

10/12/15  
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Best  
Friends  
Animal  
Society

SAVE THEM ALL®

October 9, 2015

Mayor Martini and Sparks Council  
Legislative Building  
745 4th Street  
Sparks, NV 89431

RE: Support for Sparks' TNR program

Dear Mayor Martini and Council Members:

I'm writing to encourage your continued support of trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts in Sparks, an integral part of the progressive sheltering practices that have put Washoe County on the map as a no-kill community. It's no wonder such programs are becoming increasingly popular not just among animal welfare advocates, but among animal sheltering professionals, too, including the National Animal Care and Control Association.<sup>1</sup>

And yet, I understand elected officials are hearing from some individuals and organizations opposed to TNR. In addition, the City Attorney has recommended the approval of Chapter 20.29.025, which would prohibit feeding, sheltering or providing sustenance to feral cats within the boundaries of the City of Sparks. Such a policy is, at best, misguided and would very likely backfire — resulting in *more* unowned, free-roaming cats, not fewer.

I hope to address the Council during Monday's meeting, but due to time constraints, will be able to address various concerns only briefly. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to respond in greater detail.

### **TNR Reduces the Number of Community Cats**

Best Friends operates more large-scale community cat programs than any other organization in the country. As such, we are in a unique position to comment on the positive impact such programs have not only on the cats, but on animal shelters and the communities they serve. And the successes we've seen, in our own programs and others, echo the findings of research studies demonstrating both the effectiveness of TNR to stabilize and reduce the population of cats at a local, or "colony" level,<sup>2-7</sup> and TNR's broad public support.<sup>8-11</sup>

Two well-known examples illustrate the larger point. A survey of colony caregivers (caring for 103 cat colonies) in Rome, Italy, revealed a 22% decrease overall in the number of cats despite a 21% rate of "cat immigration." Although some colonies experienced initial increases, numbers began to decrease significantly after three years of TNR: "colonies neutered three, four, five or six years before the survey showed progressive decreases of 16, 29, 28 and 32%, respectively."<sup>3</sup> (Such long-term decreases are unheard of where the traditional trap-and-kill approach has been used.) And in Randolph County, NC, a long-term study documented a 36% average decrease among six sterilized colonies in the first two years while three unsterilized colonies experienced an average 47% *increase* over the same period.<sup>12</sup> Four years into the study, one colony had been reduced



The most recent U.S. rabies surveillance data (shown in the map above), compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, indicate that 247 cats tested positive for rabies during 2013, the lowest reported since 1991.<sup>15</sup>

Naturally, public health concerns focus less on animal exposures than on human exposures to rabid animals (including cats). Nationally, a study of “11 geographically diverse university-affiliated, urban emergency departments” found that, of 2,030 patients enrolled, 1,635 exposures (81%) were attributed to dogs, and 268 (13%) to cats.<sup>16</sup> In other words, dog-related exposures were *six times as likely* to send people to the hospital compared to cat-related exposures.

### **Toxoplasmosis**

While toxoplasmosis is a legitimate public health concern, “epidemiological studies often disagree on important risk factors for infection and disease, making health recommendations difficult to uniformly advocate.”<sup>17</sup> Moreover, data from the large-scale National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey reveal a significant decrease between 1988 and 2010 in age-adjusted seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* among people 12–49 years of age born in the U.S.: 1988–1994: 14.1%; 1999–2004: 9.0%; 2009–10: 6.6%.<sup>18</sup>

Over this same period, the popularity of TNR increased dramatically,<sup>19</sup> raising doubts about any suggestion that community cats pose a serious threat of infecting humans with the *T. gondii* parasite. And in 2013, researchers reported that unmanaged “feral” cats are 4.8 times more likely to be exposed to the *T. gondii* parasite than managed colony cats, and 11.8 times more likely to shed infectious spore-like oocysts in their feces.<sup>20</sup> Feeding community cats would therefore seem to be an effective measure at reducing the likelihood of *T. gondii* exposure in both cats and, by extension, humans.

### **TNR Reduces the Risk of Predation**

Because TNR reduces the number of community cats in an area, it’s generally the most effective way to reduce the risk of wildlife predation. Unfortunately, this common-sense observation is often lost in the debate, in part because reports of alleged impacts are often wildly exaggerated, making them “media-friendly” stories that attract a lot of attention. Reviewing dozens of predation studies, however, researchers have concluded: “there are few, if any studies apart from island ones that actually demonstrate that cats have reduced bird populations.”<sup>21</sup>

Indeed, a recent headline from a National Geographic story confirmed what cat owners and colony caregivers have known for many years: “Island’s Feral Cats Kill Surprisingly Few Birds, Video Shows.”<sup>22</sup> Indeed, the researcher who pioneered the “KittyCam” method used for this study conceded in a 2012 interview, “Cats aren’t as bad as biologists thought.”<sup>23</sup> (In the first study, involving 55 pet cats, just 5 bird kills were observed over the course of 2,000 hours of video-recordings.<sup>24</sup>)

