

From AB 261 Testimony

9/28/2015
opposed to
Bill 2695

As the Central Sponsor under Clark County ordinance 10.06 and Las Vegas city code 7.22 I have been heavily involved with their implementation and have closely monitored the progress of the TNR programs in these jurisdictions. The approach has been to augment the existing system for managing the cats rather than replace it. Citizens desire to trap and remove nuisance cats continues to be supported by the Animal Control departments. Those who prefer to do TNR are supported by the non-profit animal welfare groups. In the 1% of cases where there is a conflict between the two methods, processes are in place to mediate a resolution. Based on a number of metrics the program has been very successful.

Thinking about all of this just a bit. Trap and kill cat eradication programs have been done for over 100 years. If they worked we would not be having this conversation. They simply has not been effective. In less that 10 years the TNR program here has shown dramatic positive results. One reason for this is that mass murder of companion animals that most see as cute and desirable is a very hard sell. A program to help these animals with the benefit of reducing their numbers and improving their and our own lives is a much easier sell to the vast majority of people. The state is not going to fund mass cat eradication programs. They should at least enable and encourage TNR programs that have shown positive results at little or no cost to the taxpayers.

We have hundreds of locations populated by geriatric cats that have not seen kittens in years. It just works. The people who trap and remove will trap enough cats to mitigate their immediate issues and often leave most of the cats untrapped and unsterilized. This leads to more kittens as time goes by and requires more trapping in the future. The primary desire of a colony managed with TNR is to trap all of the cats and have no more kittens. The requirement for future trapping is minimal. Trap and remove is more often sustainable harvesting that has no significant effect while TNR is stopping the reproduction and over time eliminating the colony.

Time for some dollars and cents. In 2009 the Lied shelter euthanized 18,574 cats. In 2014 they euthanized 8,892 cats with the reduction primarily attributed to TNR. The cumulative reduction has been 23,416 fewer cats euthanized. This was done at virtually no cost to the taxpayers. Let's look at the savings. Euthanasia and disposal costs the shelter is about \$40 per cat for a savings of \$936,640. This is money that has been applied to lifesaving programs at the shelter. The cost to Animal Control to dispatch an officer and transport a cat to the shelter is about \$100 for a savings of as much as \$2.3 million. These savings have been applied to improved service to the public and has freed up officers for much more critical issues. Animal Control departments and shelters are chronically under funded and overworked. By bringing in the private sector resources to implement TNR the taxpayers money is more efficiently used on more critical needs.

In 2008 we asked the Clark County BCC to support a program that we believed could work. They kindly gave us that opportunity. In 2015 we are asking you to support a program that has been proven to work. It is no longer a matter of faith, it is implementing a proven policy. TNR is a program that stops an incredible amount of suffering and cruelty. TNR is the right thing to do. Please allow us to do the right thing for the animals and the citizens of Nevada.

Keith Williams
CCFCCCS
<http://www.clarkcountyferalcats.org>

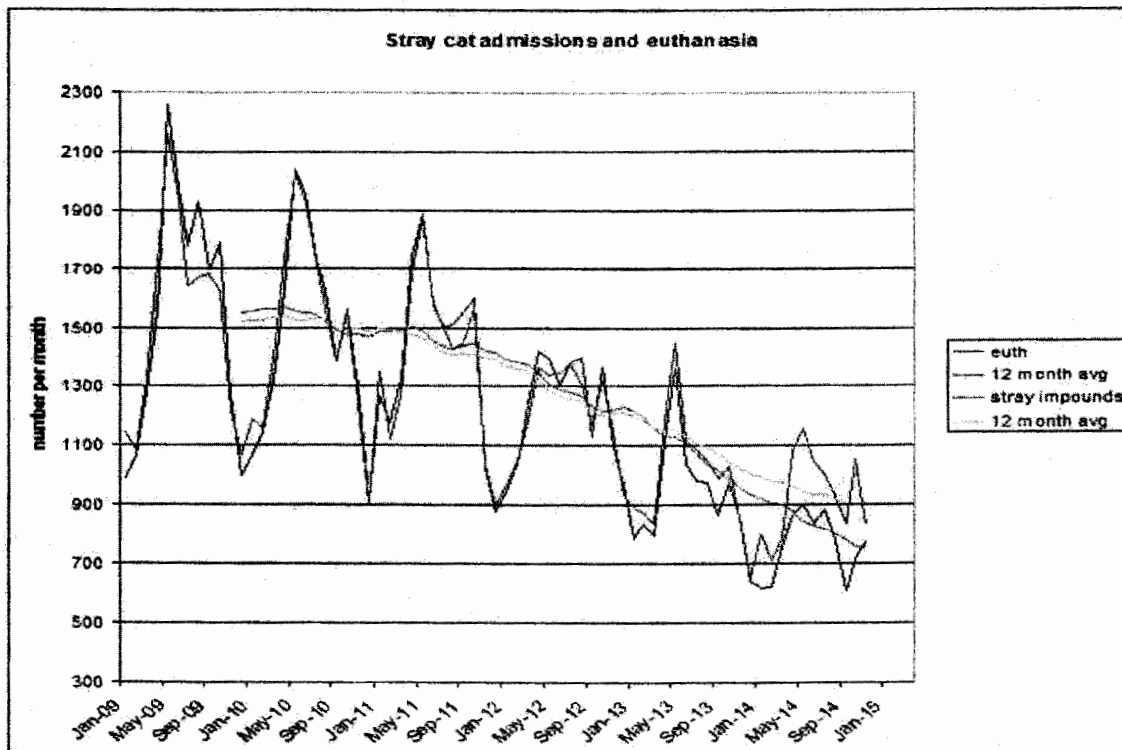
From: Deborah Banks
Sparks NV

Feral domestic cats are an exotic species and we all recognize that they have an impact on native wildlife. Our desire is to manage the cat population with the goal of reducing the free roaming population. This not only reduces the impact on wildlife, it reduces the nuisance they cause and the possibilities of zoonotic diseases.

There are two primary methods used to manage free roaming animal populations to reduce their numbers. One is culling the population directly with hunting, or in the case of cats, trapping and killing them at the shelter. The other is to sterilize a significant number of the population so that reproduction is reduced and along with it the population. Both methods tend to be emotionally charged and are subject to debate. The resources available for one are not transferable to the other. If either method is abandon the pool of resources to manage the cats is greatly reduced.

In 2008 Clark County allowed trap, neuter and return (TNR) to be done openly. This greatly increased the number of cats being sterilized and returned to the field. The trap and remove (T&R) process continues to be supported by Animal Control and the shelter. By actively supporting both methods the pool of resources to manage the cats has been greatly increased.

There is no reliable way to determine the population of free roaming cats in the community. A strong indicator of the number of cats is the number being surrendered at the shelter as strays. With the T&R process continuing to be supported and no significant changes in shelter policy a reduction in stray admissions would strongly suggest a reduction in population. The TNR program vaccinates large numbers of cats for Rabies that would never be vaccinated otherwise. This reduces the chances of an outbreak of this disease. The following graph shows the reduction in stray cat admission and euthanasia at the Lied shelter. This strongly suggests that we are making significant progress in reducing the population.




Currently about 8,000 cats are being euthanized per year at the County shelter. This represents about 3% - 4% of the estimated population of 200,000 - 300,000 free roaming cats. There are also about 8,000 cats TNRed each year. The cumulative effect of the TNR effort is that about 10% of the estimated population has been sterilized and vaccinated. By utilizing all of the available resources we are maximizing the effort to reduce the number of free roaming cats. I am not aware of any other significant pool of resources available for managing the cats. If one can be found I would certainly be interested in considering it.

The effect of free roaming cats on wildlife is difficult to determine with any certainty. One method that could be used to determine the significance of prey items to free roaming cats is to examine the stomach contents of free roaming cats. A number of cats are surrendered at the shelter who are deceased or due to injuries are euthanized before eating at the shelter. A study could be done where the stomachs of these cats are examined and the contents inventoried. Over time with enough animals examined we should develop a good profile of the diets of our local free roaming cats. This will allow us to better determine the significance of their impact on native wildlife. While this study would be quite interesting, I am not aware of available resources to fund it.

Keith Williams
CCFCCCS

<http://www.clarkcountyferalcats.org>



CLARK COUNTY
2015 Legislative Session
PROPOSED AMENDMENT

March 13, 2015

Assembly Bill 261

By

James Ohrenschall

Amendment submitted to Assembly Committee on Government Affairs

Bill Title: AN ACT relating to local governments; authorizing boards of county commissioners and governing bodies of incorporated cities to enact ordinances establishing programs for the managed care of feral cat colonies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Text of Proposed Amendment is attached:

Purpose/Intent of Proposed Amendment:

The Clark County Animal Control Office has suggested changes to sections 1, 2 and 3 to eliminate constraining definitions that remove the flexibility needed by local authorities to administer an existing feral cat program.

County Contact: John Fudenberg

Assistant Coroner, Clark County

(702) 645-4050

FUD@ClarkCountyNV.gov

PROPOSED AMENDMENT by CLARK COUNTY

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) **blue bold italics** is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of **green bold underlining** is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) ~~fuchsia double strikethrough~~ is new language in the bill proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (6) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

Only the relevant portion of the bill is included in the amendment beginning on page 2 of the bill at line 14 through page 3, line 29.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 244.359 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 244.359 1. Each board of county commissioners may enact
3 and enforce an ordinance or ordinances:

- 2 -

1 (a) Fixing, imposing and collecting an annual license fee on
2 dogs and providing for the capture and disposal of all dogs on which
3 the license fee is not paid.

4 (b) Regulating or prohibiting the running at large and disposal of
5 all kinds of animals.

6 (c) Establishing a pound, appointing a poundkeeper and
7 prescribing the poundkeeper's duties.

8 (d) Prohibiting cruelty to animals.

9 (e) Designating an animal as inherently dangerous and requiring
10 the owner of such an animal to obtain a policy of liability insurance
11 for the animal in an amount determined by the board of county
12 commissioners.

13 **(f) Establishing a program for the managed care of feral cat**
14 **colonies. As used in this paragraph:**

15 ~~(1) "Feral cat" means a cat that has no apparent owner or~~
16 ~~identification and appears to be unsocialized to humans,~~
17 ~~unmanageable or otherwise demonstrates characteristics normally~~
18 ~~associated with wild or undomesticated animals.~~

19 ~~(2) "Feral cat colony" means a group of cats that~~
20 ~~congregates more or less together as a unit, regardless of whether~~
21 ~~every cat in the group is a feral cat.~~

22 ~~(3) "Program for the managed care of feral cat colonies"~~
23 ~~means a program under which persons are authorized to:~~

24 ~~(I) Monitor feral cat colonies;~~

25 ~~(II) Trap feral cats for the purpose of having the feral~~
26 ~~cats sterilized and vaccinated for rabies; and~~

27 ~~(III) Release feral cats that have been sterilized and~~
28 ~~vaccinated for rabies.~~

29 2. Any ordinance or ordinances enacted pursuant to the
30 provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1 may apply
31 throughout an entire county or govern only a limited area within the
32 county which shall be specified in the ordinance or ordinances.

33 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a board of
34 county commissioners may by ordinance provide that the violation
35 of a particular ordinance enacted pursuant to this section imposes a
36 civil liability to the county in an amount not to exceed \$500, instead

37 of a criminal penalty. An ordinance enacted pursuant to this section
38 that creates an offense relating to bites of animals, vicious or
39 dangerous animals, horse tripping or cruelty to animals must impose
40 a criminal penalty for the offense. As used in this subsection, "horse
41 tripping" does not include tripping a horse to provide medical or
42 other health care for the horse.

43 **Sec. 2.** NRS 266.325 is hereby amended to read as follows:
44 266.325 The city council may:

- 3 -

1 1. Fix, impose and collect an annual license fee on all animals
2 and provide for the capture and disposal of all animals on which the
3 license fee is not paid.

4 2. Regulate or prohibit the running at large and disposal of all
5 kinds of animals and poultry.

6 3. Establish a pound, appoint a poundkeeper and prescribe the
7 poundkeeper's duties.

8 4. Prohibit cruelty to animals.

