

received
9-26-17

Administrative Hearing Panel- April 29, 2016
To: Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Jeannie Stewart, resident of 3500 Northwind Rd., Parkville MD 21234 do hereby support my friend of over 30 years Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore MD 21218 in providing continued health care services to the homeless cats in her neighborhood.

Sheri has been providing care to these abandoned cats for years at her own expense. She has been able to find good and loving forever homes for quite a few. My family has adopted 1 prior and we currently have a brother and sister. Rachel and Jericho are wonderful cats and I couldn't imagine not having them in our lives. When she was able to find a home for a cat or kitten she would, at her own expense, have them spayed or neutered before they went to their new homes and would also provide a starter gift package of food, litter, litter box and toys.

I have also been one of her back-up caregivers for many years. If Sheri was out of town for more than a day I would step in to check on and feed the cats. I have also been with her many times while looking around the neighborhood to assess any changes to the stray population. I have assisted her on at least three separate occasions rescuing three litters, the mothers and get them all fixed and vaccinated. The good news due to early intervention, she was able to prevent hundreds of unwanted litters while finding homes for the kittens, mothers or having another organizations foster them while waiting for their forever home.

Several years ago Sheri discovered that a kitten was HIV positive and instead of putting the kitten down she researched and found a retired nurse who ran a shelter for positive cats in Pennsylvania. She and I made the 4 hour trip to the shelter. Sheri gave a donation for the kitten's care. She also kept in touch with the shelter for updates on the kitten's health.

In addition to providing health care and vaccinations for stray cats in her neighborhood; Sheri has also on occasion rescued dogs that have roamed the neighborhood. I remember when she saved a boxer in the alley behind her house running towards Loch Raven. She was able to rescue him and took him to Aardmore Animal Hospital and was able to locate his owner later that evening.

Thanks to the trap & release program through the Best Friends Organization she has been able to get more of the cats spayed and neutered to bring down the unwanted cat population. The TNR program seems to be working, I have noticed that there are fewer cats in the neighborhood when I visit. The public health service that Sheri has and continues to provide is helping the community cats to create a "firewall" against rabies.

These are just a few of the many unselfish acts that Sheri has done over the years to ensure the neighborhood's safety and well-being between animal and people. You will never read it about on the front page because she like other caregivers do not talk about doing something, they just do it. In my opinion, we need more people like Sheri to be good stewards of the community and the City.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4-28-16
Date

Jeannie Stewart
Print Name

Jeannie Stewart
Signature

AFFIDAVIT

received
9-26-17

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Julia Anderson reside at 3702 Ednor Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. Over the years, with the increase of foreclosed and rental properties, the homeless animal population has also increased, particularly feline.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

1. TNR – Humane trapping of stray and feral cats followed by spaying and neutering, vaccination to reduce and prevent future unwanted litters.
2. Provide food, care, litter and outdoor shelter to homeless cats.
3. Support and improve the health of TNR cat community through daily care, observation and review of animal health/behavior.
4. Utilize local community resources and organizations to ensure continued health and safety needs are met of the neighborhood and surrounding area.
5. Attempt to find forever homes for cats that can be reintroduced into loving adopting families' homes.
6. Assist with reducing the rodent population.

Sheri has actively and humanely stepped in to avert an out-of control animal population that would have created a public health hazard without proper health care and vaccination. She has done this willingly both given of her time and finances year after year and it has benefitted the Ednor Gardens community greatly.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/25/16
Date

Julia Anderson
Print Name

Julia Anderson
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 25, 2016

Michael F. Chapman
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires





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AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, MARK KEATNEY reside at 5705 EDNOR RD and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/26/2016
Date

MARK KEATNEY
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 26, 2016



Michael L. Alexander

Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Clifton Butler reside at 3710 Loch Raven Blvd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood.

I walk my dogs daily on Delverne Road because I find it to be one of the most beautiful well-maintained streets in Ednor Gardens. I have witness first-hand on many occasions the tremendous care Ms. Artz provides not only to the homeless cat population but to the community as a whole. Sadly, many of these cats she cares for started out as abandoned/unaltered that came from foreclosed homes and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

The cats look healthy, well-maintained compared to what I have seen in other parts of the city. This is due in large part to the actions she has taken to which our community has greatly benefitted:

- Ms. Artz has, by conducting TNR in our community, prevented the birth of thousands of cats.
- If there are cats that are adoptable, Ms. Artz works to find homes for them, and she is also reaching out to cat rescues to try and get them into those programs; this further reduces the number of abandoned cats in our neighborhood.
- By conducting TNR in our community, Ms. Artz is helping the community cats to create a "firewall" against rabies.

Ms. Artz does all this work on her own time and at her own expense and by so doing is improving the health and safety of our neighborhood. I commend Ms. Artz and wish we had more people like her in our community.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/27/16
Date

Clifton L Butler
Print Name

Clifton L Butler
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016

Michael E. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, John Coombs reside at 3840 The Alameda and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood.

I walk my dogs daily on Delverne Road because I find it to be one of the most beautiful well-maintained streets in Ednor Gardens. I have witness first-hand on many occasions the tremendous care Ms. Artz provides not only to the homeless cat population but to the community as a whole. Sadly, many of these cats she cares for started out as abandoned/unaltered that came from foreclosed homes and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

The cats look healthy, well-maintained compared to what I have seen in other parts of the city. This is due in large part to the actions she has taken to which our community has greatly benefitted:

- Ms. Artz has, by conducting TNR in our community, prevented the birth of thousands of cats.
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- By conducting TNR in our community, Ms. Artz is helping the community cats to create a "firewall" against rabies.

Ms. Artz does all this work on her own time and at her own expense and by so doing is improving the health and safety of our neighborhood. I commend Ms. Artz and wish we had more people like her in our community.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/26/16
Date

John Coombs
Print Name

John Coombs
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 26, 2016



Michael A. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

received
9-26-17

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Irene Lee reside at 3802 Monterey Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

1. TNR – Humane trapping of stray and feral cats followed by spaying and neutering, vaccination to reduce and prevent future unwanted litters.
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4. Utilize local community resources and organizations to ensure continued health and safety needs are met of the neighborhood and surrounding area.
5. Attempt to find forever homes for cats that can be reintroduced into loving adopting families' homes.
6. Assist with reducing the rodent population.

Sheri has actively and humanely stepped in to avert an out-of control animal population that would have soared by the hundreds and would have created a public health hazard without proper health care and vaccination. She has done this willingly both given of her time and finances year after year and it has benefitted the Ednor Gardens community greatly.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4-27-2016
Date

Irene Lee
Print Name

Irene Lee
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016



Michael F. Olson
Notary Public
8-1-2019
Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Elizabeth Popkm reside at 3800 Monterey Rd 21218 and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/29/16
Date

Elizabeth Popkm
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on _____

Notary Public

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Veronica Washington reside at 3718 Monterey Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/26/16
Date

Veronica Washington
Print Name

Veronica S. Washington
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 26, 2016

Michael F. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Joe F. Compton reside at 3714 Monterey Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/26/16
Date

Joe F. Compton
Print Name

Joe F. Compton
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 26, 2016

Michael J. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016

Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Keisha Ransome reside at 3712 Monterey Road, 21218 and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

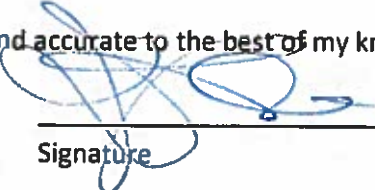
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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/24/16
Date


Keisha Ransome
Print Name


Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on

April 29, 2016


Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Elizabeth Irvine reside at 3711 Monterey Rd. and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. Over the years, with the increase of foreclosed and rental properties, the homeless animal population has also increased, particularly feline.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/27/16
Date

Elizabeth Irvine
Print Name

Elizabeth Irvine
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016

Michael G. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires



AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Jazmin Bradley reside at 3709 Monterey Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. Over the years, with the increase of foreclosed and rental properties, the homeless animal population has also increased, particularly feline.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/27/16
Date

Jazmin Bradley
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016

Michael B. Alexander
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires



AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016

Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, L. Andrew Dickerson reside at 3706 Monterey Rd and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

Sheri has provided an invaluable public health service to our community over the years by working with the Best Friends Animal Society's Baltimore Community Cat Project to become a licensed caregiver to ensure the health and humane treatment of this forgotten population. Some of the benefits of her continued care are:

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4-26-16

Date

L. Andrew Dickerson

Print Name

L. Andrew Dickerson

Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on

April 26, 2016

Michael S. [Signature]

Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires



AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016

Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Vanessa Huff reside at 3703 Montrose Rd. and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. The cats that Sheri cares for all started out as abandoned/unaltered cats that came from foreclosed and rental properties in our neighborhood. None of the cats are ones she "adopted" as pets and let outdoors.

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I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/27/2016

Date

Vanessa A. Huff

Print Name

Vanessa A. Huff

Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016



Michael E. [Signature]

Notary Public

8-1-2019

Commission Expires

AFFIDAVIT

Administrative Hearing Panel - April 29, 2016
Chairperson of Animal Hearing Panel

I, Samira Phillips reside at 3702 Monterey Road and do hereby support my neighbor Sheri Artz of 3725 Delverne Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, in providing continued cat care services to the homeless/stray cat population in the Ednor Gardens Lakeside Neighborhood. Over the years, with the increase of foreclosed and rental properties, the homeless animal population has also increased, particularly feline.

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Sheri has actively and humanely stepped in to avert an out-of control animal population that would have created a public health hazard without proper health care and vaccination. She has done this willingly both given of her time and finances year after year and it has benefitted the Ednor Gardens community greatly.

I declare that the above written statements herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

4/27/16
Date

Samira Phillips
Print Name

Samira Phillips
Signature

Notary Acknowledgement

Sworn or affirmed before me on April 27, 2016

Michael F. Allmonster
Notary Public

8-1-2019
Commission Expires

WRITTEN TESTIMONY - City Council Resolution 17-0042R: Informational Hearing – Feral Cats

September 26, 2017

Dear Chair Costello, Members of the Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee, and Sponsors of Resolution 17-0042R:

I am writing this letter to you in response to City Council Resolution 17-0042R: Informational Hearing – Feral Cats. For the reasons detailed below, we respectfully request you continue to support Baltimore's landmark Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.

I am the president and founder of Alley Cat Allies. Founded in 1990, we are the leading advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and improving cats' lives. We work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public to change attitudes and advance lifesaving policies that best serve the interests of cats and communities.

Under your leadership and Commissioner of Health Dr. Joshua Sharfstein's direction, the City of Baltimore enacted one of the country's best ordinances supporting TNR and community cats. This model ordinance enables "the Health Commissioner to approve of programs to trap, alter, vaccinate, ear tip, and return feral cats." **Baltimore's TNR ordinance remains one of the strongest and most effective in the nation.**

We are proud to have had the opportunity to help bring TNR to Baltimore. Ten years ago, Alley Cat Allies and a broad coalition of residents, humane organizations, and public officials worked together to build citywide support and launch a successful and sustainable program. We applaud the city, Mayor Catherine Pugh, and the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter for supporting this nationally recognized and respected program.

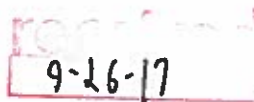
As the citizens of Baltimore have seen over the past 10 years, TNR is sound public policy. **TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats.** Studies have shown that TNR stabilizes community cat populations, improves neighborhoods, and benefits public health. With TNR, we stop the endless, expensive cycle of impounding community cats in shelters, where nearly 100 percent are killed because they are not adoptable. Spaying or neutering community cats also ends the breeding cycle and stops mating behaviors. Thanks to TNR, there is a reduction in shelter intake, calls to animal control, and costs to taxpayers.

Thousands of people in towns and cities across America conduct TNR and stand by its success. **Baltimore is one of more than 650 communities that has adopted official TNR ordinances and policies.** During your discussions, we hope that you will keep in mind how TNR is benefiting Baltimore's citizens and neighborhoods. Now is the time to celebrate and protect TNR in Baltimore, not reduce it. As always, Alley Cat Allies welcomes the opportunity to provide guidance and support for TNR in Baltimore. Thank you for your consideration.

For the cats,



Becky Robinson
President and Founder





1912

received

9-26-17

9-26-17

I am a home owner in Baltimore City
I have a colony of cats in front
of my house. All the cats have
been T+R^{id}.

Since T+R Baltimore City has been
much better. All cats have been
vaccinated. There is no more spread
of disease and no more unwanted kittens.

T+R also helps with the rat population
The most humane way to help with
these problems. I also think that
more people should have to face
consequences for dumping unwanted
animals in need of the T+R program.
It has been a godsend for many of the
animals.

For any questions please contact
me at:

Angela Dyer
443 769 3903

Email A DYER 130^dHotmail

RECEIVED
1988

Dear Mr. [Name],
I have received your letter of the 15th of [Month] and am pleased to hear that you are interested in [Topic].

I am sorry that I cannot provide you with the information you requested at this time, but I will do my best to assist you in the future.

If you have any further questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Phone Number] or [Email Address].

I am sure that you will find the information I have provided helpful. Thank you for your interest in our organization.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

Enclosed for you are [Number] copies of [Document Name].

**JUDICIARY AND LEGISLATIVE
INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE**

Council Bill 17-0042R

Hearing Date: September 26, 2017

**Additional
Testimony**

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Antoinette Zeigler <toniz1218@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:31 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM Program

My name is Antoinette Zeigler. I am a former resident of Baltimore City. However, when I did reside in the city I did rescue. The TNRM program is essential for keeping down the feral cat population. I implore you to keep this program.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Zeigler

21-72-6
received

From: Barb Clapp [mailto:barb@clappcommunications.com]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Costello, Eric
Cc: Henry, Bill (email)
Subject: CCR# 17-0042R testimony

received
9-25-17

Councilman Costello:

Councilman Henry asked me to send my testimony to you concerning the hearing tomorrow morning CCR# 17-0042R. I believe you and I have met a few times. Kim Clark introduced us at last year's ULI meeting. She is a long time friend. I am a Bill Henry constituent and am on the HSUS State Council and have been on the MDSPCA board, run the March for the Animals for 7 years and am involved with BARCS. I am not able to make the hearing and I wanted to express my concern about the possibility of TNR being in jeopardy in Baltimore City.

Properly managed TNR programs do not create cat overpopulation—the cats are already there. Your community must choose between progress or an unmanaged, ever-growing problem. Well-designed and well-implemented programs that focus on non-lethal control and involve all community stakeholders are in line with public opinion. They can mobilize an army of compassionate, dedicated people who care about the cats, wildlife, and their communities. By working together, municipal agencies, shelters, veterinarians, and cat rescue groups can humanely reduce community cat populations while protecting the public, cats, and wildlife.

