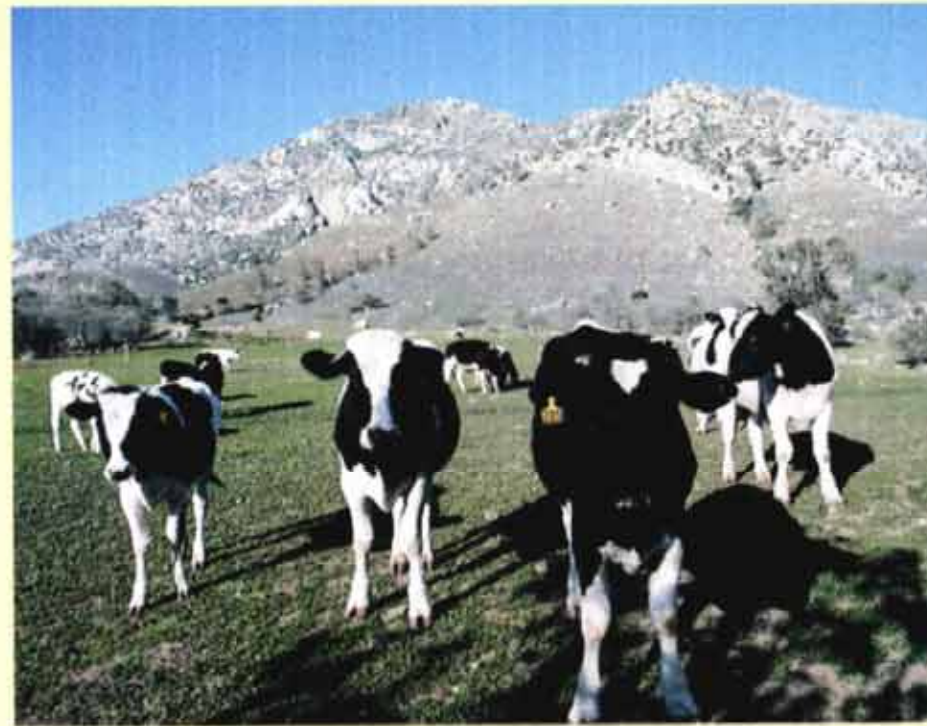


Database Registry:

T.T.P.A. has developed a database/registry to track animal abusers. This database will prevent those who have been convicted of animal abuse from obtaining more animals from pet shops and animal shelters. T.T.P.A. will work with the Nevada State Legislature during the next session, in 2017, to have a bill passed so it can be implemented.



**Empowering
those who
promote empathy
through education**

**(With thanks to Association of
Professional Humane Educators)**



Animal Welfare: requires providing for an animals physical and mental needs. They must be provided water, food, and shelter appropriate for their species. Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize their fear, pain, stress and suffering. Caring for animals requires disease prevention through proper nutrition, and veterinary care when they are sick; humane handling at all times and humane slaughter when it is required.



T.T.P.A.

is a nonprofit organization under IRS 501c(3) (pending). Money will be used to educate the public, especially children, not to abuse any animals, and if they see animal abuse, how to report it to the proper authorities.

Donations are tax deductible.



Tactical Team for the Protection of Animals (All Animals) T.T.P.A.