“When considering the magnitude and effects of cat predation on their prey populations,” argues one prominent researcher, it is important to recognize that “estimates of total predation (e.g., number of prey items taken by all cats over a one-year period) are meaningless from an ecological point of view unless put into relation to the entire population of that prey species and its annual production rate.”<sup>25</sup> Yet, very few studies take this into consideration. Moreover, predation, even at high levels, does not necessarily lead to population-level impacts. Like all predators, cats tend to prey on the young, the old, the weak, or unhealthy. At least two studies have investigated this in great detail, revealing that birds killed by cats are, on average, significantly less healthy than birds killed through non-predatory events (e.g., collisions with windows or cars).<sup>26,27</sup>

## TNR Improves the Health of Community Cats

According to the City Attorney's analysis, "the concentration of feral cats in a colony results in a far greater likelihood of disease transmission within the colony and thereafter into the surrounding parcels within our community." In fact, numerous studies have demonstrated the opposite to be true. Of the 2,366 cats admitted to a two-year, high-impact TNR program in one Alachua County, Florida, zip code, for example, only 16 (0.7%) were ineligible for the program due to health issues.<sup>7</sup> In San José, California, where more than 10,000 community cats were sterilized and returned over a four-year period as part of a shelter-based community cat program, it was observed that "impounded feral cats are surprisingly healthy and have good bodyweight."<sup>28</sup>

Indeed, colony cats are, generally speaking, just as healthy as pet cats. It's been shown, for instance, that community cats "under very high levels of management... had similar baseline health status to pet cats."<sup>12</sup> And a study of 1,876 colony cats in North Carolina and Florida revealed a 4.3% rate of feline leukemia (FeLV) prevalence, and a 3.5% rate of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) seroprevalence, "similar to infection rates reported for owned cats."<sup>29</sup> Comparable findings have been reported in Ontario, Canada.<sup>30</sup>

## TNR Reduces Nuisance Complaints

The City Attorney's analysis also places a great emphasis on the risk of nuisance complaints: "Perhaps the most striking and offensive negative land use to adjacent properties associated with Washoe County's feral cat program is the nuisance behavior that will be perpetrated upon Sparks' residents and businesses." Again, TNR efforts in Sparks are nothing new; where's the evidence that nuisance complaints increased as a result? In fact, it's well known that TNR efforts tend to *reduce* nuisance complaints because the surgical sterilization of cats (i.e., "spaying" females and "neutering" males) eliminates production of the hormones estrogen and testosterone, thereby reducing the likelihood of various mating-related behaviors (e.g., yowling, fighting, spraying, etc.) that can lead to such complaints.

According to researchers with the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D), "it seems to be widely accepted that male cats will be less likely to roam, urine spray, vocalize, and fight when they are sterilized." Summarizing their review of the relevant research, the authors of a 2013 report from ACC&D write: "credible studies indicate that neutering reduces urine spraying and roaming in search of mates by male cats, and spaying eliminates estrous-associated behaviors in female cats, including aggression, vocalization and perhaps efforts to escape outdoors in order to mate."<sup>31</sup> As the Humane Society of the United States explains in *Managing Community Cats: A Guide for Municipal Leaders* (published in 2014, in cooperation with the International City/County Management Association), "community-wide TNR programs are effective" in part because they "decrease nuisance complaints by eliminating or dramatically reducing noise from cat fighting and mating and odor from unneutered male cats spraying urine to mark their territory."<sup>32</sup>

Among the research documenting such benefits are case studies on the Texas A&M University campus;<sup>33</sup> in Orange County<sup>34</sup> and Alachua County<sup>7</sup> Florida; at the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana;<sup>35</sup> and in "an urban region of Israel."<sup>36</sup> Perhaps the most dramatic results were reported in Harrington, Delaware, where 550 cats (93% of the pre-trapping count) were sterilized and vaccinated as part of a community cat program, resulting in a 98% reduction in the number of nuisance calls.<sup>37</sup>

## TNR is Sound Public Policy

Sound policy requires sound science, and the science is quite clear: there are only two ways proven to reduce the population of community cats: (1) intensive TNR efforts or (2) intensive eradication efforts, such as those employed on small oceanic islands. On barren, uninhabited Marion Island, for example, it took 19 years to exterminate approximately 2,200 cats — using feline distemper, poisoning, hunting and trapping, and dogs.<sup>38,39</sup> (As a result, the island is now overrun

with mice, threatening the very wildlife whose protection was used to justify eradication of cats.<sup>40)</sup> On Ascension Island — roughly the size of Sparks — a four-year restoration project “including eradication effort [resulting in the deaths of 635 cats] and monitoring of cats and seabirds” cost taxpayers nearly \$1.3M (in 2013 dollars).<sup>41)</sup>

Obviously, such methods are unlikely to gain much support in Sparks or anyplace else in the U.S. (and the City Attorney’s analysis indicates that adoption of Chapter 20.29.025 would require no additional funding). And, as I’ve already indicated, we know the “traditional” approach is ineffective. All of which makes TNR the clear choice — regardless of how one feels about the cats. I therefore urge you and your colleagues to continue to support Sparks’ TNR program, and vote against the adoption of Chapter 20.29.025.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I look forward to meeting you Monday evening. If you have any questions about this issue, or about our community cat programs, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address below or by telephone at 602.499.1474.

