

7

CHAPTER

Data Collection and Public Outreach



VOICES FOR ANIMALS, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

PROCEDURES TO DOCUMENT THE TNR PROGRAM'S work should be set up from the outset. This is critical for evaluating the program's effectiveness and for securing funding. Examples of basic data include the number of cats sterilized and returned, cats and kittens removed from colonies and placed for adoption, projects performed, and people assisted, either in the field or through advice or referrals.

Tracking the number of cats sterilized or rescued is straightforward if the program itself performs all the TNR fieldwork through its employees or expert volunteers. Tracking is more difficult for grassroots programs that train and assist caretakers to do the fieldwork. In a grassroots program, the number of cats TNR'd or rescued can be tabulated based on projects performed by caretakers who:

- Attended training offered by the program
- Received hands-on assistance from program personnel
- Used equipment supplied by the program
- Acted as a result of advice and guidance provided by the program

A system for tracking changes in the size of TNR'd colonies is also recommended. The baseline for any particular colony should be the number of cats and kittens present just before TNR and any associated rescue efforts began. The numbers should be updated following completion of the TNR project and then periodically thereafter. The goal is to empirically demonstrate population change as a result of the program's intervention. Hopefully, declines in colony size will be the typical result. Data on changes in colony size can be gathered as part of a colony registration system, as described in the next section.

Other data that could demonstrate the program's impact may include cat intake and euthanasia rates at local shelters and the number of complaint calls to the relevant municipal agency about feral and stray cats. The baseline for comparison should be the year or years before the start of the TNR program; however, the data should be carefully analyzed. Before a conclusion is reached about the TNR program's communitywide impact, other factors influencing the data may need to be taken into account. For example, animal control in a particular municipality may not trap cats as a matter of policy. In such a community, a TNR program—even if successful—might not have a noticeable impact on intake rates. Instead, a more enlightening statistic might be the volume of complaint calls. Similarly, if a local shelter reduces its service area at the same time a TNR program is begun, a drop in cat intakes might be attributable to the fewer municipalities served rather than to the program.

Realize that the data probably will not meet rigorous academic standards. Nonetheless, the data is important and can allow for common sense, if not scientific, conclusions. If most of the colonies TNR'd by a program get smaller over time, complaint calls drop, very few litters of kittens are seen in the community, and the number of cats entering

the local shelter go down, it is a persuasive portrait of an effective program.

Colony Registration

A colony registration system records the location of colonies and the identities of their caretakers. Other details could include caretaker contact information, the number of cats in the colony, changes in colony size, the number of cats sterilized, the number of cats and kittens removed for adoption, rabies vaccinations, and veterinarians or clinics used to perform spay/neuter. The name and description of each cat within the colony can be recorded as well, if desired, although this adds a fair amount of data entry work. Having a colony registration system makes it easier to track the program's overall impact, communicate with caretakers, and oversee individual colonies.

A basic registration system can be set up using a database software program such as Microsoft® Access. This type of system requires program personnel to enter data. If the number of colonies and caretakers in the community is large, it might be much more practical in terms of saving time and labor to use a system where caretakers perform data entry for their own colonies. Neighborhood Cats, as part of the New York City Feral Cat Initiative, has developed the New York City Feral Cat Database, an online colony registration system in which each caretaker, using an individual password-protected account, enters information for his or her own colony. The database administrator can then review and analyze all the data. A generic prototype of the online system is available to other communities at a setup cost ranging from \$600–\$750 (compared to development costs of more than \$10,000). Contact Neighborhood Cats for more information (www.neighborhoodcats.org).

A colony registration system can facilitate the return to their caretakers of eartipped cats

brought into local shelters. The database can be searched for colony sites near the trapping location, if known, so that the relevant caretakers can be contacted.

One issue to resolve is who should administer the registration system—a municipal or animal control agency or an outside organization with no ties to local government. If the municipal or animal control agency is the lead organization running the TNR program, then it would make sense for it also to administer the colony registration system. It would already have most of the data on hand. If the municipality or animal control is not the lead agency for the program, then other factors need to be considered.

A colony registration system can only succeed if it has the confidence of the cats' caretakers. Caretakers who are afraid to disclose their identities or the locations of their colonies may not be willing to register, even if it means not gaining any of the benefits of the TNR program. If that happens, the goal of maximizing caretaker participation is defeated and the entire program—not just the colony registration system—is in jeopardy.

Caretakers will often fear making disclosures to an agency with a recent history of trapping and euthanizing feral cats. It takes time and a demonstrated change in policy before the caretakers gain confidence. In these circumstances, the TNR program can benefit from having the colony registration system administered by a private organization known and trusted by caretakers, such as a local feral cat nonprofit group. Indeed, the program as a whole may benefit if it is run by a trusted private group. Even if the nonprofit group manages the program for only a specified period of time, that time can allow for trust to build between municipal agencies and caretakers.

Likewise, if caretakers are wary of the municipality or its animal control agency, the private group running the colony registration system needs to promise confidentiality for

any specific information provided, such as colony location and caretaker identity. If the program might share general information with other organizations for statistical purposes—such as the overall number of cats or colonies—this should be made known to the caretakers in advance.

A registration system can still serve its purposes when a private organization holds the information in confidence. For example, when animal control notifies the administering agency of an eartipped cat turned into a shelter, then the agency can search its database to try to find the caretaker.

Another factor to consider in deciding whether a municipal or private agency should administer the registration system is state freedom of information laws. In many states, governmental agencies or private organizations operating under a municipal contract are required to divulge their records to the public upon request. This could mean colony locations and caretaker identities would have to be disclosed if a municipality or an animal control agency under contract ran the registration system.

Even if a nonprofit group with no ties to the government runs the registration system, care must be taken if there is a desire to protect the data collected from freedom of information requests. If the nonprofit is in some way funded by the local government, such as by receiving a grant to pay for spay/neuter costs, all of its records could be subject to freedom of information requirements. You will need to check with a qualified attorney in your area to see if this is a concern.

Caretaker Network

A great deal can be accomplished when caretakers network among themselves. Networks allow caretakers to share tips on colony care, help each other with projects, and develop a sense of community. This last point is important because feral cat

caretakers historically have been isolated and left to their own devices and resources. The realization they are not alone will empower caretakers and motivate many to assist in TNR efforts beyond their own colonies.

A network can be created in several ways. During Neighborhood Cats' first few years, an open meeting was held every month at a local coffee shop. Anyone interested in the work was welcome to attend. People came from all over the city to discuss TNR and seek advice. Eventually, the TNR movement in New York City outgrew these meetings, but the meetings spurred the movement's development.

An online discussion group can provide another forum for networking. A moderator who screens all e-mails and posts can be appointed. If there is no formal moderator, someone with authority may need to chime in now and again and keep the focus of discussion on feral cat issues. Without this type of guidance, an online discussion group can quickly go off track into other areas and lose its usefulness.

An e-mail network is an excellent way to keep caretakers informed of services and new developments. It can also be used to assist caretakers looking for help, such as a temporary or replacement feeder, transportation, or experienced trappers. The lead agency for the TNR program should gather e-mail addresses of caretakers and interested parties and place them in one e-mail address book group.

Most Internet service providers prohibit mass e-mailing (one e-mail sent to a large number of people at once), but some will exempt nonprofit groups. There are online companies that specialize in mass e-mailing, or you can hire a Web designer to build a simple program for mass e-mailing. When sending messages to the network, you should blind copy (bcc) the recipients' e-mail addresses. Otherwise, these addresses could be copied by others and used for unintended purposes such as spam. Using the "bcc" feature also

eliminates the long list of addresses at the top of each e-mail.

Website

A website can be an excellent way to spread information about the program, potentially saving administrative time and expense. Other agencies and groups can link to the site, creating further publicity.

Among the items a site could contain are a description of the TNR program, a list of participating organizations, services offered, contact information, a solicitation for donations and volunteers, current news items, and general TNR guidelines.

Long Beach Cats (www.LBcats.org) provides an example of a smaller, expert model program website. The home page contains a brief description of TNR and the programs. The About page lists participating members and organizations and contact information for Long Beach Cats. A full description of the program is found on the TNR Program page, while on another page, a request for assistance form can be downloaded and printed. The Donate page gives information on how to volunteer and contribute.