**Tactical Team for the Protection
of Animals (All Animals) T.T.P.A.**

3930 Brant St.

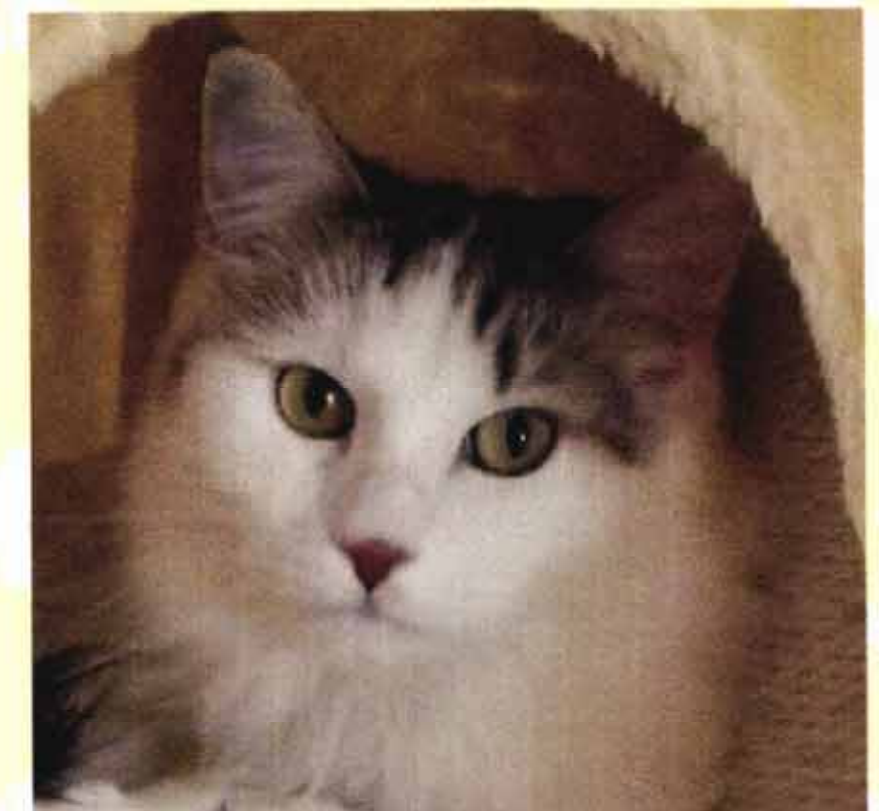
Reno, NV 89508-8465

Karen Jacobs, Director

(775) 772-9411

usaproudoofmycountry@gmail.com

www.tacticalteamanimalttpa.org



August 24, 2015

Mr. Driscoll, Chairman, Mayor Martini, and council members Ms. Ratti, Ms. Bybee, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Smith and Mr. Lawson,

I am against the proposal to euthanize feral cats in our Sparks Community. I have been a Sparks resident for 19 years and, to my knowledge, there has never been an issue over these feral cats. Perhaps, in some areas, it appears they have overpopulated. I can understand the frustration of those who are for this proposal. We do need to reduce the feral cat population.

If residents would spay and neuter their cats, the feral population would decline. Some people have moved and left their cats on the streets to fend for themselves. Many of these cats have never been spayed or neutered.

Fining residents who feed the feral cats is not a reasonable or possible solution. Many of the ferals in our community have been spayed and neutered.

We must protect our No-Kill Cat Community. Euthanizing a cat is far more expensive than spaying or neutering.

Yes, there are concerns about the need to control these ferals and together we can solve the problem instead of euthanizing the animals.

Linda Platshon

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) supports the proposed ordinance change to prohibit feral cat colonies. NDOW is very concerned about the serious negative effects of feral cats on native wildlife because of both direct predation and disease transmission. Feral and free-ranging domestic cats are exotic species to North America. Exotic species are recognized as one of the most widespread and serious threats to the integrity of native wildlife populations and natural ecosystems. A growing body of literature is increasingly documenting these effects. For example, a 2013 study showed that feral cats are responsible for an estimated 1.4 to 3.7 billion bird deaths and 6.9 – 20.7 billion mammal deaths annually in the United States (Loss et al., 2013). The majority of these birds are protected by Federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The impact of predation by feral cats not only affects species by direct predation, but also increases competition with native predators for the same prey populations.

In addition to predation, NDOW is seriously concerned about disease transmission, both for human and wildlife populations. Diseases such as rabies and Toxoplasmosis may be transmitted to humans and wildlife, and feral cats have been identified as vectors for avian flu. Feral cats may be reservoirs for parasites such as roundworms and fleas. Additionally, a study in Florida found that 75 percent of cats within a colony were infected with hookworms, a parasite known to affect humans and other wildlife. One time vaccinations do not adequately solve the disease issue. For example, as any pet owner knows, cats need to get rabies shots periodically over their lives in order to maintain immunity against the disease.