9 5. *Establish a program for the managed care of feral cat*
10 *colonies in accordance with section 3 of this act.*

11 **Sec. 3.** Chapter 268 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
12 thereto a new section to read as follows:

13 *The governing body of each city may enact an ordinance*
14 *establishing a program for the managed care of feral cat colonies.*

15 ~~*As used in this section:*~~

16 ~~1. "Feral cat" means a cat that has no apparent owner or~~
17 ~~identification and appears to be unsocialized to humans,~~
18 ~~unmanageable or otherwise demonstrates characteristics normally~~
19 ~~associated with wild or undomesticated animals.~~

20 ~~2. "Feral cat colony" means a group of cats that congregates~~
21 ~~more or less together as a unit, regardless of whether every cat in~~
22 ~~the group is a feral cat.~~

23 ~~3. "Program for the managed care of feral cat colonies"~~
24 ~~means a program under which persons are authorized to:~~

25 ~~(a) Monitor feral cat colonies;~~

26 ~~(b) Trap feral cats for the purpose of having the feral cats~~
27 ~~sterilized and vaccinated for rabies; and~~

28 ~~(c) Release feral cats that have been sterilized and vaccinated~~
29 ~~for rabies.~~

30 **Sec. 4.** NRS 574.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 574.100 1. A person shall not:

32 (a) Torture or unjustifiably maim, mutilate or kill:

33 (1) An animal kept for companionship or pleasure, whether
34 belonging to the person or to another; or

35 (2) Any cat or dog;

36 (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), overdrive,
37 overload, torture, cruelly beat or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate
38 or kill an animal, whether belonging to the person or to another;

39 (c) Deprive an animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or
40 neglect or refuse to furnish it such sustenance or drink;

41 (d) Cause, procure or allow an animal to be overdriven,
42 overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured,
43 maimed, mutilated or killed or to be deprived of necessary food or
44 drink;

45 **Sec. 4.** NRS 574.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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49 belonging to the person or to another; or

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52 overload, torture, cruelly beat or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate
53 or kill an animal, whether belonging to the person or to another;

54 (c) Deprive an animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or
55 neglect or refuse to furnish it such sustenance or drink;

56 (d) Cause, procure or allow an animal to be overdriven,
57 overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured,
58 maimed, mutilated or killed or to be deprived of necessary food or
59 drink;

- 4 -

1 (e) Instigate, engage in, or in any way further an act of cruelty to
2 any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty; or

3 (f) Abandon an animal in circumstances other than those
4 prohibited in NRS 574.110. ***The provisions of this paragraph do***
5 ***not apply to the release of a feral cat as defined in NRS 244.359 or***
6 ***section 3 of this act, as applicable, that has been sterilized and***
7 ***vaccinated for rabies in accordance with a program for the***
8 ***managed care of feral cat colonies established pursuant to NRS***
9 ***244.359, 266.325 or section 3 of this act.***

10 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4 and
11 NRS 574.210 to 574.510, inclusive, a person shall not restrain a
12 dog:

13 (a) Using a tether, chain, tie, trolley or pulley system or other
14 device that:

15 (1) Is less than 12 feet in length;

16 (2) Fails to allow the dog to move at least 12 feet or, if the
17 device is a pulley system, fails to allow the dog to move a total of 12
18 feet; or

19 (3) Allows the dog to reach a fence or other object that may
20 cause the dog to become injured or die by strangulation after
21 jumping the fence or object or otherwise becoming entangled in the
22 fence or object;

23 (b) Using a prong, pinch or choke collar or similar restraint; or

24 (c) For more than 14 hours during a 24-hour period.

25 3. Any pen or other outdoor enclosure that is used to maintain
26 a dog must be appropriate for the size and breed of the dog. If any
27 property that is used by a person to maintain a dog is of insufficient
28 size to ensure compliance by the person with the provisions of
29 paragraph (a) of subsection 2, the person may maintain the dog
30 unrestrained in a pen or other outdoor enclosure that complies with
31 the provisions of this subsection.

32 4. The provisions of subsections 2 and 3 do not apply to a dog
33 that is:

34 (a) Tethered, chained, tied, restrained or placed in a pen or
35 enclosure by a veterinarian, as defined in NRS 574.330, during the
36 course of the veterinarian's practice;

37 (b) Being used lawfully to hunt a species of wildlife in this State
38 during the hunting season for that species;

39 (c) Receiving training to hunt a species of wildlife in this State;

40 (d) In attendance at and participating in an exhibition, show,
41 contest or other event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of the
42 dog is judged or examined;

43 (e) Being kept in a shelter or boarding facility or temporarily in
44 a camping area;

From: Beverlee McGrath
To: Carrillo, Richard Assemblyman; Dooling, Vicki Assemblywoman; Ellison, John Assemblyman; Flores, Edgar Assemblyman; Joiner, Amber Assemblywoman; Moore, John Assemblyman; Munford, Harvey Assemblyman; Neal, Dina Assemblywoman; Shelton, Shelly Assemblywoman; Silberkraus, Stephen Assemblyman; Spiegel, Ellen Assemblywoman; Stewart, Lynn Assemblyman; Trowbridge, Glenn Assemblyman; Woodbury, Melissa Assemblywoman; Assembly Government Affairs Exhibits
Cc: Beverlee McGrath; James Ohrenschall
Subject: AB 261, SUPPORT Feral Cat programs
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 2:31:50 PM
Attachments: aa.Fact Sheet, FAO, short.docx
aa.Updated states, co. cities TNR programs.docx

Attached is important information re what a 'Trap/Neuter/Return' feral cat program is, and why it's more effective than a Trap and Euthanize policy.

In a separate email I'll send a chart showing the dramatic reduction in intakes as a result of Clark County's successful program, and the statistics from Washoe County (intake 3918 in 2014) where a TNR program is needed.

Please SUPPORT AB 261 on Monday in Government Affairs 9:00am.

BEVERLEE McGRATH

Nevada Legislative Specialist & Special Projects

ASPCA

Best Friends Animal Society

Nevada Humane Society

SPCA of No. Nevada

NV Political Action for Animals

Lake Tahoe Humane Society & SPCA

Compassion Charity of America

Pet Network Humane Society

Wylie Animal Rescue Foundation

Paw Pac

NHS Carson City

Lake Tahoe Wolf Rescue

Hidden Valley Horse Rescue

Fallon Animal Welfare Group

BevDDAL@msn.co

775) 815-1690 (805) 816-4155

website: www.helpanimalsnv.org/index.html

There is Broad Support for TNR

At least 240 local governments have enacted ordinances (policies) supporting TNR. Ninety-one cities and counties support or condone TNR as a valid method of animal control. Out of these, 63 endorse TNR as the *only* effective way to address feral cat populations. The three states with the highest number of TNR ordinances are New Jersey (58), California (33), and Texas (29). Major municipalities and counties that support TNR include: San Francisco, the District of Columbia, New York City, Sacramento County (California), San Jose, Palm Beach County (Florida), Clark County (Nevada), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, Broward County (Florida), Cook County (Illinois), Oklahoma City, Dallas, Omaha, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Fairfax County (Virginia), Maricopa County (Arizona), and Suffolk County (New York).

Trap -Neuter -Return Communities are Diverse

Trap-Neuter-Return is endorsed by local governments ranging from conservative **Colorado Springs, Colorado** to liberal **Berkeley, California**. Because TNR decreases the size of colonies, decreases animal control calls from citizens, improves public health, and is humane and economical, it is an appealing method of care for feral cats to many different interest groups and organizations, not all of them related to animal protection.

This has resulted in an extraordinary diversity of communities with TNR that vary in population, region of the country, and political orientation. For example, **Cook County, Illinois**—a major metropolitan area that includes the 2.7 million residents of Chicago—has a TNR ordinance. At the other end of the spectrum, **Elko New Market, Minnesota**—with less than 1,500 residents—does, also. Other small, rural towns like **Espanola, New Mexico** and **Hermann, Missouri** employ TNR alongside urban areas like **New York City**.

Support for TNR runs the gamut from a simple animal control department declaration to a complex ordinance enacted by a local government. For example, **Oakland, California** Animal Services states: "Oakland Animal Services supports trap, neuter, return as a means of controlling the feral cat population...Trap-and-Remove doesn't work. 'Trap-and-Remove' is a euphemism for trapping and euthanizing cats. It may seem like a logical solution, but the fact is that it is not effective...Catch and euthanize is an endless, costly cycle.

The **Rancho Cucamonga, California** Animal Care & Services echoes this sentiment, stating on the city's website: "Sadly, many communities still opt to control populations using outdated methods, including lethal elimination or relocation. Not only are some of these methods horribly cruel, they are ineffective.

The **Brunswick, Georgia** police department notes in a brochure, "The best way to handle a feral cat problem is with a Trap, Spay/Neuter, Release and Manage Program.

Some animal control departments work closely with local feral cat organizations to provide TNR services to the community. For example, in **Somerville, Massachusetts** the animal control agency urges residents concerned about feral cat colonies in their neighborhoods to call animal control and either an officer or a volunteer with Charles River Alley Cats will respond to the call and trap, sterilize, and return the cats.

Other animal control departments merely opt not to impound cats that are at-large, and instead refer concerned citizens to private organizations such as in **Carbondale, Colorado**. The government's website states, "This has been a very successful program. We have seen a significant drop in feral cats in Carbondale."

AB 261, Asm James Ohrenschall
9:00 AM Monday, March 16, Room 3143

Frequently Asked Questions About TNR (Feral Cat Program)

What is trap/neuter/return?

Trap/neuter/return is a humane, non-lethal alternative to the trap-and-kill method of controlling cat populations.

Trap/neuter/return (TNR) is a management technique in which homeless, free-roaming (community) cats are humanely trapped, evaluated and sterilized by a licensed veterinarian, vaccinated against rabies, and then returned to their original habitat. This bill **ALLOWS** for **FERAL CAT** colonies to be permitted, thus reducing the cost to Animal Services to pick up, house, euthanize and dispose of unwanted cats.

What is the primary benefit of TNR?

In the long term, TNR lowers the numbers of cats in the community more effectively than trap-and-kill. Stopping the breeding and removing some cats for adoption is more effective than the traditional trap-and-kill method in lowering the numbers of cats in a community long-term.

What are the other benefits of TNR?

The benefits to both cats and communities are numerous.

- TNR reduces shelter admissions and operating costs.
- Reduces the number of cats in shelters, allows for more cage space for adoptable cats. Increases shelter adoption rates.
- Fewer cats will be breeding and contributing to the population growth so there are fewer animals to contend with. This inevitably means a decrease in the demand on taxpayer dollars.
- These programs create safer communities and promote public health by reducing the number of **Unvaccinated** cats.
- TNR programs improve the lives of free-roaming cats. Neutered males are no longer compelled to maintain a large territory or fight over mates, and females are no longer forced to endure the physical and mental demands of giving birth and fending for their young.
- Sterilizing community cats reduces or even eliminates the behaviors that can lead to nuisance complaints.
- Eliminates the unnecessary killing of healthy animals for the purpose of convenience.
- Shelters have less employee turnover due to job satisfaction and an overall improved public image of the shelter.
- The reduction in killing and animal admissions also provides more time for staff and volunteers to care for the animals in the shelter and give personal attention to potential adopters.
- Increased resources for animal services by eliminating trap-and-kill policies.

- People are rarely inclined to volunteer for programs that fail to make them feel good about themselves. With TNR, volunteers know they are making a difference in the lives of the animals, and the community is benefiting from their charitable efforts.
- Another component of a well-managed TNR program is the collection of critical data that can be used when seeking grant funding to expand current TNR programs.
- In most TNR programs, community cats are vaccinated against rabies, greatly reducing the likelihood of a person being severely injured.

Why is TNR preferable to lethal control?

TNR is a practical solution to the failed trap-and-kill policy.

Killing as a form of population control hasn't worked. In addition, killing homeless animals as a means of population control is publicly unpalatable. By contrast, TNR puts an end to this perpetual cycle of killing and makes it possible to maintain a colony at a relatively stable number of sterilized cats unable to multiply.

Why does the trap-and-kill method fail to curtail free-roaming cat populations?

Populations rebound to previous levels following trap-and-kill.

Every habitat has a carrying capacity, the maximum population size of a given species that can be sustained in a particular area. This carrying capacity is determined by the availability of food sources, water, shelter and other environmental necessities. When a portion of the sustainable population is removed (e.g., by trapping and killing them) and the availability of resources is unaltered, the remaining animals respond through increased birthing and higher survivability rates. Because of this biological certainty, trapping and removing cats from a given area does little more than ensure that the cat population will rebound to its original level, necessitating additional trapping and killing. While lethal control may rid an area of cats temporarily, it is not an effective long-term solution because new cats will quickly fill the vacated area and breed, resulting in a perpetual cycle of killing.

How does TNR compare to the traditional trap-and-kill method in terms of costs?

Trapping and killing homeless animals is not only unpalatable to the public, it's a costly and ineffective method of population control.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture states that in 2012 - 18,313 cats were euthanized.

According to The Humane Society of the United States, nationwide statistics are:

6 to 8 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year

3 to 4 million are adopted

2.7 million are adoptable cats and dogs that are euthanized.

TNR programs are being adopted by towns and municipalities across the nation out of necessity and good common sense. This shift is being seen on many municipal levels as animal services' budgets continue to be slashed and the need for better tools to handle animal control issues has become increasingly evident. As Mark Kumpf, 2010 president of the National Animal Control Association, told Animal Sheltering in 2008, "The cost for picking up and simply euthanizing and disposing of animals is horrendous, in both the philosophical and the economic sense."

The cost savings associated with TNR are location-specific and accurate estimates involve taking into account numerous variables. The immediate savings that many communities experience are a result of tapping into volunteer support and other resources (e.g., private donations) that come from implementing a humane method of managing community cats. Cost savings fluctuate based on the type of TNR program implemented, the extent of animal control involvement, the volunteer base available, and the community's overall support of TNR.

Until a TNR program begins, it is difficult to calculate accurately how much money will be saved, either directly or indirectly. A successful TNR program can improve the public image of a town, which may add to economic development. Employee satisfaction within the shelter and animal control facilities is also a huge asset and contributes to a positive image of the community.

How serious a threat are cats to bird populations?

TNR means fewer cats, which means fewer threats to birds. Other factors pose more serious threats to bird populations.

Undeniably, the largest threat to birds is loss or degradation of habitat resulting from human development and agriculture. In fact, in a 2013 National Geographic article, Ken Rosenberg, director of conservation science at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, says that "the top three threats to birds overall are habitat loss, habitat loss, and habitat loss."

This perspective was shared in the same article by Gary Langham, chief scientist of the National Audubon Society, who stressed that "loss of habitat is the number one problem" as riparian habitat and wetlands continue to be removed or converted for human use. Other significant hazards to bird populations, recognized by experts worldwide, include chemical toxins and direct exploitation from hunting or capturing birds for pets.

Although no studies support the misleading claims that cats are destroying songbird populations, there's no disputing that cats do, in fact, kill birds. The point that must be emphasized is that fewer cats mean less predation; and since TNR cats are being fed by caregivers, there's less desire to capture wildlife.

Are there any tools to help keep community cats out of designated areas?

Non-lethal deterrents for cats are effective and readily accessible.

There are numerous cat deterrents available on the market today.

Why are feeding bans ineffective?

It's bad public policy to criminalize kindness.

Feeding bans are notoriously ineffective primarily because they are impossible to enforce. Also, human nature rarely allows someone to sit idly by while an animal suffers. When a hungry animal appears, compassion prevails. Consequently, people will not adhere to an ordinance discouraging the feeding of animals in need.

