



**Best
Friends
Animal
Society**

9/28/2015
for the record
opposed to
Bill 2695

SAVE THEM ALL™

Dear Mayor Martini and Council Members,

My name is Marc Peralta and I am the Executive Director for Best Friends Animal Society in Los Angeles, CA. Best Friends is a national organization that works to reduce pet populations and end the killing of healthy pets in shelters across the United States. Prior to my time in LA, I was also a proud resident of Washoe County for 2 years and worked on the ground in that community to help bring Washoe County to the leader in saving animal lives that its known for today.

I have become aware of a proposal to prohibit TNR in your community. In Los Angeles, we have unfortunately adopted a similar program. To say that this policy in LA has been disastrous would be an understatement. Looking at the detrimental effects this policy has had on the ability to save animals in Los Angeles should serve as a guide as to why you should not move forward with this proposed ordinance.

Under the proposal, the new solution for free-roaming cats would be trap and kill. In LA we have had a city-wide injunction in place since 2008 prohibiting our city to provide resources toward spay and neuter and trap neuter release for our community cats. The result of this injunction is clear; our cat population has soared. We have over 19,000 cats entering our shelter system, 9,000 of which are kittens. We kill 56% of all the cats entering our shelters and are expecting a 5% increase in our cat intake into our shelters for 2015.

In opposition to LA, Washoe County has shown impactful change in reducing the cat population in your county reflected in your diminishing intake rates for cats. You have seen a 40% decrease in cat intake showing that you are steadily dealing with the problems that occur with having large, community cat populations. You have the proof in front of you with this data. TNR works, and is the only humane solution for managing the population for free-roaming community cats.

What you are doing now is working so why would you stop? Every cat trapped will now have to be killed, and that killing has a cost. That cost for killing and disposing of each cat is \$100. Taxpayer money going to killing cats is something that your constituents by and large find to be abhorrent, for obvious reasons. Additionally, trap and kill programs simply do not reduce these cat populations. In fact, as we're seeing in Los Angeles, our cat population is increasing.

I would strongly recommend you not add Chapter 20.29.025. If you would like more information, I am happy to speak further on this topic at your convenience.

Best,
Marc Peralta
Executive Director, Best Friends Animal Society LA.

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