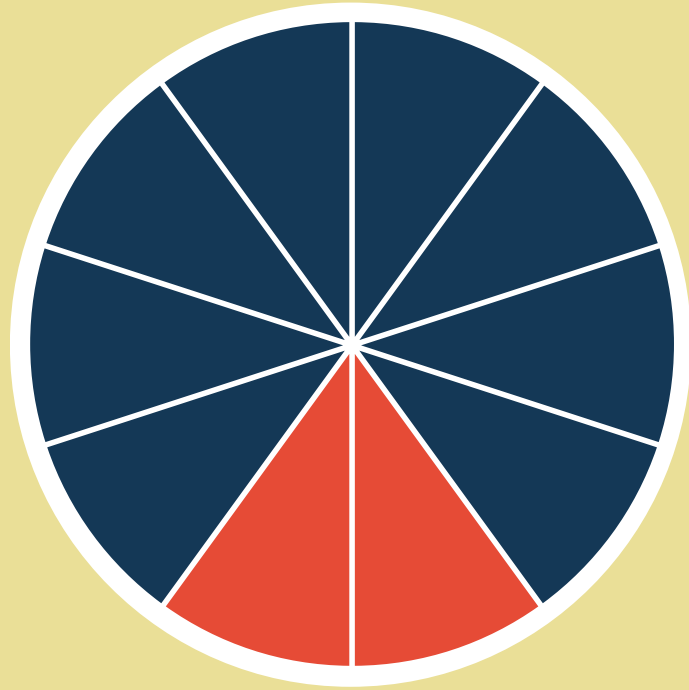
IT'S EFFECTIVE

- Proactive “animal control” method
- Backed by research
- Efficient outcome pathway for hard-to-place cats who often die in shelters

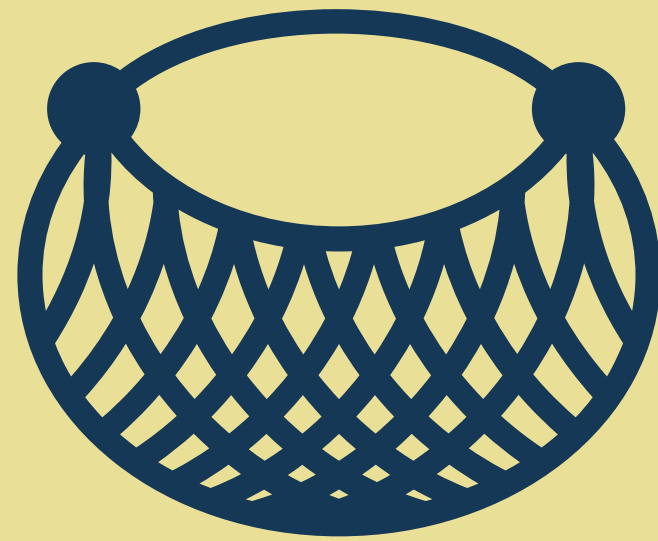
IT'S HUMANE

- Life-affirming & compassionate
- Preserves relationships/bonds
- Incorporates community caregivers & their vision

LEAGUE CITY PROGRAM OBSERVATIONS



Fewer than **2 out of 10** cats are outcomed through TNR, while **8 out of 10** cats are outcomed through the Adoption Program



All cats are given **individualized assessments** prior to program entry and protected by safety net policies (*e.g., no kittens, no underweight cats*)



League City's policies **embrace best practice standards**, sometimes even exceeding them (such as through providing felines with preventive care beyond rabies vaccines)

A FEW, AMONG MANY, RULES

- Community cat program candidates must be a minimum of 6 months old
- *Body Condition Score (BCS)* is no less than 4/9 and no more than 8/9 *BCS*
- No injury or illness
- No declawed status
- No known history of indoor living
- No indication of serious outdoor environmental danger or hostility
- Before releasing, staff must double-check that there are no visible signs of illness, injury or residual effects from surgery, like bleeding or grogginess

ADDED SAFETY NETS

- Door hangers are to be distributed to area homes where community cats are released, explaining why (s)he is there, and what to do if cats need assistance/intervention
- Community cats will be microchipped, allowing staff to identify them as “previously returned.” This gives staff the ability to compare previous body conditions of cats who are released and intervene if any decline or concern is noted

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS



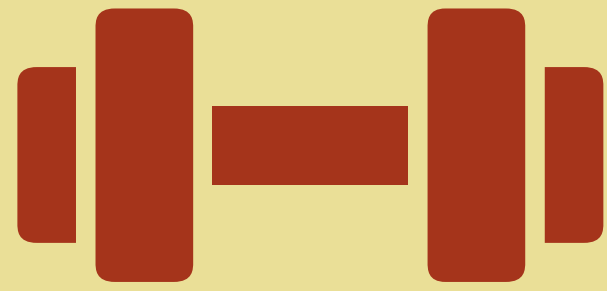
Quality of care is highly important to the League City community



Some express concerns about **“friendly” cats being eligible for the program**

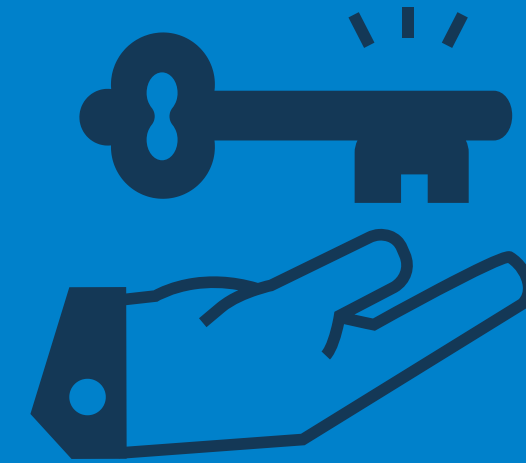


Some approve of **“friendly” cat eligibility** and see it having a **traditional “Return-to-Owner” function**



STRENGTHS

- Life-affirming organizational value system
- No Kill model of “ethical efficiency”
- Case management approach to each animal and family



OPPORTUNITIES

- Community education campaigns
- Community engagement and volunteer coalition-building

DEFINING FUTURE PROGRAM

TARGETS



Establishing common, standardized language for cat labels

Identifying and connecting with more cat caretakers

Implementing new stray cat reporting and follow-up systems

Volunteer training for TNR/CCP specifically

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Feedback survey closes Sunday, 10/22/23, at midnight
- Feedback reports analyzed
- Final recommendation report issued by 11/30/23



THANK YOU!



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