

# Trap Neuter Vaccinate & Release Guide

A step-by-step hand book to our  
community outreach program.

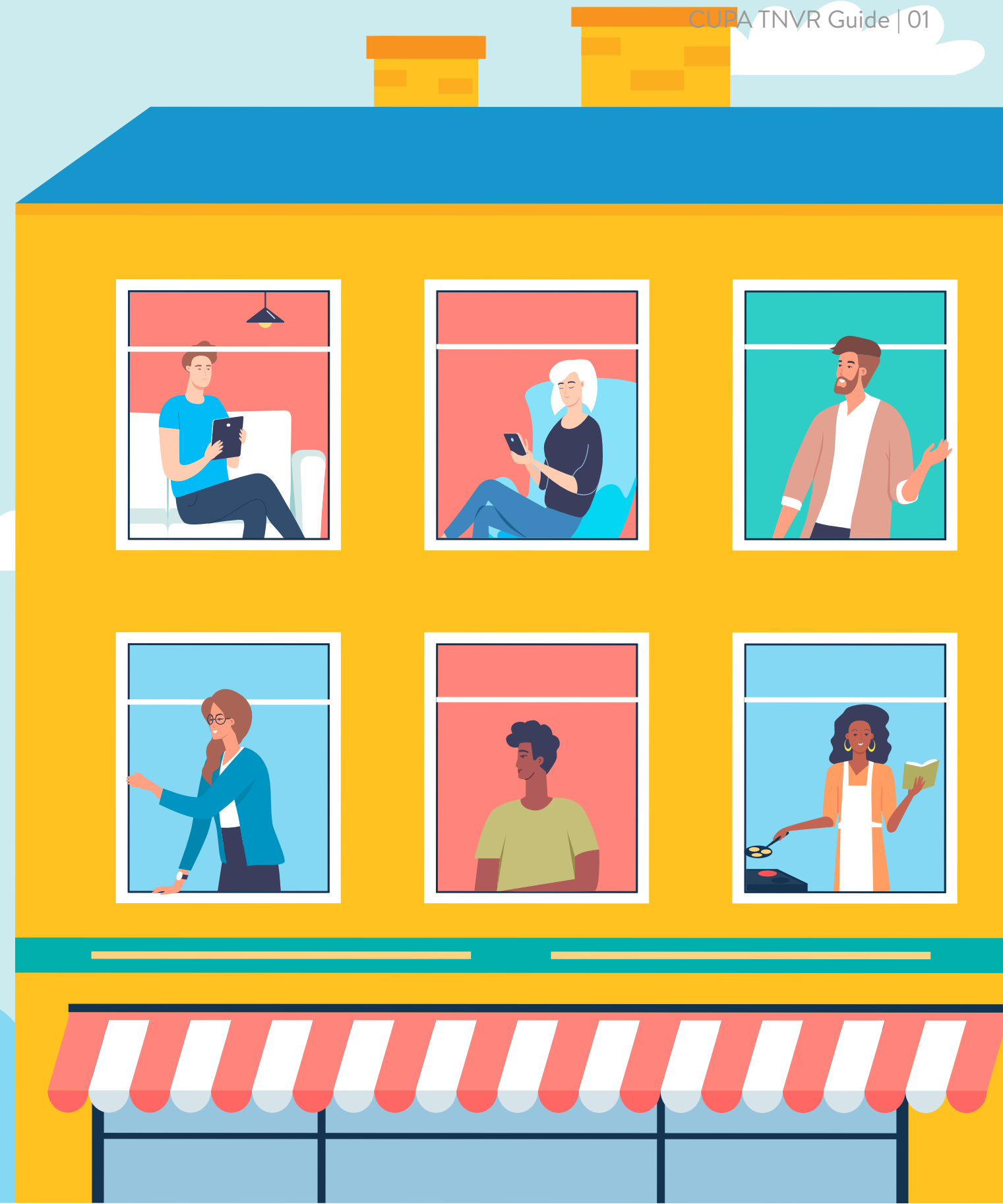


## The Big Question

# Why Sterilize?

If you stay in a residential complex, it is likely that you might be struggling with a growing cat population leading to problems such as:

1. Torn morning milk packets
2. Vomit/excreta at our doorstep
3. Dead birds and a bloody mess at your doorstep
4. Loud, violent fights and meowing late in the night
5. Ripped seat covers on bikes



We are glad that you are committed to mitigate the problem of the growing cat population in your residential area in a peaceful, humane and sustainable manner. While it is common for people to want to relocate them and dissuade/ban animal lovers from feeding them, It is illegal to relocate stray animals under Section 11(1) (i) and Section 11(1) (j), of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.