Feral cats should not be released after capture for many reasons, including their impact on native wildlife and their own health and well-being. However if cats must be released, at a minimum, feral cat colonies should be prohibited near or in any conservation area, state or federal land (including National Park Service, National Forest, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management), wetlands or any other lands managed for wildlife. Additionally, any colony should be adequately tracked and monitored, documenting the numbers of cats, the conditions of cats, and a decrease in numbers over time. All colony locations should be maintained in a central database with a central point of contact. These measures can help minimize the impacts that feral cats have on our native wildlife.

Thank you.

Citation:

Loss, Scott R., Tom Will, and Peter P. Marra. 2013. The Impact of Free-ranging Domestic Cats on Wildlife in the United States. *Nature Communications* 4: #1396.

Jennifer Newmark
NV Dept. of Wildlife

I'm here before you today to discuss the issue of feral cats. Too often when the topic comes up, it becomes a very emotional highly-charged derisive debate and in the process an important aspect is frequently overlooked. Which is that people who are for feral cats and people who are against feral cats actually have the exact same goal... which is to eradicate the feral cat population.

So that, in and of itself, is great news. We all want the same thing. So now we just have to figure out how to do it. Which is where people tend to divide into two basic groups. Those who support 'Catch and Kill': a euthanasia-based approach and those who support TNRM: Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor – a caretaker, attrition-through-controlling-reproduction based-approach.

With 'Catch and Kill', we have an approach that dates back over 300 years to colonial times, when animals roaming loose were collected by the pound and you had to pay the town's poundmaster to get them back. Unfortunately, pounds soon discovered that while people needed their livestock back, they frequently opted to forego paying the fine to get their dog or cat back. As a result, pounds had to start euthanizing their growing collection of unwanted animals.

And that approach of catching and killing unwanted animals continued for the next 300 some odd years. The problem is it didn't decrease the number of unwanted animals. In fact, the number of unwanted animals increased. So much so that by the 1970's, the United States was euthanizing approximately 20 million dogs and cats annually... at a tremendous cost to cities with those numbers only increasing.

The 1970's is when people started to realize that if you wanted to fix the problem you needed to address the root cause, which is that cats and dogs are simply able to reproduce faster than we are able to kill them. So animal shelters started spaying and neutering their adoptable pets. Low cost spay/neuter clinics opened up. Veterinarians started encouraging people to spay and neuter their pets. And lo and behold, it started working. In fact it started working great. So much so that today the number of healthy but unwanted animals that are euthanized each year is now around 2 ½ million. Which is about 12% of what it was in the 70s.

And that is an amazing success rate. In fact, it is so successful, that we rarely see truly feral dogs roaming free within a city's limits. Dogs tend to be larger, easier to spot and less able to survive on their own without attracting the attention of humans. Cats on the other hand present a more difficult challenge. Cats are very skilled at returning to a feral state and avoiding humans even within the confines of a modern city.

So the question became not whether spaying and neutering was successful... it clearly was... the question became how do we spay and neuter feral cats in large enough numbers when they are so skilled at avoiding us. And that gave birth to the TNRM movement. By providing the cats with a stable food source and building trust with them, it became easier to trap them. Now, I realize some people will think, that's great, if we have gotten better at trapping them can't we just use that opportunity to euthanize them?

However it turns out the answer is no, because humans quite simply can't be everywhere at once. If you euthanize all the cats in one area, by the time you head to the next area, new cats are already showing back up in the area you just left. The success of TNRM is that it enlists the assistance of the cats to aid us in doing what we are unable to do without them. In exchange for being fed and cared for, the TNRM cats, that can no longer reproduce, watch over their territories and prevent new cats from taking up residence. This allows us to move onto other areas that haven't been address yet. TNRM cats are like having little security guards working for you round the clock. And that is the reason we are finally seeing a reduction in the feral cat population.

