



AS SEEN IN THE MILD

A Community Cat Field Guide





WELCOME TO MILD KINGDOM

Community cats are a crucial part of Ten's no-kill mission. Our goals are to foster appreciation for these animals, encourage residents to report strays, and to continue the practice of Trap Neuter Return (TNR) to humanely spay, neuter and vaccinate. In this brochure, you'll learn all about these efforts and more. Plus, there will be cats! Lots and lots of cats. Welcome to Mild Kingdom. Your path starts here.



A long-haired, grey and white cat with yellow eyes is sitting in a garden. The cat is looking towards the camera. The background is a wooden fence and some green foliage.

CONTENTS

What Are Community Cats?	3
Why Spay and Neuter?	4
Mild Cat Facts	5
Safari Map	8
Guide for Success	9
A Tiger-Sized Thank You	10

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CATS?

Community cats are cats without owners, and therefore need the community's help. Together, we can make sure these cats are spayed, neutered and vaccinated. This practice will keep the population from growing larger and ensure healthier lives for the cats.



● A BRIEF HISTORY OF CATS

- As you may know, the Egyptians domesticated cats — but so did other civilizations, 4,000 years prior to that. When human beings transitioned from hunter/gatherers to farmers and herders, cats began encroaching, due to the resulting increase in small prey.
- Cats were first brought to the Americas in colonial times to protect the food supply from rodents during the lengthy voyage across the ocean. The rest, as they say, is history. Cat history.
- Cats have only been kept indoors for about 70 years. This practice was made possible by the inventions of refrigeration (preserving meat/fish), spay/neuter, canned cat food and kitty litter.
- Nowadays, community cats live together in groups or colonies. They share a common territory and food sources. What's more, they groom one another and show each other affection.

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

Spaying and neutering is the most humane way to effectively control pet overpopulation in the no-kill nation. And community cats are no exception. Spaying and neutering will ensure that colony populations never exceed available food sources, which would lead to starvation, disease and worse.

THE BENEFITS OF SPAY AND NEUTER

- Spaying and neutering can extend a cat's life. One study found that neutered males live an average of 62% longer and spayed females live an average of 39% longer.
- Spaying and neutering offers additional health benefits. For starters, it virtually eliminates certain types of cancers, such as ovarian and testicular.
- Spaying and neutering improves many problem behaviors. Fixed cats do not spray, fight, roam or yowl as much. Neighbors are often much happier with these results.
- Spaying and neutering frees up valuable space in shelters and clinics. Diseased or injured cats stand a better chance of survival with the proper care and treatment available at a shelter.

WHO IS SCOOTER THE NEUTERED CAT?

Scooter is our Mild Kingdom safari guide and the official mascot of the Ten Movement. Following a meteoric rise to fame in 2013, Scooter has remained an essential and memorable part of all our no-kill efforts. For the original Scooter TV spot, please visit our YouTube channel.



MILD CAT FACTS

Everything you wanted to know about community cats — and then some!

HUNTERS BY NATURE

A cat's genome is 95.6% tiger, from which they diverged 10.8 million years ago. Domestic cats share many behaviors with their ancestors, including scent marking, prey stalking and pouncing.

Cats have large eye sockets and a powerful, specialized jaw. A cat kills its prey (small rodents) by biting its prey's vertebrae, severing the spinal cord, paralyzing and killing.

Cats are most active during prime hunting hours (dawn and dusk); this makes them crepuscular, not nocturnal. This is also the reason why they wake you up so early.

WALKING, RUNNING, JUMPING

Cats, camels and giraffes are the only three mammals in the world to walk by moving both right paws, then both left paws (a pacing gait).

A house cat can reach speeds up to 30 mph, which is 3 mph faster than the world's fastest human being, Usain Bolt.

A cat can leap six times its own length and seven times its own height. To equal this feat, a person would need to jump over a large house or jumbo jet.





ULTRASONIC HEARING

A cat hears frequencies up to 100,000 hertz, allowing them to detect ultrasonic noises from rodents. That's more than twice as sensitive as a dog's hearing (40,000 hertz).

Cats have ears like satellite dishes; each one is controlled by 32 muscles and can turn 180 degrees. The movement and shape accurately pinpoint sounds in their environment.