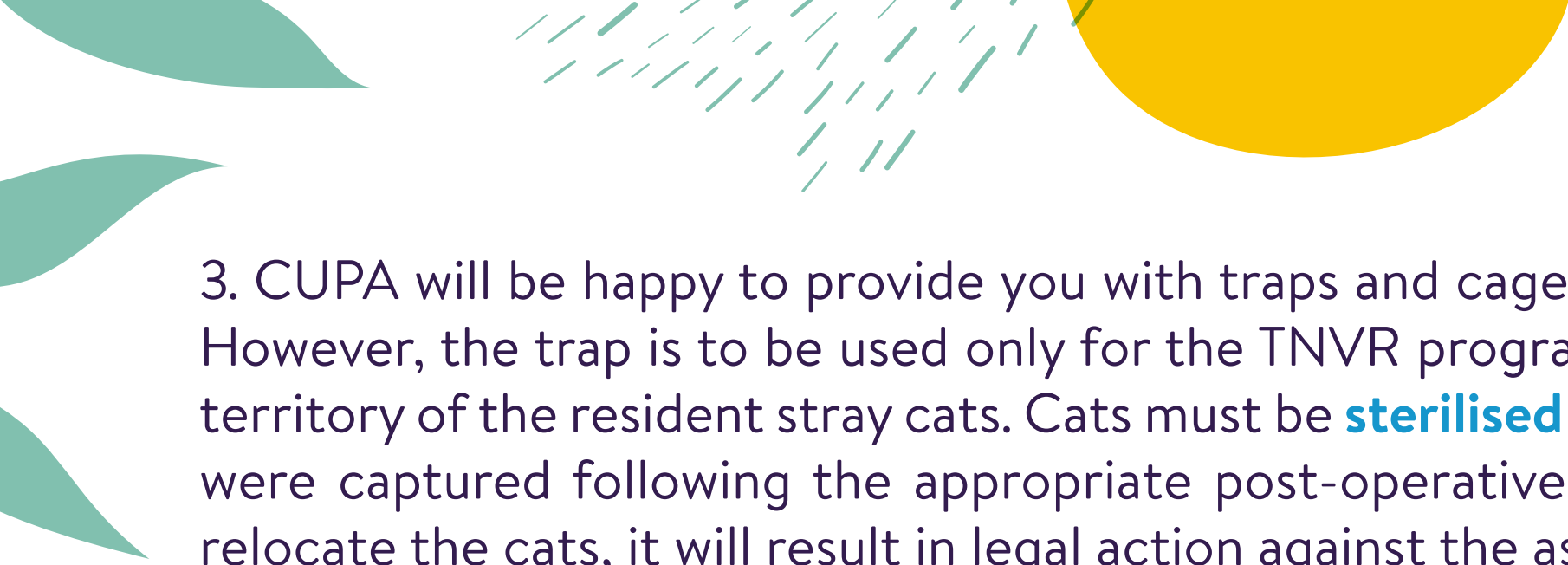
Additionally, cats (like dogs) are territorial in nature and the presence of a cat is what ensures that other cats do not come into the residential complex. If a cat is relocated, it will create a void in the area which is an invitation for another feral cat to come take its place. Therefore, the solution that you should be looking at to address the growing cat population is to **Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR)** them. This not only helps in curbing the population growth of the cats, but also addresses the issue of fights over territory and mates, spread of viral infections, rabies, and ensures a healthier overall life for the cats.

In order to assist associations/individuals Trap Neuter Vaccinate and Return cats in their locality, CUPA runs a subsidised Cat Sterilisation programme. If you are ready to initiate this process in your locality/association/lane, CUPA will assist you in the planning and the execution of the drive. However, before proceeding there are a couple of things that you should be aware of:

1. CUPA will provide assistance but not undertake the whole process and, therefore, the **success of the project will depend on how you come together as a community**, mobilise volunteers and plan. Before you schedule an appointment with us, you should ensure that you have discussed this with the residents of your association and have at least a small team that is ready to contribute not just money but also time and energy (the housekeeping and security staff can be a valuable resource). CUPA can connect you with other associations/individuals who have successfully run such drives in the past. You can read one such resident's experience [here](#).

2. While we take every possible measure to ensure that the cats are given the best possible care in the process of the sterilisation drive, with stray cats, it is impossible to predict their medical history and therefore, there is a chance that a cat might develop complications at the operation table or later. **CUPA will take no responsibility for complications** that arise due to a cat's medical history. We will, however, maintain complete transparency be available to help you if any complications arise during the post operative care.





3. CUPA will be happy to provide you with traps and cages to enable you to catch the cats free of cost. However, the trap is to be used only for the TNVR program within the boundaries of the association or territory of the resident stray cats. Cats must be **sterilised and returned to the same location** where they were captured following the appropriate post-operative care. If the trap/cage is used to attempt to relocate the cats, it will result in legal action against the association/individual.

4. All cats, post the operation, will **mandatorily have their ears notched**, to enable easy identification of sterilisation and vaccination, and therefore, avoid recapture.