The returns are plentiful: fewer community cats; lower cat intake and euthanasia in shelters; municipal cost savings; greater volunteer participation; more adoptions; better use of limited shelter, animal control, and public health resources; increased goodwill towards shelters; and more lives saved. Doing nothing or repeating failed approaches is no longer an option. Proactive, effective approaches exist and need to be fully embraced and implemented in a majority of our communities if we're going to have a lasting impact. Trapping and relocating does not work and so the only other option is trapping and killing, which the community will not stand for. Science is on the side of TNR and its effectiveness in reducing shelter intake and euthanasia, reducing the number of outdoor cats, and reducing nuisance issues with outdoor cats. You can see from the studies below.....

These are stats pulled from peer-reviewed journals about TNR programs around the country –

1. Trap and remove may at first glance seem to be the logical approach to solving community cat problems. However, unless it is consistently performed with very high levels of resources and manpower and addresses over 50% of a targeted population, it doesn't offset the root of the problem: ongoing reproduction of un-trapped cats (Andersen et al, 2004).
Andersen, M.C., B.J. Martin and Roemer, G.W. (2004). Use of matrix population models to estimate the efficacy of euthanasia versus trap-neuter-return for management of free-roaming cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 225, 1871–1876.
2. An 85% reduction in population over 11 years - Before implementing a TNR program on the University of Central Florida campus, periodic trap and removal efforts tried to keep the population at bay when it increased to nuisance levels. This 11-year study followed a population

of 155 free-roaming campus cats from 1991, when the TNR program began, to 2002. No kittens were observed on site after 1995. Additional stray or abandoned cats arrived, but they were neutered and adopted before they could reproduce. The campus cat population decreased by 85% to 23 cats in 2002, demonstrating that a long-term program of neutering plus adoption or a return to the resident colony can reduce free-roaming cat populations in urban areas (Levy et al., 2003).

return
and adoption program on a free-roaming cat population. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 222, 42-46.

3. TNR can control feral cat populations - Robertson reviewed the scientific literature on feral cats and feral cat control and concluded that there is scientific evidence that, under certain conditions, TNR can control feral cat populations. The practice of TNR on a far greater scale, as well as continued and increased funding and endorsement of TNR by private welfare organizations and municipal and government agencies, is essential for the success of TNR (Robertson, 2008).

Robertson, S.A. (2008). A review of feral cat control. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 10, 366-375.

4. In the long run, TNR programs are cost-effective - For many years, Texas A&M University attempted to control its campus cat population with a trap-and-euthanize approach. Two years after a trap-test-vaccinate-alter-return-monitor (TTVARM) program was implemented on campus, there was a 36% reduction in the number of cats and fewer nuisance complaints to the university's pest control service. The authors also note that although the initial costs of starting up TTVARM programs can be substantial in terms of time and money, these costs tend to decrease with time as fewer new cats need to be caught (Hughes and Slater, 2002).

Hughes, K.L. and Slater, M.R. (2002). Implementation of a feral cat management program on a university campus. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 5, 15-28.

5. Neutered free-roaming males exhibit less aggression - This study compared four free-roaming cat colonies in urban Israel: two that were managed by TNR and two that were not managed at all. Less aggression was observed in the neutered groups, specifically between males, which resulted in reduced fighting and vocalizations. The study concludes that TNR reduced the noise associated with mating and fighting and could lead to fewer nuisance complaints (Finkler et al., 2011).

groups of
neutered and sexually intact free-roaming cats following a trap-neuter-return procedure.
Journal of
the American Veterinary Medical Association, 238, 1141-1149.

6. Dramatically reduced shelter intake, impound and euthanasia numbers - This study examined the impact of a municipal shelter's Return to Field program in San Jose, California. These programs are shelter-based and include sterilizing, vaccinating, ear tipping and returning healthy, impounded community cats to the place they were found, with or without an identified caregiver. Over four years, the shelter's program garnered decreases in cat intakes (from 70% to

23%), cat and kitten impounds (by 29.1%) and euthanasia for Upper Respiratory Disease (by 99%) (Johnson and Cicirelli, 2014).

Johnson, K.L. and Cicirelli, J. (2014). Study of the effect on shelter cat intakes and euthanasia from a shelter neuter return project of 10,080 cats from March 2010 to June 2014. PeerJ, 2:e646, <http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.646>.

I am happy to make myself available to speak to you or Councilman Henry. I am sorry that I can't attend the meeting in the morning due to prior work commitments. I am passionate about this matter. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Barb Clapp

Barb Clapp
President & CEO
Clapp Communications
6115 Falls Road
Penthouse
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-561-8886
barb@clappcommunications.com
www.clappcommunications.com

Like us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/ClappCommunications>

Follow us on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/#!/barbclapp>

Clapp
Communications
Baltimore • Charlotte

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Barbara Monahan <blwm0812@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM

My name is Bobbie Monahan and my address is 2686 Gatehouse drive ,Baltimore, 21207.
I strongly support the current city TNRM law and urge that it be continued without any changes. That would be extremely harmful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Bobbie Monahan

received
9-24-17



DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY - City Council Resolution 17-0042R: Informational Hearing – Feral Cats

September 25, 2017

Dear Chair Costello, Members of the Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee, and Sponsors of Resolution 17-0042R:

I am writing this letter to you in response to City Council Resolution 17-0042R: Informational Hearing – Feral Cats. For the reasons detailed below, we respectfully request you continue to support Baltimore's landmark Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.

I am the president and founder of Alley Cat Allies. Founded in 1990, we are the leading advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and improving cats' lives. We work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public to change attitudes and advance lifesaving policies that best serve the interests of cats and communities.

Under your leadership and Commissioner of Health Dr. Joshua Sharfstein's direction, the City of Baltimore enacted one of the country's best ordinances supporting TNR and community cats. This model ordinance enables "the Health Commissioner to approve of programs to trap, alter, vaccinate, ear tip, and return feral cats." Baltimore's TNR ordinance remains one of the strongest and most effective in the nation.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to help bring TNR to Baltimore. Ten years ago, Alley Cat Allies and a broad coalition of residents, humane organizations, and public officials worked together to build citywide support and launch a successful and sustainable program. We applaud the city, Mayor Catherine Pugh, and the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter for supporting this nationally recognized and respected program.

As the citizens of Baltimore have seen over the past 10 years, TNR is sound public policy. TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Studies have shown that TNR stabilizes community cat populations, improves neighborhoods, and benefits public health. With TNR, we stop the endless, expensive cycle of impounding community cats in shelters, where nearly 100 percent are killed because they are not adoptable. Spaying or neutering community cats also ends the breeding cycle and stops mating behaviors. Thanks to TNR, there is a reduction in shelter intake, calls to animal control, and costs to taxpayers.

Thousands of people in towns and cities across America conduct TNR and stand by its success. Baltimore is one of more than 650 communities that has adopted official TNR ordinances and policies. During your discussions, we hope that you will keep in mind how TNR is benefiting Baltimore's citizens and neighborhoods. Now is the time to celebrate and protect TNR in Baltimore, not reduce it. As always, Alley Cat Allies welcomes the opportunity to provide guidance and support for TNR in Baltimore. Thank you for your consideration.

For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President and Founder



Nibber, Dpaul

From: BETH BUCKLER <bab96@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:57 PM
To: Cohen, Zeke
Cc: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: I Support Baltimore TNR (City Council Resolution 17-0042R)

Importance: High

received
9-25-17

Dear Mr. Cohen -

My name is Beth Buckler and I have been engaged in trap, neuter and return (TNR) in my Upper Fells Point neighborhood for over 10 years. When I moved into Baltimore City in 2003, one of the first things I noticed was how many feral cats there were; so many, that it wasn't uncommon to see cats who had been killed by cars and left in the street to die, sick and dying cats with no one to care for them, starving cats, and lots and lots of kittens.

After I learned about TNR, I decided to do whatever I could to improve the lives of the cats in my little corner of the world. For over 10 years I have been TNR'g (on my own initiative and with my own funds) my local cat population. The MD SPCA and Community Cats of MD have provided invaluable support, assistance and expertise in these efforts. Since I pay for all of this with my own funds, the MD SPCA's low cost clinic has made it possible to TNR more cats than I would have been able to afford at the regular rate. Over the years I have fostered and homed kittens and cats, identified and returned lost cats to their owners, euthanized sick and injured cats who otherwise would have suffered a long and painful death, and helped friends and neighbors start their own TNR program.

Thanks to TNR, the cat population in my neighborhood has declined and the cats that remain are in good health and free of disease (such as rabies). My cat colony has been reduced from a high of 10+ cats to 4 elderly cats (about 10 years old) who have been in my care since they were young. Once they die, I don't know if my TNR and care giving services will be needed as much as they once were since there are so many people providing TNR now.

TNR works. It benefits both humans (by preventing the spread of disease and killing rats) and local cat populations. Please protect this wonderful program.

Thank you,
Beth Buckler
2033 Gough St
Baltimore, MD 21231
410-675-2288

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Carol Crum <orangerugelach@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNR program

received
9-25-17

Dear Mr. Nibber.

My name is Carol Crum, and i live at 3736 Hickory ave. in Baltimore. I would like the current, successful TNRMprogram for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to current law. It is the most humane way people have found to deal with pet overpopulation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
carol crum

CITY COUNCIL BILL 17-0042R

TO: Members of the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
DATE: September 25, 2017
FROM: Caroline A. Griffin, Esq. – Former Chair, Mayor’s Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission
RE: City Council Bill 17-0042R – Information Hearing – Feral Cats
POSITION: SUPPORT EXISTING TNR LAW

received
9-25-17

Chairman Costello, Vice-Chair Clarke, and Members of the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee, I strongly support Baltimore City’s existing TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) law and urge the City Council not to consider any changes to this successful program.

I am the former Chair of the Mayor’s Anti-Animal Abuse Advisory Commission. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Animal Welfare Institute in D.C., the Maryland Spay/Neuter Advisory Board, and the Show Your Soft Side Anti-Cruelty Campaign. I am a member of the Animal Law Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) as well as of the Maryland State Bar Association.

I urge the Committee not to make any changes to Baltimore City’s current TNR laws for three (3) reasons.

First, at its most recent annual meeting in August 2017, the ABA passed Resolution 102B, which calls for legislation and policies at the state and local level to implement TNR programs. The resolution further provides that existing laws and policies should be interpreted to allow such programs. This is a significant endorsement of TNR from the largest and most powerful group of attorneys in the nation.

Second, the staff at BARCS Animal Shelter are experts in TNR and BARCS just received the largest grant in the state for TNR from the Maryland State Spay/Neuter Advisory Board.

Third, any change to Baltimore City’s current TNR laws would have the unintended consequence of increasing animal cruelty in Baltimore, as any curtailing of TNR would result in more kittens and cats on the street. Kittens, in particular, are among the most vulnerable of animals, and thus, are easy targets for violence and crime.

Baltimore City’s TNR program has been a model for the State and the current law is working extremely well. I urge the Council not to make any changes to the program, which is a proven success story for Baltimore City.

Respectfully submitted,



Caroline A. Griffin, Esq.
Former Chair, Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse
Advisory Commission

25 September 2017
Date

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Carrie Eichelberger <ceichelberger@belmanklein.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:53 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM programs for community cats - no harmful changes to the law

Good Afternoon,

I hope all is well.

As a constituent, I want Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law.

Thank you and have a nice day!

Sincerely,

Carrie

Carrie Eichelberger
3047 Lorena Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410)644-4857

received
9-24-17

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Fortunately4u2c <Fortunately4u2c@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNR Program (Save lives)

received
9-25-17

Hello D Paul,

As a TNR supporter and as a person who has been in a position to pay out of my pocket to TNR using my own money, I need this city to "assist positively".

Please "help" the TNR program here in the city.

I support "No Killing of animals".

Being a business owner, I pay taxes, more than most, and I am passionate about saving animals that were brought into this world.

If the city does not assist the TNR program in a positive way (saving lives), that would defiantly be a reason to end my 50 years of being a city resident.

Sincerely,
Chris

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Claudia montalvo <claudiays74@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: Feral Cats

My name is Claudia Montalvo and I live at 410 Lombard st, Baltimore, 21201. As a constituent, I want Baltimore's successful and human use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law.

Thanks for your support,
CM

received
9-15-17

September 19, 2017

received
9-24-17

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and Baltimore City resident. When I first moved to South-West Baltimore, it was easy to see the neglect and disregard that was common in the area: in the fact that people would throw trash down on the ground as they walked, adults would be yelling at children, and children would show a basic disregard for others' well-being, including animals. I live across from a field with wildlife like deer and squirrels, when any animals would go by the kids, they would yell and scare off the animals.

I have been here for nearly 10 years now and my neighbors and I work to clean up the area and set an example for others and we share resources to let people know that there's support available when needed. I have helped with the Community Cats Project by helping to take care of the stray cats in my area, and have helped to get more than 20 cats spayed, neutered and vaccinated, and some I've found good homes for elsewhere too.

The change I've noticed in my neighbors is remarkable. When I first got here, the seniors were indifferent to most of the animals and the kids were unfamiliar with them, and most of the adults simply didn't notice or ignored them. Little by little, as they could see that the cats could be socialized and friendly, the kids began to care about them, and they began to learn how to care for life! It has taught them responsibility to learn what animals require for well-being, just like we too need food, water, shelter, etc. And it has softened their demeanor ~ they no longer yell outside and they are softer and kinder with each other, and spend time with the cats together.

The majority of the seniors and adults are also friendly with the cats and care about them. One neighbor wanted to take some with her when she left! All have said that the cats have added to our lives in terms of having loving beings that they look forward to seeing, which goes a long way to soften the harsh effects of living in Baltimore City, where the violence is high and the levels of neglect and disregard for the community are blatantly obvious nearly anywhere one looks.