Respectfully,



Peter J. Wolf  
Cat Initiatives Analyst  
Best Friends Animal Society  
peterw@bestfriends.org

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10/12/15  
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October 12, 2015

I understand you are under pressure, from outside factions, currently using our land for gain. I appreciate that. My concern is that you may select the politically expedient, non-solution. Appeasement may seem the easier short term option, however, be aware that currently 138 communities of the alleged 250 who have adopted this program are in a process of repealing it, most notably Washington DC.

I would remind you that you were elected to represent the health and safety, as well as the fiduciary interests of all of residents of Sparks. That is not just the cat feeders, who may be "300 alleged" Sparks residents.

Assuming there are (as claimed) 300 feeders that means it's a bigger problem for disease and destruction than we realized, having said that. Looking at Sparks 90,000 plus population, the cat feeders are .003321 % or less than 1/3 of 1 % . Therefore Sparks has 99.66333 % percent of the population who not only " don't feed cats on other peoples property " but are probably not aware that cats are being maintained on City property. Some say they " support it" but when asked if they want it next door to their home or their business, they don't. So they support it " somewhere else" but not really in their back yard.

You can vote to allow this illegal practice to continue, permitting the erosion of property rights and public safety, but you cannot pretend that you don't know better. And that is where it will get very messy when the Fertilizer hits the Mixmaster, and it will.

There hasn't been a noticeable problem yet because they have been keeping it under the radar, but feeders are becoming more aggressive because they have confused codification with a persons property rights. Neither Washoe County or the /City of Sparks can authorize a feeder to keep cats upon my land, or to enter upon my land.

Ardena Perry  
626-0137



10/12/15  
At 11.5

**COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 11.5, SPARKS CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 12, 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.

I believe that your attorney, Mr. Chet Adams, has provided you with a superb and very well documented summary of the negative aspects of established and sponsored feral cat colonies and I urge you to carefully consider the information he has provided.

Previously I have listed for you what I believe are the significant facts relating to feral cat colonies, i.e., they:

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

Further, I would like to point out that established feral cat colonies, supported by a designated care giver, fosters congregation of larger numbers of cats than would be expected to live in a given area; thus, significantly increasing the potential for the first three of the issues already noted, that is the public health hazards, impact on native wildlife and owned cats and dogs, and the real nuisance factor. If you were to go to any area in Sparks that did not have an established feral cat colony, it would not be unusual to see one or two feral cats. But you would not find large numbers congregating in any particular area. Wild animals, and feral cats are definitely wild animals, are seeking three things, food, water, and shelter. In the case of unsupported feral cat colonies, the "resident" one or two cats will protect their territory and challenge any new cats, thus, keeping the total number of feral cats in a specific area relatively small. With supported colonies, the "overabundance" of resources mutes this protective response by resident feral cats, allowing for the larger numbers of cats.

I know that there has been some reluctance to countermand Washoe County's recognition of feral cat colonies but I submit that their action was ill-advised and there is no reason that this council cannot rectify the situation, at least for the citizens of Sparks, by passing this bill.

Thank you again.

Richard C. Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S., DACLAM  
E-Mail: [rsimmonds@unr.edu](mailto:rsimmonds@unr.edu)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9059, Reno, NV 89507

10/12/15  
Al H.S

October 12, 2015

To: Sparks City Council and the Mayor

Re: Feral Cat Colonies

Dear Mayor Martini and Sparks City Council members :

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed city-wide zoning ordinance to ban feral cat colonies within the city of Sparks.

In recognition of the fact that I have submitted 2 previous comment letters to you on this subject, I will endeavor to keep this short and to the point. My expanding list of reasons for support of the ordinance I have included as an appendix to this letter.

Gifford Pinchot, founding father of the US Forest Service, remarked that in making ethical public land use decisions, "Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." I believe this has some relevance in what you are deciding today. I would add that, in this case, both cats and wildlife must be factored into considering the greatest good, as they cannot speak for themselves. With that in mind:

**I believe the ordinance to ban feral cat colonies is both the right and the humane thing to do.**

- It is inhumane to release cats to what will result in nothing less than an eventual cruel death.
- It is inhumane to willfully contribute to the decimation of our wildlife, which belongs to us all.
- It is inhumane to willfully expose humans, and other animals, to risk of serious disease.