Note that on the Long Beach Cats website, there is no Contact Us button, so visitors to the page cannot send e-mails. The information for anyone interested in using the program is already on the site, so the program decided to streamline administrative needs by not having to answer e-mail inquiries.

The New York City Feral Cat Council's website (www.nycferalcat.org) represents a large-scale, grassroots program. The home page gives a description of the TNR program and how it can be accessed. The Members page lists participating organizations, while the Services page lists groups that offer services and their contact information. A Guidelines page contains the council's standards of practice for TNR, and the Donate page solicits contributions. One feature unique

to the site is its request for assistance form (on the home page), which can be filled out and submitted online.

An experienced volunteer or a paid designer could build the website from scratch. Alternatively, for a relatively low cost, many website-hosting companies offer sites with preprogrammed templates; groups just need to insert text and photos. A program will first need to register its domain name (the name of the website); hosting companies often provide this service.

Telephone/Voice Mail

Providing public access to the program by telephone is a basic component of any program, especially as many people in the community may not have access to the Internet or be able to visit websites and send e-mails. It is important to structure phone communications in a way that keeps the focus of inquiries on TNR and saves administrative time and resources.

One way to handle phone calls from the public is to use a voice mail system for all incoming calls. The recorded message heard by callers should succinctly define what the program does and does not do. For example, the outgoing message might state that the program works with feral cats using TNR but does not take in cats for adoption and does not assist in the removal or relocation of cats. This simple statement will by itself screen many calls the program is not equipped to handle.

Returning phone calls relevant to the program's mission can help promote TNR and recruit participants. However, it can be a time-consuming task and not every program will have the personnel available to return calls on a regular basis. In that case, voice mail can be used to collect names and addresses of people who would like more information and then appropriate literature can be mailed. Long Beach Cats uses this type of system. When callers dial the Long Beach Cats' number, the outgoing message briefly describes the program and asks callers to leave their name and mailing address if they want more information. A volunteer checks the messages and mails flyers describing the program and request for assistance forms (see Appendices G and H).

Using a "tree" type of voice mail setup can also be an effective way to save time, especially if the program receives a relatively high volume of calls. In this kind of system, a caller first hears a brief recorded message and then a menu of choices for more information, such as "press 1 for a description of the TNR program," "press 2 for a schedule of workshops," "press 3 to reserve equipment," and so on. After the caller makes a choice, another recorded message gives further details and the caller is then able to leave a message in that mailbox. Voice mail companies can easily set up this type of system, with the cost varying according to the number of voice mailboxes.

Conclusion



VOICES FOR ANIMALS, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

THE ACTUAL HANDS-ON WORK OF TNR IS straightforward—trap the cats; sterilize, eartip, and vaccinate them for rabies; return them to their colonies; and provide food, shelter, and monitoring. If this process is followed diligently, the number of cats in a colony will decline over time, nuisance behaviors will dramatically decrease, and the problems associated with feral cats will be largely resolved.

Implementing this work on a communitywide scale, however, is complex. The concerns and interests of a variety of constituencies—including those of caretakers, animal control officers, public health officials and other municipal leaders, wildlife conservationists, local residents, property owners, and veterinarians—must be considered and balanced. Critical choices must be made on allocation of resources, strategic plans, and alliances with other organizations. Local laws and policies must be taken into account and, in many cases, changed to be more supportive of TNR. Education of caretakers and the public is needed as well.

In addition, policies and practices outside the realm of TNR will also play a role in determining success at permanently reducing feral cat populations. Affordable sterilization must be available for all cats—pets, strays, and ferals—before they have even one litter. Emigration of owned cats into the feral population cannot continue. Toward this goal, pet cats should not be allowed to roam. Instead,

they should be kept indoors or allowed confined outdoor access with supervision and wear visible identification that is backed up by a microchip. Education and other efforts aimed at curtailing abandonment should also be implemented.

The goal of this guide is to help communities establish lasting, effective, accepted TNR programs and, in this manner, address their feral cat populations. Each community will likely face unique circumstances and obstacles that will require creative solutions, and the ability to adapt the information provided in this guide will be crucial to success. In the end, efforts to create a well-designed, responsibly run program will benefit all involved—cats, wildlife, and humans alike.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) would like to know about strategies, other than those discussed in this book, that have helped implement communitywide TNR programs. Please contact Nancy Peterson at npeterson@hsus.org with suggestions.

Feral Cat Resources



Advocacy Materials

- The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Position Statement: Trap-Neuter-Return (www.hsus.org/feralcats)
- *Presenting TNR to Public Officials* DVD by The HSUS (For more information, contact Nancy Peterson, Feral Cat Program Manager, The HSUS, at npeterson@hsus.org)

Books

- *Community Approaches to Feral Cats: Problems, Alternatives, & Recommendations* by Margaret R. Slater, DVM (Humane Society Press, 2002)
- *Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats* by Ellen Perry Berkeley (New England Press, 2001)
- *Shadow Cats: Tales from New York City's Animal Underground* by Janet Jensen (Adams Media, 2002)

- “Feral Cat Management” by Julie Levy, DVM, in *Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff*, Chapter 23 (Blackwell Publishing Professional, 2004)
- *The Wild Life of the Domestic Cat* by Roger K. Tabor (Arrow Books, 1987)

Educational Opportunities for Animal Care Professionals

- Animal Care Expo (www.animalsheltering.org/expo)
- *Animal Sheltering*® magazine (www.animalsheltering.org/subscribe)
- Humane Society University (www.humanesocietyu.org)
- PetSmart Charities® Webinars (www.petsmartcharitiesblog.org/webinars)

Feral Cat Colony Management Resources

- *How to Perform a Mass Trapping* video by Neighborhood Cats (www.neighborhoodcats.org)
- *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook: A Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return for the Feral Cat Caretaker* (www.neighborhoodcats.org)
- *Trap-Neuter-Return: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony*—Humane Society University online course (www.humanesocietyu.org)

Fund-Raising Resources

- *Animal Sheltering* magazine articles on fund-raising (www.animalsheltering.org/fundraising)
- *Fund-Raising for Animal Care Organizations* by Julie Miller Dowling (Humane Society Press, 2005; www.AnimalSheltering.org/publications)

Grants

- *Animal Sheltering* magazine articles on grants (www.animalsheltering.org/grants)
- Connecticut Department of Agriculture Animal Population Control Program—offers fiscal 2007 grants to qualified charitable feral cat groups (860-713-2507; www.ct.gov/doag)
- Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation—supports projects that benefit the people of Maui County, Hawaii (foundations@hcf-hawaii.org)
- Hawaii Cat Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii—works with the Hawaiian Humane Society to trap, neuter, and return feral cats (hcf@hicat.org; www.hicat.org)
- PETCO Foundation—encourages applications for financial support from any 501(c)(3) organization that shares its mission and fulfills one or more of the Four Rs: Reduce, Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rejoice; organizations should be local and be able to enlist the support of their local PETCO store (www.petco.com/foundation)

- **PetSmart Charities**—typically awards grants to programs that reduce the homeless animal population through methods other than euthanasia (www.petsmart.com/charities/resources/grants.shtml)
- **ShelterSource**—provides an extensive list of organizations that fund animal welfare projects (www.sheltersource.org)

- **Humane Alliance National Spay/Neuter Response Team** (www.humanealliance.org)
- **SPAY USA** (1-800-248-SPAY; www.spayusa.org)
- **Working with Feral Cats in Veterinary Practice** video by Whitney Lemarr and Brenda Griffin, DVM (www.vetmed.auburn.edu/index.pl/educational_videos)

Humane Society University

- **The Essentials of Fund-Raising—Creating Financial Stability for Animal Care Organizations** (<http://hsuonline.org>)
- **Fundraising4Pets**—moderated group for shelters and rescue groups to share fund-raising ideas (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Fundraising4Pets>)
- **ShelterFundraising**—moderated group for shelter professionals to share fund-raising ideas (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ShelterFundraising>)

Reduced-Fee Spay/Neuter Programs and Information*

- **Friends of Animals** (1-800-321-PETS; www.friendsofanimals.org)
- **Humane Alliance Big Fix Rig** (www.humanealliance.org)

