

I do not want to be petted

Furever Friends Cat Rescue is a nonprofit organization based in Altona. We operate with volunteers, donations, and support from our community. Our mission is to rescue the lost, abandoned, and homeless cats in our community. We are dedicated to the care and wellbeing of our local feral cat population and to help educate the public on the need to spay/neuter pets, the prevention of animal cruelty, and the importance of responsible pet ownership.

My name is Molly and I'm a feral cat - one of the most misunderstood types of cats.

In honour of Oct. 16, which is National Feral Cat Day, I'm going to help you understand who I am and what I do.

Some people call me a 'community cat', but whether you use that term or 'feral', it pretty much means the same thing: it means that I'm not socialized to humans. It means that I'm an independent cat that lives and hunts outdoors and that I have no interest in becoming your pet.

My Great, Great, Great Grandmother was probably a very sweet and cuddly cat. She wasn't spayed and eventually had a litter of kittens that was never handled by people. Thus began the line of cats like me...feral. Feral cats don't do well in shelters, rescues or pounds. We are often deemed un-adoptable and euthanized. But, in Altona we're special!

The Town of Altona, Altona Animal Control and Furever Friends Cat Rescue work together to help cats like me. In fact, we have colonies of feral cats right here in our community. We are very stealthy, and you'll probably never see us, or evidence of us in your neighbourhood. All of us have been spayed or neutered, blood tested and vaccinated so we don't contribute to overpopulation or disease.

The local TNR Program (Trap-Neuter-Release) is a humane program, unlike the Catch & Kill Program that many communities still use today. How barbaric! Cats like me are lucky to live in a community that cares about animals and has the resources to contribute to the cost of a TNR Program. We just wish the rural cat colonies on farms would take part in this type of overpopulation control, too. Those cats continue to migrate into town and into our colonies, making us fight for our resources.

Our area even goes a step further than other TNR Programs by providing us with insulated shelters and food for those cold winter nights.



What do we do in return for this kindness? We have a very important job! In fact, you could say it ranks as an essential service. We help control the rodent population. There are a lot of rodents in this area! If you're saying to yourself 'I don't see any rodents!', you probably have a secret cat colony living close by. We provide a natural, organic, pesticide free mouse and rat control.

While the community of Altona has embraced this progressive way of thinking, other communities still need to invoke change and utilize a TNR Program. Will you help us get the word out on National Feral Cat Day and help save more feral cats by talking to your friends and family

about the importance of spaying and neutering all cats in and around your community?

Molly is a 3-year-old, feral TNR cat that has caught countless rodents in Altona. She is not available for adoption. She has never had a litter of kittens as she was spayed and vet checked in 2019. She is healthy and thriving in her environment. If you would like to learn more about the TNR Program in our community, or become a feral shelter caretaker, please contact us. Call/text 204-304-9173, email furever_friends@icloud.com, visit our website www.furever-friendsaltona.com, or find us on Facebook.