**I offer positive solutions to the feral cat problem:**

- Pass this ordinance to **ban feral cat colonies**.
- **Allow legal trapping** of feral cats. Encourage humane groups to do so. Those cats that cannot be adopted should be humanely euthanized.
- Encourage humane groups to create fully **enclosed feral cat sanctuaries** on private property.
- Encourage humane groups to provide **sufficient spay/neuter clinics**, in areas of highest need, at a reduced rate or for free.
- Encourage humane groups to develop a vigorous **education** program directed toward **the causal factor of feral cats: irresponsible owners:**
  - a) the responsibility to spay/neuter their cats
  - b) the negative impacts of letting their cat roam -- or worse: dumping unwanted cats/kittens
  - c) the importance of keeping cats inside or in a contained outside area and bringing them in at night, the time of highest wildlife depredation.

Lastly, I would ask you to consider what you would do if this were an ordinance to ban feral DOG colonies. Would not – and should not – your decision be the same?

Thank you for consideration of my comments and concerns,

Karen Boeger  
6205 Franktown Rd.  
Washoe Valley, NV 89704

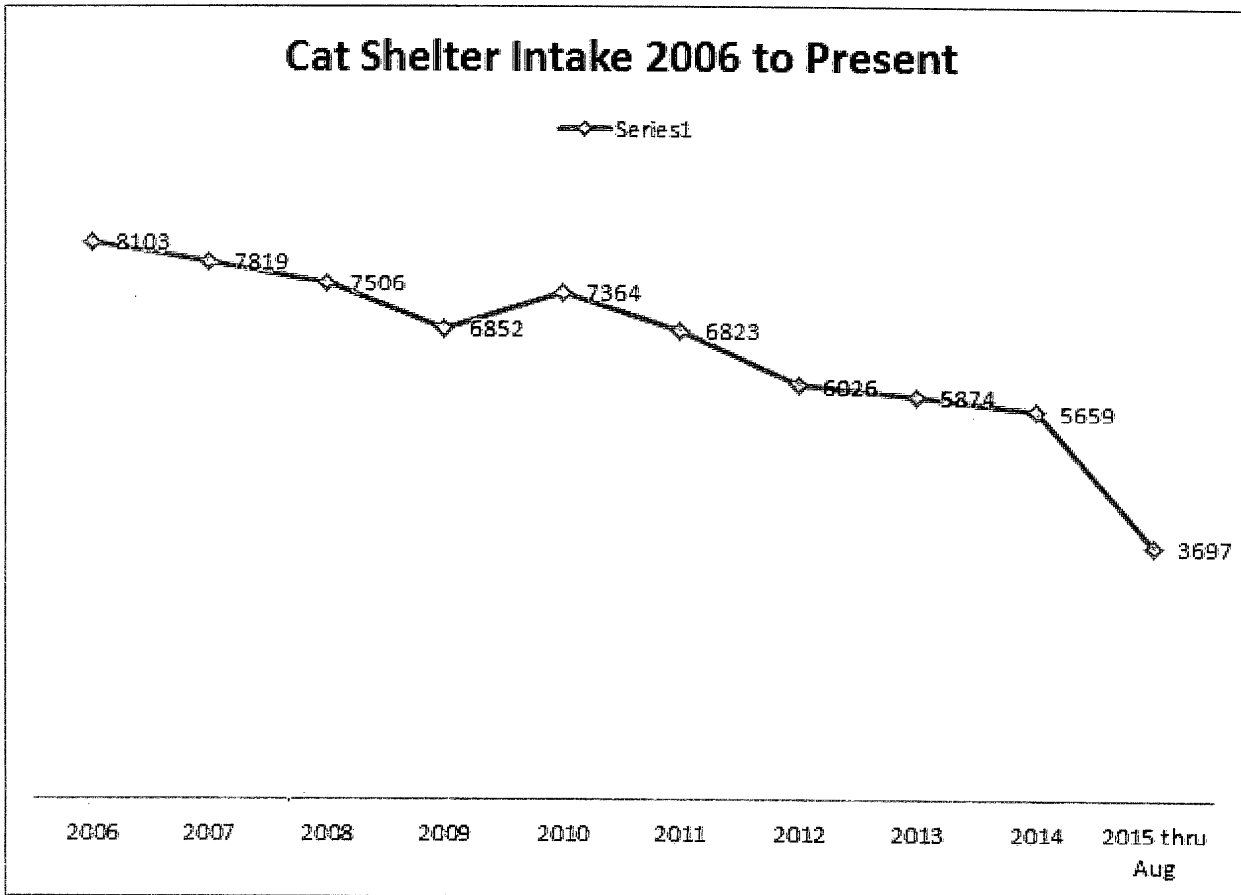
## APPENDIX

### Rationale for a feral cat ban:

- Feral cats – whether spayed/neutered/inoculated or not -- **daily decimate large numbers of our wildlife**: wild birds (especially songbirds), amphibians, reptiles, bats, other small mammals.
- No animal dies a peaceful death in the wild, or urban “jungles”. Feral cats, if rereleased, will be ultimately **condemned to a death far less humane than our domestic cats** who are typically humanely euthanized when their quality of life has disappeared due to disease, age or both. Why would we condone subjecting cats, beloved domestic pets, to such a fate? We would never condone anyone irresponsibly turning an unwanted dog, horse, exotic reptile/bird/fish, etc. into the “wilds” to survive (and die) on its own?
- Legalizing, or tacit allowance of, feral cat colonies on public property makes them ultimately the **perpetual responsibility** of local government, who are we the taxpayer citizens.
- Taxpayers should not be responsible for the **irresponsible decisions of cat owners** who either do not spay/neuter their animals and end up with unwanted kittens, or worse, just turn cats loose when they cannot care for them.
- Acceptance of feral cat colonies may actually **encourage abandonment** of domestic cats.
- There is no way to keep feral cats from **trespassing onto private property**, becoming both a nuisance and a safety issue.
