



## The Vacuum Effect

The R for RETURN in “Trap-Neuter-Return” is an essential part of the process. Fixed cats need to be returned to the location where they were trapped. It is **ALWAYS** in their best interest to go back to their original territory. The physical process of relocating an outdoor/free roaming cat is tedious and more times than not, unsuccessful. Many cats will leave their new location to look for their prior territory. In that process they may encounter cars, predators and other dangers which results in an unhappy ending for that cat.

The “catch and kill” method of removing feral/free roaming/outdoor cats is old news and simply does not work. Why? **Because of the vacuum effect!**

Cats are in their territories because there is a food source present. If you eliminate/remove the cats, the food source still exists. Whether that is a person feeding, a barn full of mice or other small critters. With that being said, if you remove the original cats, you are leaving open a food source for new cats that will meander upon the territory and move in.

When all of the cats in a territory/colony have been sterilized, they are no longer interested in inviting newcomers to their group either. The cats that are fixed no longer have a need or yearning to mate so newcomers are not welcome.