Does TNR encourage the abandonment of cats?

Cats will be abandoned with or without TNR.

In fact, cats have been abandoned for as long as people have had pet cats, which is why TNR is necessary today. These periodic abandonments, however, will not derail the overall success of a TNR program because cat colonies can absorb the occasional newcomer yet still show a significant population reduction when the majority of the animals are sterilized. However, efforts should be made to place feeding stations in out-of-the-way locations to minimize the likelihood of abandonment and signs about abandonment ordinances should be posted at high-profile cat colonies.

What TNR state legislation already exists?

- At least 240 local governments have enacted ordinances (policies) supporting TNR.
- Ninety-one cities and counties support or condone TNR as a valid method of animal control. Out of these, 63 endorse TNR as the *only* effective way to address feral cat populations.
- The three states with the highest number of TNR ordinances are New Jersey (58), California (33), and Texas (29).
- Major municipalities and counties that support TNR include: **Clark County (Nevada)**, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, New York City, Sacramento County (California), San Jose, Palm Beach County (Florida), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, Broward County (Florida), Cook County (Illinois), Oklahoma City, Dallas, Omaha, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Fairfax County (Virginia), Maricopa County (Arizona), and Suffolk County (New York).

*Trap, neuter, return is a means of controlling the feral cat population...**Trap-and-Remove doesn't work.** 'Trap-and-Remove' is a euphemism for trapping and euthanizing cats. It may seem like a logical solution, but the fact is that it is not effective...**Catch and euthanize is an endless, costly cycle.***

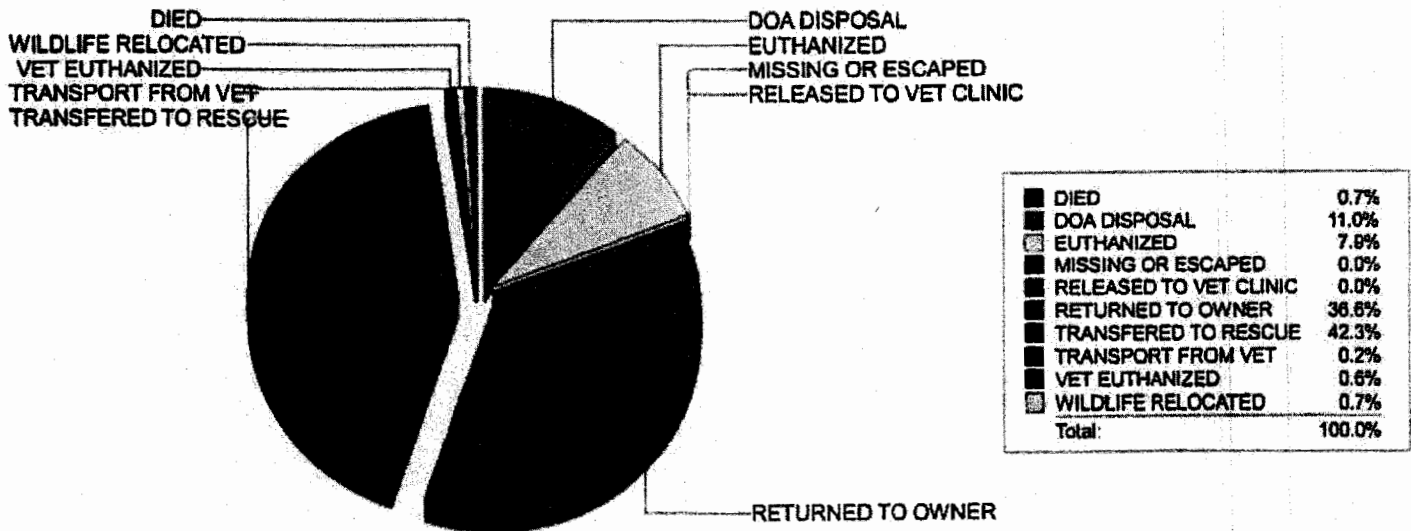


WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES

ALL ANIMAL OUTCOMES DISPOSITIONS FROM 01/01/14 TO 12/31/14

Outcome Types	Total	DOG	CAT	BIRD	LIVESTOCK	OTHER
Total	13,773	8,415	3,918	682	32	726
RETURNED TO OWNER	5,041	4,670	251	87	8	25
TRANSFERED TO RESCUE	5,831	2,573	2,881	186	4	187
TRANSPORT FROM VET	21	18	3	0	0	0
RELEASED TO VET CLINIC	5	1	0	4	0	0
DIED	98	11	38	38	1	10
EUTHANIZED	1,087	648	176	157	1	105
VET EUTHANIZED	81	39	40	2	0	0
MISSING OR ESCAPED	3	0	1	1	0	1
WILDLIFE RELOCATED	93	0	0	65	0	28
DOA DISPOSAL	1,513	455	528	142	18	370

Intake Types



Clark County, Lied Shelter Intake

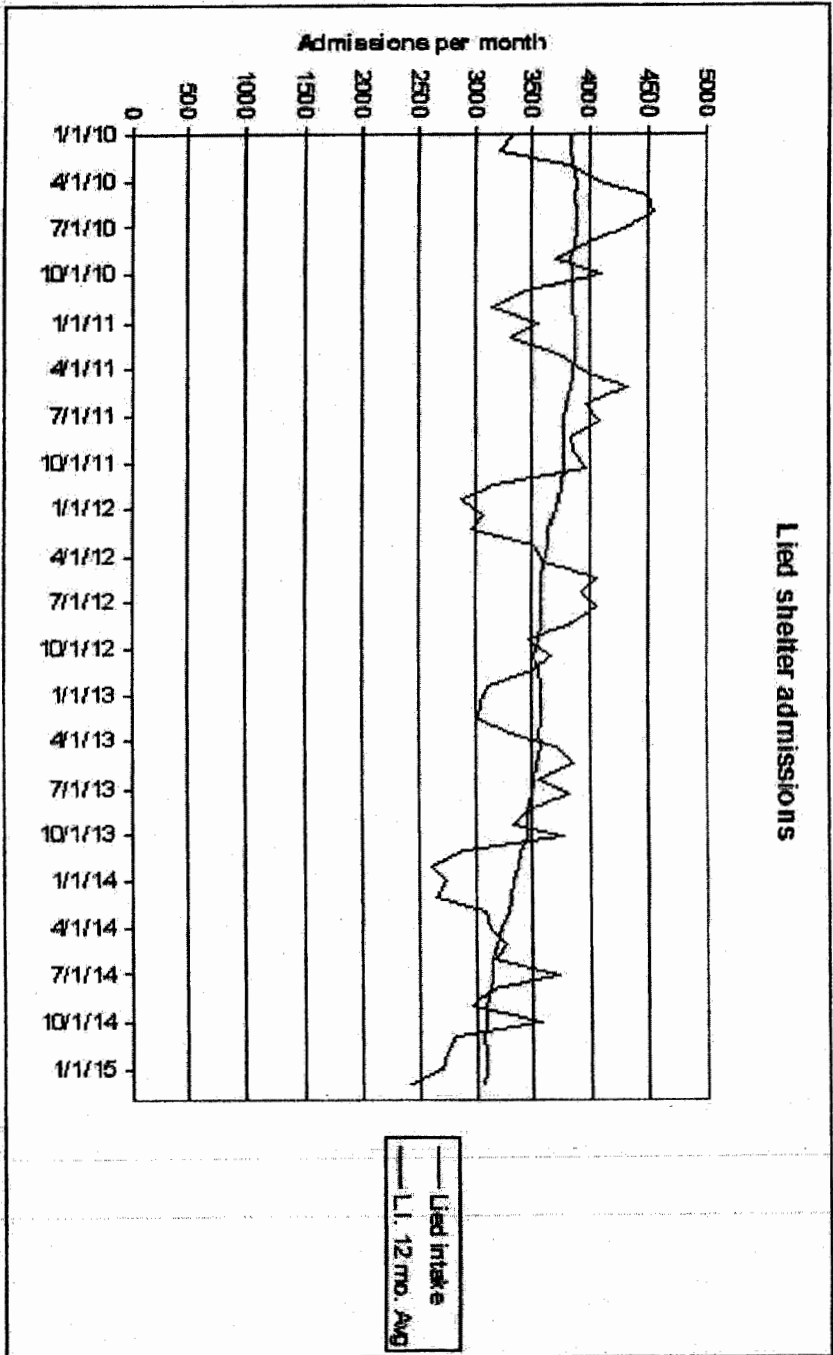


Exhibit A



NDOW Feral Cat Public Comment Statement _ Sparks City Council 24 August 2015

We support the City of Sparks' proposal to ban feral cat colonies within the City of Sparks. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (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.

United States

Literature Cited

www.voxfelina.com/2015/09/let-the-spin-begin/



The headline from a National Geographic story posted online earlier this week created immediate buzz: "Island's Feral Cats Kill Surprisingly Few Birds, Video Shows." Whether or not you were actually *surprised*, I suppose, depends largely on how much you've been paying attention to the issue.

The team of researchers whose work is described in the NatGeo piece, led by the University of Georgia's Sonia Hernandez, could—more than most—have anticipated such results. Kerrie Anne Loyd—for whom Hernandez served as PhD advisor—pioneered "KittyCam" research during her doctoral studies at UGA. And in April 2012, Loyd, discussing the results of "KittyCam 1.0" with Atlanta's CBS affiliate, conceded, "Cats aren't as bad as biologists thought."

Perhaps we're expected to be surprised *again*?

Many of us are not, of course. And we won't be terribly surprised to see how the results of the research (yet to be published) are misrepresented by TNR-deniers such as the American Bird Conservancy. But in this case, ABC faces a particular challenge: the organization helped fund KittyCams 2.0.

If history is any judge, though, ABC will rise (or *stoop*, to be more accurate) to the challenge.

After all, in 2012 ABC issued a joint press release with The Wildlife Society, declaring, "'KittyCam' Reveals High Levels of Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats." In it was a quote from Loyd completely contradicting what she'd said publicly four months earlier: "The results were certainly surprising, if not startling."

Among the surprises: "that cats only brought 23 percent of their kills back to a residence." [1] Sure enough, only nine of the various 39 prey items documented were returned. [2] But *which ones*?

Here, Loyd (and co-author Hernandez) have surprisingly little to say. In their 2013 paper, "Quantifying free-roaming domestic cat predation using animal-borne video cameras," the following summary is provided:

Reptiles: 14

Mammals: 10

Invertebrates: 8
 Birds: 5
 Amphibians: 2
 Total: 39

And this additional clue: "our study found that 14 of 16 reptiles and amphibians (88 percent) were either eaten or left at the capture site." [2]

So, although it's clear that the vast majority of reptiles and amphibians weren't returned, we know next to nothing about the return rate for mammals or birds. Which, considering the paper's title, is more than a little peculiar. Loyd's dissertation, from which the 2013 paper is derived, provides nothing more, [3] and Loyd's ignored my repeated requests for the "details" she and Hernandez omitted.

Could it be the lack of transparency was intentional?

Leave readers guessing and they're liable (again, depending on how familiar they are with the issue) to fill in the blanks for themselves—which is exactly what's happened. [4, 5] Indeed, ABC's Grant Sizemore cites KittyCams 1.0 in his presentation *Cats, Birds, and People: The Consequences of Outdoor Cats and the Need for Effective Management* as evidence that "historical and anecdotal underestimate of total wildlife impact."

"Wildlife" is a very broad category. Are we talking about worms (three of which were among the 39 prey items documented) or the American robins that have a reputation for consuming them (just one of which was included in the prey tally)?

Again, the ambiguity plays to the advantage of anybody who would misrepresent the results—all without the researchers responsible for reporting the original results having to get their hands (overly) dirty.

Safe to say, we can expect more of the same from KittyCams 2.0. Stay tuned.

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www.voxfelina.com/2013/05/the-greater-threat-is-junk-science-an-open-letter-to-the-avma/

An open letter to the American Veterinary Medical Association, in response to the publication of "Cats may be greater threat to wildlife than first thought," in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*:

As an advocate of trap-neuter-return working for one of that nation's leading animal welfare organizations, Best Friends Animal Society—and somebody quite familiar with the science surrounding TNR and free-roaming cats in general—I feel compelled to respond to R. Scott Nolen's recent article ("Cats may be greater threat to wildlife than first thought," JAVMA News, April 1, 2013) about the paper published earlier this year by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Careful scrutiny reveals a number of flaws in the work, and challenges Nolen's suggestion that that the researchers involved "took a rigorous and conservative approach" when developing their headline-grabbing predation estimates. Although a detailed critique is beyond the scope of this letter, a brief overview of the more glaring weaknesses will, I think, make the point.

The 1.4–3.7 billion annual bird mortalities reported by Scott Loss, Tom Will, and Peter Marra (which they describe throughout their paper as a conservative estimate [1]) represent an astonishing 29–76 percent of the estimated 4.7 billion land birds in all of North America, [2] a "contribution" that would very likely have led to the extinction of numerous bird species long ago. Even if, as some have suggested, "the total [population of land birds] could be 2 to 3 times higher in some regions," [3] the implied impact due to predation by cats is simply not supported by existing data. Indeed, 57 of the 58 native bird species Loss et al. claim are targeted by cats have been given a "Least Concern" conservation status by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). [4] The one exception, the Northern Bobwhite, is considered "Near Threatened" due largely to "widespread habitat fragmentation" and extensive hunting. [5] Moreover, the populations of at least 23 of those 58 species are, as indicated by nearly 45 years of North America Breeding Bird Survey data, [6] stable or increasing.

Among the factors contributing to the authors' inflated estimates is their assumption that 40–70 percent of owned cats are not only allowed to go outdoors, but are, as far as their model is concerned, outside 24/7. [1] In fact, surveys suggest that approximately 60 percent of these cats are indoor-only, and that those allowed outdoors are outside for no more than three hours each day. [7, 8].