- **Safety issue of disease transmittal** from feral to domestic cats and potentially to humans.
- **Toxoplasmosis**, potentially carried in cat feces, in humans is a serious neurological disease.
- Local Reno/Sparks **bat colonies** have been determined to have a few individuals who **carry rabies**. One of the largest colonies is under a bridge over East McCarran Blvd. Many of the cat colonies are along the river. Cats do kill bats. It is impossible to inoculate all feral cats. Thus, it is only a matter of time before rabies will become a serious threat to both cats and humans.
- Animals, living in high density of their own kind, potentially develop aberrant, frequently **aggressive, behavior**. There are numerous anecdotes of feral cats becoming aggressive. This is yet another safety issue for other cats and humans, especially children.
- In Washoe County at present, these **colonies exist primarily along the river**, a place where wild birds are abundant and families come to relax and recreate. Thus, a focus of particularly high concern for both the safety issue and the wildlife decimation issue.
- Feral cat colonies can be a **food source to draw coyotes** into urban areas, creating yet another problem between domestic and wild animals, potentially increasing the human safety issue.
- Caretaker feeding of feral cats can **inadvertently feed other wildlife**, thereby artificially augmenting nuisance populations of raccoons, skunks, ground squirrels. For this reason, **it should be illegal to feed feral cats**.

Karen Boeger  
page 2

## Cat Shelter Intake 2006 to Present



Source: Nevada Humane Society Stats 2006 to August 2015



10/12/15  
A1 11.5  
Mendy Elliott



10/12/15  
At 11.5  
Trish Swain

**TrailSafe Nevada, The League of Humane Voters - Nevada  
and the Nevada Wildlife Alliance join together  
to bring you this important presentation:**

**Friday, October 16  
6:30pm**

**Speaker: Camilla Fox, Project Coyote  
Subject: Coyotes In Our Midst  
~ from Killing to Coexistence**

Known as America's native "Song Dogs", coyotes are native to Nevada and are important to healthy ecosystems. Yet humans have been waging war on the species for the last two centuries - much to no avail. Come and learn about why killing contests and other lethal programs are ineffective and what we can do - as individuals and communities - to better coexist with this highly adaptable, intelligent and resilient native carnivore.

**Location: Nevada Humane Society  
Education Room  
2825 Longley Lane, Reno**

**There is no charge for the program!**



**Call: 775-425-0403 Email: [info@trailsafe.org](mailto:info@trailsafe.org) [www.trailsafe.org](http://www.trailsafe.org)**

