South Utah Valley Animal Shelter (SUVAS)

Community Cat / TNVR Policy (Shelter Role & Limitations)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the role, responsibilities, and limitations of the South Utah Valley Animal Shelter (SUVAS) in relation to any Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) or community cat program that may be considered or implemented by a member agency.

This policy is intended to:

- Clarify SUVAS operational boundaries
- Identify potential impacts to shelter resources and staffing
- Ensure transparency with member agencies and the public

This policy does **not** require or authorize any member agency to implement TNVR.

Legal Context

Under Utah Code 11-46-301, a local government may choose to authorize a community cat (TNVR) program through its own ordinances or governing policies.

Any decision to implement TNVR:

- Must be made independently by the member agency
- Requires adoption of appropriate local ordinances or policies
- Remains the sole responsibility of that member agency

SUVAS does not adopt or enforce municipal ordinances.

Policy Statement

SUVAS remains a regional animal shelter operating under interlocal agreement to provide sheltering and related services as defined by contract.

If a member agency chooses to implement a TNVR or community cat program, SUVAS will maintain a **limited and clearly defined role**, as outlined below.

SUVAS Role

SUVAS will:

- Continue to provide animal intake and care services as defined by existing interlocal agreements and applicable policies
- Provide data and reporting related to cat intake, outcomes, and trends to assist member agencies in evaluating animal control strategies
- Offer general educational information regarding sheltering practices and applicable state law upon request

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SUVAS Limitations

SUVAS will not:

- Operate, administer, or supervise any TNVR or community cat program
- Trap, transport, hold, or return community cats as part of a TNVR program
- Manage or monitor cat colonies
- Respond to nuisance complaints related to community cats outside of standard shelter intake processes
- Provide funding, reimbursement, or subsidization for TNVR-related services, including spay/neuter, vaccination, or veterinary care
- Assume responsibility or liability for cats returned to the field by a member agency or its designees

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Member Agency Responsibility

A member agency that elects to implement TNVR retains full responsibility for:

- Program design, adoption, and enforcement
- Compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances
- Operational components, including trapping, transport, veterinary services, and return-to-field activities
- Responding to resident complaints, nuisance concerns, and property-related issues
- Any legal or liability implications associated with the program

SUVAS does not assume or share these responsibilities.

Operational & Resource Considerations

Member agencies should be aware that implementation of TNVR may impact shelter operations, including:

- Changes in intake patterns and service demand
- Increased need for data tracking and reporting
- Potential shifts in workload related to public inquiries and coordination

Any additional workload placed on SUVAS beyond existing service levels may require:

- Modification of interlocal agreements
- Additional funding or cost-sharing arrangements
- Board review and approval

No Program Endorsement

This policy does not constitute:

- Endorsement or opposition to TNVR
- Authorization for any specific program model
- A determination of effectiveness or outcomes

Decisions regarding TNVR implementation remain at the discretion of each member agency.

Severability

If any provision of this policy is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

Effective Date

This policy becomes effective upon approval by the SUVAS Board.

Summary Statement

SUVAS provides sheltering services as defined by interlocal agreement.
Any TNVR or community cat program is a **member agency decision and responsibility**.

SUVAS will not operate or fund such programs and will maintain its defined shelter role unless otherwise amended by the Board.