*This error is, in turn, compounded by the "correction factor to account for owned cats not returning all prey to owners" [1] used by Loss et al. The low-end of the range they used in their model (2.0–3.3) can be traced to a misreading of a 1974 paper published in *The Wilson Bulletin*, [9] while the upper-end was derived from observations of 12 cats successfully capturing "small mammals" rather than birds (which were observed to avoid capture). [10] The two errors alone inflate the predation rate attributed to pet cats by a factor of 10–20.*

The claim made by Loss et al that about 69 percent of cat-killed birds and 89 percent of cat-killed mammals in the U.S. are killed by unowned cats is similarly flawed. Five of the eight studies the authors included in their analysis were conducted in the 1930s and 1950s, when it wasn't unusual for researchers studying the diet of cats to simply shoot whatever cats could be found hunting along roadsides (or picked up dead, having been killed by a passing vehicle). [11] Setting aside the obvious ethical objections, such methods are, at best, useful for determining what the cats were hunting, but tell us very little about the frequency of their hunting efforts—and nothing whatsoever about any impact

on prey populations.

And the estimate by Loss et al. that 80–100 percent of unowned cats kill wildlife relies exclusively on studies of rural cats. Research conducted in more densely populated areas, or areas where unowned cats aren't entirely reliant on prey for their meals, reveals predation rates far lower than 80 percent, [12] especially for birds. [13] Again, one flaw is compounded by another, resulting in grossly inflated predation estimates.

Especially puzzling is the authors' assertion that "projects to manage free-ranging cats, such as Trap-Neuter-Return colonies, are potentially harmful to wildlife populations." [1] Not only do Loss et al. provide no evidence to support such a claim, they overlook an often-cited study that has documented predation by colony cats. Over the course of approximately 300 hours of observation (this, in addition to what the researchers describe as "several months identifying, describing, and photographing each of the cats living in the colonies" prior to beginning their research) in two Miami-Dade County (FL) parks, Castillo and Clarke "saw cats kill a juvenile common yellowthroat and a blue jay. Cats also caught and ate green anoles, bark anoles, and brown anoles... [and the researchers] found the carcasses of a gray catbird and a juvenile opossum in the feeding area." [14] There were, at any one time, 85–95 cats across the two study sites—more than enough opportunity for documenting the kind of extensive predation suggested by Loss et al.

While it's true, as Nolen suggests, that the IUCN "lists the domestic cat among the world's 100 worst invasive alien species," it's important to point out that this designation has mostly to do with their impact on wildlife native to oceanic islands. [15] And as researchers Dennis Turner and Mike Fitzgerald explained 13 years ago, "there are few, if any studies apart from island ones, that actually demonstrate that cats have reduced bird populations." [16] As Louise Holton, president and founder of Alley Cat Rescue, points out in the article, cats—like all predators—tend to prey on the young, the old, the weak and 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). [17, 18] "Despite the large numbers of birds killed, there is no scientific evidence that predation by cats in gardens is having any impact on bird populations UK-wide," notes the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on its website. "It is likely that most of the birds killed by cats would have died anyway from other causes before the next breeding season, so cats are unlikely to have a major impact on populations." [19]

Last year, Loss et al. published a paper in which they pointed out that "national mortality estimates are often based on extrapolation from a limited sample of small-scale studies, and estimates of uncertainty are ignored or only superficially assessed." [20] Ironically, the authors include some of these very studies in their more recent analysis. And by pooling studies from various contexts, attempting to "correct" for different methods, and so forth, they actually add to the uncertainty they lamented previously.

Also ironic is the fact that two of the three authors have advocated publicly for restrictions or outright bans on TNR, [21, 22] despite compelling evidence demonstrating its effectiveness. [23–30] Such policies would, it's virtually guaranteed, actually increase the risk to the wildlife we all want to protect.

The real story here has little to do with conservation; it's about how such shoddy science is funded by U.S. taxpayers, published, sold to the public, and used as rationale for policy decisions [31, 32] that would likely result in the deaths of millions of domestic cats. It's disappointing and troubling to see the AVMA—whose mission is "to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine"—effectively endorse the Smithsonian/USFWS paper, giving it undeserved credibility.

Peter J. Wolf
Cat Initiatives Analyst

Community Programs and Services
National Programs
Best Friends Animal Society

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Exhibit B



Shaping the future for birds

July 22, 2015

City Council
City Hall
431 Prater Way
Sparks, NV 89431

RE: Feral Cat Control

Dear Mayor Martini and Council Members:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), I am writing to urge your support for an ordinance that would prohibit establishing and maintaining feral cat colonies in the City of Sparks. An abundance of scientific evidence and professional organizations have clearly determined that cat colonies, maintained under trap, neuter, release (TNR) programs, are ineffective in reducing feral cat numbers, contribute to unsustainable predation on sensitive wildlife, and undermine public health and safety.

TNR Does Not Reduce Feral Cat Populations

Despite good intentions, TNR programs do not effectively reduce feral cat populations. Rather than slowly disappearing, scientific studies have identified that colonies persist and the number of cats may actually increase.^{i,ii} Behavioral changes associated with spaying and neutering and the supplemental feeding of feral cat colonies under TNR "care" has been shown to attract stray cats and lead to the increased abandonment of pets by irresponsible owners, resulting in a waste of "money, time, and energy."ⁱⁱⁱ The results of an evaluation of two long-term TNR programs in California and Florida led a team of researchers to conclude that "no plausible combination of [conditions] would likely allow for TNR to succeed in reducing population size."^{iv}

Feral Cat Colonies Threaten Wildlife

Domestic cats are a non-native species that impose considerable ecological damage and have contributed to the extinction of 33 species.^v The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists cats among the world's worst invasive species globally, and the Department of Interior's State of the Birds 2014 Report recognized outdoor cats as the number one source of direct, human-caused mortality for birds.^{vi,vii} Every year in the United States, outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals.^{viii}

Unfortunately, feeding cats does not eliminate this instinctive hunting behavior.^{ix} Moreover, even when cats do not directly kill wildlife, their mere presence has been shown to result in a reduction in the feeding of nesting chicks by one-third and an increased likelihood of nest failure by an order of magnitude.^x Not only are these wildlife species public trust resources, many are also protected by a variety of state and federal laws including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and

the Endangered Species Act. To support a program that intentionally releases non-native predators into an environment with known endangered species is a potentially severe legal liability.

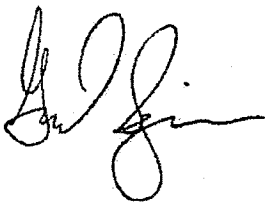
Feral Cat Colonies Threaten Public Health

Permitting and maintaining feral cats roaming in parks and neighborhoods is a recognized risk by public health scientists, agencies, and professional organizations such as the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.^{xi} Cats carry a number of diseases including plague, typhus, and cat-scratch disease. Cats are also consistently the number one carrier of rabies among domestic animals and pose a "disproportionate risk for potential human exposure."^{xii} Indeed, the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control advises that all stray cats be removed from the community.^{xiii} Even when TNR programs incorporate rabies vaccinations, required booster shots necessary to ensure public safety are almost never administered.^{xiv}

Cats also spread the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes toxoplasmosis. This parasite is excreted by cats into the environment through feces, effectively contaminating soil and waterways. Although cats are the only definitive hosts for the parasite, all warm-blooded species can be infected with toxoplasmosis, and studies have linked such infections in deer with nearby feral cat colonies in TNR programs.^{xv} Although once thought to only harm people with compromised immune systems, new research has shown that even healthy adults are at risk. Toxoplasmosis has been linked to schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, obsessive compulsive disorder, and other neuro-degenerative diseases and can cause sudden abortion, fetal abnormalities, and death.^{xvi,xvii} Furthermore, a new study has documented "remarkable" working memory performance reductions in seniors 65 and older that test positive for the parasitic disease.^{xviii} TNR programs actually facilitate the spread of *T. gondii*, and such conditions can lead to epidemics of toxoplasmosis in North America.^{xviii}

Based on the overwhelming evidence that invariably indicates the failure of TNR and the need to remove feral cat colonies, ABC urges your support for an ordinance that prohibits establishing and maintaining such colonies. Rather than maintain hordes of roaming feral cats, the City would be better served by treating cats like dogs and effectively removing these feral animals. If ABC can be of any help to you, please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration,



Grant Sizemore, M.S., AWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs
American Bird Conservancy

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Taking a Broader View of Cats in the Community

NACA feral cat policy moves toward management



NACA president Mark Kumpf says the organization's updated cat management policy addresses the needs of today's animal care agencies and officers. SUZANNE COLEMAN/MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL RESOURCE CENTER

When it comes to cat management, the National Animal Control Association (NACA) believes the times are a-changin'.

A 2002 NACA policy statement, under the heading "Feral Cats," stated that animal control officers "should be empowered to remove all feral and unwanted cats from the community."

But NACA president Mark Kumpf, who also serves as director of the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center in Ohio, says communities are seeking alternatives to traditional trapping. With that in mind, the NACA board of directors voted Feb. 11 to revise its policy toward feral cats.

The new policy, labeled "Community Cat Management," calls for ACOs to be "empowered to manage all feral, stray and owned cats within the community." Management may include law enforcement, education, public/private partnerships for cat care and control, spay/neuter programs, and regulated cat caretaker programs.

Below, Kumpf tells *Animal Sheltering* associate editor James Hettinger why NACA broadened its policy.

AS: What were the key changes to the policy?

Mark Kumpf: It was originally titled our "feral cat policy." And basically the association realized that feral cats are just one portion of the cat situation. So what we've done is we've addressed it more as a community response, and with that we've taken into consideration that the traditional methods that many communities use—that simply ended up with capture and euthanize—are not necessarily the ones that communities are looking for today. ...

The 2002 policy said ACOs should be empowered to remove all feral and unwanted cats from the community. The new policy says ACOs should be empowered to manage all feral, stray, and owned cats, and so on. What's the significance of that?

... It's recognizing that in some cases, certain jurisdictions and communities are more interested in maintaining a stable cat population than they are in simply bailing the ocean with a thimble. ...

Basically this policy is designed to show that animal care and control officers and those agencies are part of a community management strategy. We're looking

to come up with alternatives that, first of all, don't break the budget. As we've seen before, there's no department that I'm aware of that has enough money in their budget to simply practice the old capture-and-euthanize policy; nature just keeps having more kittens. And [the old policy] doesn't necessarily accomplish the goals that people are looking for. This [revised policy] gives agencies [that] are looking for more guidance the opportunity to explore some of those alternatives. ...

We also stress in here that they actually need to have the tools. Cats in many areas are still considered second-class animal citizens—they're not afforded the same protection that dogs are, and there's no funding mechanism that helps deal with cats. There are some states where dog license fees support only dog control programs, and there's no money available for managing cats. So that kind of leaves the burden on the nonprofit sector and donations to handle what is essentially a community issue. ...

In several places it would be fair to say you've broadened the policy. It now says you're trying to protect all cats, where the earlier one said just owned cats should be protected.

It's supposed to enable officers to manage feral, stray, and owned cats—and each of those is a unique member of the cat community. ...

We've always focused on strategies that get pets home, and this is another one of those strategies that offers us a number of options. We're advocating not just the traditional collar and tag, but microchipping as well as other means to identify these cats, so that people recognize that this cat has a place in the community. ...

One other thing that agencies have found is that everybody in the community knows where there's a great place to dump their cats. You know, "Oh, somebody's there, they take care of them, we see food out there, this is cat nirvana. We'll just go let 'em loose." The prob-

lem is it turns out to be behind a restaurant, [which] then runs afoul of the local health district, and animal control's left with the unfortunate task of having to go remove the cats. If you were working with a community strategy, you'd have some other options available, including relocation, rehabilitation. ...

The previous policy was really aimed at cleanup, and this is designed to be more community-minded. We're not saying that communities have to adopt these; it's just simply a recommendation. And it gives them an alternative. Before, some agencies were simply holding the policy up and going, "This is proof [of] why we should do this, because this is the leading national animal control agency, and their policy is [to] capture and potentially euthanize." And that's not the direction the communities are going. That's not the direction that NACA's going. So we've amended our policy to address that. ...

So you think this has the potential to have some real positive, on-the-ground impact?

Absolutely. And it gives agencies the opportunity to explore and potentially try some of these strategies. Whereas before, you find a lot of municipalities simply look at the agency next door and go, "Well, if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for us." What we're saying is the old standard isn't good enough any more. You need to be able to be flexible with your community animal management strategies for both cats and dogs. And if you continue to follow the old philosophy, eventually everybody else is going to pass you by. Progressive communities are seeing that being flexible in their strategy allows for economic savings. The cost for picking up and simply euthanizing and disposing animals is horrendous, in both the philosophical and the economic sense. So giving someone the alternative, and telling them it's OK to think outside the litter box, it's an opportunity for those agencies to be able to sell that program to their administration and work on it. ...

Our goal is to reduce needless euthanasia. This is aimed at being part of that overall strategy. AS

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Prank Culls » Vox Felina – Feral/free-roaming cats and trap-neuter-return/TNR: critiquing the opposition

🐾 www.voxfelina.com/2015/04/prank-culls/

Recent research from Australia finds that lethal methods might actually backfire, increasing an area's population of free-roaming cats.

While evidence of TNR's effectiveness continues to mount, the case for the "traditional" approach to community cat management (i.e., complaint-driven impoundment typically resulting in death) grows increasingly indefensible. Of course, the very fact that the debate over "the feral cat problem" persists illustrates the point: if trap-and-kill worked, the evidence would be plentiful by now, and the debate would have ended.

