

# Why Does IAATCI Support Mandatory Spay/Neuter\*

Uncontrolled breeding of domestic and feral cats is a significant problem in the Central Florida area.

- Cats can become fertile and breed at as young as 5 months of age. They will cycle into heat every 2 weeks until they become pregnant. Gestation is 63 days and kittens are weaned in 6 weeks, allowing the mother cat to have up to 3 litters of kittens per year.
- Feeding homeless cat colonies increases their reproductive rate, as well as the survival rate of the homeless kittens born to homeless mothers.
- Irresponsible cat owners allow their cats to breed litter after litter, dumping the unwanted kittens at shelters – or worse in the woods, along roadside ditches, at vet offices, etc.
- County shelters are overwhelmed with abandoned cats. Nearly 10,000 cats are euthanized every year in Central Florida due to space limitations or health reasons. Not only is this unspeakable in moral terms, but the cost places a huge burden on local taxpayers.

In seven years, a single unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 kittens. Sadly, the majority meet an untimely death. Most abandoned cats cannot survive the harsh conditions “on the street” and those who end up in county shelters face a 90% chance of being euthanized.

Addressing the problem of uncontrolled breeding via abandonment and/or euthanasia at the county shelters is not an acceptable means of population control.

**Spay/Neuter is the humane and cost effective solution.**

**IMAGINE the day when every cat has a loving home.** Spay/Neuter can dramatically reduce the number of cats being born each day. With fewer cats competing for adoption, their chances of survival improve immensely.

\*It's All About the Cats, Inc. has adopted an official position in support of **mandatory spay/neuter** for all cats, with the exception of those permitted by licensed breeders and cats with medical limitations as determined by a licensed veterinarian.