**The TNVR can be initiated only when we receive a written letter from you/your association stating that**

- a. You understand the risks involved and authorise CUPA to operate on the cats.**
  - b. The cages and traps (if borrowed) will only be used for TNVR and not relocate or harm the cats.**
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### Step 1

Pre-work & Survey



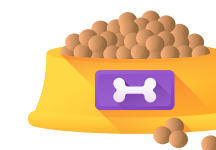
### Step 2

Catching the Cats



### Step 3

The Surgery



### Step 4

Post-op Care



## Step 1

# Pre-work and Survey

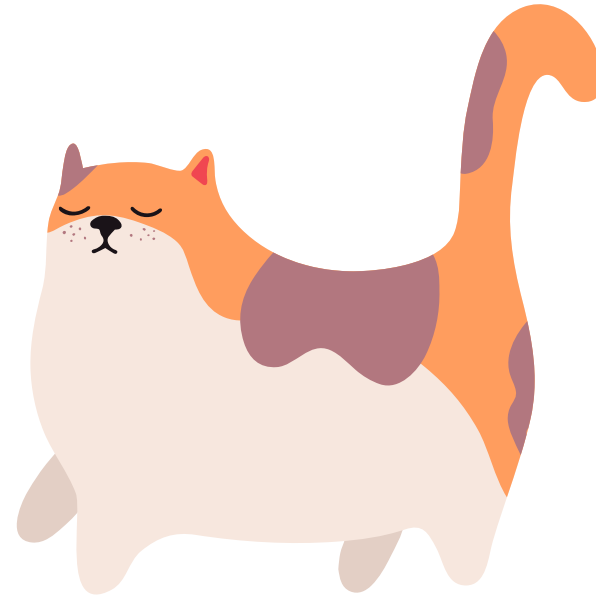
Now that you have officially begun the project, the first and foremost thing to do is to put together a team. To put together the team, reach out to the residents and look for cat feeders and cat lovers (every association will definitely have at least a few of them).

1. Begin a survey, identify and mark the spots where the cats frequent.
2. If your residential complex is a big one, it is unlikely that all the cats will be caught in one attempt and therefore, it is advisable to break down the project into phases, targeting a certain section of the complex. For instance, in case you have 20 lanes, for the first phase, you could target lanes 1-10. **If cats are caught randomly, chances of recapture in subsequent phases are high. This is a waste of time and energy.**

3. One extremely useful way of categorizing the list would be to divide the cats into:



**Friendly:** These are the cats that are well known to the cat feeders, frequently visit houses, and don't mind being touched/picked-up by humans.



**Semi-friendly:** These cats don't allow a human to touch or come too close, they don't mind to be seen in the presence of a human.



**Feral:** These are the cats that only come in when there is no human around (mostly at nights or late evenings) and are extremely shy and run away at the sight of a human.



4. In case you are not able to identify spots where cats come, you could **set-up feeding stations** about a week before you plan on trapping the cats. This will enable the cats to frequent the spot and you will have a greater chance of catching the feral and the semi-friendly cats.



## Step 2

# Catching the Cats

1. If the surgery is scheduled on Friday morning, you should begin trapping the cats by Thursday morning and CUPA can have the cages and traps sent over to your location by Wednesday evening.
2. The friendly cats can be easily sent into the cages while the semi-friendly ones might have to be lured into it using food as bait.
3. To catch the feral cats, set the trap (covered with bedsheets to avoid suspicion) at a spot identified to be frequented by them. Use bait with a strong aroma (wet food/dried fish). Once trapped, transfer it to the cage ([click here to watch how to transfer the cat from the trap into the cage](#)).







4. Please make sure that you **close every cage with a bedsheet**. When a cage is covered, the cat is deprived of visual stimulus and this helps reduce its stress and calm it down.

5. Make sure you **mark each cage** to identify where the cat was caught so that you can easily release it once it returns from the surgery. Additionally, if you have been able to identify the sex of the cat, mark that as well **(if unsure, do not mark the sex)**.

6. **Do not tie** any rope around the neck or feet of the cat.

7. Please **identify a space in the association** (party hall/empty house) where all the cats can be temporarily housed till they are ready to be taken for surgery.

## Step 3

# The Surgery



1. Please note that the cats are required to be on an empty stomach during the surgery. Therefore, **they should not be fed anything 12 hours prior to the surgery.**

2. Our ambulance will come pick up the cats at 9:30 AM on the day of the surgery. **Please ensure that you keep the cage covered with the bedsheet** as the stress while transportation can be quite high for the cat and the bedsheet will help reduce the stress.

3. On an average, CUPA can **operate on 10-14 cats** in a day (depending on the sex of the cats). Post the surgery, the cats will be transported back to your location by evening.



## Stage 4

# Post-op Care

- Cats recover from the anesthesia differently, depending on their body type. However, once you see that they are fully awake and able to walk steadily, they can be **fed wet food and a fresh bowl of water** can be made available.
- In the first 24 hours of the surgery, it is normal for cats to be groggy/lethargic/sleepy and not have an appetite. However, inform us if:
  - a) You notice **excessive licking or discharge** around the surgery area.
  - b) The cats **aren't eating even after 24 hours** of the surgery







- **Male cats to be under observation for 24 hours** whereas the **female cats need to be observed for a minimum of 3 days** (but CUPA strongly recommends 5 days), post which they can be released.
- Ensure that the cages aren't allowed to stay wet.

For more details, write to  
**[coordinator@cupaindia.org](mailto:coordinator@cupaindia.org) / [cupaprojects@cupaindia.org](mailto:cupaprojects@cupaindia.org)**



**Designed by Shreya Banerjee**