Nevertheless, there are those who cling desperately and inexplicably to the perverse hope that we might be able to kill our way to a day when there are simply no more outdoor cats (including pets). A recently published Australian study, however, challenges such wishful thinking with unusually compelling findings.

Indeed, the researchers involved found that the "low-level culling of feral cats" [1] led not to a population decrease, but an *increase* in their numbers. And, because the number of cats being trapped decreased over time, it *appeared* the lethal efforts were actually effective.

Don't expect a press release from the American Bird Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PETA, or any of the other organizations that continue to promote the senseless killing of outdoor cats.

The Study

Using remote trail cameras, Lazenby et al. estimated the number of cats at two southern Tasmania study sites before and after "a 13-month pulse of low-level culling" intended to "simulate the resource-effort that typically might be available to and expended by natural resource managers." [1]

In fact, the resource-effort expended was anything *but* low-level.

Over the course of 13 months, the researchers managed to squeeze in 2,764 trap-nights*—an average of seven traps set for every day of the culling period. Each of the 26 cats trapped was, after being left in the trap for up to 12 hours or more, "euthanased by a single shot to the head from a 0.22 rifle using hollow point ammunition." [1] (Lazenby et al. explain that this fate awaited only those cats lacking a microchip "or signs of lactation," but fail to explain what alternative treatment awaited the others—or if there *were* any others.)

And the results of their culling efforts?

"Contrary to our prior expectations," explain the researchers, the "minimum number of feral cats known to be alive" *increased*—an average of 75 percent at one site and 211 percent at the other. Moreover, "cat numbers fell, and were comparable with those in the pre-culling period, when culling ceased." [1] Put a little less scientifically: the whole thing backfired.

All of which might be easily dismissed (and it's safe to assume some TNR opponents will do exactly that) were it not for the rigorous methods these researchers employed. They developed, for example, a system "for identifying individuals with low, medium or high confidence" from their collection of trail camera photos. On the high-end were instances in which many "good-quality" photos were obtained "from several angles" and showing "distinct marks and/or other identifying features." [1]

By contrast, identification derived from "poor-quality photos and/or few photos and/or poor camera angle" of cats with

"no distinct marks and/or other identifying features" were considered "low-confidence," and "not used in any analyses requiring identification of individuals." [1] (It's worth noting that just 18 of the 353 photos fell into this category.)

So how to explain the unexpected results?

Lazenby et al. offer two possibilities. First, culling removed dominant individuals, which "allowed greater access to resources by remaining cats, thus promoting an increase in juvenile survival." At most, though, this "could have provided only a marginal boost."

"This is because the reproductive potential of female feral cats within and around the study sites is unlikely to have been large enough over a 13-month period to produce the rapid changes in numbers that we observed." [1]

The more likely explanation, write the researchers, is that "the culling sites experienced influxes of new [adult] individuals after dominant resident cats were removed." [1]

Implications for Animal Control

It's a little difficult to tell how the "low-intensity culling" described by Lazenby et al. compares with traditional trap-and-kill efforts (typically triggered by nuisance complaints) practiced by animal control agencies in this country. The density of cats, for example, is much smaller than what's typically found in urban and suburban areas (and probably many rural areas, too).

Still, there are undeniable similarities. As Lazenby et al. acknowledge, "the low-level culling effort we used did not constitute a sustained, multi-faceted, long-term downward pressure on our study populations, which may be required if culling is to be used in programs of feral-cat control." [1] Surely, the same can be said of the sort of trap-and-kill efforts that have proven ineffective for generations now.

Indeed, in a 2008 interview with *Animal Sheltering*, Mark Kumpf, then president of the National Animal Care and Control Association, compared the traditional approach to "bailing the ocean with a thimble." [2] Imagine, in light of this recent study, a slightly revised analogy: as each thimbleful is removed from the ocean, a cup of water is added.

* A trap-night is, as the name suggests, defined as one trap set for one night. Setting 10 traps every night for one week, then, would constitute 70 trap-nights.

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Breaking Down the Bogus Smithsonian Catbird Study

As advocates for all animals, we were dismayed by the irresponsible and biased conclusions of a 2011 study on bird deaths from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Population demography of Gray Catbirds in the suburban matrix: sources, sinks and domestic cats," published in the *Journal of Ornithology*¹, is a limited study that cannot be extrapolated to represent the complex cat-bird dynamic nationwide. Much more disturbing, however, is how this data has been manipulated to malign cats and used widely to dredge up a false and counterproductive debate.



The Smithsonian's Conclusions Exaggerate the Facts

The Smithsonian study relies on an extremely small sample size (just 69 birds) in a very limited radius (three sites within mere miles of each other). Opponents of Trap-Neuter-Return have already latched onto this study to clamor for cats indoors—a concept that, it is worth noting, is a death sentence for countless feral cats—but they are mishandling the data and misleading the public.

It is absurd to think that a minor study conducted on a single species of bird in a small area of suburban Maryland could accurately be used to characterize the relationship between cats and birds in landscapes all over America.

The press release circulated by the Smithsonian's National Zoo further exaggerates and misconstrues the study's findings, dramatically painting cats as the major threat to birds by stating that of the birds studied "almost half of the deaths were connected to domestic cats"—specifically, 47%. However, a quick look at the numbers shows this figure to be greatly manipulated:

- Of the 69 birds studied, 42 died during the study. Only six of those deaths can be directly attributed to cats through observation.
- The authors guessed that another three bird deaths could be attributed to cats based on circumstantial evidence.
- The authors inflate the figure to 47% by focusing the discussion only on the number of birds that died due to predators, not the total number of birds in the study. They ignore the 27 birds that did not die, as well as the nine birds that died due to causes other than predation, and the 14 birds that died due to unknown predators. This leaves 19 birds that were killed by known predators.
- The number of deaths attributable to cats is 9 birds out of 69—or 13%—not 47%.
- But when taken as a percentage of all of the deaths from known predators, (9 out of 19) the number of birds killed by cats inflates to 47%—hyping cats' impact on bird populations way out of proportion.

Statistics are a powerful persuasive tool because people often take them at face value, but numbers can be manipulated too. The omission of 50 birds—well more than half the sample size—in calculating this figure dramatically changes the conclusions of the study.

As the researchers themselves note, they also failed to examine whether the few deaths attributed to cats were *additive*—more birds dying than normal—or *compensatory*—consistent with the normal mortality rate for this species. Considering data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey, which shows the Maryland catbird population to be on the rise, the former seems unlikely. Cats specialize in hunting rodents; also, studies have confirmed that the birds who are caught are generally weaker animals who are not likely to have survived.

Humans are the True Threat to Birds

When rationally viewed, the Smithsonian study and the resulting press flurry has added nothing to the overall conversation about how to protect animals. Instead, it has only drawn attention away from the real threat to birds—people.

Alley Cat Allies wants what's in the best interest of all animals, including birds. Environmental experts say we must change the way we are impacting our environment. Until we can stop going in circles, perpetuating this false debate, and focus on the real threat, we are truly just chasing our tails.

[1] Balogh, Anne L., Thomas B. Ryder and Peter P. Marra. Population demography of Gray Catbirds in the suburban matrix: sources, sinks and domestic cats. *Journal of Ornithology*. 2011. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10336-011-0648-7>; <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds>

The (Ig)Noble Pursuit of Public (Dis)Service » Vox Felina – Feral/free-roaming cats and trap-neuter-return/TNR: critiquing the opposition

www.voxfelina.com/2015/02/the-ignoble-pursuit-of-public-disservice/

Two new public service campaigns from the American Bird Conservancy fly in the face of science, public opinion, and common sense.

For nearly 20 years now, it seems the people at the American Bird Conservancy have been willing to say whatever they thought they could get away with to promote the lethal roundup of “feral” cats. Unburdened by the constraints of integrity, PR ought to be easy for ABC. Two recent public service announcements, however, suggest otherwise.

Indeed, ABC’s latest salvo in their war on cats suggests that the organization’s grasp of effective messaging is no better than their grasp of science. (And *this*, as every regular reader will understand immediately, is saying something.)

“Protect Cats Like You Protect Kids”

Perhaps it’s merely a coincidence that this PSA is, conceptually, very similar to Best Friends Animal Society’s “Fix at Four” campaign from a few years ago—who knows? But, while Best Friends* is actively saving lives through programming, legislation, and various forms of advocacy, ABC president George Fenwick is calling publicly for millions of “cats that are not adoptable” to be killed. [1]

How’s that for “protection”? Pity the unadoptable... *children*.

Nevertheless, ABC—which, according to tax records, brought in \$10.6 million in “contributions and grants” during 2013—is using this PSA in an attempt to raise \$15,000 “to help air this important PSA!”

That’s right: ABC is now fundraising “to protect cats.”

The cats need ABC’s “protection” about as much as they need the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ “management.”

“Cats in Hawaii”

In this PSA, ABC relies on junk science published in 2013 to support their claim that “8 out of 10 residents support the removal of feral cats from our environment.” (As I pointed out in August 2014, the authors responsible for the survey—both of whom oppose TNR—started out with a badly flawed sample, thereby invalidating their findings.)

This “removal” (a cowardly euphemism favored by both ABC and the researchers behind the survey) is, acknowledges the PSA, “a big job” but achievable if people keep their pet cats indoors and “refrain from feeding feral cats.”

So here we have another leap of logic: the same cats ABC claims are killing Hawaii’s birds will, if only residents will stop feeding them, kill... *fewer* birds. (And somehow also be rendered infertile.)

Setting that obvious point aside for the moment (as ABC surely hopes we will), let’s consider just *how* big a job this “big job” really is. Eradicating 635 cats from Ascension Island—roughly *one-twentieth* the size of Maui—took 27 months and cost taxpayers a staggering \$1.3 million (in 2013 dollars). [2]

Maybe *this* is the PSA that should have been tied to a fundraising campaign.

* In the interest of full disclosure, I've been employed by Best Friends since May 2013.

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Feral Cat Predation and Its Effects on Wildlife- Searching For the Truth.

©2003 Christine L. O'Keefe, Ph.D. for www.StrayPetAdvocacy.org

One topic that has become intimately intertwined with the question of how to manage feral cat populations is that of feline predation and the effects on wildlife populations. It is a simple fact, cats are obligate carnivores. For cats, predation is a natural part of life; they must eat meat in order to survive. As Ellen Perry Berkeley so eloquently put it, "It is we who bring emotion to this activity of the cat." (Berkeley, 2001)

This topic has become a battleground of competing studies and experts. A study supporting any stance can be found, and are often cited and quoted without seriously analyzing the actual study. However, some conclusions can be reached regarding feline predation and its effect on wildlife:

1. There is no strong support for the viewpoint that cats are a serious threat to wildlife, except perhaps for fragile populations in isolated or fragmented ecosystems;
2. The role of other predators, including foxes, feral dogs, and some bird species has not been adequately addressed;
3. The role of feral cats in a healthy ecosystem has not been studied;
4. Finally, the effect of humans on sensitive ecosystems and disappearing species is often ignored.

Studies into cat predation have been done for almost a century. These studies fall into three main classes (Slater, 2002):

1. Island ecosystems
2. Owned cats with access to the outdoors
3. Feral cats.

THE METHODOLOGY

Many techniques have been used in these studies. Owner-reported rates of predation are obtained through randomized phone calls or mailed surveys which rely on the memory of the owner (Robertson, 1998; Reark, 1994), or by long-term follow-up studies, in which the owners record the predation behavior of their cats as it happens for a defined period of time (Churcher and Lawton, 1987). Observations of predation by scientists include direct observation, analyzing stomach or fecal/scat contents of cats (Bell and Sim, 2000), radio collaring and observation, or analysis of dead or injured prey species (Bell and Sim, 2000). As in any scientific study, each of these techniques has potential drawbacks that may skew the findings.

Many potential problems exist within one time owner-reported rates of predation. As a rule, for any survey, a low rate of response renders the study meaningless. A study that is performed in a small area (say one city instead of many cities across a nation) will not be applicable to a larger region. Studies of urban cats are most likely not applicable to cats that live in a suburban or rural environment. In studies that are not performed face-to-

face, there is no way to verify that the respondent even has a cat. Owner bias also plays a large role (Hartwell, 1997). For those who do own cats, the way they think of their cat could distort their response. As an example, someone who keeps a cat as a “mouser” may be more willing to report or over-report predation than someone who thinks of their cat as a well-tended (and well-fed) housecat. The general view of the culture that they live in regarding cats may also influence an owner’s response. Finally, these sorts of reports come from memory alone, which may also distort owner response.

Long-term follow up studies are much more robust in many ways. They do not rely on an owner’s memory of predation by their cat. Owners instead record predation events as they happen. However, there are still drawbacks to long-term follow up studies. There is no way to prove that the prey brought home was actually killed by the cat. Cats, as opportunistic feeders, will feed on carrion (already-dead animals) as well as those they killed themselves, so predation rates may be over-reported. Often, a cat will consume its’ prey at the site of the kill, so predation rates may be under-reported. Finally, all types of owner-reported predation studies rely greatly on the cats being studied, including their age, their natural territory and what food sources they have access to.

Studies of cat predation undertaken by research scientists often use direct observation of feline kills; these studies have the same drawbacks as explained above of owner-reported long term studies. Alternatively, feline predation is determined by killing cats and studying their stomach contents. For many, studies of this type are ethically and morally repugnant (Garcia, Diez and Alvarez, 2001). Stomach analysis can also be performed on cats that die of natural causes; alternatively feline scat can be studied. One of the drawbacks of these types of studies are that they are restricted to a limited number of meals. Also, dead or injured prey animals found and/or taken to refuges can be studied to determine if their injuries are similar to that of a “typical” cat kill. However, this presupposes that a “typical” cat kill is well defined and is distinctive enough to warrant that conclusion.

