

## **REGISTER YOUR OUTDOOR CAT COLONIES - NO MATTER HOW SMALL**

San Antonio Animal Care Services (SA ACS) are accepting applications for outdoor cat colony permits regardless of the number of cats you are caring for. This is a wonderful change in their protocols.

It is still mandatory to get a cat colony permit if you are caring for more than 8 outdoor cats. However, SA ACS has agreed that the cat colony permits are important no matter how many cats you are caring for. Even if you are only caring for one outdoor cat, you can get a permit as long as you fulfill the requirements. Applying for a colony permit for less than 9 cats is optional but advisable.

By obtaining a cat colony permit, your ear-tipped cats are registered at SA ACS and have some degree of protection if they are turned in for any reason. This is not a guarantee but if one of your cats strayed and someone turned it in to ACS, an ear-tipped cat can be tracked back and returned to its colony. Animal Care Services are trying to save as many lives as possible and this just might be one way to stop so much unnecessary euthanasia of cats in San Antonio. A cat that is a fully vetted, ear-tipped member of a managed colony is not considered a problem unless there is specific proof of nuisance or damage.

You must be the owner of the property where you are feeding the cats to be able to apply for a cat colony permit.

Requirements include the following;

- Attend just one TNR Workshop (Of course you are welcome to attend as many as you want but only one is necessary to gain a lifetime of benefit). Here is the link to the San Antonio schedule <http://www.sanantonioferalcats.org/events.cfm>
- Get started on the job of trapping and neutering your colony. Your project must be underway before you apply for the cat colony permit. You might be asked to show proof that some have already been spayed/neutered. All that means is you can show a rabies certificate and the medical record.
- Apply for the permit from SA ACS. You can go to the Animal Care Services website to get a copy of the permit application. Here is the link <http://tinyurl.com/yb8knr4>
- Send in your application with the fee (\$10.00 per year)
- An Animal Care Officer will contact you to arrange to come and see where you are feeding the cats. They will not want to enter your home. They are interested to see that you are caring for the cats in a responsible manner.. The feeding site should be discreet, and tidy and there should not be unpleasant smells that would upset neighbors. A 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water is a good neutralizer of the unpleasant cat urine/spray smell.

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