**In addition, check out local animal care and control agencies, humane societies, and veterinary colleges to see if they work with feral cat caretakers.*

Volunteer Resources

- **Everyone Ready**—cutting-edge staff development training plan designed to support organizations' work with volunteers (www.animalsheltering.org/everyoneready)
- **Volunteer Management Discussion Group**—for managers of volunteers who work with shelters, breed placement groups, and other animal welfare organizations (www.animalsheltering.org/volunteermanagement)
- **Volunteer Management for Animal Care Organizations** by Betsy McFarland (Humane Society Press, 2005; www.AnimalSheltering.org/publications)

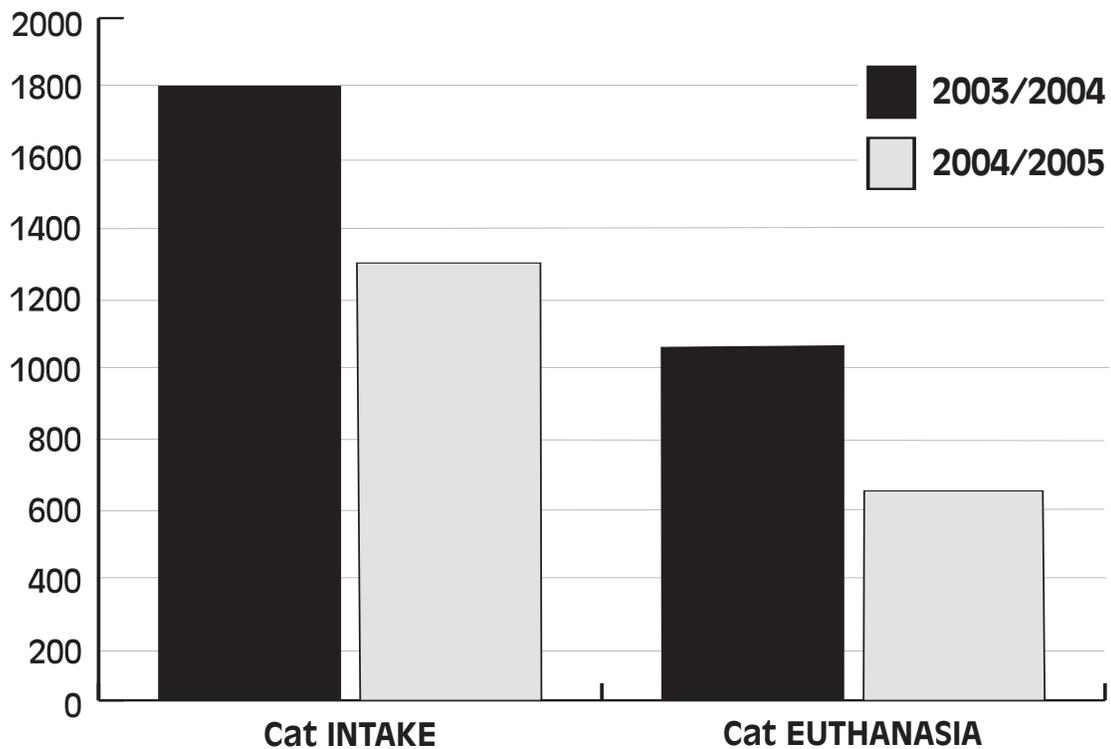
Websites

- Alley Cat Allies (www.alleycat.org)
- AnimalSheltering.org
(www.AnimalSheltering.org)
- Feral Cat Caretakers' Coalition
(www.feralcatcaretakers.org)
- Feral Cat Coalition (of San Diego)
(www.feralcat.com)
- Feral Cats in the News—
the Feral Cat Blog
(www.catsinthenews.blogspot.com)
- The Humane Society
of the United States
(www.hsus.org/feralcats)
- IndyFeral (www.indyferal.org)
- Neighborhood Cats
(www.neighborhoodcats.org)
- Petfinder (www.petfinder.com)
- San Francisco SPCA
(www.sfspca.org)

Appendix A

West Valley City Shelter Cat Intake and Euthanasia Numbers Before and After Feral Fix

Intake down 26.58%
Euthanasia down 34%



Same period statewide

Cat intake down 3.43%

Cat euthanasia down 4.88%

West Valley, Utah (data provided by No More Homeless Pets in Utah)

Appendix B

BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR

County Of Cape May, New Jersey

An Ordinance Amending Chapters IV And VII of The Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Stone Harbor 1982*

(Creating the Borough's TNR Program and modifying certain other Ordinances to be consistent therewith)

Section 1.

Chapter IV is hereby amended as follows:

4-33 Feeding of Wild Animals and/or Stray Domestic Animals; Free Roaming Cats; Abandonment of Animals

4-33.1 Feeding wild and/or stray domestic animals restricted.

- a. **Except as provided in Section 7-5A of these ordinances**, no person on public or private property shall attract or feed wild and/or stray domestic animals, including but not limited to stray cats; stray dogs; seagulls; Canadian geese, skunks, and squirrels, within the Borough of Stone Harbor. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit persons from feeding birds on their private property using bird feeders or other receptacles. This ordinance shall not apply to an animal control officer in the performance of his/her official duties or to State and/or Federal wildlife officials in the performance of their official duties.
- b. No person shall allow any cat to roam free within the Borough of Stone Harbor in a manner to enter upon the area of the Borough commonly known as the Bird Sanctuary (111th Street to 117th Street—200 Block) nor upon the area commonly known as The Point (south and east from the 122nd Street parking lot to the Atlantic Ocean and or bay waters).
- c. No person shall abandon any animal within the Borough of Stone Harbor.

4-33.2. Violations and penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be required to appear in the municipal court and, upon conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for a first offense and not more than \$1250.00 and community service for a period not to exceed 40 hours for a second or subsequent offense. Each day a particular violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

**Editor's note: The ordinances referred to here have since been renumbered. See Borough of Stone Harbor, Revised General Ordinances, secs. 147-20 through 147-32.*

Section 2.

Section 7-1A; 7-2A and 7-4A are hereby amended as follows:

7-1A DEFINITIONS

“Owner” When applied to the proprietorship of a cat shall include every person having a right to property (or custody) in such cat and every person who has such cat in his/her keeping, or who harbors or maintains a cat or knowingly permits a cat to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person. “Owner” shall not include any person who has registered under Section 7-5, as a caregiver in connection with the Trap, Neuter and Release Program created thereunder.

**7-2A PROVISIONS RELATING TO RABIES VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION OF CATS
[AMEND THE TITLE AND THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS]**

- a. **Vaccination and License Requirements.** No person shall own, keep, harbor, or maintain any cat of licensing age within the Borough of Stone Harbor, unless such cat is vaccinated and licensed. The provisions of this Section do not apply to cats held in a cattery, or those held by a State or Federal licensed research facility, or a veterinary establishment where cats are received or kept for diagnostic, medical, surgical, or other treatments, or licensed animal shelters, pounds, kennels or pet shops. The licensing requirements of this section shall not apply to the activities of any person described in Section 7-3A(m).

7-3A LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

[AMEND THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS]

- a. **Cats Must Have License Number Displayed.** Any owner of a cat of licensing age, kept or harbored in the Borough of Stone Harbor, shall annually apply for and procure from the Borough Clerk or other official designated by the governing body, a written license and official license tag for each cat, and shall place upon such cat a collar, or other device with the license number securely fastened or display thereto. Acceptable methods of displaying license number shall include, but are not limited to, break-away or elastic collars. License tags shall not be transferable.
- g. **License Fees.** A license shall be issued after the payment of a fee of \$50.00 for each unneutered cat and \$5.00 for each neutered cat, plus \$.50 for a license tag for each cat. Persons who fail to obtain a license as required within the time period specified in this Section will be subject to a delinquent fee of \$15.00 when the cat is licensed.
- h. **Fees, Renewals, Expiration Date of License.** The person applying for the license shall pay the fee fixed or authorized. The fee for the renewal of the license shall be same as for the initial license and said initial license and/or renewal license shall expire on January 31st following the date of issuance or renewal.
- m. Any person who is registered under Section 7-5 is excepted from this Section 7-3A, but only to the extent of those feral cats for which such person is the Caregiver.