A NOSE LIKE NO OTHER

A cat's sense of smell is about fourteen times stronger than a human's. A cat's nasal passage contains 200 million odor-sensitive cells, while a human's has about 5 million.

Like snakes, cats have an extra organ inside their mouths that allows them to taste scents on the air. It's also why your cat might stare at you with her mouth open from time to time.

If you look closely, you'll see that each cat's noseprint is intricate and entirely unique, much like a human fingerprint.

NIGHT VISION GOGGLES

A cat's night vision is five times better than a human's. Cats have elliptical pupils, more rods than cones, and a reflective layer behind the retina to enable maximum vision in low light situations.

Cats are farsighted and do not see perfectly in close range. But they do have incredible peripheral vision, viewing a field of nearly 280 degrees (compared to humans' 180).

When a cat is afraid, its pupils dilate to take in as much information as possible; when a cat is angry, the pupils constrict, narrowing focus on smaller details.

PURRING AND TALKING

Cats purr as an expression of intense emotion: pleasure or pain. Purring likely means "Don't go anywhere, please," as cats also make this noise when ill or distressed.

Cats do not meow to other cats; the meow is reserved for communicating with humans. In fact, cats use the same pitch, volume and intensity of sound as humans do when talking.

The domestic cat purrs in the range of 25-50 hertz. Interestingly, research shows that same frequency promotes bone density, relieves pain and heals muscles/tendons.

NO SWEET TOOTH HERE

Cats are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness. Some cats will eat sweet things, but it's likely due to other factors, like fat content, other flavors/scents or texture.

Contrary to what you may have seen on cartoons, most adult cats lack the enzyme necessary to digest milk; it may cause a cat's stomach to become upset.

Cats are strict carnivores, while dogs can subsist on many other foods. A cat cannot move its jaws sideways, so they can't chew large amounts of food.

PAWS-ITIVELY ADORABLE

Cats are digitigrade walkers, meaning they walk on the front parts of their paws. This gives them greater speed and agility, as well as enhanced stealth and silence due to thick, soft paw pads.

Feline claws curve downward, which makes cats tremendous at climbing trees, but not so great at returning to the ground. Cats either need to back down or call for help.

AMAZING COMMUNITY CATS

There are about 700 million community cats in the U.S.; some of them even have day jobs. About 200 patrol the grounds at Disneyland, keeping the park rodent-free.