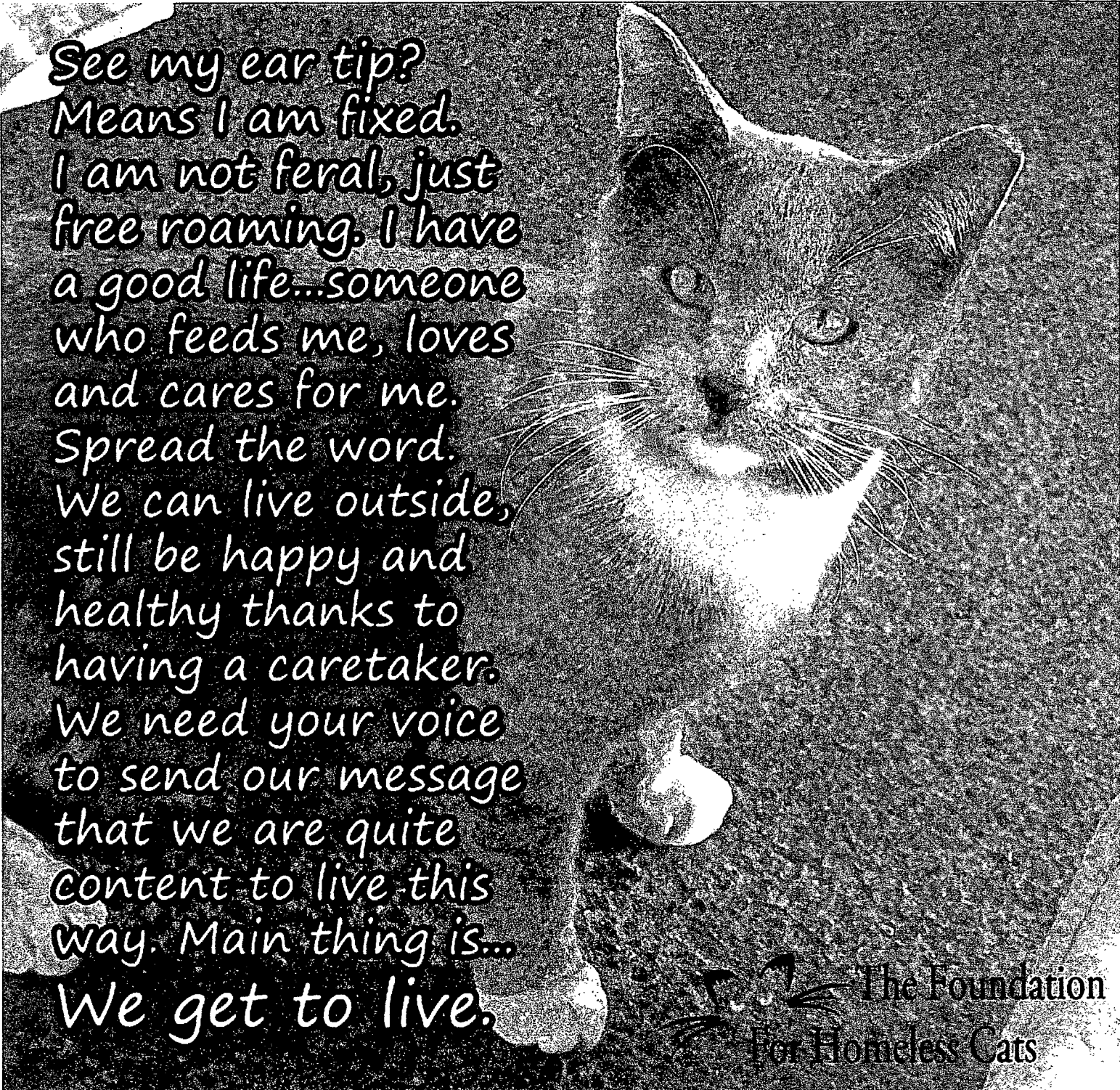


Tactical Team for the  
Protection of Animals  
(ALL) T.T.P.A.

10/12/15

At 11.5

Karen Jacobs



See my ear tip?  
Means I am fixed.  
I am not feral, just  
free roaming. I have  
a good life...someone  
who feeds me, loves  
and cares for me.  
Spread the word.  
We can live outside,  
still be happy and  
healthy thanks to  
having a caretaker.  
We need your voice  
to send our message  
that we are quite  
content to live this  
way. Main thing is...  
We get to live.

The Foundation  
For Homeless Cats



CATS



Exhibit 3 of  
First Paragraph

DOG  
ARTICLES

CAT  
ARTICLES

FISH  
ARTICLES

BIRD  
ARTICLES

FERRET  
ARTICLES

SMALL PET  
ARTICLES

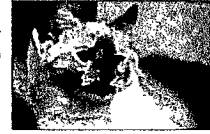
REPTILE  
ARTICLES

SEARCH ARTICLES

Home / Cat / Infections / Avian Influenza (Bird Flu):

# Avian Influenza (Bird Flu): A Possible Threat to Cats?

Veterinary & Aquatic Services Department, Drs. Foster & Smith



Feline Art by Susan Arthur

SEARCH ARTICLES

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

1. Select a pet type

2. LOOKUP A PET DISEASE OR CONDITION

A B C D E F G H I  
J K L M N O P Q R  
S T U V W X Y Z #

EMERGENCY INFO open +

RESOURCES open +

FEATURES open +

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CAT PRODUCTS

CAT ARTICLE LIBRARY:

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Anatomy & Normal Values

Arthritis, Bone and Joint Diseases

Behavior and Training

Cancer and Tumors

Cases From Our Clinic

Dental Care and Oral Disease

Digestive System

Ears

Eyes

First Aid & Emergency Care

Fleas & Ticks

Grooming and Sanitation

Heart & Respiratory Systems

Housing, Play, Travel, and Supplies

How To's

Immune, Lymphatic and Blood Systems

Infections

Liver and Pancreas

Metabolic & Hormonal (Endocrine) Disorders

Nerve and Muscle Conditions

New Kitten or Cat

Newborn Kitten Care

Nutrition and Feeding

Parasites and Worms

Pets & Humans

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Skin Conditions

Spaying & Neutering Cats

Urinary System

Vaccines and Vaccinations

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## What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, is an infection caused by specific types of *viruses*. These flu viruses occur naturally among birds. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses in their intestines, but usually do not get sick from them. However, bird flu is very contagious among birds and can make some domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys, very sick and kill them.