7-4A ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY

[AMEND THE TITLE AND THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS]

Anyone violating any provision of Section 7-1A, 7-2A or 7-3A, shall be required to appear in the municipal court and shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine for a first offense of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1000.00; and for a second or subsequent offense, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500.00 and community service for a period not to exceed 40 hours.

Section 3. Section 7-5A is hereby created as follows:

7-5A FERAL CATS

Statement of Purpose: The Borough of Stone Harbor, like many communities throughout the State of New Jersey and the United States, has an obligation to effectively and humanely control feral cat populations within its borders. The volunteers of the Borough's Special Feral Cat Committee [have] spent many months investigating methods of carrying out this obligation and [have] recommended that the Borough institute a Trap, Neuter and Return Program (TNR) in an effort to reduce the feral cat population over time without the necessity of wholesale capture and euthanization. The Borough recognizes that this approach must be balanced against the Borough's obligations in connection with a portion of the Borough being an identified nesting area for certain endangered or threatened avian species. That portion of the Borough consists of a dynamic area of beach at Stone Harbor Point south of the 122nd Street parking lot and the adjacent area of bayberry and dune. The Borough has also dedicated 21 acres between 111th and 117th Streets as an internationally recognized Bird Sanctuary. In keeping with those obligations, the Borough has crafted this Ordinance to provide for the reduction of certain feral cat colonies through TNR while requiring the removal of other colonies in an effort to protect avian populations. The Borough also has incorporated a "sunset provision" in order that the TNR Program may be properly evaluated and reassessed after an appropriate period of time.

DEFINITIONS:

Animal Coordinator: The person appointed annually by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council, to maintain records of feral cats; to recommend Caregivers and to do such duties specified in Section 7-5A.2 or as added by Section 7-5A.6.

Feral Cat: Any cat that is not licensed in accordance with Borough Ordinances and is free roaming as part of an identifiable colony of such cats, which may consist of several cats or a single cat.

Animal Control Officer: The person appointed annually by the Borough Council, either directly or by interlocal services agreement, to handle the animal control needs of the Borough of Stone Harbor.

Caregiver: A volunteer, uncompensated person who agrees to serve to facilitate the TNR program within the Borough in accordance with this ordinance and any rules and regulations that may be established by Borough Council. A Caregiver shall not be deemed an employee of the Borough and shall hold such volunteer position at the pleasure of Borough Council and may be removed from or precluded from holding such volunteer position in the sole discretion of Borough Council.

Ear tipping: The marking of a cat's ear through a surgical procedure performed by qualified personnel.

7-5A.1. The Borough may establish a fund or provide services to offset the costs of trapping, neutering, and vaccinating captured feral cats that can be returned to an appropriate, controlled, protected and registered colony site. Caregivers for such colonies, whether one or several animals, may be aided by the Borough in providing traps for the capture of the cat, transportation to a spay/neuter facility and offsetting costs, to the extent that funding is available.

7-5A.2. Each feral cat colony will be registered by the Caregivers with the Borough's Animal Coordinator, who will serve as a clearinghouse for information on current Caregivers, education for new Caregivers, and assistance for persons found in violation of this ordinance.

7-5A.3. Ear tipping will be used on feral cats in order to be identified as a spayed or neutered and vaccinated member of a managed colony.

7-5A.4. Any person or Caregiver determined to be in violation of subsections (a) through (d) below, shall be issued a written warning and be allowed a period of time in the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, but not longer than ninety days, to come into compliance, or provide satisfactory evidence of working to achieve compliance. Failure to comply shall result in a violation of this article, which may result in the issuance of a citation. Caregivers of feral cat colonies shall implement proper management and sterilization practices, as well as seek the assistance of the Animal Control Officer and/or Animal Coordinator as follows:

- a. Sterilize (spay/neuter) all adult cats that can be captured
- b. Vaccinate, as required by law, all cats that can be captured.
 1. Against rabies, preferably with a three-year vaccine.
 2. And any other infectious disease as mandated by law.
- c. Make every attempt to remove kittens from the colony before eight (8) weeks of age for domestication and placement.
- d. Make every attempt to remove sick or injured cats from the colony for immediate veterinarian care or humane euthanasia.
- e. Assure responsibility and arrangements for feeding the cat colony regularly throughout the year, including weekends, holidays and [vacations] of the feral cat caregiver. Feeding on Caregiver's property of feral cats managed by such Caregiver shall not constitute a violation of the prohibition section of R.G.O. 4-33.1.
- f. Make every attempt to "ear tip" all cats with a single cut preferably on the left ear and arrange for the implantation of an identification microchip for each cat in the colony. If this is not practicable under the circumstances, photographic documentations adequate to identify the cat shall be obtained.
- g. Maintain proof of sterilization, vaccination, ear tipping and implantation of microchip and medical records for all cats. These records must be provided to the Animal Coordinator upon request.
- h. Register the feral cat colony with the Animal Coordinator for the Borough of Stone Harbor.
- i. Execute all documents required by the Borough which may be established by this ordinance or by Resolution of the Borough Council.

7-5A.5 Restrictions

No feral cat colony shall be permitted to be established in the area between 111th Street and the southern end of the Borough, to include the entire Bird Sanctuary and Stone Harbor Point area. In these areas the Animal Control Officer shall effectuate the capture of all feral cats and transport same to the County Animal Shelter for handling in accordance with the interlocal agreement between the Borough and the County applicable to such animals.

7-5A.6 Rules and Regulations

The Borough Council shall have the authority to adopt further Rules and Regulations applicable to the TNR Program to the extent that the same are consistent with and do not modify the provisions of this Ordinance.

7-5A.7 Sunset Provision

Sections 7-5A.1 through 7-5A.4 shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2008, unless an appropriate amendment to this ordinance is adopted by the Borough Council prior to such time and date. If those sections are allowed to so expire, then the Animal Control officer shall handle all feral cats in any area of the Borough by capture and transport of same to the County Animal Shelter for handling in accordance with the interlocal agreement between the Borough and the County applicable to such animals.

Section 4. If any portion of this ordinance is determined to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, that determination shall have no effect upon the remainder of this Ordinance, which shall remain valid and operable.

Section 5. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies only, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after final passage and publication as provided by law.

Appendix C

ORDINANCE# 2005-20

An Ordinance of Tabernacle Township to Permit the Managed Care of Feral Cats

WHEREAS, feral cats are cats that are significantly or completely unsocialized and are not adoptable as companion animals; and

WHEREAS, there are no governmental or privately operated facilities in the Township of Tabernacle (“Township”) or Burlington County (“County”) to care for feral cats; and

WHEREAS, the population of feral cats has been increasing in the Township; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States have determined that the practice of trapping and euthanizing feral cats is not effective in reducing their numbers; and

WHEREAS, a present goal of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is to decrease the number of cats in the environment and thereby reduce feral cat predation on wildlife; and

WHEREAS, programs for the managed care of feral cat colonies that include trap, neutering and returning feral cats to their habitats have proven to be effective in reducing the number of feral cats and is more humane than trapping and euthanizing; and

WHEREAS, TNR programs are beneficial to communities and the public health because cats in managed colonies are vaccinated against rabies and are spayed or neutered, which results in control of the population and has other positive consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth in this Section. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular, words in the singular number include the plural, and words in the male gender include the female gender.

Abandoned means that an owner or caregiver has forsaken a domesticated cat entirely, or has neglected or refused to provide care and support of the cat.

Animal Control Officer means any person employed or appointed by the Township who is authorized to investigate violations of laws and regulations concerning animals, and to issue citations in accordance with New Jersey law and this Code.

Caregiver means any person who provides food, water or shelter to or otherwise cares for a cat.

Domesticated cat means a cat that is socialized to humans and is appropriate as a companion for humans.

Eartipping means straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized.

Feral Cat means a cat that exists in a wild or untamed state, either due to birth or reversion to a wild state from domestication. The usual and consistent temperament of a feral cat is extreme fear and resistance to contact with humans. Feral cats are completely or substantially unsocialized to humans.

Feral Cat colony means a group of cats that congregates, more or less, together as a unit. Although not every cat in a Colony may be feral, any nonferal cats that congregate with a colony shall be deemed to be a part of it.