I understand that people get frustrated and impatient and just want the feral cat problem to be solved, But this is a problem that was over 300 years in the making and it cannot be fixed overnight. However the amount of progress that has been made in the last 40 years has been astounding, we are simply asking for people's patience while we address this last piece of the puzzle.

When the choice is between killing cats in an antiquated unsuccessful approach to controlling the population vs managed humane care that allows the existing cats to be given respect and safety while successfully decreasing their numbers... why are these options that even need to be discussed? Please advance our city in a positive direction by supporting the only approach that has proven successful and also has the added benefit of being compassionate. Please support spaying and neutering and please support TNRM.

-Carol Blum 8/24/15. Resident of Sparks, NV, 775-358-6892

To kill or not to kill that is the question. There is passion on both sides of the equation, although if you examine the local data you will find the following. At the Washoe County Animal Services ordinance meetings, 89% of the commenters were for TNR and 11% were opposed. During the 2015 Legislative Session, there were 146 comments made into the online system. 107 or 74% were for AB261 and 39 or 26% were against. In both cases the majority of commenters were for TNR and by extension the No Kill philosophy. You are now poised to take that away. By passing this Zoning Code change, you will be responsible for doing away with the No Kill philosophy in this county and turn back the clock to a more primitive time when animals were considered property and not fully, feeling sentient beings. Much has been made of the hard life that outside cats have and so should be rounded up and killed. All animals that live outside have hard lives-they get hit by cars, they get poisoned, they get trapped, etc. Should we round them all up and kill them? We, humans, caused this problem so it is up to us to solve it, but the solution you are now proposing is to trap and kill which is only one side of the story. I strongly suggest that you eliminate Subsection C under Section 20.03.005 from the Zoning Code and join with Washoe County into being a safe place for animals. If you can't do that, then hold the meetings and really try to work out the differences between the proponents of No Kill – Kill communities so that a compromise can be reached. Thank you.

Deborah Banks

Sparks NV

Cassandra Fledger
Sun Valley, NV

Janet Flinn
Sparks NV
775-776-2728

**COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 4, SPARKS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2015**

Mr. Mayor and Council Members, I'm Dr. Richard Simmonds, a Nevada licensed veterinarian and Vice Chair of the Washoe County Animal Control Board. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

As you know, I am actively involved in a number of local and state organizations involved in animal related issues and I need to emphasize that my comments today are my own and do not represent the opinions or positions of any of those organizations.

Later in today's agenda you will consider the second reading of the proposed amendments to the "City of Sparks, Nevada Zoning Code" (agenda item 11). I urge you to vote to accept the proposed Zoning Code revision as submitted, including the verbiage relating to feral cat colonies, bee hives, and chickens (Sections 20.03.005 - Animals and 20.03.044 – Urban Agriculture).

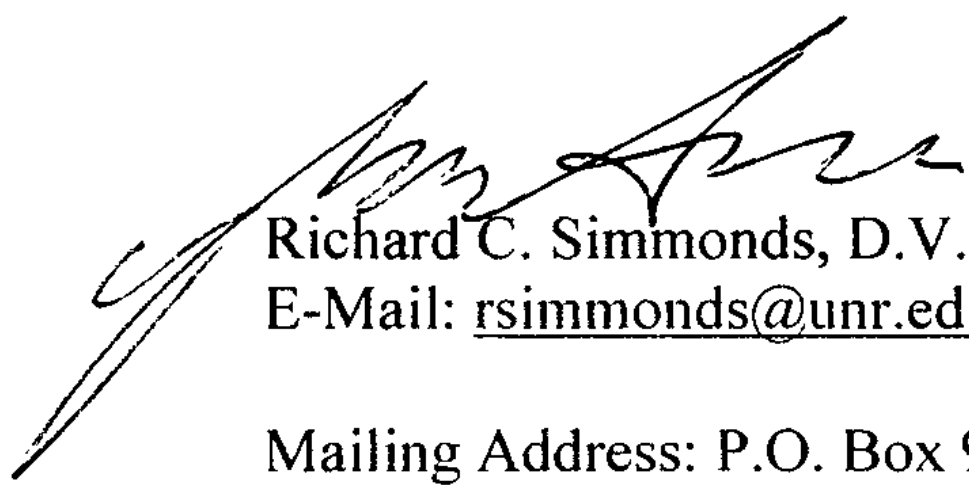
By now, I'm sure that you have been inundated with input regarding these animal related provisions and it is unlikely that you will hear anything new today. If it is your decision to accept the proposed revised zoning code with these animal related provisions deleted, to be reconsidered at some later date, I submit that you will again be inundated with emotional pleadings by those who are passionately invested in one or another of these controversial issues. However, the facts will not change.