There are many different types of bird flu viruses. A specific avian flu virus called "H5N1 virus" can cause very serious death and disease in birds, and has been associated with outbreaks of avian influenza among people.

## Have cats become infected with bird flu?

In 2003, two tigers and two leopards in a zoo in Thailand died from an H5N1 viral infection. In 2004, a number of domestic cats in Thailand, as well as another tiger also died from infection with this avian influenza strain. Domestic cats in Germany have also contracted the H5N1 virus.

## How could avian influenza be transmitted to cats?

Research has shown that both the wild and domestic cats involved in the outbreaks had a history of eating raw meat from infected birds (either poultry or wild birds). Cats may also become infected through contact with other infected cats, through feces, urine, or nasal discharge.

## Can avian influenza be transmitted from cats to people?

There is no evidence that cats can infect humans with H5N1 avian influenza virus.

## What are the symptoms of avian influenza infection in cats?

Cats infected with H5N1 usually develop a fever, difficulty breathing, a clear nasal discharge that may be red to pink in color, loss of appetite, and depression.

## Is there a vaccine to protect cats against avian influenza?

There is currently no vaccine to protect cats from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

## If avian influenza is found in my country, how can I protect my cat?

Avian influenza has been reported in some countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. It has not reached North America. If avian influenza is found where you live, the risk of your cat becoming infected is low. To reduce the risk of infection:

There are currently no reports of avian influenza in North America. There is no immediate threat to cats contracting avian influenza in North America.

- Do not let your cat go outdoors unsupervised. Cats could become infected by eating wildlife, including songbirds, or by having contact with other cats or wildlife. If your cat does go outdoors, keep him on a leash and away from birds and their droppings
- Avoid feeding your cat raw poultry.
- Avoid taking your cat to locations where there are other cats, such as cat shows, boarding facilities, etc.

The Cornell Feline Health Center in New York has advised that, "if H5N1 or an equally harmful virus were to appear, the safeguards established by governmental agencies should help prevent the kinds of outbreaks that have occurred in other parts of the world. For these reasons, the risk to cats in this country [the U.S.] is considered very low."

For more information on avian influenza see: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>.

## References and Further Reading

Cornell Feline Health Center. Bird flu: A danger to felines? <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/lhc/news/infuenza.htm>.  
Barr, MC. Avian influenza: An emerging feline threat? *Veterinary Medicine*. October 2005;72:7-733.

download.pdf see.products Feline Art by Susan Arthur

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Karen Jacobs



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Karen Jacobs



10/12/15  
At 11.5

## **IN OPPOSITION TO FERAL CAT ORDINANCE**

I am a resident of Sparks, and I stand in strong opposition to the proposed ban on feeding, protecting, or caring for feral cats. People who support these animals should not be penalized or threatened with citations if they care for them.

The Community Cats program helps feed, vaccinate, spay and neuter these animals, and is an effective program designed to help them live—not die.

This program costs the city nothing, but allows the animals to live their lives in our community. I hope the City of Sparks realizes that this proposal promotes cruelty to these animals that pose no threat to the community.

Sincerely,

Victoria Campbell

1288 Carema Court

Sparks, NV 89436

10/12/15  
A1 11.5

October 12, 2015 – Sparks City Council Meeting.

Public comment regarding:

Consideration and possible action on Bill No. 2695, an ordinance amending Chapter 20.29 of the Sparks Municipal Code to clarify the definitions and adding Chapter 20.29.025 to prohibit any person from maintaining, creating or establishing a location or structure for the purpose of feeding, sheltering or providing sustenance to feral cats or attracting high risk species within the boundaries of the city; providing other matters properly related thereto.

.....

I strongly speak against the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 20.29.

From a practical perspective there is documented evidence that shows the Trap, Neuter, Release program is the most effective method for managing and reducing feral cat populations. So why change? Also, can the community afford to lose 1.2 million in grant money, which would be one of the repercussions if the ordinance was changed? I believe we have to look at the type of community we want to live in. Do we really want to have such a lack of compassion? That's not a place I want to spend any of my time and I am sure many others feel the same. The negative publicity for our beautiful area will be damaging.