Nuisance means disturbing the peace by (a) habitually or continually howling, crying or screaming, or (b) the habitual and significant destruction, desecration or soiling of property against the wishes of the owner of the property.

Owner means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity.

Rescue group is a for-profit or not-for-profit entity, or a collaboration of individuals with at least one of its purposes being the adoption or placement of cats in homes with humans to serve as companion animals.

Stray Cat means a cat that is regularly off the property of the owner, is not under the physical control and restraint of the owner and is not regularly provided with food by its owner.

Suitable Shelter means shelter that provides protection from rain, sun, and other elements that is adequate to protect the health of the cat.

TNR means, Trap, Neuter and Return.

TNR Program means a program pursuant to which feral and stray cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, vaccinated against rabies and returned to the location where they congregate.

Zoonotic Disease means those diseases transmittable to humans from animals, including parasitic, bacterial, fungal and viral diseases.

Section 2. Responsibilities of owners of domesticated cats.

- 2.1 Owners of domesticated cats shall provide appropriate and adequate food, water and shelter for their cats.
- 2.2 The Owner of a domesticated cat shall exercise reasonable care to guard against the cat creating a nuisance.
- 2.3 The owner of a sexually intact (not spayed or neutered) domesticated cat shall not permit his/her cat to roam unsupervised.
- 2.4 An owner shall not abandon a domesticated cat.

Section 3. Feral Cat colonies.

- 3.1. Feral Cat colonies shall be permitted and Caregivers shall be entitled to maintain them in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.
- 3.2. Sponsorship of Colony TNR Programs. The Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative program sponsored by Nature's Refuge, a non-profit animal education organization,

is approved. Other persons may apply to the Township to serve as colony TNR program sponsors (“Sponsors”) so long as said persons agree to perform the responsibilities stated in this Ordinance for Sponsors.

3.3 Sponsor requirements. It shall be the duty of the Sponsor to:

- a. Review and approve of colony Caregivers;
- b. help to resolve any complaints over the conduct of a colony Caregiver or of cats within a colony;
- c. maintain records provided by colony Caregivers on the size and location of the colonies as well as the vaccination and spay/neuter records of cats in the Sponsor’s colonies and;
- d. report annually to the Township on the following:
 - i. number of colonies in the Township;
 - ii. total number of cats in colonies;
 - iii. number of cats and kittens spayed and neutered pursuant to the TNR program; and
 - iv. number of cats and kittens placed in permanent homes.
- e. use due consideration to avoid the taking of rare, threatened or endangered species under the Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1, et seq.

3.4 Feral Cat Caregiver requirements. Caregivers are responsible for the following:

- a. registering the Feral Cat colony with the Sponsor;
- b. taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the vaccination of the colony population for rabies and making reasonable efforts to update the vaccinations on cats that can be recaptured;
- c. taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the spay/neuter, by a licensed veterinarian, of at least ninety percent (90%) of the colony population;
- d. providing the sponsor with descriptions of each cat in the colony and copies of documents evidencing that the cats have been vaccinated and spayed/neutered;
- e. providing food, water and, if feasible, shelter for colony cats;
- f. observing the colony cats at least twice per week and keeping a record of any illnesses or unusual behavior noticed in any colony cats;
- g. obtaining the approval of the owner of any property, to which the Caregiver requires access to provide colony care;
- h. in the event that kittens are born to a colony cat, the Caregiver shall take reasonable steps likely to result in the removal of the kittens from the colony after they have been weaned, and the placement of the kittens in homes or foster homes for the purpose of subsequent permanent placement;
- i. reporting annually in writing to the Sponsor on the status of the colony, including data on the number and gender of all cats in the colony, the number of cats that died or otherwise ceased being a part of the colony during the year; the number of kittens born to colony cats and their disposition and the number of cats and kittens placed in permanent homes as companion cats; and
- j. obtaining proper medical attention to any colony cat that appears to require it.

3.5 Colony Cat requirements.

- a. The left ear of a colony cat that has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated shall be eartipped.
- b. An electronic animal identification device (EAID) shall be inserted into the cat by a veterinarian in accordance with professional medical standards. The Sponsor shall be the named contact for purposes of the EAID.

3.6 Disposition of colony cats.

- a. An Animal Control Officer who has trapped a cat whose left ear has been tipped or which bears some other distinguishing mark indicating that it belongs to a feral cat colony shall scan the cat for an EAID. If an EAID is found, the Officer shall be responsible for contacting the Sponsor or other person named as owner of the cat.
- b. If the Owner or Sponsor is not able to immediately take custody of the cat, the officer shall transport the cat to the Burlington County Animal Shelter. The Owner or Sponsor shall be responsible for retrieving the cat from the Shelter within three (3) business days or advising the Shelter if the Owner or Sponsor does not intend to retrieve the cat.

Section 4. Ordinance Enforcement.

4.1. The Township shall have the following rights:

- a. the right to seize or remove cats from a colony that have not been vaccinated against rabies and which are demonstrating signs of the disease.
- b. the right to seize/remove a cat from a colony that is creating a nuisance as defined above and the Caregiver and Sponsor have been given 60 days to remove and relocate the cat and have failed to do so.
- c. the right to seize/remove a colony of cats when the Caregiver regularly fails to comply with the requirements of section 3.4 and the Sponsor has not been able to obtain a replacement or substitute Caregiver within 60 days of the Township's notice to the sponsor of the Caregiver's failure to comply with this Ordinance.

4.2. The requirements of this Ordinance notwithstanding, Animal Control Officers and Police Officers may investigate any Nuisance complaint.

Date: Adopted: December 29, 2005

La Shawn Ruffin, RMC
Township Clerk

Kimberly A. Brown, Mayor

Appendix D

Release

I, (insert full name) _____, in consideration for permission by Neighborhood Cats to participate in Neighborhood Cats activities, including but not limited to the trapping, handling, neutering, vaccinating, caretaking, and transporting of feral and stray cats, for the purpose of performing any Trap-Neuter-Return or animal rescue project, do hereby agree to the following for the period of time from _____, 20__ to _____, 20__:

1. To participate in the aforementioned activities at my own risk.
2. To be liable for, indemnify, defend, and hold Neighborhood Cats, its directors, officers, agents, servants, representatives, employees, attorneys, consultants, and independent contractors (“Indemnitees”) harmless from any and all liabilities, suits, obligations, fines, damages, penalties, claims, charges and expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys’ fees and disbursements) (“Damages”) that may be imposed upon or incurred by or asserted against any of the Indemnitees arising out of or related to my participation or the participation of my agents, representatives, servants, employees or independent contractors during the agreed upon time and for the agreed upon purpose whether or not such damages are due to the negligence of Neighborhood Cats or otherwise. Further, it is a condition of this Agreement that Neighborhood Cats assumes no liability for liabilities, suits, obligations, fines, damages, penalties, claims, costs, charges and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees and disbursements) to either persons or property on account of the same, except as expressly provided herein.
3. To forever release and discharge Neighborhood Cats, its directors, officers, agents, servants, representatives or employees from any and all claims, demands, rights of action or causes of action, present or future, whether same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from my participation or the participation of my agents, representatives, servants, employees or independent contractors during the agreed upon time and for the agreed upon purpose.
4. On behalf of myself, my heirs, executors or administrators, to forever refrain from instituting, prosecuting or maintaining any action, suit or proceeding, at law or otherwise against Neighborhood Cats, its directors, agents, servants, representatives or employees based upon any injuries or diseases which I may suffer, including death or damages, both personal or to property, whether same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from my participation in the aforementioned activities during the agreed upon time and for the agreed upon purpose.

I am of legal age and hereby voluntarily sign this instrument with no promise or representation made by Neighborhood Cats, its directors, officers, agents, servants, representatives or employees other than the consideration stated herein.

I understand that my participation as a volunteer with Neighborhood Cats, Inc. is contingent upon my agreeing to this waiver.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FERAL CATS ARE WILD ANIMALS, CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE IN THEIR BEHAVIOR AND ARE CAPABLE OF INFLICTING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR EVEN DEATH. I AM WILLING TO ASSUME THIS RISK IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN AND/OR CAT RESCUE PROJECTS ON BEHALF OF NEIGHBORHOOD CATS, INC.