Please keep the Community Cats Project as is, we are very fortunate to have such a caring shelter for pets as BARCS in the city. We are a community of caring souls who are doing our best in difficult circumstances ~ to balance the care for other humans with the care of animals, and we do our best to be respectful of our neighbors needs as well. There can be provisions where caretakers pick up food after feeding the cats, but please do not change the laws so that we can continue to care for these living beings. If you have a pet your family members love, my hope is that you would understand how animals can help us learn how to take better care of our environments, ourselves and each other.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Dianne Fanti
115 S. Wickham Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21229

Nibber, Dpaul

From: note <drsray54@cs.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:48 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: cats

Please keep the trap, neuter, release program

Donald R. Schwartz
Baltimore

received
9-24-17

From: Emily Hovermale <ehovermale@humanesociety.org>
Date: 9/26/17 07:26 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Costello, Eric" <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Testimony of the Humane Society of the United States re: 17-0042R Informational Hearing Feral Cats

received
9.26.17

----- Original message -----

From: Emily Hovermale <ehovermale@humanesociety.org>
Date: 9/26/17 07:26 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Costello, Eric" <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Testimony of the Humane Society of the United States re: 17-0042R Informational Hearing Feral Cats

Good Morning Council Member Costello:

Attached and below please find comments from The Humane Society of the United States regarding 17-0042R Informational Hearing Feral Cats. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this resolution and Baltimore City's current policy on feral cats. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you should have any questions.

Thank you again. My best,
Emily

MEMO

To: Councilman Eric Costello, Chairman, Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee
Eric.Costello@BaltimoreCity.gov
From: The Humane Society of the United States
Regarding: 17-0042R Informational Hearing Feral Cats

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, understands that managing community (feral and stray) cats is a complex issue that concerns many municipal leaders and agencies mandated to serve and protect the public. Cat management should be designed to protect public safety, protect cats, mitigate conflicts with wildlife, and provide animal control agencies with effective, proactive, humane tools to manage cat populations. We applaud the City of Baltimore for adopting an extensive trap-neuter-return policy in order to achieve these goals.

Innovative strategies, such as trap-neuter-return, have allowed municipalities to finally make an impact on the outdoor cat population, after a century of inhumane trap and remove tactics have failed. Shifting from a short-term solution of removing individual cats based on single citizen complaints to a pro-active strategy of long-term, sustainable population management across the entire city benefits the community as a whole and is a smarter use of our limited tax dollars.

In addition to humanely and sustainably reducing the number of outdoor cats, TNR programs can provide a plethora of benefits to the community:

- **Decrease municipal costs.** TNR is less expensive than trapping and impounding cats, caring for them during their stray hold, and providing an outcome – be that adoption, transfer, or euthanasia. Trap and remove programs are extremely labor intensive, not to mention unpopular with the vast majority of American citizens since the typical outcome for the majority of cats is euthanasia. It is a haphazard approach that addresses too few cats, often targets household pets, and has little impact on animal welfare, environmental, or public health issues. Given this, TNR, which has been shown to decrease outdoor cat populations as well as decrease both intake and euthanasia at municipal shelters, is a much better use of taxpayer dollars. Moreover, once the risk of healthy cats being euthanized has been removed, caring residents who feed hungry stray cats as well as other residents who simply want to help out can be mobilized to participate in TNR efforts essentially expanding the workforce. This alleviates the burden on government employees and enables a greater number of cats to be impacted.
- **Decrease public health and safety concerns.** Vaccinating community cats against rabies as part of a TNR program should be supported as a preventative measure against the potential spread of the disease. Vaccinating the majority of the outdoor cats provides a buffer should one cat become infected, preventing an epidemic. Sterilization improves the health of outdoor cats, reducing the risk of them spreading other diseases and parasites. Without TNR you simply have unvaccinated, unhealthy cats continuing to live in the community putting people and other animals at risk. Given the opportunity, vaccinating outdoor cats is the responsible thing for municipalities to do in order to protect public health. Indeed, the American Public Health Association–Veterinary Public Health Special Interest Group encourages TNR as a strategy to manage community cats.
 - **Decrease nuisance complaints.** Spayed and neutered cats are less likely to fight over mates, food, and territory; roam less; and no longer emit the pungent odor of intact male cat urine. Once TNR programs are employed, animal control agencies report declines in nuisance complaints. Managed colonies of cats are less likely to disturb trash cans and through the use of humane deterrents can be conditioned to avoid areas where they are not welcomed. When feeding outdoor cats is sanctioned it can be monitored and managed. This means it can be done in a way that is sanitary and will not attract wildlife or otherwise cause a public nuisance. With managed colony care, feeding sites can be located in areas to minimize impact and leftover food promptly removed. Colony caretakers and other cat advocates can also assist in mitigating complaints when the caretakers are recognized as being part of the solution.
 - **Reduce predation on wildlife.** Humanely reducing and managing community cat populations ultimately reduces the threat of predation on wildlife. Most people care about both cats and wildlife and wish neither of them harm. As an organization that operates wildlife rehabilitation centers, The HSUS believes TNR is a vital tool in providing

protection to vulnerable species and individual wild animals that may be impacted by the presence of outdoor cats.

The HSUS is encouraged by the progress made in Baltimore during the short time the community cat TNR program has been in place. Continuing on this path is in the best interests of the health and safety of both the public and the animals who call Baltimore home. We urge the council to continue their support for the program.

Emily Hovermale
Maryland State Director

ehovermale@humanesociety.org
t 240.708.6899

The Humane Society of the United States
700 Professional Drive Gaithersburg, MD
humanesociety.org

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated most effective by our peers. For more than 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns.

The HSUS is approved by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance for all 20 standards for charity accountability, and was named by Worth Magazine as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities. To support The HSUS, please make a monthly donation, or give in another way. You can also volunteer for The HSUS, and see our 55 ways you can help animals. Read more about our 60 years of transformational change for animals, and visit us online at humanesociety.org.

From: Erin Harty [<mailto:eharty@mac.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:16 PM

To: Costello, Eric

Subject: Note from Erin Harty to your Facebook Page Councilman Eric T. Costello

Your Name: Erin Harty

Phone Number: 410-279-0962



Your Question:

This is in response to Councilman Henry's request for feedback regarding Baltimore City's "trap neuter return" ordinance for feral cats.

I've been heavily involved in TNR for over a decade. I previously volunteered with Community Cats Maryland, helping citizens who cared for groups of cats get them TNRed. I also previously volunteered with Alley Cat Allies, the national feral cat advocacy organization, teaching a workshop about TNR at BARCS, in conjunction with CCMD. And I'm a current BARCS volunteer.

Here's what I think are the three most important things a TNR program accomplishes:

1. Bringing cat caretakers out of the shadows so they can get help. Their cats get altered and vaccinated, as well as other more intensive veterinary care when needed. Caretakers are very often lower-income individuals who have few resources, but big hearts.
2. The folks who do TNR are "boots on the ground" in some of the rougher areas of the city, putting forward a compassionate, responsible solution for animals. This is HUGELY important in a city with rampant animal abuse. I've helped many pet owners get their indoor cats fixed, often at my own expense, because they approached me for help when they saw me out trapping cats.
3. Population control. I'm sure the folks at BARCS can give you more feedback about this than I can, but for me it's been hugely rewarding to tackle colonies with a dozen or more cats, with kittens being born constantly (and often getting sick and dying), and seeing those colonies stabilize — healthy adult cats and no kittens. In the groups of cats I'm personally responsible for, after the initial TNR, it's been very rare to have new feral cats show up. The populations are stable, and in most cases new cats turn out to be abandoned pets.

Just to give you an overview, in the 11 years I have lived in Pigtown (where I'm a homeowner), these are some of the colonies I've worked on:

- Carroll St./Wyeth St, 2009: total of 35 cats TNRed. 19 of these were either friendly stray cats or kittens that could be socialized; they were not released and were instead put into adoption programs.
- Unit block of E. Wells St.(current location of 1901 South Charles apartments), 2009: 31 cats TNRed, 9 cats/kittens placed into rescue and rehomed.
- 1400 block Ward St., 2009: 13 cats TNRed for elderly caretakers who had been feeding them for 10 years. Five cats/kittens were put into adoption programs. An additional 10 abandoned pet cats were

rescued/rehomed from this location in subsequent years. Two of the original feral cats remain at this location and are still being fed there 8 years later.

- Gwynns Falls Trail (behind what is now Horseshoe Casino), 2012: 37 cats were being cared for by the homeless people who lived in an encampment there. Almost all of these cats were friendly strays — due to the close proximity to BARCS, it's likely many of them were abandoned outside the shelter. 31 cats were adopted out with help from BARCS; 6 were released.

- 1400 block Bayard St, March 2014: 11 cats TNRed, 2 rescued/rehomed. In the years since, an additional 7 friendly cats have been rescued from this location, and 1 lost cat was found and returned to its owner. Six of the original cats remain and are still being fed in this location.

- 1400 block Bush St., 2015: 21 cats TNRed, 13 friendly cats/kittens placed into rescue and rehomed. The cats live in an industrial yard and are fed by the employees, who had been overwhelmed by the onslaught of kittens every year. There have been no kittens in the last two years.

- 1100 block Ward St., 2017: 19 cats TNRed, 9 cats/kittens placed into rescue/rehomed. I also got the caretaker's three indoor cats fixed.

By my best estimate, I've picked up approximately 350 cats off the streets of South Baltimore in the last 10 years, and either TNRed them or adopted them into new homes. I've definitely noticed a difference in the number of stray cats on the streets of Pigtown, especially in the last few years since BARCS began doing TNR.

It bears emphasizing that many of the "feral" cats in Baltimore City are not feral at all — they're pets who have been abandoned. It's the people who care for colonies of feral cats who notice these cats and get them into rescues, or return them to their owners if the cats are fortunate enough to be microchipped. At minimum, the friendly cats can be TNRed, and hopefully someone eventually adopts them off the street, but at least they aren't reproducing in the meantime. (Reducing the "culture of abandonment" in the city would go a long way toward reducing the number of stray/feral cats.)

Although it can be difficult sometimes to address the concerns of neighbors near feral cat colonies, it's important that TNR has the city's "stamp of approval" to give these cats some protection. I've had to tell neighbors that yes, it absolutely is legal to feed feral cats (and continued feeding and care are actually required under the city ordinance). These situations need to be dealt with the best that they can, with the understanding that the cats are there regardless of whether or not anyone is feeding them, and that is their home. They have just as much of a right to live in the city with us as any other "wild" animal.

One note about whether or not cats need to be "hungry" to hunt — in my own neighborhood, the cats I've observed killing rats were all owned, indoor/outdoor cats who had ample food available. Certainly some feral cats will hunt, and their mere presence helps deter rats. But it is a myth that cats need to be hungry in order to be "mousers." This is not a reason to justify not feeding feral cats.

Sincerely,

Erin Harty

received
9-26-17

From: "Haydee M. Rodriguez" <haydeemrodriguez@gmail.com>
Date: 9/26/17 08:43 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Henry, Bill (email)" <Bill.Henry@baltimorecity.gov>, "Costello, Eric" <Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov>, "Bullock, John" <John.Bullock@baltimorecity.gov>, "Pinkett, Leon" <Leon.Pinkett@baltimorecity.gov>, "Scott, Brandon" <Brandon.Scott@baltimorecity.gov>, "Stokes, Robert" <Robert.Stokes@baltimorecity.gov>, "Middleton, Sharon" <Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov>, "Reisinger, Edward" <Edward.Reisinger@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: "Wen, Dr. Leana" <health.commissioner@baltimorecity.gov>, antianimalabusecommission@gmail.com, "Cohen, Zeke" <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>, "Clarke, Mary Pat" <MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov>, "Dorsey, Ryan" <Ryan.Dorsey@baltimorecity.gov>, "Schleifer, Isaac" <Isaac.Schleifer@baltimorecity.gov>, City Council President <City.CouncilPresident@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: *Does the TNR program need to be modified?*

Dear distinguished members of the Baltimore City Council:

I struggled with how to begin my message. Our city has had 14 homicides in the last two weeks, with a total of 260 human beings who have lost their lives to violence so far. And we are still three months away before the end of 2017. Just a few months ago Mayor Pugh sought federal assistance to combat the horrific increase in murders, carjackings and robberies. http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-atf-crime-20170501-story_amp.html

Our city is hurting - on the one hand we have youth and young adults who feel disenfranchised, and on the other, residents who ponder whether to move to other jurisdictions that provide more safety for its residents, a quality education in all grades and for all students, and safe streets for all children, and families.

But later this morning we are going to spend time and valuable resources listening to whether the Trap, Neuter and Spay program which has successfully, and humanely, taken care of hundreds of stray cats in Baltimore City needs to be modified. Stray cats would not exist if it were not for owners who abandon them and who fail to spay and neuter.

What we do need is a massive education campaign - backed by financial support - so that people who cannot afford it can spay and neuter their pets at NO COST. We have programs for low income citizens, yes. But we need mobile vets dispatched to all neighborhoods at least once a month so that residents with limited transportation can easily access spay and neuter services. The TNR program allows homeless cats to continue to live in the community without reproducing and thus creating more homeless animals. We need more resources to address the problem, humanely. The alternative would be to stop all TNR efforts and start culling stray cats through poison or, as is done in some parts of the world, beaten to death, gassed or shot. That would be heartless and I know that as public servants who day in and day out respond to the myriad concerns of your constituents, you are far from heartless. Please strengthen the current TNR efforts with more funding, and more education so that people who abandon cats to their fate realize that they cannot fend for themselves. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Sincerely, Haydee M. Rodriguez, J.D., Baltimore City

P.S. Link below to a great article on how we as a nation compare to other nations in its care for homeless animals.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/how-the-u-s-compares-to-other-countries-in-terms-of-caring-for-homeless-animals/>

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Jenifer Almond <jen.glen1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:43 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: I urge the continued support of Balto. City's current TNRM program for community cats.

I have left this message for Mary Pat too - including no harmful additions being added to the law.

Thanks so much, Jenifer Almond
Animal Healer and Communicator
3520 Elm Ave. , 21211
443-386-7339

received
9-25-17

Sent from my iPhone

Nibber, Dpaul

From: jennie bell <jenniebelllyons@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: I Support TNR in Baltimore

received
9-24-17

Dear Mr Nibber,

I am writing today in support of TNR for feral cats in Baltimore City.

I believe TNR works. I would add-we also need to address the issue of irresponsible pet owners abandoning their cats (and dogs). This sad practice is a regular occurrence in the city. There also seems to be an unwillingness on the part of the irresponsible owners to have their animals vaccinated, spayed neutered and licensed.

I say "unwilling" because there are lots of free or low cost veterinary services , food banks , etc , available to help people take proper care of their animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Jennie M. Bell

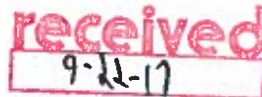
Sent from my iPhone



BALTIMORE ANIMAL RESCUE & CARE SHELTER, INC.