THE FINDINGS

The findings of cat predation studies are often extrapolated to determine the number of prey killed by the cats of a state or a nation. For example, the American Bird Conservancy reported that a study in England found that the British cat population was killing at least 300 million prey animals a year (American Bird Conservancy). However, the original study does not support these claims. In the study, the catches and kills of 986 cats across Great Britain (except Ireland and the Channel Islands) were compiled over a 5 month period, and it was determined that the mean number of prey caught and killed was 11.3 during the study period (Woods, McDonald, and Harris). This study, like many of its kind, has several potential problems. First, study participants were recruited in part from members of the Mammal Society. Since this is a conservation organization, a portion of the respondents most likely were concerned with conservation and extinction, a fact the authors of the study readily admit. The study recorded the number of prey brought home by the cats assuming that these equaled kills by the cats. However, cats are opportunistic feeders and a portion of the prey brought home may have been already

dead, which was not taken into account in the final analysis. Of 696 cats, 91% brought home at least one prey animal. This is contradictory to many other studies, which found that 35-56% of cats hunt (Fougere, 2000; Perry 1999; Reark, 1994). Once again, the authors acknowledge this point. Additionally, feline predation is not constant during the course of the year. Since the study was limited to only 5 months, the findings may have been skewed by studying the cats during their most active hunting period during the year. But most striking, and most important for the discussion of extrapolation, is a comment the authors themselves made: "Our estimates of the total numbers of animals brought home by cats throughout Britain should be treated with requisite caution and these figures do not equate to an assessment of the impact of cats on wildlife populations." Sadly, comments like these made by the researchers themselves are often ignored by groups who use and abuse these studies to prove cats are the major cause of prey species decline.

OTHER FACTORS

Besides the inherent problems of the studies as discussed above, there are numerous other factors other than feral and domestic cat predation which affect wildlife populations. These are not often addressed in studies of cat predation, although they can greatly influence any conclusions made by the studies. The presence (or absence) and effect of other predator species must also be taken into consideration. Feral dogs can and do have a large impact on wildlife. Other small predators, such as foxes, minks and skunks are often more efficient predators than cats. Perhaps most surprisingly, birds can and do kill other birds. Even in isolated ecosystems where domestic cats are not a factor and cats must hunt to survive, feral cats are not the sole predators but exist in a complex relationship with the prey species and other predators. The absence of larger mammalian carnivores can lead to what is known as "mesopredator release", in which smaller carnivores are free to fill the ecological niche left by the larger predator and prey on smaller vertebrates. "Mesopredator release" has been suggested as the cause of decline and extinction of some prey species, and has been studied in coastal California (Crooks and Soule 1999).

Feral cats, as all animals, live in a complex ecological web. As the above mesopredator study demonstrated, if one part of the system is removed, normal predator/prey interactions are disrupted. However, we know little if any about the normal role feral cats play in the environment. It is important to note that cats and their prey species have coexisted for hundreds if not thousands of years. If feline predation has such a negative impact, as the British study suggests, then birds and other small vertebrates would have become extinct long ago (CJ Meade, 1982).

We must also take into consideration the effect humans have on the environment, as well as their direct impact on feline prey species. Feline predation has been shown to be detrimental in isolated environments as well as fragmented ecosystems. This fragmentation is often due to human action, such as urban sprawl and road construction. Indiscriminate poisoning by humans to kill a specific pest species frequently kills a large percentage of other species.

CONCLUSIONS

So, what has been learned from all the conflicting studies of cat predation? What do we know now about cat predation in general? First, multiple studies have found that 36-56% of owned cats hunt (Fougere, 2000; Perry 1999; Reark, 1994). The amount of prey caught varies widely between individual cats. In one study 70% of cats caught less than 10 prey animals, while 6% caught over 50 prey animals (Barrat, D.G., 1998, 1997). What do cats eat? Primarily, cats are opportunistic feeders, and will utilize whatever food source is most prevalent, including supplemental feeding by humans, garbage and carrion (Berkely, 2001; Winograd, 2003). Of the cats that rely on hunting, the majority of their diet consists of mammals (Berkely, 2001; Fitzgerald, 1988). The feline hunting style of wait and pounce is unsuitable for flying birds. Frequently, the flying birds consumed are injured or already dead (Berkely, 2001).

It is an undeniable fact that cats are carnivores; their physiology demands this. However, the debate on cat predation focuses on the impact on the other species in their ecosystem. While it is clear that cats can and do have a large impact in exceptional situations (isolated ecosystems being the primary example), it is much more apparent that in our normal, everyday environments the actions of humans have a much greater effect on vulnerable and threatened species. Urban sprawl, fragmentation of forested ecosystems, the increase in motor vehicles and the related increase in roads, and the use of pesticides, fertilizers and poisons do much more damage to bird and small vertebrate species than do domestic and/or feral cats. However, feral cat predation, and its' supposed effect on vulnerable species, is frequently used as an argument against trap/neuter/return (TNR) programs. As cats are opportunistic feeders, providing them with a readily available food source as a part of a TNR program will reduce any effect they have on their traditional prey species. All cats, and feral cats in particular, have become convenient scapegoats for the loss of many species, especially songbirds. However, we can no longer ignore the role that we humans have played in this process. Before we can sentence cats to death for being carnivores, we need to take a hard look at ourselves and what we have done to our ecosystem.

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Exhibit C

Killing Animals-Cats

The main problem with lethal injection does not seem to be the drugs, since they work very quickly and apparently painlessly. The problem is the pain and fright caused by the injection itself. In the standard procedure, the cat is brought into the room where it is to be euthanized. Then, because the injection is expected to hurt the animal and cause it to struggle or even break off the needle, an assistant holds it very tightly, while the vet gives it the injection. The strange room is already unsettling for any sensitive animal, especially the typical home-owned pet. But being forcibly held, as well as the sight of the needle, frightens it. The pain of the injection then makes a bad situation even worse and the drug works so quickly that the animal has no time to calm down and become tranquil. It dies in a state of fear and trepidation. Humans may take painful injections for granted, but they frighten animals out of their wits.

Of course, a poor animal does not have this power to rationalize and resign itself to pain. It is simply scared by the syringe and the strange environment and shocked by the pain. It dies a fearful, agitated, unhappy death, no matter how swiftly and painlessly the solution does its work. Richard Wagner once remarked how he had no sympathy for the plight of man because man has, after all, the power of resignation. But he had great sympathy for animals because they do not have this power of resignation.

From: EUTHANASIA, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMAN AND ANIMAL
MEDICINE

PETA opposes No Kill efforts while killing 97+% of the animals that enter their own "shelter".

PeTA blasted its opposition to No Kill Houston and Nathan Winograd's efforts to bring no kill sheltering to Houston by sending letters to Houston's newspaper and by sending mass emails to their members. PeTA told Houstonians and our city officials to oppose No Kill sheltering and instead demand Mandatory Spay/Neuter laws. It is beyond comprehension why PETA, an organization who claims to want to save all animals, would oppose No Kill efforts which could save 80,000 pets in Houston each year. See Nathan Winograd's response to PETA's killing agenda here.

And while mandatory spay/neuter laws may seem like the answer to lowering the kill rates in shelters, it is actually counter-intuitive. Apparently, PeTA has not researched other communities that have passed mandatory spay/neuter laws. If they had, they would discover that these laws are not working to lower kill rates. In fact, these laws have actually caused shelter surrender rates to rise, which in turn caused kill rates to RISE in those communities. There are links to several articles on this topic on our website which explain why this is occurring.

Before anyone takes advice from PeTA regarding saving lives, let's look at PeTA's own record when it comes to protecting companion animals. In fact there are NO protections at PETA. Their literature would suggest that they protect every animal on earth, but this is far from true.

Within 11 years, PETA has killed over 29,000 -- averaging a 90% to 97% KILL rate (according to PETA's own records supplied to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.) By comparison, the Virginia Society for the Protection of Animals (which operates in the same Norfolk, Virginia area as PeTA) euthanized less than 2.5% of the 1,404 animals placed with them in 2006.

In fact, PeTA's leader, Ingrid Newkirk has stated that PeTA has never hidden the fact that most animals are euthanized as a matter of policy.

<http://www.targetofopportunity.com/peta.htm>

While claiming to oppose cruel methods of killing animals, PeTA is the last major animal advocacy group in the U.S. that vehemently opposes trap, neuter, return for feral cat control. For example, in September 2003, PETA tried to block a neuter/return program proposed to the city of Newport News by Cat Rescue Inc., the

Animal Resource Foundation, and Meower Power Feral Cat Coalition.

Their opposition of TNR efforts continues today. In Feb, 2012, PeTA sent out this Action Alert to their members asking them to oppose SB 359 in Virginia. This bill aimed to clarify existing law to state that TNR is not illegal. The bill would allow feral cat caretakers to neuter and release cats without fear of prosecution.

The bill was supported by TNR advocates across the nation, but the pro-kill PeTA urged their supporters to oppose the law.

In 2012, PeTA told the Mayor of Columbus, GA to NOT work with rescuers because some of them might be hoarders. PeTa would prefer that the animals are instead killed in shelters.

ANIMAL PEOPLE in mid-2004 received detailed complaints from several North Carolina no kill shelter volunteers and one ex-PeTA employee who charged that PeTA was taking animals from them who had been sterilized and vaccinated in preparation for adoption, promising to place them in homes, and then refused to account for them. The volunteers believed the animals were being killed. The ex-PeTA employee affirmed their suspicions.

It's obvious that PeTA knows nothing about protecting animals nor are their actions "ethical". This organization is anything but ethical.

There is model of sheltering that has been PROVEN to save all healthy and treatable animals entering a shelter. As of April 2013, there are over 90 Open Admission, No Kill shelters saving 90% or more of all animals by following this model.

The Deadly PETA - Houston SPCA Connection

Click here for further reading regarding PeTA's lies and their attempts to discredit and thwart No Kill sheltering.

believe PETA exists to overcome that has allowed PETA to get away with the harms they have inflicted with virtual impunity. And it is the perception that they exist to protect, rather than imperil, animals which causes reluctance on the part of public officials tasked with oversight, even with compelling evidence that PETA has a history of stealing owned pets and putting them to death in violation of law, lying to or misleading people when they take their animals and put them to death, and other illegal conduct. To continue to ignore that threat and danger—to continue to allow them to operate outside the bounds of our common values and law and to do so with impunity—puts other animals at risk and is a recipe for future regret.

Very truly yours,

Nathan J. Winograd

Have a comment? Join the discussion by [clicking here](#).

Filed Under [Blog Posts](#), [The Truth About PETA](#) · Comments Off on A Call to Investigate PETA

Finding the Courage to Do the Right Thing

May 16, 2015 by [Nathan J. Winograd](#)



Victims of [Ingrid Newkirk](#). How many more will die?

Dear PETA Employees,

A few days ago, I posted an article entitled "[The \(Death\) Cult of PETA.](#)" Based on photographs, documents, newspaper accounts, court records, testimonials, interviews with 10 PETA employees who described, in detail, its inner workings, and several high profile cases in which

PETA has been caught killing and even stealing animals, it is clear to me that PETA is an animal rights organization in name only, a name which masquerades and enables their true agenda of systematically seeking out thousands of animals every year in order to poison them to death. It is a goal they accomplish by not only manipulating animal activists who go to work for that organization into becoming killers, but by intimidating them into remaining silent about the atrocities against animals going on behind closed doors.

Sadly, though the information contained in my article is damning, what prevents the message contained within it from reaching a wider audience is the fact that each of the PETA employees I have spoken to insists on maintaining their anonymity. While the individuals who contact me relay deeply disturbing facts which haunt them, only one person—Heather Harper-Troje—has ever attached her name to public allegations, a former employee who worked for the agency years ago. And while the facts she recounts about how that organization works are no different than the facts recounted to me by recent employees, the amount of time that has passed since her employ limits the impact of her message, which is why she has recently posted a plea imploring other PETA employees to go public as she has. Explaining that former employees have far more to personally gain by speaking out than they do by remaining dumb, she implores other employees to abandon the same fear that kept her silent, and complicit, for far too many years.

As Harper-Troje has discovered to be true for her, you have everything to gain from exposing the truth and PETA has everything to lose. The people who run PETA are bullies, and like all bullies, they operate by instilling fear; a fear that is often based on the illusion that the retaliation they are capable of inflicting is far worse than it actually is. In other words, their power over you ends the moment *you* decide it does.

For how can their attempts to discredit you as a disgruntled employee maintain their believability when you are not one but many? How can PETA's claim that everyone who exposes them is lying maintain its credibility when a chorus of people are recounting the same story? There is untold strength and power in public PETA mutiny, a fact which no doubt keeps those at PETA responsible for the killing up at night. For even today, an employee reports that some managers are on a hair-trigger as the public façade, the lies, and the crimes against animals for which PETA is responsible unravel in public. For the more of you there are, the less animal activists and donors who support PETA can justify that support when it causes their friends, family and colleagues to question their own morality for continuing to do so in light of your testimony. And the more of you who speak out, the more you will embolden others to come forward, too.

So contact Norfolk media, tell them you want to tell your story, then tell it without fear of reprisal, in the same tradition as other whistleblowers in history responsible for stopping evil by summoning the courage to expose it. Band together with other PETA employees and hold a press conference and recount what you know to be happening at that organization. Write blogs, release photos, recount your experiences, consent to interviews with the media, tell us the facts, speak the truth, but most important of all, *use your names*. Understand that PETA has far more

reason to fear you than you have to fear them, for they are the ones who are behaving unethically and in seeking to stop them, you are the one behaving morally.

Moreover, understand that which those of us who have criticized PETA for many years long ago discovered: that for all their saber rattling and threats of litigation, those of us who have publically attacked them have paid no price at all, at least not one that matters when considered in light of what is at stake for the animals. Threats of litigation against us—against me—by PETA attorney Jeff Kerr have proven hollow, a bark with no bite, for he knows that mounting a defense would allow me to subpoena documents, compel witnesses to testify under penalty of perjury, expose the malfeasants he is paid to protect, and put the inner workings of the “exam room” on display for all to see, thereby revealing facts that would be utterly damning to the PETA cult. In short, the impotent Kerr knows PETA critics are telling the truth *and* truth is a defense against libel.