Signature: _____ Dated: _____

Print name: _____

Appendix E

NEIGHBORHOOD CATS—Trap loan agreement

1. I acknowledge receipt of _____ traps and trap dividers. All equipment is to be returned by _____.
(date due)

The traps are the property of Neighborhood Cats, Inc., and will be returned to the location from which received or as otherwise arranged with Neighborhood Cats. The equipment will be returned on or before the date due noted above unless an extension is granted in writing by Neighborhood Cats. **All equipment will be cleaned and disinfected prior to return using a bleach solution (at least 1 part bleach to 32 parts water).**

2. I have made a deposit of \$_____ to be fully refunded to me upon the return of the trap(s) and divider(s). I understand that I must return the trap(s) and divider(s) in the condition in which it/they was/were loaned to me, subject to “normal wear and tear” during my use of the trap(s) and divider(s), by the date due written above in paragraph #1, in order to receive a full refund of my deposit. If I do not return the traps by the date due written above in paragraph #1, I understand that I will forfeit my deposit.
3. I certify that I am borrowing trap(s) from Neighborhood Cats for the sole purpose of participating in Trap-Neuter-Return activities. Traps shall not be used to knowingly capture any owned cat, to bring any cat for relinquishment to any animal shelter, or to commit any unlawful act. Traps shall not be used to capture a healthy animal for destruction.
4. The signature of the undersigned shall establish agreement that feral cats will be eartipped, that every reasonable effort will be made that any tame cats found within the colony will be placed for adoption, and that the cats returned to their habitat will be provided with food, water and adequate shelter indefinitely.
5. The undersigned releases Neighborhood Cats, their volunteers, facilities, and cooperating facilities, from any liability for any injuries which may be incurred or caused while trapping, confining, or transporting the cats and agrees to indemnify Neighborhood Cats for any liability based on use of the trap.

Specifically, I, for myself, my heirs, legal representatives and assigns, hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless Neighborhood Cats, their past, present and future representatives, officers, directors, agents, employees, successors and assigns, from and against any and all liability related to the loan of the trap(s) and divider(s), including, but not limited to, all actions, causes of action, suits, covenants, claims, and demands whatsoever for any thing and for any reason, in law or equity, which against Neighborhood

Cats, their past, present and future officers, directors, agents, employees, successors and assigns, I, my heirs, executors, successors and assigns ever had, now have, or hereinafter can, shall or may have, for, upon, or by reason of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever in connection with and/or arising from my use or the loan of the trap(s) and divider(s). I understand that Neighborhood Cats shall not bear any responsibility for misuse of the trap(s) and divider(s) by me.

6. Neighborhood Cats makes no representations and/or warranties as to the trap(s) and I take the trap(s) "as is."
7. I hereby warrant that I have the right to enter into this Agreement. I represent that I am over eighteen (18) years of age.
8. I hereby warrant that I have read this Agreement carefully prior to its execution and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a waiver and release of liability and an enforceable legal document between myself and Neighborhood Cats and I sign of my own free will. This Agreement shall be binding upon me and my heirs, executors, successors, assigns or other legal representatives.

Neighborhood Cats reserves the right to refuse trap rental to anyone in the event of noncompliance with the terms of this agreement or intentional or knowing misuse, loss, or damage of any property.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO:

Name:	Signature:
TNR Certification Card #:	Date:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:
Address:	City:
Zip Code:	Email:

Appendix F

CITY OF LONG BEACH—Feral Cat Management Program

Memorandum of Agreement

This Agreement made this 12th day of December, 2005 by and between the City of Long Beach, New York, One West Chester Street, Long Beach New York, and Neighborhood Cats, Inc, a domestic not-for-profit corporation with offices in New York, New York 10025.

1. Purpose of Agreement

Neighborhood Cats (NC) will lead and coordinate a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program in the City of Long Beach (Long Beach) for the purpose of humanely and effectively stabilizing and gradually reducing Long Beach's feral cat population (the "TNR Program"). NC will work with the Long Beach Humane Commissioner, Animal Warden(s) and Animal Control Officer(s) to implement the TNR program. For the purpose of this agreement, a **feral cat** is a cat which has been separated from domestication, whether through abandonment, loss, or running away, and become wild.

The goal of the TNR program is to TNR as quickly as possible all feral cats in Long Beach that can be identified and captured with reasonable, good faith efforts. It is understood and agreed, however, that the realistic goal is not to eliminate 100 percent of new litters of feral kittens during the term of this agreement, but to drastically reduce their occurrence and thereby begin the gradual reduction of the Long Beach feral cat population through attrition.

2. Terms of the Agreement

a. Duration

This agreement will cover the period April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

b. Strategy

NC will follow a three prong strategy for managing feral cats in public and private locations within Long Beach: (1) NC will initiate and pay for TNR of feral cats located on public and municipal areas; (2) feral cats located on private property will be TNR'ed by request of property owners and/or residents for a fee to be paid by the person requesting this service in an amount not to exceed the amounts set forth in paragraph 2.f. of this agreement; and (3) NC will initiate

and conduct cost-free monthly workshops in its New York City offices and at least two (2) cost-free workshops in the City of Long Beach to educate and train Long Beach residents to serve as volunteers in this program.

The following personnel shall be needed to implement the program:

- One (1) Coordinator;
- TNR Workers/Trappers (who may be NC trained volunteers);
- Veterinarians.

c. Funding

Long Beach shall pay twelve thousand five hundred (\$12,500.00) dollars to NC during the term of this agreement to be used exclusively for the TNR program outlined in this agreement. The parties acknowledge and agree that five thousand (\$5,000) dollars was paid by the City to NC on April 8, 2005. The balance of seven thousand five hundred (\$7,500) dollars will be paid to NC as follows: four thousand (\$4,000) dollars within ten (10) business days of the date this agreement is fully executed by all parties, two thousand five hundred (\$2,500) on or before January 1, 2006 and the balance of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars upon receipt of a report certifying that NC has TNR'd at least 150 of the 175 cats to be TNR'd in the City of Long Beach during the term of this agreement.

d. Resources—Items and Services

NC is authorized and agrees to purchase the following items for the TNR program which will be and remain the property of NC during and at the conclusion of this agreement:

- 20 Traps at not more than \$55.00 per trap;
- 8 Dividers at not more than \$15.00 per divider;
- Miscellaneous Trapping Expenses (bait, sheets, transport, extra veterinary care, etc.);
- Office supplies and stationery used exclusively for the TNR program.

NC is authorized and agrees to purchase the following **services** for the TNR Program:

- Retention of a Coordinator, at a salary not to exceed \$15/per hour for up to 8 hours per week during the term of this agreement;
- Veterinarian fees for low cost spay/neuter (including eartip) and rabies vaccination, or euthanasia, if required;
- Phone line/voicemail used exclusively for the TNR program.

e. TNR Goals—Reporting Requirements

NC will spend as much time as required trapping feral cats in the City of Long Beach in order to TNR at least one hundred seventy five (175) feral cats from locations in the City of Long Beach during the term of this agreement. NC will coordinate with the Long Beach Humane Commissioner or his/her designee to determine the location(s) for trapping and to otherwise

facilitate the TNR program. NC will remain responsible for all trapping efforts, including transportation of the cats to and from participating veterinarians. NC shall keep written records describing:

1. the date, location, number and description of cat(s) trapped;
2. the veterinary services or treatment, if any, given to the cat(s) trapped;
3. the date and location where the cat(s) were released.

NC will provide copies of these written records to the Long Beach Humane Commissioner, or his/her designee, reflecting NC's activities to date on or before December 31, 2005 and, thereafter, monthly on the last day of each month during the term of this agreement.

f. Trapping: Private

NC may also TNR feral cats on private property in the City of Long Beach at the request of residents and/or property owners at the rate not to exceed \$50.00 per cat for an untrained resident or property owner, and \$25.00 per cat for a resident or property owner who has attended a NC TNR workshop. No hands on trapping or handling of feral cats will be permitted by other than NC personnel or NC trained volunteers. However, residents or property owners requesting TNR services will be required to adhere to the following preparatory steps:

- i. establish a feeding pattern;
- ii. get a reasonably accurate estimate of the number of cats;
- iii. withhold food the day before the trapping begins;
- iv. notify the neighborhood and seek cooperation.

