



**Tell me about how the National Feline Research Council came about. What gap was it filling? Who was the intended audience?**

When it comes to “feral” cats and trap-neuter-return (TNR), there’s just so much misinformation out there. Obviously, it’s much easier to discuss the issue—and craft evidence-based policy—if everybody involved is starting with the same set of facts. It’s more difficult if a lot of upfront energy has to go into “myth-busting.”

That’s why NFRC materials are aimed at the media and policymakers—audiences interested in the issue but not necessarily very familiar with it. We’ve taken the findings from a number of peer-reviewed science articles and broken them down into a handful of key takeaways that are relevant to these stakeholders.

**How were the members of the Advisory Board selected? What do they each bring to the table?**

Members were invited to join the NFRC’s Advisory Board based on their educational background, training, and professional experience. The range of academic degrees represented says a lot about our commitment to considering a broad range of perspectives—two Board members are licensed veterinarians, two have degrees in wildlife biology, two more in engineering; one is an animal law attorney; one of the vets also holds a degree in public health while the other vet holds a degree in clinical epidemiology.

All of our Board members have firsthand experience with TNR programs, have published research on the topic, and present at various conferences. We each see the topic through different lenses, a critical aspect of this collaborative effort that’s reflected in the materials we produce.

**Describe the types of studies that are featured on NFRC. How are they chosen? How frequently is new content added?**

The studies we include on the NFRC site cover various aspects of the community cat/TNR issue. Some examine the effectiveness of targeted TNR, for example, while others report on the health of cats that are included in community cat programs. What they all have in common is that they’ve applied rigorous research methods to shed light on the larger topic of “feral cat management.”

Until now, new content has been added mostly as bandwidth permits—which can be a challenge for a board of very busy people all of whom, except for myself, are volunteering their time. There are plans, however, to add content more regularly and to begin a newsletter via e-mail. (You can sign up for updates [here](#).)

**How can Network partners utilize the information found on NFRC? Give me a few examples of specific papers/data and the specific types of programming you think they can support.**

The parts of the NFRC website most likely to be of interest to Network partners are the [Fast Facts](#) and [Issue Briefs](#). The Fast Facts are, as the name suggests, very brief responses to commonly asked questions. These are intended to quickly orient visitors to the topic. The Issue Briefs, on the other hand, are deeper dives into different aspects of the larger issue—but written for an audience that’s probably not familiar with all the relevant science.

I know many Network partners have received pushback at one time or another from somebody who’s skeptical of TNR—an elected official, a resident, or even members of their own staff. You might be questioned about the effectiveness of TNR, for example. Our [Issue Brief on the subject](#) explains the key findings from several peer-reviewed research studies. Or you might have concerns about the welfare of cats returned as part of your TNR program. No problem—we’ve got you [covered](#). NFRC provides the answers you need, all based on the best available science.

**Are there any other points you want to bring up about the NFRC regarding why Network partners should bookmark it, share it on their websites, and consult it frequently?**

When a Network partner shares our materials or links to the NFRC site on their own website, they’re providing visitors with useful information that might not be available otherwise. And those links also give the NFRC site more credibility in the “eyes” of search engines, which means NFRC will come up higher in search results.

**Is there a way for partners to contact members of the Advisory Board should they need more information about a particular topic, both those included on the site and those that are not represented there at this time?**

We’re always eager to hear feedback! The most direct way to contact us is through my e-mail address: [peterw@bestfriends.org](mailto:peterw@bestfriends.org).