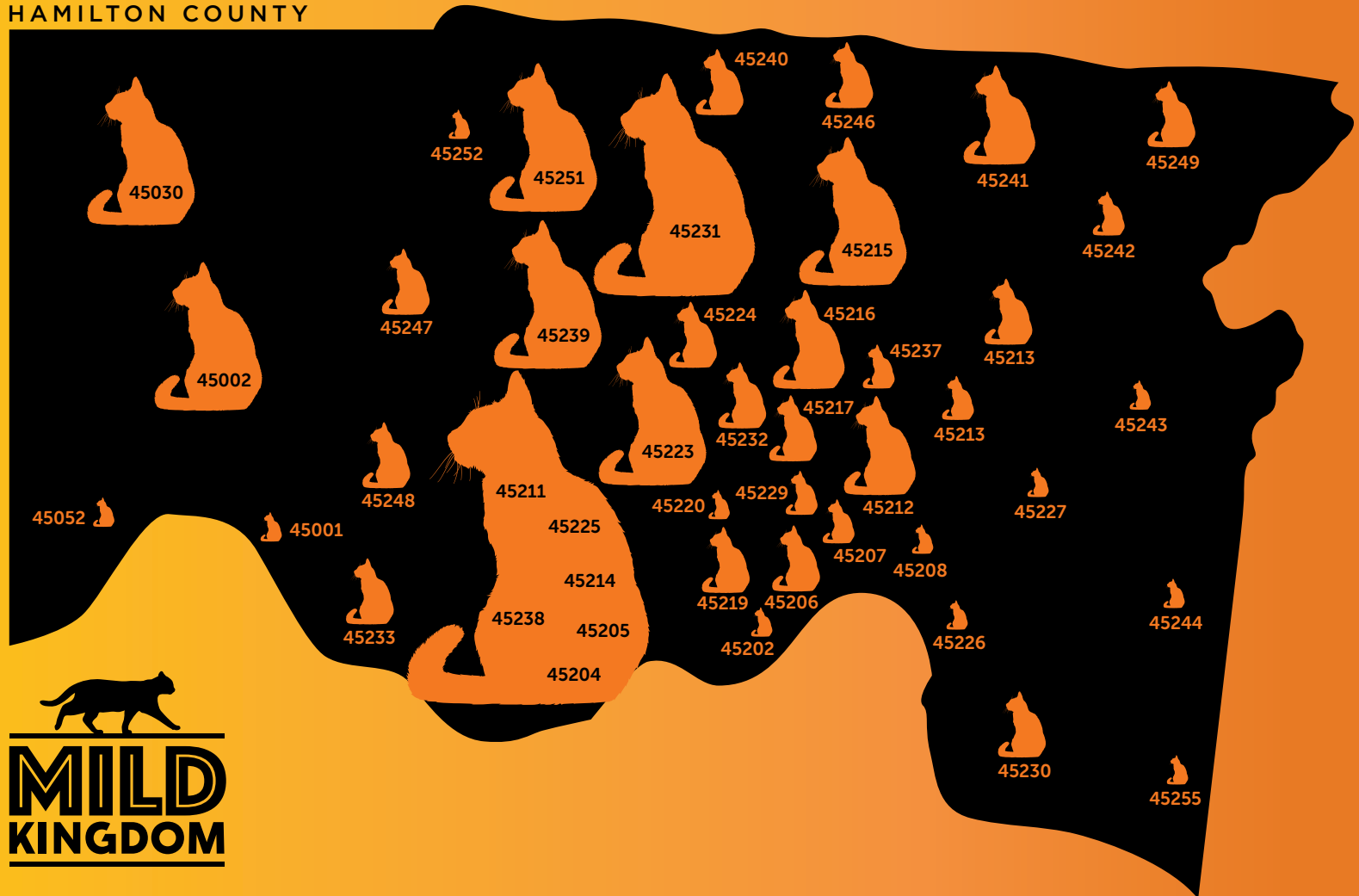
Cats have an unexplained ability to find their way home. Some experts think cats rely on the angle of the sun or use magnetized cells in their brains as internal compasses.

Cats are extremely sensitive to vibrations. For this reason, some people think cats can predict earthquakes, often reacting several minutes before seismic activity begins.

EXPLORE THE MILD!

To begin your next expedition, refer to this helpful population map. These are the ZIP codes where you'll find the most community cats. If you see one, please contact us!

HAMILTON COUNTY



SAFARI SCOOTER SAYS...

If you encounter community cats in the wild, there are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Please leave stray kittens where you found them — as long as they're in a safe place. Those kittens may look helpless (and adorable!), but mom is likely out searching for their next meal.
2. If you're feeding a stray, please take responsibility and call us. We'll make sure your cat friend is spayed or neutered and safely returned.
3. If you see a cat with a tipped left ear, the animal has already been spayed or neutered. Someone in the community cared!

WHAT IS TRAP NEUTER RETURN?


Trap Neuter Return (TNR) is how we spay and neuter community cats. It consists of three steps:

- **TRAP**
A caring volunteer (maybe you!) captures the cat in an approved, humane trap and brings it to a nearby spay/neuter clinic.
- **NEUTER**
A veterinarian vaccinates and spays/neuters, then painlessly tips the left ear.
- **RETURN**
The volunteer returns the cat to the community for a successful reunion.

WHY DO THEY TIP THE EAR?

Tipping the ear is done while the cat is under anesthesia, so it feels no pain. This practice enables volunteers and residents to easily identify (from a distance) which community cats have already been spayed or neutered.

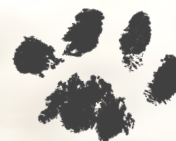




THANK YOU for joining our expedition and sharing our love and appreciation of cats. If you're interested, we encourage you to share this information with friends or family. Please also follow us on social and engage with the content you find there. Every little bit helps. Last, we always need people to volunteer, foster, adopt and donate to shelters. For more information, please visit our website. In closing, we can't thank you enough — or give you enough tiger-sized hugs. Much peace, love and happiness!

From your safari friend,

Scooter the Neutered Cat



MildKingdom.org
(513) 644-5600



@givetheten



@itsneutered scooter