Notwithstanding other provisions of this paragraph f., NC may use the funds provided for in section 2c. to pay for the TNR of feral cats on private property if a Long Beach resident requests TNR assistance but is unwilling or unable to pay the fees set forth in this section.

g. Consultation and Advice

NC will provide monthly workshops in its New York City offices and at least two (2) workshops in the City of Long Beach to educate and train Long Beach residents to serve as volunteers during the term of this agreement. These workshops will be made available to Long Beach residents, without charge to the resident. Additionally, NC will provide ongoing guidance and assistance at no additional cost on the long-term care of the cats, including feeding, shelter, community relations, emergency trapping, policies, and other matters relating to the TNR of feral cats in the City of Long Beach. NC will provide the Long Beach Humane Commissioner with a written report describing the date(s) the workshop is/was given, and a list of the names of Long Beach residents who successfully completed the program and are available to serve as volunteers.

h. Veterinary Costs and Arrangements

NC will be solely responsible for arranging appropriate veterinary care and making payment to participating veterinarians for their services to cats that have been trapped pursuant to this agreement.

i. Long-Term Maintenance of TNR Program

Provided that NC completes the reports designated in section 2.g. of this agreement, and provided further that the Long Beach Humane Commissioner agrees, in writing, that the goals of stabilization and long-term reduction of the Long Beach feral cat population is being met, NC trained volunteers will be permitted to provide or coordinate long-term maintenance of TNR feral cat colonies at the sites where they are returned.

j. Volunteers

Within ten (10) days after this agreement is fully executed and for the remaining term of this agreement Long Beach will encourage training and volunteer participation by Long Beach residents in the TNR program by including a link to NC www.neighborhoodcats.org and Long Beach Cats www.lbcats.org, and may provide other information about the TNR program on its website.

k. Friendly Cats and Kittens

Disposition of potentially adoptable cats and kittens trapped during the TNR program will be the sole responsibility of NC. While NC encourages adoptive placement for friendly cats and kittens, they will be subject to being TNR'd if no suitable placements are available.

l. "Hold Harmless" and Indemnity

NC agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City of Long Beach, its commissioners, officers, agents, servants, representatives, employees, attorneys, consultants and independent contractors, and to be solely and absolutely liable upon any and all claims, suits and judgments arising from acts or omissions by NC or its employees, agents, consultants, independent contractors and volunteers, including but not limited to any NC retained veterinarians, coordinators or volunteers (whether trained or untrained), in the performance of this agreement, including but not limited to personal injuries, property damages, conversions and trespass. Additionally, NC and all NC trained volunteers will execute and deliver to the Humane Commissioner a release substantially in the form set forth as Exhibit A to this agreement.

Agreed:

Bryan Kortis, Executive Director, Neighborhood Cats

Dated: December ____, 2005

_____, City Manager, City of Long Beach
1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York 11561

Dated: December ____, 2005

Appendix G

THE LONG BEACH CATS Trap-Neuter-Return Program

Our mission

The goal of **Long Beach Cats** is to humanely and effectively reduce the feral and stray cat population of Long Beach through the use of Trap-Neuter-Return, or “TNR.” TNR involves trapping the cats, then getting them neutered, vaccinated for rabies and eartipped for identification. After they’ve recovered from the surgeries, the cats are returned to their sites where caretakers provide food and shelter and monitor for any new cats. TNR is the only method proven to successfully reduce the cats’ numbers over the long term. Efforts to simply remove them have historically failed.

Long Beach Cats is a coalition of the City of Long Beach, local humane organizations, veterinarians, resident animal activists and Neighborhood Cats, a nationally recognized feral cat organization based in New York City. All contributions to Long Beach Cats (*please make checks out to “Neighborhood Cats—Long Beach”*) are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

The program

Long Beach residents can participate in the TNR program in one of three ways:

1. Cover the veterinary costs—\$50 per cat

If you raise the funds needed to pay for the cats’ spay/neuter, **Long Beach Cats** will arrange for the trapping, transport and neutering. We will need your assistance in counting the cats beforehand, notifying neighbors about the project and controlling the cats’ feeding prior to the trapping.

2. Take a training workshop and participate in the trapping—\$25 per cat

Once a month in New York City, usually the first Saturday of the month, Neighborhood Cats conducts a three-hour training workshop on TNR. If you attend and then help out with the trapping, **Long Beach Cats** will split the veterinary costs with you.

3. Report a problem situation and help as much as you’re able—no cost

Long Beach Cats aims to neuter as many feral and stray cats in the city as possible and will still assist even if you are unwilling or unable to bear any of the costs. However, assistance will depend on the availability of alternative funding and priority will be given to residents who do help out with the veterinary bill.

Next step

Fill out the attached “Request for Assistance” Form and mail it back to us.

Our Program Coordinator will contact you to discuss what needs to be done next.

Appendix H

LONG BEACH CATS—Request for Assistance With TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Project

Instructions: Please fill out the following if you are requesting assistance with a Trap-Neuter-Return Project and mail to:

Long Beach Cats, 248 W. Park Ave., No. 255, Long Beach, NY 11561

Information About You:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Phone #(s):
4. Email:
5. My involvement with the cats can be described as follows (*circle as many as apply*):
 - a. I am their caretaker (and provide food and/or shelter).
 - b. The cats live or roam on my property.
 - c. The cats live in my neighborhood but are not often on my property.
 - d. Other (explain): _____
6. My financial involvement with a TNR project will be (*circle one*):
 - a. To pay (or raise funds to pay) \$50 per cat.
 - b. To take a TNR training workshop and pay (or raise funds to pay) \$25 per cat.
 - c. I will not assume any financial responsibility for the project.

Information About the Cats:

7. Location of the cats (cross-streets or approximate address):
8. Estimated # of cats:
9. # of cats neutered:
10. Regular feeder: YES NO
11. Shelter provided: YES NO
12. COMMENTS (continue on back):

Appendix I

NYC FERAL CAT INITIATIVE—Protocol

Step one: Caretaker or interested party contacts us for the first-time about TNR.

Step two: Caretaker is advised of our training workshop requirement, available services and protocol.

Step three: Caretaker (or someone assisting the Caretaker) attends one of Neighborhood Cats' twice-monthly workshops.

Step four: Caretaker secures holding space AND schedules spay/neuter date.

Step five: Caretaker contacts Feral Cat Initiative by phone or online Request for Assistance form to request equipment, help finding volunteers or other assistance **OR** TNR Director contacts Caretaker after reviewing ASPCA s/n schedule to see if assistance is needed.

Step six: TNR Director confirms holding space, s/n date, transport, etc., then attempts, if necessary, to arrange for expert volunteer on-site assistance during the trapping. Coordinates with Trap Bank Manager, if necessary, to arrange equipment (or refers Caretaker to other trap banks). Other assistance provided as needed and available.

Financial or transport assistance may be provided in special circumstances.

Step seven: TNR Director monitors project while ongoing for special needs.

Step eight: TNR Director collects data on cats TNR'd and rescued.