So fight back against PETA managers who corrupted your purpose, who asked for your cooperation as they betrayed everything you once claimed to believe in and who even asked you to participate in harming those whom you once chose to dedicate your career to protecting. Strip the few who harm animals of the ability to do so as a result of the collective silence of the majority, and help me and other animal activists working to protect the thousands of animals every year who will continue to die at the hands of PETA every year.

The animals need YOU.

Have a comment? Join the discussion by [clicking here](#).

Filed Under [Blog Posts](#), [The Truth About PETA](#) · Comments Off on Finding the Courage to Do the Right Thing

The (Death) Cult of PETA

May 9, 2015 by [Nathan J. Winograd](#)

Filed Under [Blog Posts](#), [The Truth About PETA](#) · Comments Off on An Epic Failure of Oversight in Virginia

Delaware Tells PETA to Stop Lying

March 23, 2015 by [Nathan J. Winograd](#)



In 2010, Delaware legislators unanimously passed the Delaware Companion Animal Protection Act (CAPA), an important piece of animal protection legislation based on a model law authored by my organization, the No Kill Advocacy Center. By eliminating the ability of shelters to kill animals out of habit and convenience, the law has been wildly successful, reducing killing in Delaware shelters by nearly 80%.

Despite its success in Delaware and other places, groups like PETA and their pro-killing enablers have vilified this law, saying that it has been a disaster there, forcing shelters to turn animals away. As I have long argued, none of it is true. In keeping with their many efforts over the years to derail laws nationwide which protect shelter animals, PETA has even written public officials in other communities debating the implementation of CAPA-like laws, urging them to reject such laws which they misrepresent and malign. In short, they do what they have always done: they lie.

Thankfully, the Delaware Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) has recently weighed in to respond to PETA's misrepresentations, chastising PETA for lying. The OAW is a state agency that oversees implementation of Delaware's shelters, including CAPA, through the Department of Health and Social Services. In their response to PETA, they write that what PETA is claiming "is simply not true. PETA does not have local representation in Delaware and is obviously not familiar with our sheltering system."

They go on to state that the law "established common-sense statutes to improve the health and wellbeing of animals temporarily housed in shelters," including "vaccination upon intake," "veterinary care for sick or injured animals," and "holding periods to allow owner reunification or transfer."

It notes the law requires that animals must be held and given to rescue groups rather than killed. And then states that it “has improved the quality of care animals receive in shelters and has saved thousands of animals that would have otherwise been euthanized due to outdated policies and practices. Prior to this law, healthy dogs and cats were euthanized very quickly, sometimes while their owners were looking for them.”

It has also saved community cats: “Cats that free-roamed, either as outdoor pets or managed cat colonies, were indiscriminately rounded up by animal control and euthanized, much to the dismay of pet owners and colony caretakers.” No more.

To read the letter, [click here](#).

Don't expect PETA to stop lying about it, however. PETA's mission seems to be that animals are better dead than fed, a campaign of extermination that includes the theft and killing of people's companion animals, the round up and killing of community cats, the killing of all pit bulls, and the killing of over 90% of animals they take in, including healthy puppies and kittens.

[Click here](#) for step by step guides and model language for those who want to bring CAPA to their state.

Photo: A community cat. [PETA wants him dead](#).

Have a comment? Join the discussion by [clicking here](#).

Filed Under [Blog Posts](#), [The Truth About PETA](#) · [Comments Off on Delaware Tells PETA to Stop Lying](#)

Maya Wasn't The Only Animal PETA Killed That Day

March 17, 2015 by [Nathan J. Winograd](#)

Records from VDACS show that at least two kittens, one puppy, and two other dogs were also killed.



August 10, 2015

The Honorable Geno Martini, Mayor of Sparks
Honorable Members of the Sparks City Council

Via e-mail: gmartini@cityofsparks.us; jratti@cityofsparks.us;
elawson@cityofsparks.us; rsmith@cityofsparks.us;
cbybee@cityofsparks.us; rschmitt@cityofsparks.us

Dear Mayor Martini and Council Members,

We hope you are well. PETA supports the city's efforts to prevent cat abandonment with the introduction of a zoning ordinance to discourage hoarding animals outdoors (20.03.005 Animals: C. Prohibited Practices; Non-Domestic Animals). PETA is an animal-protection organization, so the growing popularity of programs that collect, sterilize, and then re-abandon cats (often called trap/neuter/release [TNR]) deeply concerns us. Public officials should be concerned about the practice for a number of reasons unrelated to animal welfare, e.g., potential liability exposure when taxpayers are denied assistance with removing cats from their properties, the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases, and more.

TNR programs conflict with the mission of public-health and safety agencies. According to the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, "[N]o evidence exists that maintained cat colonies adequately reduce human public health risks or appropriately address their impact on pets or native wildlife. Several reports suggest that support of 'managed cat colonies' may increase the public's likelihood of abandoning unwanted pets in lieu of more responsible options."¹ Phoenix College in Arizona decided to end its TNR program because, according to a spokesperson, "[i]nstead of stabilizing the population, it has doubled, creating an unhealthy situation for the cats and the community."² After experimenting with a pilot TNR program, the city of Parry Sound, Florida, recently reconsidered allowing the practice, because, as a council member noted, "the number of feral cats appears to be increasing—as does the noise, smell and general nuisance."³

A study published in the peer-reviewed public health journal *Zoonoses and Public Health* found that "[f]ree-roaming cat populations have been identified as a significant public health threat and are a source for several zoonotic diseases including rabies, toxoplasmosis, ... plague, tularemia and murine typhus" and

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- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

¹Free-Roaming/Unowned/Feral Cats." Position Statement, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Sept. 1996 <<http://www.innrealityveeek.com/media/NASPHV.pdf>>

²Eugene Scott, "Phoenix College Ending Feral-Cat Program, to Remove Animals," AZCentral.com, 7 Feb. 2014 <<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20140129phoenix-college-ending-feral-cat-program.html?click=track>>

³Stephanie Johnson, "Town Council Tires of Feral Cat Problem," ParrySound.com, 15 Oct. 2014 <<http://www.parrysound.com/news-story/4915139-town-council-tires-of-feral-cat-problem/>>

that "free-roaming cats account for the most cases of human rabies exposure among domestic animals and account for approximately 1/3 of rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatments in humans in the United States."⁴

In 2011, an 8-year-old girl contracted rabies, likely from an infected homeless cat roaming the grounds of her school in Humboldt County, California.⁵ The Southern Nevada Health District reports: "Domestic pets, particularly house cats, may carry plague-infected fleas ... and occasionally transmit infection by their bites or scratches. Occasionally, cats or humans infected with plague pharyngitis or pneumonia may spread plague in airborne droplets."⁶ (Note: Feral cats are domestic house cats who have not been appropriately socialized. They are the same species and are identical physically and genetically.) In July 2012, an Oregon man had to have his fingers and toes amputated after contracting the plague from his cat, who was allowed to roam outdoors. That same year, the police department in Santa Ana, California, alerted the community to flea-borne typhus in the area, and feral cats were considered a key threat in its spread.

TNR programs are also in direct conflict with Nevada Criminal Law, Chapter 574, Cruelty to Animals, which forbids animal abandonment and requires the owners of cats and other animals to provide their animal companions with humane and adequate care. In a December 3, 2013, opinion, the Washoe County District Attorney's Office stated: "The Nevada law in this area is very straightforward. The release of the feral cats after being captured is an abandonment of that animal and that act violates NRS 574.100 and/or 574.110. NRS 574.100."⁷

It's also of serious consequence that roaming cats terrorize and kill countless birds and other wildlife who are not equipped to deal with such predators. A 2013 *New York Times* article reports that feral cats account for the majority of cat-caused wildlife deaths in the U.S., an astounding "2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals a year, most of them native mammals like shrews, chipmunks and voles rather than introduced pests like the Norway rat."⁸ The American Bird Conservancy reports that "[c]at predation is one of the reasons why one in three American bird species are in decline."⁹

Allowing the presence and growth of colonies of homeless cats doesn't just endanger wildlife and public health. It also sends a dangerous—and wrong—message to the public, because it implies that cats can and do thrive outdoors without daily attention, parasite prevention, regular veterinary medical care, adequate and safe shelter, and more. **Nothing could be more untrue.**

We receive countless reports of incidents in which cats—"managed" or not—suffer and die horribly because they must fend for themselves outdoors. PETA's caseworkers routinely handle cruelty cases involving "outdoor cats" who have been poisoned, shot, mutilated, tortured, set afire, skinned alive, or killed in other cruel ways, often by property owners or neighbors who just didn't want the cats there, regardless of the cats' reproductive and/or vaccination status. Some recent cases in Nevada include a cat

⁴R.W. Gerhold and D.A. Jessup, "Zoonotic Diseases Associated With Free-Roaming Cats," 16 Mar., 2012 <<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/681002-zoonotic-diseases-associated-with-free-roaming.html>>

⁵"Recovery of a Patient From Clinical Rabies—California, 2011," CDC.gov

<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6104a1.htm>>

⁶"Health Topics Plague," SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org

<<http://southernnevadahhealthdistrict.org/health-topics/plague.php>>

⁷Richard Gammick, Washoe County District Attorney to Lieutenant Robert Smith, Animal Control Supervisor, December 3, 2013, Re: Public Records Request.

⁸Natalie Angier, "That Cuddly Kitty Is Deadlier Than You Think," *The New York Times*, 29 Jan. 2013 <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html?_r=4&>

⁹Elizabeth Weise, "House Cats Kill More Critters Than Thought," *USA Today*, 7 Aug. 2012 <<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-08-06/house-cats-kill/56811262/1>>

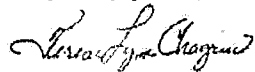
in Las Vegas who was shot and killed while sitting on a wall as his horrified owner watched;¹⁰ a cat who was roaming outdoors unattended in Elko and was taken by a man to a deserted location where the animal was stomped on and then decapitated with a sword;¹¹ and a man in Indian Hills who was arrested after shooting and beheading a feral cat who had taken refuge under his house.¹²

Cats are not safe outdoors.

PETA supports the proposed zoning ordinance to prohibit outdoor animal hoarding. We also hope you will consider passing ordinances that further protect cats by requiring that all owned cats be spayed or neutered (unless owners purchase a breeding permit) and prohibiting cats from roaming at large. I can be reached at 443-320-1277 or TeresaC@peta.org.

Thank you for all your hard work for the citizens of Sparks.

Very truly yours,



Teresa Chagrin
Animal Care and Control Specialist
Cruelty Investigations Department
443-320-1277
TeresaC@peta.org

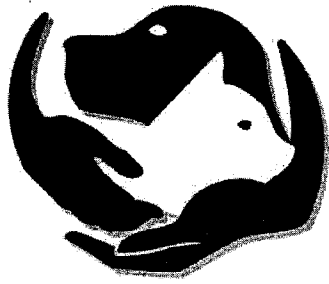
cc: Chet Adams, City Attorney (cadams@cityofsparks.us)

¹⁰Christine Kim, "Owner, Neighbors Stunned After Cat Shot in Backyard," News3LV.com, 26 Feb. 2015

<http://www.news3lv.com/content/news/top-las-vegas-cat-shot-killed-torrey-pines-alta/5h4r9xxU_0WU/6SClkqOqUJA.aspx>

¹¹Dylan Woolf Harris, "Man Accused of Torturing, Killing Cat Arrested," 21 Mar. 2014 <http://elkodaily.com/news/man-accused-of-torturing-killing-cat-arrested/article_443af47e-b15e-11e3-a435-001a4bcf887a.html>

¹²Erik Ortiz, "Nevada Man Guilty of Beheading Cat Gets Jail Time and Must Volunteer at Animal Shelter," 26 Sept. 2012, NYDailyNews.com <<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/nevada-man-guilty-beheading-cat-jail-time-volunteer-animal-shelter-article-1.1168508>>



Nevada
HUMANE SOCIETY

2014 IMPACT REPORT



2014 Wins

14,000+ ANIMALS AIDED

8,936 ANIMALS SHELTERED

94.7% SAVE RATE

8,482 PETS ADOPTED

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY

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**Executive Committee Members*

Building Community

Community matters. We each navigate our own communities, whether they be geographic, demographic, familial or created around shared interests. No matter the fashion in which our communities form and coalesce, they are the support systems that allow us to find our way and achieve our goals. By working together, our successes are sweeter and failures softer. Community matters.

That people of similar mindsets, working together, can create seismic change is a moving reality—one that NHS has cultivated. We have forged and sustained a no-kill community by creating a unique and efficient partnership between Nevada Humane Society and Washoe County Regional Animal Services, by building a coalition of governments and nonprofits, and in 2014, by expanding our lifesaving community to include Carson City.

Community matters. We could not have adopted more than 70,000 animals since 2007 without the people of Washoe County and the donors who made this extraordinary feat possible. We cannot continue to aid

nearly 15,000 animals every year, nor hold our rarified place in animal stewardship—the safest place to be a dog or cat in America—without our community.

We could not have adopted more than 70,000 animals since 2007 without the people of Washoe County.

And in 2014, we embarked upon our boldest endeavor since committing to our no-kill mission in 2007. Through an outreach initiative called Pets for Life, our staff and volunteers are taking NHS programs out into the community rather than waiting for community pet owners to ask for help. We are proactively engaging the neighborhoods that need us most—street by street, house by house—to build relationships and foster lasting change.

Nevada Humane Society is proud to be engaged at the cutting edge of animal welfare. We need you, our community, to help us maintain the momentum. Together, we can change the world of homeless pets and build a No-Kill Nevada.