September 19, 2017

Councilman Eric Costello,
Chairman of the Judiciary &
Legislative Investigations Committee
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



Re: 17-0042R- Informational Hearing- Feral Cats

Dear Councilman Costello,

Thank you for allowing our organization to have the opportunity to present testimony at the informational hearing 17-0042R- reviewing the City's approach to Feral Cats and determine whether It needs to be modified.

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc. (BARCS) is a non-profit organization and the open-admission, high-volume shelter for Baltimore City. Our shelter takes in more than 11,000 dogs and cats each year. Since BARCS took over the operations of the city shelter in 2006, the number of animals saved annually has increased each year. From inception to present day, BARCS has found positive outcomes for 81,000 animals, with the goal to save more and more each year.

In animal welfare and sheltering, the standard way to track the overall health of a community is through capturing intake data—which animals are entering our shelter and why. In Baltimore City, the sheer volume of unwanted and abandoned pets, including thousands of unwanted litters of outdoor cats and kittens, presents a clear picture of the need for more spaying and neutering of all pets as well as outdoor cats.

HISTORY OF OUTDOOR CATS IN BALTIMORE

Here at BARCS, 56% of our shelter's intake is cats and kittens. More than half of these cats come from outdoors, including abandoned, stray, feral, and new litters of kittens born outside. Like every city, Baltimore use to trap and kill thousands of outdoor cats every year to try to decrease the volume of cats roaming in our city neighborhoods. What was learned through those practices was that even though cats were removed, more cats would move in. Furthermore, Baltimore City penalized residents for feeding outdoor cats. Citizens who needed assistance in caring for and managing the ever-growing population of cats in their neighborhoods were afraid

to ask for help. They feared that the cats they cared about would be killed and/or they would receive citations for feeding them. All of these issues resulted in a growing population of outdoor cats, and an overwhelming amount of cats being needlessly euthanized.

As shelter euthanasia numbers remained high and outdoor populations increased, it became clear that the practice of trapping and killing healthy cats in our communities was not only outdated and inhumane, but also not the answer to pet overpopulation. Additionally, the alternative method of flooding shelter cages with outdoor cats was not a practical or humane alternative to killing them. Holding outdoor cats in shelter cages meant that there wasn't space for highly-adoptable, owner-relinquished cats who needed the shelter as a haven while waiting to find a new home. In response to the failures of trap and kill, leading animal welfare groups began exploring alternative, humane methods of population control. In cities across the nation, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs proved to be successful in both managing and decreasing the population of outdoor cats, as well as opening shelter cages for owner-relinquished cats (cats that have always lived indoors and depended on people for physical and mental health).

In 2007, everything changed for Baltimore City when then Health Commissioner, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, agreed to take this more proactive, humane and proven approach to tackling the issue of outdoor cats by making it legal to both feed and trap, neuter and return outdoor cats to the communities which they already resided. However, at that time, there were still no resources in Baltimore City to put toward the program. Only small nonprofit organizations and individuals were working on tackling this enormous problem.

In 2009, the City of Baltimore created regulations contingent with proven best practices for decreasing the outdoor cat population. (Regulations were revised in 2013). BARCS began TNR by partnering with a local group, Community Cats of Maryland, who was already doing TNR programs in Baltimore City. Our goal was to take healthy cats and kittens into the program that were already thriving outside, alter them, vaccinate them, and return them to their outdoor home. This process also helps to stabilize a colony by preventing new litters and to some extent keeping out rodents.

In 2013, the State of Maryland created the State Spay Neuter Task Force that provided abundant research on the volume of animals euthanized each year across our state and the costs associated with it. Instead of spending funds on euthanasia and relying on euthanasia as a solution to overpopulation of unwanted and abandoned animals, the state recognized the need to supply funding for low-or-no-cost spaying and neutering programs—including TNR—in order to provide a humane solution. Additionally, the state recognized that it has been proven that animals that are spayed, neutered and vaccinated are less likely to have behavior issues, roam, transmit diseases and less likely to bite.

Because of BARCS' influence and notoriety in the national animal welfare community, Baltimore City was selected to receive a \$1M in-kind grant for TNR. Over a three-year period (2013-2016), with financial support from Best Friends Animal Society and PetSmart Charities, BARCS launched and continues to run the BARCS Community Cat Program (BCCP), a high-volume TNR program serving Baltimore City. This program has resulted in more than 10,000 outdoor cats and kittens being vaccinated, altered and returned to their outdoor communities.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Councilman Robert Curran and several other Baltimore City Councilmembers showed their support of the program when they accepted the award at a press conference informing the community of its benefits.

BARCS' SUCCESSES AND DATA

Since the program's inception, BARCS has seen a 9.6% decrease in intake of adult cats and an impressive 54% decrease in intake of kittens under the age of six months. This decline in unowned cats being housed in our shelter has positively decreased feline euthanasia by 73%. BARCS' live release rate for shelter cats went from 60% prior to the program to over 90%. In addition, thousands of Baltimore City residents were provided with free assistance, over 1,500 colonies of healthy altered cats (ranging from 1-100 in each colony) have been through the program and are now managed by their Baltimore City resident caregivers, thousands of cats and kittens received additional medical care, and hundreds more were placed in alternative positive outcomes such as adoption and foster care when those options were available.

In 2016, when BARCS' initial three-year grant funding for the BCCP ended, the Maryland State Department of Agriculture and the Petco Foundation recognized the success of the program and committed to \$400,000 in continued financial support through 2017. Through this funding, BARCS will continue to spay and neuter 2,500 - 3,000 outdoor cats and kittens annually. Several other nonprofit organizations and individuals also continue to do TNR programs, all resulting in controlling the outdoor cat population in Baltimore City.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

Through our history and data collected, we have seen firsthand the positive impact of a TNR program. However, on occasion, residents have questions or concerns about TNR that need to be addressed in order to fully understand its benefits.

Just prior to the hearing, there were two concerns that were shared with me by Councilman Henry and resulted in the hearing being requested. One concern is regarding the consequences of feeding outdoor cats and the other is about returning cats to their outdoor homes. Both of these practices are vital parts of any community cat program and programs will not be successful in lowering the population without them.

I'll begin by addressing the concerns of feeding outdoor cats. As stated above in the history, making it illegal to feed cats in Baltimore City (prior to 2007) did not result in a decrease or stabilization of feline populations. These provisions meant resources and education about outdoor cats weren't being provided to citizens. It is important that BARCS, neighboring shelters and TNR groups in our community, as well as Baltimore City government are united in this effort. Through our current community cat program, we work with thousands of compassionate Baltimore City residents who care about the cats and want to help provide for them. Many feel a connection to the cats and don't want to see them suffer. As a community, we should be embracing humane treatment of all living beings and not revert back to punitive action for compassionate acts. We want residents to continue to come to us for assistance, so we can

provide them with resources to combat the problem, rather than citizens shying away from seeking help.

Additionally, when feeding outdoor cats was illegal in Baltimore City, the city's rat problem was not any better than what it is today. Therefore, the concern of food provided to outdoor cats being an attraction for rats does not hold merit, and does not increase the rat population. The trash and sanitary issues we face in our city are not a result of the outdoor cat population—these are human issues. We need to instead work together to ensure all trashcans are sealed tight, dumpsters are closed and trash is properly disposed of. In addition, all Baltimore City agencies should be encouraging residents to follow proper feeding protocols for outdoor cats and discourage them from feeding any other wildlife.

The second concern as shared with me by Councilman Henry is that some residents do not want the cats returned to their neighborhood after trapping and neutering. This third step of "returning" is a vital part of the TNR program as there are little to no other options for the cats. In the past, shelters were flooded with outdoor cats trapped by Animal Control agencies and thus euthanasia rates for kittens and cats were at an all-time high. Through history, it has been proven that trapping and removing cats from an area does not stop the problem. More cats and/or other wildlife move into the area because of existing food sources. This is called the vacuum effect. However, if colonies are spayed and neutered and properly cared for in place, it has been shown that the colonies help displace the rodent population and/or may prevent new animals from moving into the area.

As a lifesaving organization, BARCS cannot condone returning to the old practices of killing of innocent animals, as per the protocol our city once followed. If an animal that lives outdoors is trapped, it should be returned to its home, since there are little to no humane alternatives. When an opportunity to place a kitten or cat into a foster or adoption program is appropriate, we provide that solution. However, this is not usually an available option for the majority of the outdoor cats due several factors such as lack of space in shelters, the cats' behavior which is only appropriate for outdoor living, and even the attachment a caregiver has for the animal.

Although there are some residents that do not want cats in the neighborhood, there are dozens of other neighbors that do. Every day we receive 20-30 emails, calls and text messages from community members that ask us for our assistance in educating, training, and providing BCCP's services for the cats in their neighborhood. Our focus is to continue to work with the community to educate them and get them involved in being part of the solution. For the minority of residents that do not want cats in their neighborhood, the BCCP provides deterrents for free to try to keep those cats off of their property.

Each situation needs to be a conversation. We need to work together for the best solution for everyone, with killing not being part of the answer.

CONCLUSION

BARCS is committed to serving the animals and members of our community. Each of our lifesaving programs and services are all working towards a day when all dogs and cats in our city

are cared for in homes or adoption agencies—each with medical care and spayed/neutered. But, at this present time, the reality in our city is that there are thousands of homeless animals. It is vital that we use our feline shelter cages to house once-owned, indoor cats, who cannot thrive without human care—not outdoor animals.

The outdoor cat population in our city is an enormous problem that would have only continued to grow if not for the implementation and sustaining of the TNR Baltimore Community Cat Program. This program is the most humane way to decrease the community cat population, provide cats with resistance to illness and disease, and to support the Baltimore citizens already caring for them.

We sincerely hope that you will join us in creating a more humane environment for our community cats in Baltimore.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brause
Executive Director,
Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.

From: Alley Cat Allies [<mailto:info@alleycat.org>]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Costello, Eric
Subject: I support Baltimore's Trap-Neuter-Return Program

Sep 25, 2017

Council Member Eric T. Costello
Baltimore, MD

received
9-25-17

Dear Council Member Costello,

I am submitting written testimony for City Council Resolution 17-0042R:
Informational Hearing Feral Cats. I work in the Waverly neighborhood of Baltimore City.
I think you should support TNR - how inhumane to round them up and simply kill them? Not only that -
this is an INEFFECTIVE way to control cat populations.

TNR is the best approach to Baltimore's community cats because it also benefits public health:
community cats get rabies vaccinations and other medical attention they wouldn't have received
otherwise. It prevents cat populations from growing and actually reverses them.

These are living, breathing creatures who feel pain, and other emotions
- like fear, sadness, etc. Please support TNR efforts.

Jessica Tiller

Sincerely,

Ms. Jessica Tiller
1101 E 33rd St # C303
Baltimore, MD 21218-3637
(443) 621-7690
jtiller@weisspr.com

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Julie Solomon <julierobin2458@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: Cat--trap, neuter and release

Dear Mr. Nibber:

Please continue to support the cat trap, neuter and release program in Baltimore City.

Thank you

received
9-25-17

Julie Robin Solomon, Ph.D., CRNP

Nibber, Dpaul

From: karen wolf <karenw69@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: Community Cats

Please preserve programs to help cats--such as TNR. Cat welfare important to us and many others. Thanks. The Wolf family

Sent from my iPhone

received
9-24-17

From: Kathleen Coughlan <pattersonparkfan@yahoo.com>
To: "eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov" <eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: "bill.henry@baltimorecity.gov" <bill.henry@baltimorecity.gov>; "Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov" <Zeke.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov>; "peg@communitycatsmd.org" <peg@communitycatsmd.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:47 PM
Subject: Feral Cat Hearing testimony via email

received
9-23-17

Dear Councilman Costello,

Re: Providing a Service to Baltimore City, free of charge

I have been a feral cat caretaker in Baltimore City for the past 6 years. It began when an elderly neighbor begged me for help that she couldn't solicit from other neighbors or the city. There were two 5 month old kittens living in cold dark cement, roof-damaged bathhouse inside Patterson Park. In it's time, it was a place of great enjoyment and comfort. However, for a female cat and ½ her litter, a place of unimaginable suffering and death. Two kittens survived the ordeal of losing their mother. I now call them Cain and Abel and they live in my house. Abel was my Christmas Miracle and came out from hiding 8 days later on Christmas Day and has been a social love bug ever since. His brother Cain never socialized and is now a house feral. I've had them for almost 7 years and while my feral Cain will sit close to me on the couch, he has never quite come around and I still can't touch him. However, I took him off the streets regardless. They had a rough start and a happy ending, but most cats in Baltimore aren't so lucky. But the most important part of this story, is they are not reproducing and would have surely sired many litters in the Patterson Park neighborhood. And I have many of my predecessors before me to thank in line with the inexpensive spay/neuter program at the City's MD SPCA. Cost to the city? Nothing.

I've gone out and TNR'ed 100's since then. However, not all were returned. Some were friendly and were placed in homes. Some were feral, but there was a barn home available and they were placed there to care for and sadly, some were euthanized at the city's expense (rarely) who had FELV or some other incurable issue or to end immeasurable suffering and more cats with similar ailments to add to the immeasurable suffering. I've even relocated up to four cats to my backyard and they have been nothing but a joy to my neighbors because they were fixed, vaccinated, well fed and we haven't seen a living baby rat in years. We have thriving kitchen gardens free from rats crawling through them and devouring the fruits of the plants. Of those ferals returned, I have had little contact with them. While some of them might have died a death of horrible suffering, they didn't reproduce in the interim and they would have surely died a terrible death anyway. The idea of TNR is to reduce the proliferation of cats living on the streets and I've accomplished that here in Patterson Park. Rarely is a homeless cat in the vicinity of my alley that doesn't get fed and fixed and re-homed.