Appendix J

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN: How to Manage a Feral Cat Colony Sample Workshop Outline

(Suggested length of workshop: 3 hours)

I. Introduction to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

A. What Is TNR?

B. The Advantages of TNR

1. Colony level
 - a. population control (no more kittens)
 - b. dramatically reduced noise (from fighting and mating) and odor (from unaltered males spraying)
 - c. continued rodent control
 - d. improved community relations
2. Community level
 - a. lower cat intake and euthanasia rates for local shelters
 - b. cost savings for animal control from volunteer workforce
 - c. improved public image for animal control

C. No Effective Alternatives

1. Trap and remove (a.k.a. “trap and kill”) doesn’t work over time
 - a. vacuum effect (neighboring cats move in)
 - b. overbreeding by cats not caught in colony
 - c. abandonment of domestic cats
 - d. not enough animal control and volunteer resources

2. Rescue is ineffective on a global scale
 - a. too many cats
 - b. socialization of ferals beyond kittenhood is a long, difficult process
3. Stop feeding—cats don't go away, still reproduce

II. The First Step—Community Relations

A. Importance of Good Relations

1. Facilitates the project
2. Educates the neighborhood
3. Helps provide long-term security for the cats

B. Steps to Achieve Good Community Relations

1. Educate yourself on TNR so you can speak proficiently
 - a. Neighborhood Cats (www.neighborhoodcats.org)
 - b. Alley Cat Allies (www.alleycat.org)
2. Gather information
 - a. get to know the neighborhood and who feeds the cats
 - b. post flyers announcing program and seeking help
 - c. attend community board meeting or hold a local meeting
 - d. repeat the mantra: no kittens, less noise, less smell, plus rodent control
3. Deal with hostility toward the cats
 - a. be understanding (the neighbors are living with the noise and odor)
 - b. never argue—be professional in your approach
 - c. learn tips for keeping cats out of gardens and yards
 - d. learn how to deal with poisoning threats (sample flyers)

III. Hands-On Techniques (live demonstrations)

A. How to Use a Humane Box Trap

1. Cardboard extender for trip plate
2. Covering traps with sheets
3. Baiting techniques
4. Recommended traps

B. How to Care for Cats in Traps

1. Trap dividers for feeding and cleaning
2. Recommended dividers
3. Advantages of placing traps on a table
4. (Show “Caring for Cats in Traps” portion of *How to Perform a Mass Trapping* video)

C. How to Handle Escapes and Injuries

1. *Never* attempt to recapture a cat with bare hands
2. Recapture techniques (review *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook*)
3. Consult medical doctor for bites and scratches

IV. Preparations for Trapping

A. Establish a Feeding Pattern

1. To facilitate the trapping, train the cats to eat at the same time and place
2. Count the cats (take notes and photographs) for accurate spay/neuter scheduling
3. Determine the cats’ status—i.e., are there any adoptable, sick, or injured cats— and begin to make the necessary arrangements

B. Find a Holding Space for 4–6 Days

1. Evaluate the holding space—is it warm, dry, and secure?
2. Place plastic drop cloths on tables and the floor

C. Schedule a Spay/Neuter Date

1. Provide list of local spay/neuter resources and their contact information and provide of summary of scheduling procedures
2. List standard veterinary treatment: spay/neuter, eartip, rabies vaccination
3. Emphasize that all cats must be brought in humane traps and covered

D. Arrange Transportation to and from Clinic, If Necessary

E. Reserve or Secure Equipment

1. Have more traps than cats
2. Provide list of local trap banks and their contact information and a summary of the borrowing procedures

F. Arrange for Emergency Veterinary Care, If Possible

V. Trapping (show "Trapping" portion of *How to Perform a Mass Trapping* video)

A. Basic Procedures

1. Withhold food the entire day before (e.g., if you're trapping on Friday, the last feeding should be on Wednesday)
2. Begin trapping at least two, preferably three, days before the spay/neuter date
3. Use more than one kind of bait (cheap tuna plus one other)
4. Prepare traps as demonstrated
5. Set all or most of the traps in the territory at once
6. Place traps alongside or against structures, not out in the open
7. Make a trail with bait
8. Stand back and keep a low profile
9. Once a cat is trapped, if he or she is getting frantic, cover and move the trap out of sight of the untrapped cats; if the trapped cat is calm, leave the trap alone while the trapping is still underway
10. Put a new trap where an old trap worked ("hot spots")
11. Label and log cats who are trapped

B. Special Cases (kittens, nursing mothers, pregnant) (review *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook*)

C. Hard to Catch Cats (review *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook*)

1. The Drop Trap

VI. Spay/Neuter Date

A. Presurgery

1. Withhold food and water after 10 p.m. the night before—consult veterinarian regarding how long to withhold food and water from kittens
2. Bring cats in on time

B. Postsurgery

1. Anesthetic recovery stages
 - a. unconscious
 - b. shivering/twitching
 - c. woozy/unsteady
 - d. lying still
2. Warning signs
 - a. unconscious after two hours
 - b. pools of blood (not just drops or a tinge of blood in urine)

C. Seriously Ill Cats

1. Discuss with veterinary staff whether the illness is treatable
2. If not treatable and the illness is terminal, discuss whether euthanasia is appropriate

VII. Recovery/Release

1. Normally hold 48 hours (male and female), longer if sick, pregnant, etc.
2. If they are awake and alert, nursing mothers can be released after 24 hours if necessary
3. Release in same location trapped
4. Relocation requires three weeks' confinement in new territory

VIII. Food and Shelter

A. Feeding Station

1. Location (ideal spot has low visibility and good access for feeders)
2. Types of feeding stations: automatic feeders/waterers if possible, sheltered from rain (e.g., Rubbermaid storage bin with side cut out)
 - a. if you build one, it must be completely open on at least one side to prevent dominant cats from excluding others

3. Type of food (the best you can comfortably afford)
 - a. healthier food means stronger immune systems
 - b. supplement with fresh raw or cooked meat (ground chuck) (add one teaspoon calcium lactate or bone meal to one pound of meat to balance calcium/phosphate)
 - c. other supplements (vitamin C, vitamin-mineral mix, steamed broccoli, dried barley leaves)
4. Tricks for maintaining feeding stations
 - a. ants—moat in a dish
 - b. rain—plastic cover over dish
 - c. fences—arm extenders
 - d. slugs—feed separately
 - e. pigeons—feed cats after dark
 - f. raccoons—feed cats during day
 - g. preventing water from freezing
5. The importance of maintaining clean feeding stations (unsanitary conditions are the number one complaint against feeders)

B. Winter Shelter

1. Types (styrofoam, storage bins, packing crates, etc.)
2. Placement (remote, near feeding station)
3. Dry is as important as warm
4. Insulating materials (best are straw, hay, or shredded newspaper; worst are blankets, towels, folded newspaper)
5. Extreme cold (Mylar blankets to line floor, walls; PurrPads)

IX. Other Topics in Feral Cat Care

A. Releasing FIV- or FeLV-Positive Cats

B. Adoption

X. Other Local Feral Cat Resources

1. Provide list of any local feral cat coalitions or other TNR organizations
2. Provide list of any online discussion groups or regular meetings
3. Provide list of any e-mail networks

Appendix K

Trap Bank Procedures

General Notes

- Please read the Trap Loan Agreement (copy attached) for details of loan requirements.
- Traps are rented between [hour] and [hour] from [day of week] to [day of week].
- Traps are only available to participants who hold a Neighborhood Cats TNR certification card in their own name. To be eligible, participants must attend a Neighborhood Cats feral cat training workshop, after which they will receive a certification card with an identification number on it.
- Traps may not be rented for more than ____ days.
- Deposit required is \$____ per trap and \$____ per divider. Deposits are forfeited if equipment is damaged, lost, stolen, or not returned.

Reservation Procedures

- To reserve traps and trap dividers over the phone or by e-mail, a participant must give his/her TNR certification card number.
- Reservations should be entered into the Trap Bank Log, along with the other required information (name, phone, number of traps, date reserved, date due, etc.)
- Trap dividers should be loaned out in pairs, no more than two pairs at a time.
- Confirm that the number of traps will be available on the date desired by checking the Trap Bank Log.

Loan Procedures

- To pick up the traps and dividers, a participant must show his/her TNR certification card and separate photo ID.
- Fill in the required information at the top of the Trap Loan Agreement form—number of traps, number of dividers, trap numbers, and due date.
- At the bottom of the form, fill in the TNR certification card number by checking the TNR certification card.
- Have client fill in remaining information at the bottom of the form (address, phone, etc.) and have client sign agreement.
- Collect required amount of money for deposit.
- Provide a copy of agreement to client.
- Enter relevant information into Trap Bank Log.

Return Procedures

- Check that the traps loaned out are the ones being returned (both with regard to quantity and trap numbers).
- Check that the correct number of dividers are being returned.
- Check that the traps have been cleaned and not obviously damaged. If there is a problem, inform the client that the failure to clean or to return equipment in good condition could mean denial of future equipment loans.
- Return **clean** equipment only to storage area. Otherwise, clean first, then return.

Notes

Notes

Notes



MEREDITH WEISS, NEIGHBORHOOD CATS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES®

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100 ■ www.humanesociety.org

©2007 The HSUS. All rights reserved.
Printed on recycled paper, acid free and
elemental chlorine free, with soy-based ink.