



Determining feral-cat numbers and setting goals for management of feral cats can be especially challenging because it is difficult to know the number of cats in the community, feral or otherwise. If you are trying to set goals for TNR, but are having a difficult time coming up with how many cats must be trapped, there is a simple formula to give you a rough estimate.

1. First, figure out the total number of households in your community. Take the human population and divide by **2.67** (*the example below illustrates the average number of people per household estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000 and 2008*).
2. Then, figure out the approximate number of pet cats in the community by multiplying the number of households by .66 (*this number was determined using national figures*). (*From AVMA U.S Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, 2002*).
3. It has been estimated that, before any spay/neuter programs are implemented, feral cats equal about **40%** of the total cat population (*Source: Merritt Clifton, Animal People*) Note that this is only a very rough ballpark figure. So, to get a loose estimate of the feral-cat population, take the number of pet cats in your community and multiply by **.4 (40%)**.

	2000 Census Bureau	average number of people per household	approximate number of pet cats	Approximate number of feral-cats
<b>New York City</b>	8,008,278	2,999,355	1,979,574	791,830
<b>Bronx</b>	1,332,650	499,120	329,419	131,768
<b>Brooklyn</b>	2,465,326	923,343	609,406	243,763
<b>Manhattan</b>	1,537,195	575,728	379,981	151,992
<b>Queens</b>	2,229,379	834,973	551,082	220,433
<b>Staten Island</b>	443,728	166,190	109,686	43,874

	2008 Census Bureau	average number of people per household	Approximate number of pets cats	Approximate number of feral cats
<b>New York City</b>	8,363,710	3,132,476	2,067,434	826,974
<b>Bronx</b>	1,391,903	521,312	344,066	137,626
<b>Brooklyn</b>	2,556,598	957,527	631,968	252,787
<b>Manhattan</b>	1,634,795	612,283	404,107	161,643
<b>Queens</b>	2,293,007	858,804	566,811	226,724
<b>Staten Island</b>	487,407	182,549	120,483	48,193