I have also managed a colony down in a Canton trucking yard for the past 4 years. When I started there were over 40 cats and many of them were kittens. All the kittens were removed, rescued and sent to homes. There were at least 15 kittens that could be tamed and sent to

homes. I had to find help for that and I did – all volunteers and I believe 4 of those kittens went to MD SPCA and were subsequently adopted from there. All other cats in the trucking yard were fixed and with the owner's permission, all were returned fully vaccinated and I have fed and cared for those cats with some help from a local rescues for medical and subsequent vaccines. All this while helping other caretakers in the city fix their cats. It became apparent that I have time constraints and career conflicts with my caretaking duties that are making caring for these cats impossible. I have spent the last two years slowly finding barn homes for these cats while many others wandered in while I was doing this (known as the vacuum effect). I am now down to three cats at that colony. While I'm winding down there and a couple of cats left at another colony I inherited last year when my rescue friend developed life-threatening cancer, I have saved the city countless dollars and have saved many cats from suffering on the streets. The feral cat protections the city extended through laws had enabled me to do so. Without them, we will erase all the progress of volunteers like me that do work at our own expense that alleviates the city from spending the money to do so. Please consider this email correspondence as testimony while making any decisions after the 26th's hearing which I will be unable to attend.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Coughlan
Southeastern District

Cc:

Peg Nemoff, Community Cats Maryland
Councilman Bill Henry
Councilman Eric Costello
Councilman Zeke Cohen

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Kris Northrup <krisnorthrup1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul; Henry, Bill (email); ed.reisinger@baltimorecity.gov; Clarke, Mary Pat; Middleton, Sharon; Costello, Eric; Bullock, John; Pinkett, Leon; Scott, Brandon; Stokes, Robert
Subject: TNR hearing input

received
9-25-17

Good morning to all of my email recipients,

To begin, please know that not all strays are ferals and they should not be labeled as such. In my experience – I've been involved in TNR efforts in Baltimore for 5 years – maybe only half are ferals. The others, the “friendlies” as we call them, have been dumped by irresponsible owners because they're no longer that cute little kitten or they have been abandoned to the streets when owners move, a frequent and appalling occurrence. (The resolution language is a little misleading because it refers to all of the strays as being feral and this matters because the resolution, in my opinion, is trying to label many of these cats unfairly.....using terms such as “temperament of extreme fear” “resistance to contact with humans” ...undesirable and scary sounding.....why the painting with such a broad brush that does not apply to many of these community cats ?...see paragraph 2 of the resolution)

TNR benefits the community and the community cats. It benefits animal shelters already exceeding capacity and euthanizing healthy and adoptable animals on a daily basis. It also benefits the shelters because many of us find homes for the “friendlies” on our own after they are neutered/spayed and vaccinated. The community benefits because the cats reproduction cycle is interrupted resulting in less cats on the streets. The community benefits because the cats are healthier. The cats benefit because when they are part of a managed colony they are fed, given outdoor shelter, have their medical needs addressed. Cats are sentient beings and as such are afforded the right to live. Quite frankly, who does not benefit from such a program? The resolution speaks to whether modification to the existing program would benefit everyone involved. I can't think of anyone not benefitting...if anything, I would expect any modifications made should only improve the program, not stymy it and step it backwards.

How will the effects of the current TNR policy, in place for 10 years now, be measured in order to evaluate that policy? Hopefully, TNR practioners will have a seat at that table when the time comes.

Why is this program under scrutiny now? Has something changed? I look forward to the hearing to get answers to these questions.

The cats will always be there.....that is a fact, you can't kill your way out of it.

Please improve this program if you do anything.

Kris Northrup

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Marlena Robinson <marlena.robinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM support

received
9-24-17

Greetings Mr Nibber,

I live in Pigtown and I'm a new homeowner, so I'm invested in Baltimore growth and solutions.

I'm a on and off participant in a few TNR initiatives at BARCS over the years.

I support TNRM and view it as a humane support to the feral cat population.

Thank you,

Marlena

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Mindy Lais <mindylaispsyd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:27 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul; Henry, Bill (email); Clarke, Mary Pat; Costello, Eric; Bullock, John; Pinkett, Leon; Ed.Reisinger@baltimorecity.gov; Scott, Brandon; Stokes, Robert; Reisinger, Edward; Middleton, Sharon

received
9-25-17

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the informational hearing on the feral and stray cats programs in Baltimore. I am not able to make the meeting since it was held during normal work hours, but I wanted to express my strong support for the TNR program of Baltimore. This program is far more humane than the previous extermination or removal programs which I feel were barbaric.

Research shows that extermination programs do not work in lowering populations while TNR programs do and TNR programs are much more cost effective. Neutering and vaccinating these cats also significantly reduces the risk of disease and negative behaviors of these animals. Released cats as part of the TNR program have volunteers/caretakers who feed and look after them after release and there is also no evidence that supports that hungry feral cats eat rats.

I have been feeding a colony of TNR cats in my area for years and have had nothing but support and gratitude from my neighbors.

As a constituent I strongly encouraged you to please support the continuation of the TNR program of Baltimore city.

Thank you,
Mindy Lais

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Pat Ilioff <imedtrans@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:58 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM Community cats program meeting on September 26th

My name is Pat Ilioff and I live at 5213 Tramore Road 21214. I would like to see Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this email. I hope I can count on your support.

Pat Ilioff

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Received
9-25-17

To Whom it may concern,

I work at the Dundalk Marine Terminal managing a groundwater treatment plant. I have worked here since 2011. We had been noticing cats here for several years in our work area. Kittens were also being born every year. Most of them perished due to the traffic and other dangers associated with a busy port terminal. The port would hire a trapper every few years to get rid of the cats and eventually new ones would move back in and start the cycle all over again.

In 2014 I approached the Environmental Manager, Bill Richardson and talked to him about TNR and the benefits to the port and the cats. He agreed to allow me to TNR the cats on the port to see if it would work. I proceeded to trap over 110 cats on the port. Several were very tame and found new homes. Over 30 kittens were also rehomed. We now have a stable population of 50 or so cats. There are several very dedicated cat caretakers who also work on the port. The cats have been provided a stable food supply, shelter from the weather and provide free rodent protection for the port.

Cat complaints have gone down from dozens of complaints a month to maybe one a year.

I continue to monitor the population of cats, along with the dedicated caretakers. New cats are promptly trapped and TNR'ed using the BARCs program.

I would never have been able to accomplish saving all these lives without utilizing the BARC's program for TNR. It would have costed thousands of dollars to have them spayed and neutered privately. This free program for city cats has saved hundreds of lives and prevented hundreds of kittens from being born on the port.

I pray you do not stop supporting TNR for Baltimore City. I have started helping in other areas of the city as my time allows including Brooklyn, Curtis Bay and Dundalk. If anything the program needs expansion as skilled trappers are few and far between.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lyons

443-534-0531

received
7-25-17

Peg Nemoff
3206 Overland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
Phone: 410-206-9553
Email: Peg@CommunityCatsMD.org
September 24, 2017

received
9-24-17

Baltimore City Council Members of the Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee

Re: Resolution 17-0042R, Informal Hearing – Feral cats

I write to give testimony on personal experience with the feral cat movement in Baltimore, and to give those on the Council an overview if they were not present at the time in 2007 when the City's TNR policies and regulations were implemented.

A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY HISTORY:

I. Why I support Trap Neuter and Return, TNR

I moved from Detroit to Baltimore in the spring of 1984. By 1988, I was picking up abandoned cats and kittens in my Radnor Winston neighborhood, 21212. I would have them spayed or neutered through Animal Rescue Incorporated (ARI), a 501-c-3 not profit in Maryland Line, MD.

My phone number was subsequently passed around, and I soon found the calls for help to be insurmountable. I would take a call from an unknown person with the remark that the mother and kittens would come to harm unless I would rescue them. I had a full-time job and helped residents on the side. I ended up with a house full of "mother cats" as kittens could be adopted with ease, but few people wanted the cat who had attained maturity.

In 1988, I also began volunteering at ARI. While on site waiting for the cats and kittens I brought in to be altered, Grace Froelich (founder of ARI) taught me how to give vaccines, how to draw blood, and how to prep cats for surgery. She was the expert: she had been doing this since the 70s. Grace would also put me in touch with people in Baltimore City who were feeding outdoor cats, that I might help them. This was the first I had heard of "feral cats". I bought my first metal trap, and used it sporadically: I assisted the strangers who desperately called for my help. I designed and built a wooden family trap and found a feral cat caretaker on Radnor Ave, across the street from my home on Charter Oak Avenue. I was at her house each evening after work, trapping and taking cats to for spay/neuter surgery to ARI. I also began helping residents on the street with spay/neuter for personal pets *when they would let me*. All feral cats were returned to Radnor Avenue after surgery, to live out their life in the neighborhood. I built cat shelters so the Pit Bulls would not kill the free roaming cats and I encircled the caretaker's front porch with a wooden lattice so cats could take refuge there. I took kittens for adoption.

Unfortunately, the telephone calls for help were never ending. I had "regulars" across the City, people without cars, without money, who always had dogs or cats they could not afford to vet. I came home from work one day to find 30 messages on the answering machine, the phone was ringing, and I had yet to take care of my own cats. I had had enough, I disconnected the line, and took an unlisted number. It

was the smartest move I ever made. Rescuing cats was a like a bucket brigade at a fire. What we needed was a fire-resistant house. Soon I would discover that Trap Neuter Return was that answer.

II. The Birth of TNR in Baltimore City.

In 2003, along with Dr. Jean Townsend, Grace Froelich and Dr. Denise Batista, I organized 4 expeditions to fishing villages on Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay. The villages were overrun with feral cats and residents had no access to veterinary care. Our work was primarily funded by a donation from the Maryland Feline Society, and a grant from Neighborhood Cats in New York City. From 2003 to 2004 we made 4 expeditions with a volunteer crew, driving from Baltimore to Crisfield and ferrying to the island chain. We set up MASH units in the island's fire station and altered 244 cats and one dog. We left full of excitement for what we might accomplish in Baltimore.

In the summer of 2004, I made a presentation for the Baltimore Animal Shelter's advisory board, telling them about our success at Smith Island and asking for a chance to try a feral cat spay neuter project in the City. I was granted permission by the director of Animal Control, Robert Anderson, for a Baltimore City pilot project.

That clinic was run under the auspices of the Maryland Feline Society (MFS) and cats were trapped in Baltimore and driven to ARI for surgery. The surgeries proceeded without incident and we were granted permission by Robert Anderson to run additional events. The "TNR" (trap neuter return) movement had begun in Baltimore City. Our crew of volunteers subsequently held clinics wherever we could find accommodations. From 2006 through 2008, we held the once monthly clinics on the grounds the MD SPCA and from 2008 through August of 2015 we held clinics at the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS).

In 2006, Donna Bernstein Esq., Dr. Denise Batista and I were also meeting with representatives from the MD SPCA, the Maryland Feline Society, the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter and with the City Health Commissioner, Dr. Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, with our plan to formally legalize TNR in Baltimore City. In 2007, with a blessing from Dr. Sharfstein, TNR was formally adopted as the City's preferred way to deal with feral cats. All the feral cat caretakers who had been begging us for help, people who had been secretly feeding cats, and people who had previously been fined for feeding outdoor cats could now come into the open. Fines for compassion would no longer be enforced by the City's Animal Control. Caretakers could openly ask for help and they did so in force. By 2009, Donna Bernstein Esq., Ruth Canan Esq. and I formed Community Cats Maryland, Incorporated, to work with the City and to run clinics under our own design.

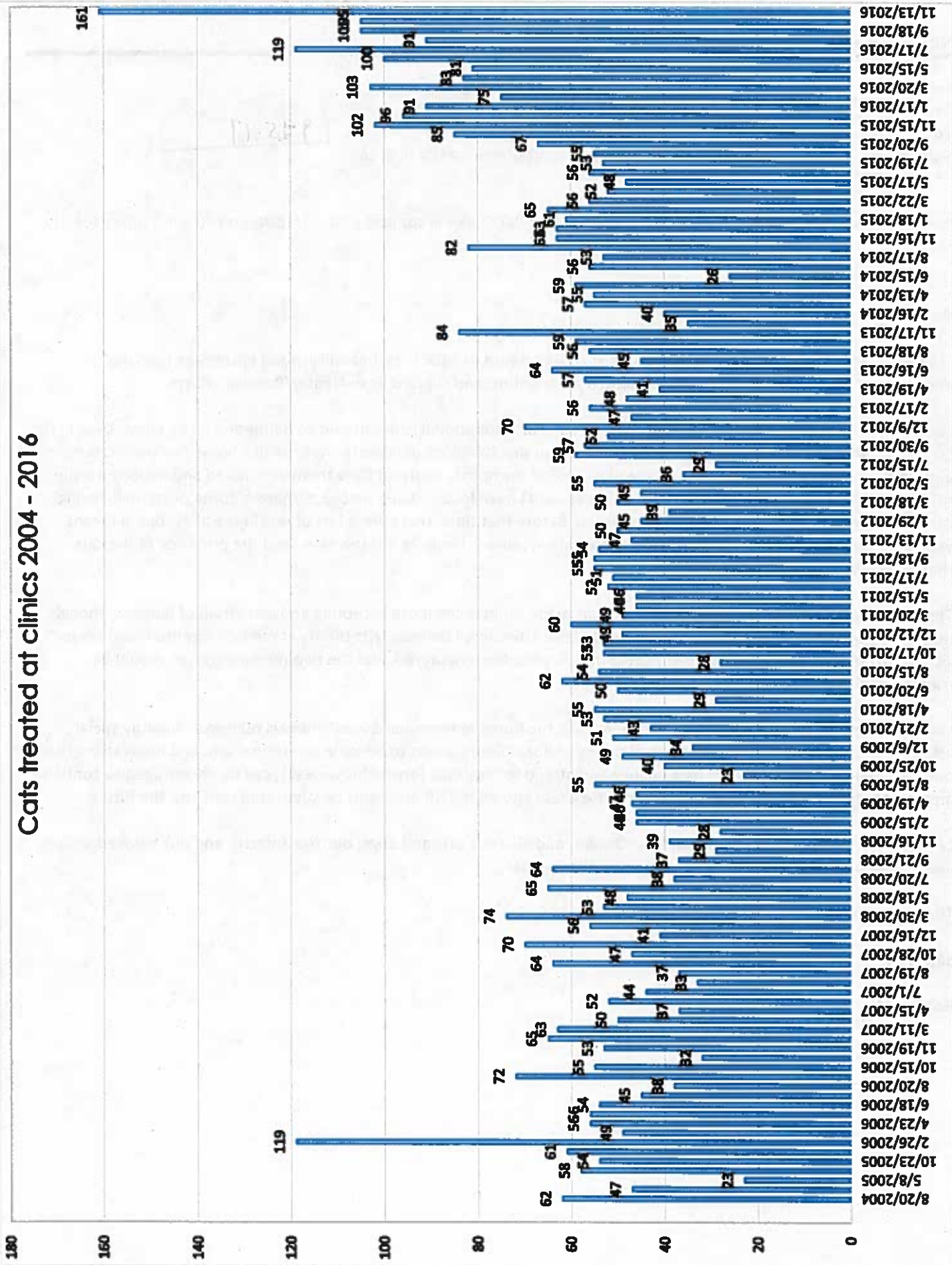
Caretakers who though they were the only people feeding feral cats began to meet each other at our clinics. It was a way for them to share experiences and grow. It was a way for us to teach best management practices, and subsequently build a network. The three earmarks for TNR include providing shelters, providing medical care and providing food. We teach this to everyone we work with, and best management includes feeding in discrete locations, not leaving food out, providing shelters so cats won't take up residence where they are not welcome, and getting them the medical care they need. While feral cats may go after rats and mice, they will not do so unless they are healthy enough to pull off an attack. Feeding is also critical so cats won't frequent dumpsters or other places where residents are disorganized about trash and garbage disposal and equally important, having a regularly organized

feeding schedule makes the work of feral cat trappers feasible. Additionally, returning cats to the exact location where they were trapped is crucial to their survival, as the home base is where they will know where to go to find food and security from predators and the elements.

