

TAMI Colony Procedures

Overview

TAMI is a new collaborative effort by FieldHaven Feline Center for community cats. It's all thanks to a grant from California for All Animals, which exists to unite and amplify the work of California animal shelters. TAMI (Trap-Alter-Manage-Invest) can be defined as the following:

Trap: The method of humanely securing cats for spay/neuter surgeries and/or sometimes other minor medical services

Alter: The medical care, including spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, a microchip, and/or sometimes other minor medical services

Manage: Ensuring the cats are safe and cared for after being altered and returned to their homes

Invest: The method of sustainability for the future of the program by encouraging communities to invest ongoing resources, continue Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) and caring for community cats, and educating the general public to ensure a peaceful coexistence between people and cats

TAMI is a holistic, community-based program for community cats in several defined areas surrounding our shelter in Lincoln. It will make affordable services and resources more accessible by targeting specific neighborhoods which have historically had a high population of unowned cats with minimal spay/neuter compliance. This will decrease barriers for local residents, create sustainability for the care of community cats, and reduce overall euthanasia of unwanted and an uncared population of cats in these specific regions:

Sutter County: Qualified TNR colonies

City of Shasta Lake: Owned cats

City of Marysville: All cats

Other areas: as defined by the Executive Director and Programs Manager

The range of services offered through TAMI will include a multi-faceted, triage approach to ensure a foundation of success. Specific focus areas will include trapping, spay/neuter services, medical care, transport, and community outreach and support.

The program funding was awarded in late 2022 and will end in August 2023.

California for All Animals is a five-year project to improve the lives of at-risk animals in the state and provide much-needed resources to shelters that serve this vulnerable population. It exists to unite and amplify the work of California animal shelters to achieve our shared goal of matching every animal in need with the right outcome through the right care, delivered in the right place and at the right time.

Application Process

To apply for TAMI funding for Sutter County and other areas an [application](#) is completed for review by the TAMI team. Key aspects we look for when reviewing the application.

- Location – is the colony within the geographic area of focus. We will consider out of area colonies if they are in the general area.
- History of the colony – do we have any experience with this colony that would affect our decision to fund or not.

- Probability of success and compliance – are the stakeholders committed to TNR? If there are obstacles, such as resistant neighbors, will we be able to overcome those obstacles? Are the stakeholders agreeable to caring for and managing the colony, including keeping records, for at least a year?
- Stakeholder participation – we look for the residents and/or tenants to want to take part in the project unless there is a reason they are not able to (health, not in the area, etc).

Once we have tentatively approved the application the next step is a site visit. If the colony is in Sutter County, we check in with Sutter Animals Services Authority (SASA) in case there is a history of issues/complaints with the location.

Onboarding

Once the colony has been approved, we begin the onboarding process.

- A Permission to Provide form is signed which gives us access to the property for trapping, release and colony monitoring.
- If the residents are going to trap, we have a trapper agreement signed.
- Feeding guidelines and feeding logs are reviewed.
- Trapping procedures are reviewed.
- If the resident is not able to trap, we assign a certified FieldHaven trapper to the location.
- A Messenger chat is initiated with all relevant people part of the chat. This becomes our primary point of communication throughout the project.

Progress

When TNR is started, we stay in close contact with the stakeholders, providing them training and support when needed. Some of the support services we can provide:

- Food support as needed.
- If there are colony cats that need extended care, we will triage medical care.
- Cats that are social and not thriving in the colony will be triaged for a better outcome (eg, adoption or transfer to an adoption partner)
- If a litter of kittens is sighted the colony caregiver can complete a form so that we can provide support.
- Our [kitten sitter](#) program offers information for caring for any litters that do occur before we get all the females spayed (we do spay abort).
- Transport to the spay/neuter clinic from FieldHaven's Resource Center in Marysville to the clinic at our main campus in Lincoln.

Once a colony has been completely spayed and neutered caregivers continue monitoring for illness, injury, new cats coming into the colony, etc.

Any neighbor complaints or issues are mediated on a case-by-case basis.