

STABILISE. SUSTAIN.

No Relocation.

A practical, humane approach to community cat population
management in Dubai

The Problem: Why Removal Doesn't Equal Management

Removing cats creates a vacuum — not a solution

The Result:

Territory becomes available for new free-roaming cats

Breeding cycles restart in the same location

Relocation is temporary. Management is permanent.

Problems Persist:

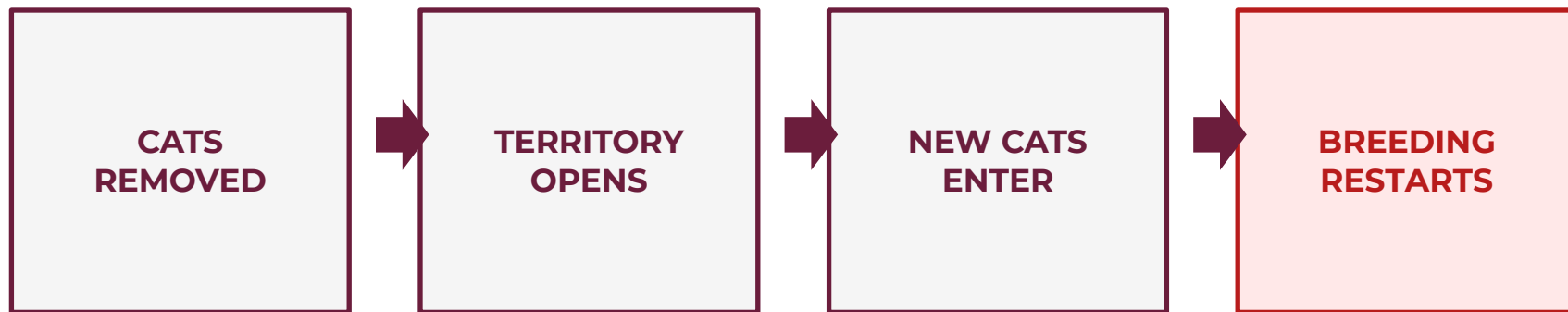
The problem is shifted, not solved

Cat relocated to unfamiliar territory faces new risks

No ongoing management occurs

The sustainable objective is to REDUCE REPRODUCTION and STABILISE the population where it lives.

The Vacuum Effect: What Happens After Removal



Initial removal seems to solve the problem | Resources and space become available | Other free-roaming cats move into the area | Population grows again—cycle repeats

The key insight: Manage the population and the environment—not just visible cats. Population management requires addressing root causes: territory stability, food availability, and reproduction cycles.

Community Cats: More Than Just "Strays"

They have established lives:

- Established feeding points & routines
- Familiar shelter & safe spaces
- Social relationships with other cats
- Territory they know & navigate

Relocation Risks:

- ✗ Stress from unfamiliar territory
- ✗ Conflict with existing cats
- ✗ Cannot navigate new surroundings
- ✗ Increased injury/predation risk
- ✗ Separation from community

Best Practice: Where there is no safety risk, population management should prioritise humane, local stabilisation.

Dubai Municipality: Leading by Example

Dubai Municipality Follows a Scientific and Humane Approach

TNVR Programme

T = Trap
N = Neuter
V = Vaccinate
R = Return

*Cats returned to original locations
when safe.*

Integrated Pet Shelter

Jul 2026

Provides refuge and digital adoption platform, creating coordinated solutions.

Ehsan Stations Pilot

Mar 2026

AI-powered feeding units (12 across locations). Data-driven approach combining feeding with population tracking.

According to Dubai Municipality Operational Guidelines for the Technical and Health Requirements for Running Stray Animal Control Activities) clause 10.4 - **The company shall be obligated to return sterilized cats to the same area from which they were captured, and such return shall be duly documented.**

**This direction demonstrates: Organised management + Data-driven decisions + Community partnership
= Sustainable outcomes**

The Solution: Stabilise & Sustain

1

IDENTIFY

Assess health, injury,
pregnancy, sterilisation
status

2

ASSESS

Determine if
immediate safety risk
exists

3

STABILISE

Neuter, vaccinate,
microchip where
appropriate

4

RETURN

Return to established
territory when safe

5

SUSTAIN

Monitor feeding,
health, and population
management

One cat. One community. One sustainable solution.

AMAL's Stabilise & Sustain Programme (TNVR)



TRAP

Humane capture & assessment



NEUTER

Reduce reproduction



VACCINATE

Support animal & community health



MICROCHIP

Improve identification



RETURN

Return to safe territory



MONITOR

Ongoing population management

Best Practice: Stabilise & Sustain vs. Relocation

Aspect	Stabilise & Sustain	Relocation Approach
Long-term Outcome	Population stabilises	Problem resurfaces
Cost Efficiency	Moderate initial, low ongoing	High per cat, recurring
Animal Welfare	Minimises stress, familiar territory	High stress, unknown risks
Community Impact	Educates, builds partnership	Shifts problem elsewhere
Environmental	Sustainable, data-driven	Ineffective, not evidence-based

Across the UAE: A Shared Commitment to TNVR

Dubai, Abu Dhabi, RAK and other UAE Emirates are embracing evidence-based, humane population management through TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) programmes.

The UAE Standard:

- Scientific, data-driven approaches to animal population management
- Community partnership and volunteer engagement
- Humane treatment and animal welfare at the centre
- Sustainable long-term solutions over temporary fixes
- Regional coordination and knowledge sharing

Why Relocation is Not the Solution

Before relocating a community cat, ask yourself:

Where will it go?

Unknown destination = no follow-up care possible

Is the new location safe?

Risk of injury, predation, starvation

Are there already cats there?

Territory conflicts, established populations

Who will monitor it?

Impossible to track outcomes without commitment

What happens to the original territory?

New cats move in, breeding cycle restarts

See a community cat?

Don't just move it. Don't ignore it.

Contact AMAL CSR

We help assess the situation and work towards a Stabilise & Sustain (TNVR) solution.

Humane population management • Responsible coexistence •
Community partnership
Better management. Better coexistence. Better Dubai.