I ask only that you base your vote today on facts and not emotion.

In regards to feral cat colonies, I believe that the significant facts are that they:

- are a potential serious public health hazard,
- are a serious threat to native and migrating wildlife, as well as owned cats,
- are a significant nuisance, and
- can be "officially" established without the consent of the property owners and residents impacted by their presence.

Thank you again.


Richard C. Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S., DACLAM
E-Mail: rsimmonds@unr.edu

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9059, Reno, NV 89507

**COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 11, SPARKS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AUGUST 24, 2015**

Mr. Mayor and Council Members, I'm Dr. Richard Simmonds, a Nevada licensed veterinarian and Vice Chair of the Washoe County Animal Control Board. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

As you know, I am actively involved in a number of local and state organizations involved in animal related issues and I need to emphasize that my comments today are my own and do not represent the opinions or positions of any of those organizations.

Earlier this afternoon I listed what I believe are the significant facts relating to feral cat colonies, i.e., that they:

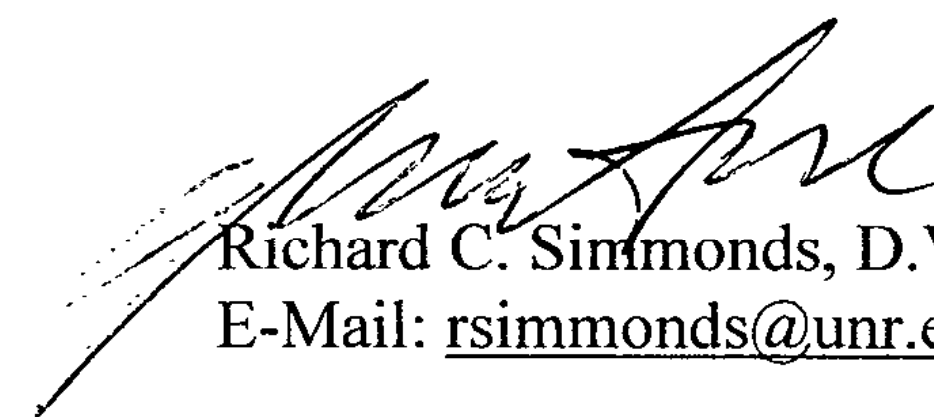
- are a potential serious public health hazard,
- are a serious threat to native and migrating wildlife, as well as owned cats,
- are a significant nuisance, and
- can be "officially" established without the consent of the property owners and residents impacted by their presence.

I would like to add that it might be instructive to note that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), arguably the most radical and strident advocate organization for animal rights opposes TNR programs based on their concern for animal welfare:

Turning away homeless cats who are at risk, many shelters promote so-called "trap-neuter-release" programs, which may allow them to spin their intake and euthanasia numbers while doing nothing to protect cats from the horrors that befall them when left outdoors to battle harsh surroundings, sickness, and sadistic people (<http://www.peta.org/features/31-outdoor-cat-stories/>, accessed 31 Jul 15)

Further, regardless of Washoe County's efforts to codify the establishment of feral cat colonies, it is likely that the "release" aspect of such programs still violates the state statute that prohibits "abandonment" of animals (NRS 574.100, §1.(f)).

Thank you again.


Richard C. Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S., DACLAM
E-Mail: rsimmonds@unr.edu

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9059, Reno, NV 89507