To date, our cadre of volunteer veterinarians, technicians and lay people have participated in the spaying and neutering of over 7000 cats. See attached data table. At last count CCMD had a group of 18 veterinarians who jumped at the chance to volunteer for our high-volume clinics. Their reasons varied, but the main point was that they supported what we were doing. We are also supported by local businesses who provide graphic services in place of hands on veterinary care during the monthly clinics.

We currently have a list of 129 people waiting for clinic reservations with 549 cats. In September of 2015 Baltimore County Administrative Officer, Fred Homan, invited CCMD to move our all-volunteer clinic program from BARCS to a new facility being built in Dundalk. That offer came with the ability to do free TNR, and to have a 24/7 space of our own for holding and for recovery. We spoke with BARCS Director Jennifer Brause, and knowing that the City was in good hands with the TNR grant of \$1,000,000.00 from Best Friends, we moved our operation to the County. Midway through our tenure at the Dundalk clinic facility, we were asked to modify our program that we might run twice monthly clinics instead of once each month. As we were all volunteers with full time employment, that request was unattainable. The County and CCMD parted ways after 14 months of running highly successful high-volume clinics, so that the County could use the space to implement its own TNR clinics, based upon what had been learned from CCMD. Currently, CCMD is searching for other locations to accommodate the monthly TNR clinics. There are over 500 cats waiting to come to the CCMD feral cat clinic. TNR is needed and it is appreciated by feral cat caretakers throughout the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area: TNR has become ingrained in the fabric of Baltimore's caring community.

Cats treated at clinics 2004 - 2016



Nibber, Dpaul

From: Robert Sloane <rbrtsloane@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 2:02 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: In support of TNR programs for city feral cats



I wanted to share with you the email I just sent to Mary Pat Clarke in support of the Trap-Neuter-Release policy for city feral cats:

Dear Mary Pat Clarke,

i fervently hope the city will not adopt a hostile policy toward its feral cats, but will instead encourage humane engagement on the part of those citizens who feed, monitor, and support Trap-Neuter/Release efforts.

I am an elderly constituent who has long supported your inspirational commitment to Baltimore, a city I have lived in for 50 years and have come to regard as my own. I live on the 300-block of Ilchester Avenue in a home I've owned for almost all of those years. I feed cats in the alley behind my house, trap and have them vaccinated and neutered either through city-wide programs or at my own expense, and I have fostered and placed perhaps a dozen or more in loving private homes during the last three or four years. Before that time, there were lots of rats in the alley, but in recent years I've very, very rarely seen even one, almost always dead. I believe it is the cats - and the presence of the cats - that have made the difference.

The feeding and friendly attention to the cats has made them much more accepting and less afraid of humans, though most stay back from people they don't know, and the attention, I believe, lets them get medical attention and keeps sickness from spreading. Almost every cat in my alley has been neutered, and the two remaining ones should be trapped and neutered shortly.

I also believe that, aside from frightening away rats, the humane behavior toward animals reinforces healthy social attitudes and relationships (at least one of the neighbor children wants to become a veterinarian), and helps strengthen our community. I hope those of us who love and attend to feral cats (often throwaways) can be encouraged to continue and to network with each other, and that the excellent city-wide TNR programs be supported well into the future.

Let's love and support our Ravens and our Orioles, and also our cats and dogs, our zoo animals, and our beloved people, like the big-hearted city we are and, I hope, will always be!

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Bob Sloane

Nibber, Dpaul

From: rscrippens <rscrippens@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: Baltimore City Cats

received
9-24-17

"My name is Ronda Rountree and I live in Baltimore city. As a constituent, I want Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law.

I have used the TNRM myself and at work. I work for Ports America. We would rather have CATS than RATS! PLEASE HELP THE CATS.

*Sincerely,
Ronda Rountree*

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Rose Marie Newman <rnewman@hcflcpa.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM law

received
9-25-17

My name is Rose Marie Newman and I live at 7553 Berkshire Road, Baltimore, MD. 21224. As a constituent, I want Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the Law. Thank you.

Rose Marie

Rose Marie Newman, Receptionist
Handwerger, Cardegna, Funkhouser & Lurman, PA
1104 Kenilworth Drive, Suite 300
Towson, Maryland 21204

410-828-4446 - phone
410-828-4447 - fax
rsmrnew@hcflcpa.com

Website: <http://hcfl.com/>

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Nibber, Dpaul

From: Tania Culotta <tmculotta@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:14 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TNRM Program

received
9-25-17

Hella Mr. Nibber,

My name is Tania Culotta and I live in Hampden at 3845 Quarry Avenue, 21211. Please consider keeping Baltimore's current laws regarding community cats as they are. I have been rescuing stray cats and dogs in Baltimore city for 20 years. I have personally fed a colony of cats and trapped, neutered, and released several feral cats. I can personally attest to the success of the current humane TNRM programs for community cats. Please keep the laws as they are and understand the great importance of TNRM programs to control the stray cat population in Baltimore.

Thank you

Tania Culotta

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Teresa Chagrin <TeresaC@peta.org>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Costello, Eric; Clarke, Mary Pat; Reisinger, Edward; Bullock, John; Pinkett, Leon; Scott, Brandon; Stokes, Robert
Cc: Henry, Bill (email); Middleton, Sharon; Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: CCR 17-0042R - Official Comments from PETA OPPOSING TNR
Attachments: Homeless Cats Are Not Super-Felines (small).pdf; 2016-05-16_MD_Fight Brewing in Baltimore Over Wild, Stray Cats.pdf; 2009 Critical Assessment of TNR_LongcoreetalConBiopgs.pdf

September 25, 2017

received
9-25-17

The Honorable Eric T. Costello, Chair
Members of the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Baltimore City Council

Via e-mail: eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov; marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov;
edward.reisinger@baltimorecity.gov; john.bullock@baltimorecity.gov; leon.pinkett@baltimorecity.gov;
brandon.scott@baltimorecity.gov; robert.stokes@baltimorecity.gov

Dear Council Member Costello and Committee Members,

PETA is the world's largest animal rights organization, with more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, including thousands of Baltimore residents. We're writing in regard to [City Council Resolution 17-0042R](#) and to share important information about the dangers to cats, wildlife, and the public created by programs that involve trapping, neutering, and re-abandoning (TNR) homeless cats.

PETA is an animal-protection organization, so [our opposition to TNR programs](#) arises from animal-welfare concerns. Homeless and feral cats are domestic animals, biologically identical to the cats who share our homes. Public officials should be concerned about the practice for a number of reasons, in addition to those related to animal welfare—e.g., the city's potential liability exposure when taxpayers are denied assistance with removing cats they consider a nuisance from their properties, the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases, the impact on wildlife populations, and more.

We receive countless [reports of incidents](#) in which cats—"managed" or not—have suffered and died horribly because they were forced to fend for themselves outdoors. PETA's caseworkers routinely handle cruelty cases involving "outdoor cats" who have been poisoned, shot, mutilated, tortured, set on fire, skinned alive, or killed in other cruel ways, often by property owners or neighbors who just didn't want them there, regardless of their reproductive or vaccination status. Recently, Patch.com [reported](#) that a cat who was part of a colony fed by members of a group that sterilizes and abandons cats in Havre de Grace had been found dead with "visible injuries." A note was left next to the animal that read, "The cats must go."¹¹ A spokesperson for the group said that another cat who had been fed at the location had been shot with a BB gun and that others had been poisoned last summer.

Cats who roam outdoors also present dangers to public health and safety. Feces that they deposit in children's sandboxes, along creeks and streams, in gardens and parks, and in other areas carry parasites that are dangerous to humans, their animal companions and livestock, and native wildlife. Common diseases more rampant in the excrement of cats allowed to roam than in that of those kept indoors include toxoplasmosis, hookworms, and

roundworms. Outdoor cat colonies have also led to flea infestations, spreading typhus^[2] and plague.^[3] As DVM360.com reported, "One study estimated that in a single community, the amount of feces deposited outdoors by the 2046 feral cats living there every year was about 29.5 tons. A study tracking sources of *E. coli* in storm sewers feeding rivers and streams demonstrated that the highest percentage from any one source came from cats" [*emphases added*].^[4]

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians notes the following:

[N]o evidence exists that maintained cat colonies adequately reduce human public health risks or appropriately address their impact on pets or native wildlife. Several reports suggest that support of "managed cat colonies" may increase the public's likelihood of abandoning unwanted pets in lieu of more responsible options.^[5]

Phoenix College in Arizona decided to end its TNR program because, according to a spokesperson, "Instead of stabilizing the population, it has doubled, creating an unhealthy situation for the cats and the community."^[6] And after experimenting with a pilot TNR program, the city of Parry Sound, Ontario, reconsidered allowing the practice, because "the number of feral cats appears to be increasing—as does the noise, smell and general nuisance."^[7]

The Maryland Department of Health concurs with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and reports that "cats are the most frequently identified rabid domestic animal."^[8] The near impossibility of re-trapping cats to provide them with legally required rabies vaccinations is one reason why free-roaming cat populations have recently been identified as a significant public-health threat.^[9]

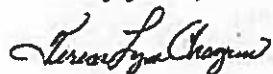
Recently, a cat who'd been sterilized, vaccinated, and abandoned as part of a TNR program in Florida bit a resident who was trying to help the suffering animal. The cat tested positive for rabies, and the resident required post-exposure treatment for the fatal virus.^[10] Last year, after a rabid cat was found in Parkville, the Baltimore City Health Department issued a warning and provided rabies-prevention tips, including the following: "Do not provide food, water or shelter to wildlife or strays."^[11] Four people were exposed to the fatal virus in Kent County when they were attacked by a cat who was part of a colony of cats fed in a neighborhood.^[12] In June 2014, a rabid "stray" cat attacked an individual near an elementary school in Frederick County,^[13] and that same year, an elementary school in Anne Arundel County had to be shut down—and hundreds of children had to be sent home to protect them from potential injury or disease—when a feral cat entered and hid in the building.^[14]

The Maryland Invasive Species Council, which includes representatives from several state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the University of Maryland, reported the following:

[S]mall cats are not part of the native food web in North America and can wreak havoc on an ecosystem. ... Feral cats can take a toll on native wildlife, decimating populations already under stress due to habitat shrinkage. ... Supplemental feeding of feral cats is not an answer. Even well-fed feral cats will capture and kill, but not always eat, their prey.^[15]

PETA is concerned about cats and wildlife alike, and we hope you'll consider wildlife, too. We stand ready to help in any way that we can to aid the city in passing proven, effective ordinances and establishing programs to address animal protection and public safety in your community. I can be reached at 443-320-1277 or TeresaC@peta.org. Thank you for all your hard work for the residents of Baltimore.

Sincerely yours,



Teresa Chagrin
Animal Care and Control Specialist
Cruelty Investigations Department

Attachments

PETA Flier: "Homeless Cats Are Not Super-Felines"

"Fight Brewing in Baltimore Over Wild, Stray Cats," Barry Simms, May 16, 2016

"Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return," Travis Longcore, Catherine Rich, and Lauren M. Sullivan, 2009

cc: Council Member Bill Henry (bill.henry@baltimorecity.gov)
Council Member Sharon Middleton (sharon.middleton@baltimorecity.gov)
D'Paul Nibber, Legislative Policy Analyst (dpaul.nibber@baltimorecity.gov)

^[1]Elizabeth Janney, "HdG Cat Killer Focus of Animal Cruelty Investigation," 13 Feb. 2017, Patch.com

<<http://patch.com/maryland/havredegrace/hdg-cat-killer-focus-animal-cruelty-investigation>>.

^[2]Ron Gonzales, "Santa Ana Announces Flea-Borne Typhus Alert," *The Orange County Register*, 25 May 2012

<<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/santa-356066-control-typhus.html>>.

^[3]Emily Sinovic, "Oregon Man Contracts the Plague After Bitten by Stray Cat," KATU.com, 11 June 2012 <<http://katu.com/news/local/oregon-man-contracts-the-plague-after-bitten-by-stray-cat-11-19-2015>>.

^[4]Margaret V. Root Kustritz, D.V.M., Ph.D., D.A.C.T., "Managing Feral Cat Colonies (Proceedings)," 1 May 2011, DVM360.com

<<http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/managing-feral-cat-colonies-proceedings>>.

^[5]National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, "Free-Roaming/Unowned/Feral Cats," Position Statement, Sept. 1996

<<http://www.tnrrealitycheck.com/media/NASPHV.pdf>>.

^[6]Eugene Scott, "Phoenix College Ending Feral-Cat Program, to Remove Animals," AZCentral.com, 7 Feb. 2014

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20140129phoenix-college-ending-feral-cat-program.html?nclick_check=1>.

^[7]Stephannie Johnson, "Town Council Tires of Feral Cat Problem," ParrySound.com, 15 Oct. 2014 <<http://www.parrysound.com/news-story/4915139-town-council-tires-of-feral-cat-problem>>.

^[8]Maryland Department of Health, "Rabies," Maryland.gov

<<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>>.

^[9]Elizabeth Weise, "Feral Cat Colonies Could Pose Rabies Risk, CDC Says," *USA Today*, 17 Aug. 2013

<<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/17/feral-cats-colonies-rabies-risk/2665359/>>.

^[10]Steve Andrews, "Target 8: Trapped, Neutered, Vaccinated and Released Rabid Cat Bites Victim in Hillsborough County," 7 June 2017, WFLA.com

<<http://wfla.com/2017/06/07/target-8-trapped-neutered-vaccinated-and-released-rabid-cat-bites-victim-in-hillsborough-county/>>.

^[11]Rhea Titus, "Health Department Urges Caution After Rabid Cat Found in Baltimore County," 19 Aug. 2016, FOXBaltimore.com

<<http://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/health-department-urges-caution-after-rabid-cat-found-in-baltimore-county>>.