I appreciate the NDOW perspective regarding the volume of wildlife cats kill, but I ask how does this compare to the number killed by people through trapping, hunting and development. I would have more respect for the Department if they lobbied for wildlife with developers and at planning meetings. At least there would be consistency in the Department's arguments and actions.

Let's do the right thing and treat all of our community members with compassion, appreciation and a respect for life.

Thank you

Irene Payne  
Washoe County resident

10/12/15  
A1 11.5

October 10, 2015

City of Sparks Council

Sparks Nevada

ATT: Council Members

I am opposed to the city of Sparks bill number 2695 regarding the starvation of homeless cats. This is a cruel and inhumane ordinance. My taxes went to create the new no kill facility on Longley Lane. I am in favor of the no kill philosophy because all animals deserve a chance to live. TNRM is a great program provided by Community Cats that offers help to both animals and people. This bill will destroy all the good work that animal services and all the rescue groups have together put in place in our community.

Shame on you if you vote to pass this bill!

Maudeen and Lee West

Animal lovers and previous Sparks longtime residents

Reno, NV

10/12/15  
A1 11.5

I am opposed to the feeding of feral/domestic free-roaming cats and setting up cat colonies in Sparks for the following reasons:

- I believe it to animal abandonment as defined under NRS
- Lack of veterinary care and vaccinations on a continuing basis
- Unbridled hunting and killing of native wildlife due to high prey drive
- Environmental impact from makeshift feeding stations that also draw in various other wildlife/vermin some of whom are known high-risk carriers of rabies
- Domestic cats are not defined as wildlife and have no special exemption
- Violation of personal property rights

The previous ordinances “on the books” in Sparks prior to the consolidation of animals services kept this activity at a minimum. To allow the practice of TNR-M is setting the ordinances back about 30-40 years, or more. I am also opposed to turning over animal control and welfare issues in Sparks to a non-governmental 501c3, as with Washoe County turning over the feral/free-roaming cat issues to the Nevada Humane Society who then turned it over to Community Cats. This means the residents of Sparks, whom you represent, have no legal recourse in preventing the activity, which in turn could cause some to take matters into their own hands at the peril of the cats.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janet Arobio  
Former Director of Field Services, Nevada Humane Society  
Sparks resident  
Cat owner

*Ms Arobio wants this  
in the record*



for 12 years as a caretaker, my colony  
was originally 33 breeding cats, now down  
to 3 after parking at 76. They're all spayed  
and neutered and up to date on vaccinations, and  
monitored daily. Without their cats the  
colony would take over the park and  
chairs would spread. Fees on picnic  
tables, washrooms and the BBQ only  
help funding they will not disappear.

Kathy Rogers

At 11.5

10/12/15

10/12/15  
At 11:5  
Barbara Caruso

Don't Count on my  
Tax money to Support  
the Killing & Disposal of  
harmless Cats

Or my Support of your  
re-election efforts

a long time Sparks  
resident

Bad science

rabies - not west of Rockies  
Tigger

.027 cat  
per  
sq.  
mile

Francis of Assisi said "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

10/12/15  
A1 11.5

This bill is illogical, cruel, inhumane and expensive. First, Mr. Adams used fear of disease and the so called decimation of wildlife as his excuse for this ordinance, but the zoning change will create an increased likelihood of the spread of disease as well as forcing cats to prey more on wildlife because they are starving. This will happen because there will be no one taking care of them. Then he said in a meeting that he was upset that Washoe County didn't invite him or any City Council members to the meetings. This sounds like sour grapes for not getting invited to the cool party when you were in high school. In the original ordinance he was going to punish property owners until he figured out that he would have to fine the city itself if the cats were located on city property. Now he has changed it to punishing compassionate people and homeless cats. If this passes non-fixed cats will be roaming the streets with no shots having babies right and left and they are all starving. The cat problem will explode. Can you look your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews in the eye and tell them that you voted to starve homeless cats? This ordinance will be expensive because a kill shelter will have to be built to the tune of \$1 to \$ 6 million dollars and then a yearly cost of over \$1



million dollars to operate. A better solution would be to work to get more low-to-free spay and neuter clinics in the Sparks area, let the Washoe County Community Cat program work and quit punishing the helpless. What is next? Starving homeless people? Remember some of you are coming up for election and when we combine this bad ordinance with the bad decision to put a casino next to a school and library, I don't think you will get re-elected. I want to leave you with one last thought from Arthur Schopenhauer from his book The Basis of Morality: "The assumption that animals are without rights and the illusion that our treatment of them has no moral significance is a positively outrageous example of Western crudity and barbarity. Universal compassion is the only guarantee of morality." Instead of punishing the innocent, try pitching and helping.

Deborah Banks

Mary Kay Spinks

James Nelson Spinks

Carolina Sun Valley

Audrey Duce, Reno, NV

Frank Spinks, Sparks NV

Kristin Johnson, Sun Valley