^[12]Peter Heck, "Rabid Cat Found in Big Woods," 27 Sept. 2016, MyEasternShoreMD.com

<http://www.mveasternshoremd.com/spotlight/article_d8848f3-72b0-5f4e-b58e-fb54ca78b28f.html>.

^[13]Courtney Mabeus, "Cat Near Deer Crossing Elementary Tests Positive for Rabies," 19 June 2014, FrederickNewsPost.com

<https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/schools/public_k-12/elementary/cat-near-deer-crossing-elementary-tests-positive-for-rabies/article_f05829ce-27b1-5763-a2b8-82152be7c4c8.html>.

^[14]Kelecie Pegher, "Feral Cat Shuts Down Glen Burnie Elementary School," 29 Aug. 2014, CapitalGazette.com

<<http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/schools/ph-ac-cn-arundel-digest1-0829-20140829-story.html>>.

^[15]MDInvasivesp.org, "Invasive Species of Concern in Maryland: Feral Cats," Apr. 2010

<http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/archived_invaders/archived_invaders_2010_04.html>.

^[1]Elizabeth Janney, "HdG Cat Killer Focus of Animal Cruelty Investigation," 13 Feb. 2017, Patch.com

<<http://patch.com/maryland/havredegrace/hdg-cat-killer-focus-animal-cruelty-investigation>>.

^[2]Ron Gonzales, "Santa Ana Announces Flea-Borne Typhus Alert," *The Orange County Register*, 25 May 2012

<<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/santa-356066-control-typhus.html>>.

^[3]Emily Sinovic, "Oregon Man Contracts the Plague After Bitten by Stray Cat," KATU.com, 11 June 2012

<<http://katu.com/news/local/oregon-man-contracts-the-plague-after-bitten-by-stray-cat-11-19-2015>>.

^[4]Margaret V. Root Kustritz, D.V.M., Ph.D., D.A.C.T., "Managing Feral Cat Colonies (Proceedings)," 1 May 2011, DVM360.com

<<http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/managing-feral-cat-colonies-proceedings>>.

^[5]National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, "Free-Roaming/Unowned/Feral Cats," Position Statement, Sept. 1996

<<http://www.tnrrealitycheck.com/media/NASPHV.pdf>>.

^[6]Eugene Scott, "Phoenix College Ending Feral-Cat Program, to Remove Animals," AZCentral.com, 7 Feb. 2014

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20140129phoenix-college-ending-feral-cat-program.html?nclick_check=1>.

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- [7]Stephannie Johnson, "Town Council Tires of Feral Cat Problem," ParrySound.com, 15 Oct. 2014
<<http://www.parrysound.com/news-story/4915139-town-council-tires-of-feral-cat-problem/>>.
- [8]Maryland Department of Health, "Rabies," Maryland.gov
<<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>>.
- [9]Elizabeth Weise, "Feral Cat Colonies Could Pose Rabies Risk, CDC Says," *USA Today*, 17 Aug. 2013
<<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/17/feral-cats-colonies-rabies-risk/2665359/>>.
- [10]Steve Andrews, "Target 8: Trapped, Neutered, Vaccinated and Released Rabid Cat Bites Victim in Hillsborough County," 7 June 2017, WFLA.com
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Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap–Neuter–Return

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Abstract: Many jurisdictions have adopted programs to manage feral cats by trap–neuter–return (TNR), in which cats are trapped and sterilized, then returned to the environment to be fed and cared for by volunteer caretakers. Most conservation biologists probably do not realize the extent and growth of this practice and that the goal of some leading TNR advocates is that cats ultimately be recognized and treated as “protected wildlife.” We compared the arguments put forth in support of TNR by many feral cat advocates with the scientific literature. Advocates promoting TNR often claim that feral cats harm wildlife only on islands and not on continents; fill a natural or realized niche; do not contribute to the decline of native species; and are insignificant vectors or reservoirs of disease. Advocates also frequently make claims about the effectiveness of TNR, including claims that colonies of feral cats are eventually eliminated by TNR and that managed colonies resist invasion by other cats. The scientific literature contradicts each of these claims. TNR of feral cats is primarily viewed and regulated as an animal welfare issue, but it should be seen as an environmental issue, and decisions to implement it should receive formal environmental assessment. Conservation scientists have a role to play by conducting additional research on the effects of feral cats on wildlife and by communicating sound scientific information about this problem to policy makers.

Keywords: exotic species, *Felis catus*, no kill, predation, TNR, trap–neuter–release, urban ecology

Evaluación Crítica de las Demandas Relacionadas con el Manejo de Gatos Ferales en Programas de Captura–Esterilización–Liberación

Resumen: Muchas jurisdicciones han adoptado programas para el manejo de gatos ferales mediante la captura–esterilización–liberación (CEL), en los que los gatos son atrapados y esterilizados y devueltos al ambiente para ser alimentados y cuidados por voluntarios. La mayoría de los biólogos de la conservación probablemente no comprenden la extensión y crecimiento de esta práctica y que la meta de los defensores de CEL es que los gatos sean reconocidos y tratados como “vida silvestre protegida.” Comparamos los argumentos en apoyo a CEL por muchos defensores de gatos ferales con la literatura científica. Los defensores que promueven el CEL sostienen que los gatos ferales solo dañan a la vida silvestre en islas y no en los continentes; ocupan un nicho natural o realizado; no contribuyen a la declinación de especies nativas y son vectores o reservorios de enfermedad insignificantes. Los defensores frecuentemente también sostienen que la efectividad de CEL, incluyendo argumentos que las colonias de gatos ferales eventualmente son eliminadas por CEL y que las colonias manejadas resisten la invasión de otros gatos. La literatura científica contradice cada uno de esos argumentos. CEL de gatos ferales es vista y regulada principalmente como un asunto de bienestar animal, pero debería verse como un tema ambiental, y las decisiones para su implementación deberían recibir una evaluación ambiental formal. Los científicos de la conservación tienen un papel importante al realizar investigaciones adicionales sobre los efectos de los gatos ferales sobre la vida silvestre y en la comunicación de información científica sólida a los tomadores de decisiones.

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Palabras Clave: captura-esterilización-liberación, CEL, depredación, ecología urbana, especies exóticas, no muerte

Introduction

Exotic and subsidized predators pose a grave threat to native species (Wilcove et al. 1998; Crooks & Soulé 1999), and feral domestic cats (*Felis catus*) are particularly harmful (Nogales et al. 2004). Domestic cats are on the list of the 100 worst invasive species globally (Lowe et al. 2000). In North America, however, advocates for feral cats have gained political strength and have influenced legislation, the funding agendas of foundations, and the policies of major animal-oriented nonprofit organizations. For example, in 2008 a coalition of organizations successfully blocked federal legislation that would have funded removal of exotic species from national wildlife refuges because feral cats might be targeted. Feral cat advocates usually promote trap-neuter-return (TNR) as a management approach (Berkeley 2004). Almost universally these advocates claim that TNR is the only proven, humane method to manage feral cats (Berkeley 2004; No Kill Advocacy Center 2006a,b; Winograd 2007).

Trap-neuter-return (or any number of similarly named variants) is an approach to feral cat management in which cats are surgically sterilized and returned to the environment, usually where they were captured (Barrows 2004; Berkeley 2004; Levy & Crawford 2004). The course of action after neutering varies, although advocates promote ongoing care of the cats in managed colonies (Slater 2002; Levy & Crawford 2004). Cats may be tested and vaccinated for some diseases and an ear tip may be removed before release to identify treated cats. Managers generally feed cats daily and seek to capture and sterilize any new cats (Slater 2004).

Animal advocates have increasingly called for shelters to avoid euthanasia of any healthy animals, an approach described as "no kill" (Levy & Crawford 2004; Winograd 2007). Although the effort to reduce euthanasia is long established and has widespread appeal, the generic no kill approach has been formalized by the No Kill Advocacy Center, a leading proponent of TNR, as the so-called no kill equation, the first element of which is a TNR program for feral cats (No Kill Advocacy Center 2006b; Winograd 2007). The stated goal of this program is for feral cats to be recognized as "protected healthy wildlife [that] should not enter shelters in the first place." This group believes "it is inevitable that the No Kill paradigm will eventually lead to laws that make it illegal for people to trap and kill healthy feral cats" (No Kill Advocacy Center 2006a). TNR approaches have been adopted in at least 10 large metropolitan areas in the United States (Berkeley 2004; The Humane Society of the United States 2008).

Unfortunately, TNR does not eliminate feral cat colonies under prevailing conditions (Jessup 2004; Winter 2004, 2006) and many false claims used to support the approach go unchallenged. Published research has been distorted by TNR proponents with little response from the scientific community, perhaps in part because TNR has been approached largely as an animal welfare issue instead of being recognized as a broad environmental issue with a range of impacts on species conservation, the physical environment, and human health. Conservation scientists and advocates must properly identify the environmental implications of feral cat management and actively engage this issue to bring scientific information to the attention of policy makers.

Environmental Effects of Feral and Free-Roaming Cats

Trap-neuter-return advocates use a series of arguments to justify the return of cats to places where they have adverse environmental consequences. Conservation scientists should be aware of these arguments because they are often presented to jurisdictions considering actions pertaining to feral cats.

Claim: Feral Cats Harm Wildlife Only on Islands and Not on Continents

Trap-neuter-return advocates argue that studies showing adverse effects of feral cats on islands do not apply to continents (Gorman & Levy 2004; Alley Cat Allies 2005). Cats are implicated in species declines and extinctions on islands (Nogales et al. 2004). The Stephens Island Wren (*Traversia lyalli*) was infamously driven to extinction by predation from feral cats, although not by a single cat as often reported (Galbreath & Brown 2004). Feral and free-roaming cats also affect wildlife on continents (Soulé et al. 1988; Hawkins 1998; Crooks & Soulé 1999; Jessup 2004). In urban and suburban areas, natural habitats resemble islands, where fragments are surrounded by an inhospitable matrix, but unlike on islands, the inhospitable areas serve as an ongoing source of subsidized predators (Walter 2004). In California, for example, increased predation is likely to occur in fragments <1.4 km², where probability of cat presence is higher. Larger areas are likely to have fewer cats because of the presence of larger predators (Soulé et al. 1988; Crooks 2002). Urban and suburban habitats, including yards, serve as valuable habitat for migratory and resident birds

(Pennington et al. 2008; Seewagen & Slayton 2008) and support local and regional biodiversity (Angold et al. 2006; Tratalos et al. 2007), so concerns about predation by feral cats should extend to these environments.

Claim: Feral Cats Fill a Natural or Realized Niche

Feral cats are exotic and do not fill an existing niche, but TNR advocates often argue that their long presence in ecosystems diminishes their impact (Gorman & Levy 2004). The sheer abundance of feral cats subsidized by humans, however, makes them an unnatural element of any ecosystem. Feral cats are generally found at densities 10–100 times higher than similarly sized native predators (Nowell & Jackson 1996; Liberg et al. 2000).

Cats managed in TNR colonies can continue to prey on species whose populations have declined to such levels that they would not support native predators (Soulé et al. 1988). This is a form of hyperpredation, similar to what occurs on oceanic islands where an exotic prey species (e.g., rats) supports an exotic predator (e.g., cats) that then devastates native prey (Courchamp et al. 2000; Woods et al. 2003). Owned cats also threaten native prey populations when they are allowed to roam outdoors, although this effect decreases (as it does for feral cats) with the presence of larger predators and harsh weather (Crooks & Soulé 1999; Kays & DeWan 2004). Feeding by humans reduces the average range size of free-roaming cats, but increases densities, concentrating predation on wildlife where feeding occurs (Schmidt et al. 2007).

Contrary to claims that well-fed cats pose little threat to wildlife, hunting and hunger are not linked in domestic cats (Adamec 1976). Even well-fed cats hunt and kill lizards, small mammals, birds, and insects (Liberg 1984; Castillo & Clarke 2003; Hutchings 2003). A classic study documented continuous kills by the same 3 well-fed house cats over 4 years (George 1974).

Claim: Feral Cats Do Not Contribute to the Declines of Native Species

Trap–neuter–return advocates frequently imply that because cats are not singled out in reviews of the causes of bird declines, cats must have no influence on bird populations (Alley Cat Allies 2005). Habitat loss and resulting fragmentation are indeed leading causes of species decline, but this does not mean that sources of direct mortality are not important to species dynamics. Furthermore, one of the adverse effects of fragmentation is increased predation by cats supported by humans (Wilcove 1985; Askins 1995) and evidence indicates that cats can play an important role in fluctuations of bird populations (Lepczyk et al. 2003; Woods et al. 2003).

Trap–neuter–return advocates cite the work of John Terborgh as vindicating cats as a cause of decline of North American birds because he did not specifically mention them in his paper on the decline of American songbirds

(Terborgh 1992; Alley Cat Allies 2005). When informed of this by telephone, Terborgh said that this argument is “a preposterous extrapolation and grotesque distortion of something I didn't say” (personal communication). Nevertheless, variations on the claim that the decline of bird species is due to other factors and, by implication, not by cats, has been proffered by cat advocacy groups and has appeared in peer-reviewed veterinary journals (Slater 2004).

Comparative field studies and population measurements illustrate the adverse effects of feral and free-roaming cats on birds and other wildlife. In canyons in San Diego native bird diversity declined significantly with density of domestic cats (Crooks & Soulé 1999). In a comparative study in Alameda County, California, a site with a colony of feral cats had significantly fewer resident birds, fewer migrant birds, and fewer breeding birds than a control site without cats (Hawkins 1998). Ground-foraging species, notably California Quail (*Calipepla californica*) and California Thrashers (*Toxostoma redivivum*), were present at the control site but never observed at the site with cats. Native rodent density was drastically reduced at the site with cats, whereas exotic house mice (*Mus musculus*) were more common (Hawkins 1998). In Bristol, United Kingdom Baker et al. (2005) calculated that the predation rates by cats on 3 bird species in an urban area is high relative to annual productivity, which led the authors to suggest that the area under study may be a habitat sink. The fear of cats exhibited by birds can result in population declines even if predation is low or absent (Beckerman et al. 2007).

Most discussion of the effects of feral cats on wildlife concentrates on birds. Cat advocates correctly argue that birds are secondary prey items for cats under most (but not all) circumstances (Gillies & Clout 2003; Hutchings 2003). But even as a secondary prey item, the number of birds killed is vast, and evaluation of the importance of such mortality requires species-by-species consideration (Baker et al. 2005). Cat predation on mammals (Hawkins 1998; Baker et al. 2003; Meckstroth et al. 2007), reptiles (Iverson 1978), and even invertebrates (Gillies & Clout 2003) is also cause for concern because of direct impacts to native species and competition with native predators (George 1974). Rare and endangered species of birds, mammals, and reptiles are documented victims of feral cats (Winter 2004, 2006).

Feral and free-roaming cats are efficient predators, and their abundance results in substantial annual mortality of wildlife. Churcher and Lawton (1987) concluded that cats were responsible for 30% of the mortality of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in an English village. May (1988) extrapolated their results to an estimated 100 million birds and small mammals killed per year in England. Although this extrapolation is often criticized for the limited geographic scope and number of cats studied, Woods et al. (2003) confirmed and refined this result with a

larger sample size and geographic area that included England, Scotland, and Wales. From a survey of cat owners that documented prey returned by 696 cats, Woods et al. (2003) estimated that the 9 million cats in Britain kill at least 52–63 million mammals, 25–29 million birds, and 4–6 million reptiles each summer. In North America Coleman and Temple (1996) developed estimates of cat densities in Wisconsin and associated mortality of 8–217 million birds per year.

The focus in discussions of predation by feral cats on birds is usually whether the predation is significant at the population level (Lepczyk et al. 2003; Woods et al. 2003; Baker et al. 2005). We argue that it is philosophically inappropriate for population-level impacts to be the only criteria by which the effects of cats are judged. People who notice and care about birds are just as attuned to the loss of an individual bird in a backyard, or the decline of local populations of birds, as are feral cat advocates to the loss of individual feral cats. We see no justification for valuing birds and other wildlife only as populations while valuing cats as individuals.

Claim: Feral Cats Are Not Vectors or Reservoirs of Disease

Cats in TNR programs have infection rates of 5–12% for either feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) or both (Gibson et al. 2002; Lee et al. 2002; Wallace & Levy 2006). Only 2 of 7 TNR programs surveyed in the United States test for FeLV or FIV before releasing cats, and these tests are optional (Wallace & Levy 2006). Some programs vaccinate for these diseases without testing (Wallace & Levy 2006), but the vaccine is ineffective on infected animals. These diseases can be transmitted to owned domestic cats and to wildlife (Jesup et al. 1993; Roelke et al. 1993).

High densities of feral cats increase the prevalence of ectoparasites in the environment. For example, at a site in Florida, 93% of feral cats had fleas and 37% had ear mites (Akuczewich et al. 2002). Fleas transmit disease-causing bacteria such as *Bartonella*, *Rickettsia*, and *Coxiella* between animals and humans (Chomel et al. 1996; Shaw et al. 2001), and arthropod vectors cause a high rate of disease transfer between feral cats (Chomel et al. 1996). A study of feral cats in Florida shows that 75% were infected with hookworms (Anderson et al. 2003). Cats infected with hookworms or roundworms shed the eggs of the parasite, which then accumulate in the soil where they can be transmitted to humans and wildlife (Uga et al. 1996). In backyards with feral cats in Prague, prevalence of roundworm eggs in soil reached 45% of all samples (Dubná et al. 2007). Anderson et al. (2003) conclude that feral cats may be reservoirs of hookworm infection for wild canids and felids in Florida.

Felids, including free-roaming and feral cats, are vectors of the protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii* (Dubey 1973), which can infect other wildlife and humans through con-

tact with oocysts in soil, vegetation, or water (Afonso et al. 2006). Feral cats are vectors for transmission of rabies to humans (Patronek 1998). Over 80% of the prophylactic treatments administered to humans in the United States for possible exposure to rabies resulted from contact with stray or feral cats (Moore et al. 2000). Laboratory studies show that cats exposed to avian flu (H5N1) contract the disease and shed the virus extensively, raising concerns about cats as vectors for a pandemic (Rimmelzwaan et al. 2006).

Some TNR advocates argue that feral cats are infected with a variety of pathogens at the same rate as free-roaming owned cats (Levy & Crawford 2004; Luria et al. 2004). The correct comparison should be with indoor-only cats, which are healthier and live longer (Barrows 2004). Even so, other studies show elevated infection rates of disease-causing pathogens in stray and feral cats compared with owned cats as a whole, including those that roam (Dubey 1973; Nutter et al. 2004; Norris et al. 2007).

Fecal matter from feral and free-roaming cats degrades water quality (Dabritz et al. 2006). In an urban watershed in Michigan, Ram et al. (2007) showed that cats and dogs contribute more to fecal coliform bacteria contamination than other sources and that cats are 2 times more likely than dogs to be the source of bacteria. Runoff contaminated by cat feces also threatens sea mammals. Felids, including feral and free-roaming cats, shed *Toxoplasma* oocysts that infect southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) (Miller et al. 2002; Conrad et al. 2005), Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) (Conrad et al. 2005). The large quantity of waste from feral and free-roaming cats containing *Toxoplasma* oocysts (Dabritz et al. 2006, 2007) and the correlation between freshwater runoff and toxoplasmosis in marine mammals (Miller et al. 2002) has led researchers to suspect domestic cats as the source of the infections, although further research is needed to determine the relative importance of native versus exotic felids as sources of this parasite (Miller et al. 2008).

In terrestrial ecosystems *Toxoplasma* oocysts accumulate in the soil (Dabritz et al. 2007), where they can infect other species. For example, feral cats are implicated in *T. gondii* infection in the endangered island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) on the California Channel Islands (Clifford et al. 2006).

Efficacy of TNR

Feral cat advocates regularly assert that TNR “works” and is proven effective. They support this claim with anecdotes of success and reference to selected peer-reviewed studies (Zaunbrecher & Smith 1993; Centonze & Levy 2002; Hughes & Slater 2002; Levy et al. 2003).

Nevertheless, the definition of a successful TNR program for feral cat advocates is almost always different from what a conservation biologist or policy maker might view as a successful feral cat management program. Reduced adverse effects on wildlife and rapid colony elimination are almost never included in the definition of success used by advocates (e.g., No Kill Advocacy Center 2006a). For many TNR advocates, success is not defined by elimination of feral cats in an area, but rather by the welfare of the cats. For example, one study concluded, "The effectiveness of the program was demonstrated by the low turnover and improved health of the colony over the 3-year period," but the colony size only decreased from 40 to 36 (Zaunbrecher & Smith 1993). Another seminal study used to support the notion that TNR works was based on the assumption that feral cats were desired at a location, in which case TNR would produce a "stable, healthy, and manageable colony" (Neville 1983). Similarly, a Florida county implemented TNR "to decrease the number of healthy cats euthanized, decrease the costs to the county, and decrease complaints" (Hughes et al. 2002). In contrast, conservation scientists and wildlife veterinarians measure success of a feral cat management program by the decline and elimination of free-roaming cats (e.g., Jessup 2004; Nogales et al. 2004).

Claim: Trap-Neuter-Return Eliminates Colonies under Prevailing Conditions

Supporters of TNR assert that managed colonies slowly shrink through attrition. Mathematical models of feral cat populations indicate that 71–94% of a population must be neutered for the population to decline, assuming there is no immigration (Andersen et al. 2004; Foley et al. 2005). This level of neutering and exclusion of additional cats has not been consistently documented in practice. A study of TNR implemented countywide in San Diego showed that feral cat populations had not decreased after 10 years, and a similar result was found after 7 years in Alachua County, Florida, where feral cat populations increased (Foley et al. 2005). Four years of TNR at a colony in London saw the population fluctuate between 19 and 17 with no indication of further decline (Neville 1989). Ten years of TNR in Rome showed a 16–32% decrease in population size across 103 colonies but concluded that TNR was "a waste of time, energy, and money" if abandonment of owned cats could not be stopped (Natoli et al. 2006). Two colonies subject to TNR in Florida were tracked for over a year and population size of both colonies increased owing to the influx of new cats dumped at the highly visible sites (Castillo & Clarke 2003).

Peer-reviewed reports of TNR decreasing the size of feral colonies (e.g., Levy et al. 2003) derive in part from intensive efforts to remove cats for adoption as part of the TNR program. In a TNR program on a Florida uni-

versity campus, 73 of 155 cats (47%) were removed for adoption during the study period (Levy et al. 2003). In another program, during 2–3 years of TNR, 270 of 814 cats (33%) were captured and adopted, without which the number of cats at the 64 sites would have increased as a result of 87 cats joining the colonies while 50 died (Stull 2007). If adoption is sufficiently high, it may offset immigration to colonies and even reach the 50% removal threshold necessary for population decline (Andersen et al. 2004). Documented examples of dramatic population declines at TNR sites are from programs in limited geographic areas that were implemented with participation of the researchers themselves (e.g., Hughes & Slater 2002; Levy et al. 2003). Programs implemented by researchers are likely to be much more thorough than programs implemented exclusively by volunteers (see also examples in Jessup 2004).

Assertions of colony declines often are supported only by reference to Web sites, even in peer-reviewed articles (Gibson et al. 2002). Few published scientific studies document the actual disappearance of a colony through TNR and then only after many years of constant effort (e.g., Levy et al. 2003; Stoskopf & Nutter 2004).

Claim: Trap-Neuter-Return Colonies Resist Invasion

Feral cat advocates usually argue that managed colonies are stable and resist invasion by cats from surrounding areas (Berkeley 2004), but this assertion is not consistent with scientific literature or reports from TNR colonies (Stull 2007). For example, Levy et al. (2003) documented cats moving between identified colonies and to and from the surrounding woods. Cats do not defend territories when a constant food source is available (Levy & Crawford 2004) and can therefore reach high densities (Liberg et al. 2000; Schmidt et al. 2007). Populations can be limited by lack of shelter from the environment (Calhoun & Haspel 1989). Advocates also refer to a so-called vacuum effect in which new cats are said to immigrate to a location after removal programs (Patronek 1998; Gibson et al. 2002), but fail to provide evidence that such a phenomenon does not also occur when TNR colonies decrease in size.

Conclusions

Management of feral cats is usually governed by laws about pets and domestic animals, which vary by the patchwork of jurisdictions that control land uses. Although some entities in the U.S. federal government have banned TNR, most notably the U.S. Navy (Jessup 2004), it is largely local jurisdictions that are adopting TNR policies (The Humane Society of the United States 2008). These local policies typically do not receive the formal environmental review that projects with potential adverse

environmental effects normally require (Glasson et al. 1999). This probably results from the perception of TNR as an animal welfare, rather than environmental, measure.

The lack of formal environmental review of TNR makes it difficult for scientists, trustee agencies, and conservationists to give input. We urge greater engagement from conservation scientists at local to national levels to communicate that management of feral cats is not just an animal welfare issue. Scientists and conservationists have an important role to play by conducting research on feral cats and providing credible scientific information to resource managers, funding agencies, foundations, and policy makers about the adverse ecological consequences of condoning the indefinite maintenance of feral cat colonies through adoption of TNR as a preferred management scheme.

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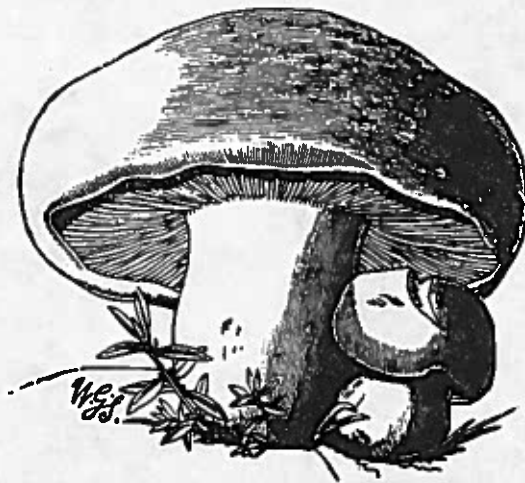
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HOMELESS CATS ARE NOT SUPER-FELINES

Cats who have been abandoned to fend for themselves are biologically identical to the cats who share our homes, and they deserve—and require—the same care.



Trap-neuter-release (TNR) involves sterilizing and then abandoning homeless cats instead of sheltering them. Rather than reducing homeless cat populations, TNR actually causes populations to increase. More people are likely to abandon cats if they think the cats will be "cared for," and food set out for "managed" colonies makes untrapped cats better able to reproduce. Additionally, it attracts more cats (as well as wildlife, including foxes, raccoons, and rats).

TNR also fails to protect cats from the many dangers they face on the streets, including extreme temperatures, deadly diseases, parasites, speeding cars, and attacks by dogs, wildlife, and cruel people.

PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Nibber, Dpaul

From: tiffany frey <tiffrey14@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:09 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: Fighting For The Health & Safety Of The Cats Of Baltimore.

received
9-24-17

My name is Tiffany Frey and I live at 2127 Maisel ST ,Baltimore,Maryland 21230. As a constituent, I want Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law."

Thank You,
Tiffany Frey

Nibber, Dpaul

From: Tweefie Millspaugh <tweefie@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:48 PM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Cc: Clarke, Mary Pat; Costello, Eric; Henry, Bill (email)
Subject: TNR Program

received
9-25-17

Mr Nibber.

I am writing to convey my support for the Trap Neuter & Release program as it exists today - Many years ago, when the TNR program was in its infancy, there were thousands of stray cats on the streets of Baltimore, reproducing at rates that were unprecedented. It was tragic.

There were diseased starving, and dying cats aplenty. The institution of TNR has been a God send. The program has saved countless feline lives, but MORE IMPORTANT, are the lives it has prevented. TNR has broken a terrible cycle, and drastically reduced the hoards of stray cats and kittens that used to call the streets of Baltimore home.

This effort has cut down on disease, with the the immunizations that come with the spay / neuter portion of the program. The kittens that do occur, as well as some of the mature cats helped, are often placed in loving homes. Some, who have spent a lifetime on the street, are not placeable. They are returned to a community where they have lived their entire life, and are often fed by residents, in return for keeping the rodent population to a minimum. TNR has been enormously successful, and its in the best interest of Baltimore City to keep control of the cat population in this way.

This is a far far better scenario than mass extermination, or simply ignoring the issue entirely.

Please help preserve Baltimore's s TRN program.

Tweefie Millspaugh
3004 Vineyard Lane
Baltimore MD 21218

410-366-1167

Nibber, Dpaul

From: blmiller wtdoll <blmwtd@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Nibber, Dpaul
Subject: TRNM Program in Baltimore

received
9-25-17

My name is Warren Doll and I live in Baltimore City.. I want Baltimore's current successful and humane use of TNRM programs for community cats to continue with no harmful changes to the law