NHS Mission Statement

To promote animal welfare and to provide for the relief and prevention of all animal suffering in Northern Nevada.

Nevada Humane Society is a no-kill organization creating and sustaining a no-kill community in Northern Nevada.



THE NO-KILL QUEST

Expanding our Community

When Nevada Humane Society officially assumed leadership of animal services in neighboring Carson City on October 1, we did so with one goal in mind: to transform Nevada's capital city into the state's second metropolitan area to become a no-kill community, where all healthy, treatable and rehabilitatable animals are saved.

Our goal—to transform Nevada's capital city into the state's second no-kill community.

When NHS took over management of Carson City Animal Services (CCAS), the lifesaving rate was just 55%—an enormous disparity from the 90%-plus that Washoe County has achieved since committing to a no-kill community in 2007.

We immediately began putting elements of the successful NHS Lifesaving Model into place, focusing resources on programs and protocols with significant lifesaving impact; actively working to keep animals out of shelters;

initiating proactive return-to-owner policies; and partnering with community groups.

As NHS has increased the number of lives saved in Washoe County, intake has decreased and afforded us the opportunity to aid Northern Nevada neighbors. By expanding to Carson City, we increase our capacity for lifesaving and claim more of our state for the no-kill movement, while retaining our commitment to Washoe County and the no-kill community we have built there.



A December ribbon cutting at the Carson City Animal Shelter, now managed by NHS, celebrated a new beginning for the community's homeless pets.

2014 Wins: Boosted Carson City lifesaving rate from 55% to over 90%



SIMONE'S STORY

Simone was surrendered with two siblings when she was just 6 months old. She was quickly adopted but then returned for being unruly and not listening—turns out that she is deaf! So Simone learned to understand hand signals through the Pups on Parole training program at Warm Springs Correctional Center and soon found the family who spoke her language.

"We feel that we hit the jackpot with Simone, who has brought so much joy into our lives. She's quite a character and the perfect playmate for our other two dogs, Lola and Sophie. Simone may not hear but she knows her commands! A heart-filled thank you for all that you and your staff do for the animals—it is so important to know that we have your organization in Carson City!"

– Cheryl and Bob

THE NO-KILL QUEST

Caring for our Community

SENIORS-FOR-SENIORS

Our Seniors-for-Seniors adoption program specializes in matchmaking—of the people-to-pet variety. Mature adopters connect with older animals for companionable Golden Years. Richard found just such a match in a pair of friendly 13-year-olds—Toffee, an Australian Shepherd/Labrador Retriever mix, and his greyhound sidekick, Murphy.

"When I met Toffee and Murphy and found out they'd been surrendered together, I couldn't bear the thought of two old dogs being separated. Older dogs are great! They are totally housebroken and well-behaved. And they are great company. Murphy is like my shadow—every time I turn around, he's right there with his nose on my knee."

— Richard

2014 Wins: 218 mature matches



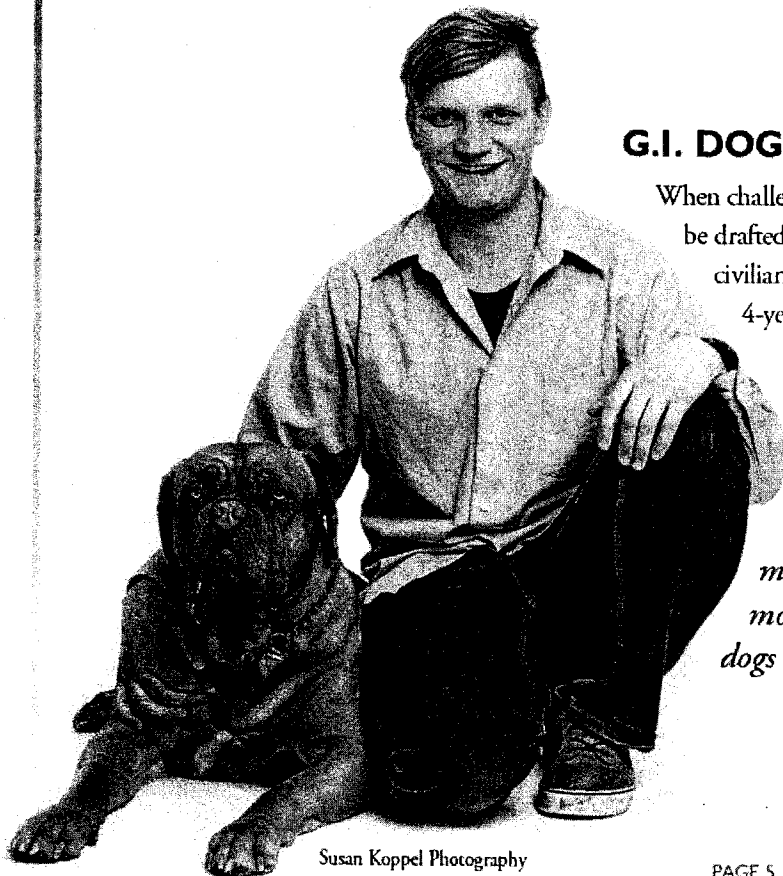
Susan Koppel Photography

G.I. DOGS

When challenged veterans return from the military, homeless pets await to be drafted into service. Our G.I. DOGS program eases the path back into civilian life with unconditional love and a cold nose. And for Gary, a 4-year-old mastiff named Duchess offered a social safety net.

"After returning from service in Afghanistan, I felt uncomfortable in busy, large public spaces. But during the year that Duchess has been in my life, I've become less reclusive and shy. She's helped me to grow as a person and enjoy life and become more social. Thanks to the G.I. DOGS program, dogs are finding homes with veterans who need them."

— Gary



Susan Koppel Photography

2014 Wins: 37 pets helping vets

2014 Snapshot

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



Get Your Male Dog or Cat Fixed For

ONLY \$20

Thanks to the Happy Neuter Year Blitz grant from **PetSmart Charities**, no offspring were in the offing for 685 public dogs and cats.



Social Se-CAT-ary, a new program for Senior Kit-izens, introduced basic vet care post-adoption in our clinic.



Pets and their people raised money for homeless animals at the 7th annual Walk for Animals.



The PetSmart neut area v



More than 70,000 animals have been saved since NHS became no-kill in 2007.

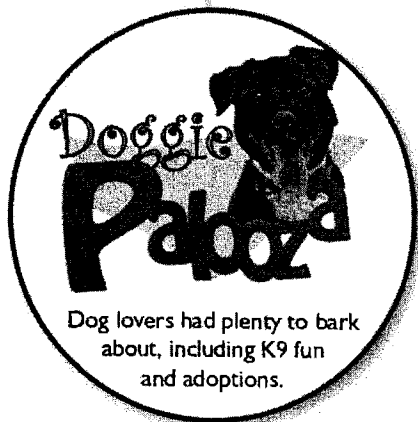


Tanner's severely fractured leg repair was one of many lifesaving surgeries performed in our clinic.



MADDIE'S FUND

557 pets found homes during Maddie's Pet Adoptions Days.



Dog lovers had plenty to bark about, including K9 fun and adoptions.



Our clinic benefited from an infusion of new equipment—including a dental x-ray machine—courtesy of a **Maddie's Fund** medical grant.



Kelly Bollen, Animal Alliances, conducted animal behavior and enrichment workshops for NHS staff.



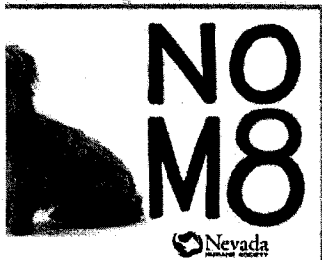
CAT CONVENTIC

Fans of felines were treated to a host of kitty diversions and d

"I'm proud to be the Mayor of a city where the residents show such compassion for animals, and where Nevada Humane Society leads the quest for a No-Kill Nevada."

– Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve

JULY



Thanks to a significant grant from Smart Charities, a low-cost spay/neuter campaign was launched in an area with a high number of intact dogs.

AUGUST



A Great Reno Balloon Race ride was auctioned on eBay for homeless pets.

SEPTEMBER

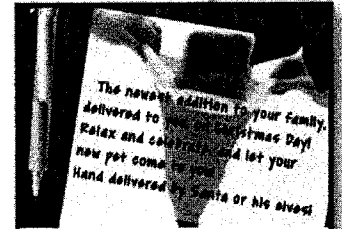
OCTOBER



DOGtoberfest encouraged autumn adoptions as part of the ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon event.

DECEMBER

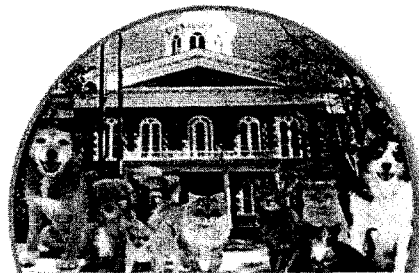
NOVEMBER



We debuted "Special Delivery by Santa" for newly adopted pets.



Our 5th annual Duck Race & Festival—with a four-wheeled grand prize—feathered the nest for homeless pets.



We expanded our services to Carson City animals by partnering with Carson City Animal Services.



A record 322 pets were adopted during our Home 4 the Holidays event.

RNR
Reno News & Review

We were named "Best Animal Shelter in Northern Nevada."



Pets For Life community outreach program was launched, thanks to Humane Society of the United States and PetSmart Charities.



50 pit bulls were fixed with support from PetSmart Charities' Primp Your Pit Blitz grant. Toe nails trimmed too!



Almost 50 animals with chronic, treatable medical issues found homes through Angel Pets, supported in part by the Helen Close Charitable Foundation.



A heel-kicking, foot-stomping soiree benefited homeless pets.

THE NO-KILL QUEST

Strengthening our Community

Since 2007, Nevada Humane Society—via our Animal Resource Center (ARC)—has extended a helping hand to pet owners in need by offering guidance and resources to keep animals out of shelters and in their loving homes.

Through Pets for Life, we are actively strengthening our community and its humane relationship with animals.

In 2014, the ARC launched an outreach initiative that takes services and information directly to the community. Our focus is on early intervention in problems with pets before owners find themselves in situations where surrender appears to be the only option.

Our outreach efforts have been advanced by NHS' selection for a Pets For Life (PFL) Mentorship, a Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) program supported by PetSmart Charities. As one of five target

communities selected in the country in 2014, our ARC staff are working closely with the PFL team to effect long-term change in community animal care.

By sharing the PFL goal—to improve the lives of people and animals in underserved communities by reducing suffering and cruelty, preventing shelter overpopulation, and promoting veterinary care—we are actively strengthening our community and its humane relationship with animals.



Blue greets NHS outreach staff when they come to offer resources to pet owners at the residential hotel where he and his person live.

2014 Wins: More than 14,000 pets targeted for services in the Pets for Life focus area



PETS FOR LIFE IN ACTION

When we host a Pets for Life event, pet owners of all ages in underserved neighborhoods reap the benefits of the many free animal care services and resources. Free vaccinations, pet food, leashes, collars, vouchers for free spay and neuter services and the friendly and knowledgeable support of NHS staff and specially trained volunteers are all part of this grass roots effort to improve community pet health and reduce pet overpopulation. Said one neighborhood pet owner at a Pets for Life event:

"I just can't believe Nevada Humane Society is providing these services for our community—no one comes out here to offer help like this. I've been calling my friends and family to come down with their pets."

— Brandon

THE NO-KILL QUEST

Saving our Community

AFFORDABLE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Spay/Neuter efforts for community pets were especially robust in 2014, a result of generous support from several foundations. We implemented four, month-long blitz projects and a spay/neuter program targeting a pair of communities with a high number of unaltered pets with funding from PetSmart Charities. Reduced-rate sterilizations in the NHS clinic also helped prevent surrenders by pet owners in financial distress.

Spaying and neutering all pets before they are adopted is standard operating procedure at Nevada Humane Society. Helping community pet owners get their animals sterilized has become standard operating procedure as well in our lifesaving crusade.

2014 Wins: 5,171 community pets will not procreate



\$20 FIX YOUR DOG
89431

CALL 775-856-2888 EXT 333 FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

 Nevada
HUMANE SOCIETY

ANGEL PETS

Though called the Angel Pets Adoption Program, it's the adopters who are the true angels by giving forever homes to pets with chronic, treatable medical issues. NHS does its part by providing medical care at a reduced rate through our clinic. Caring teamwork means that deserving animals—like 17-year-old Raven, now known as Mr. Ray Charles—live full lives.

"I didn't really need another cat, nor the added expense of one with old-age medical issues. If not for the Angel Pet Adoption Program, this sweet old guy might still be in a cage and I'd have one less awesome kitty! Mr. Ray Charles is a lap cat lover when he's not playing with Peanut, my young female feline. He's such a blessing!"

— Diane

2014 Wins: 136 heavenly connections

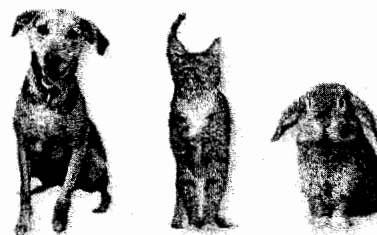
Financials

AS OF 12/31/2014	(in thousands)
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Total Checking/Savings	1,160,070.87
Total Accounts Receivable	6,634.59
Total Other Current Assets	3,105,864.47
Total Current Assets	4,272,569.93
Fixed Assets	
Total Fixed Assets	267,030.67
Total Other Assets	1,745,037.71
TOTAL ASSETS	6,284,638.31

AS OF 12/31/2014	(in thousands)
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Total Accounts Payable	109,532.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	97,954.14
Total Current Liabilities	207,486.94
Total Liabilities	207,486.94
Equity	
Total Equity	6,077,151.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	6,284,638.31

The Stats Behind the Saves

January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014



INCOMING ANIMALS

Surrendered by owners.....	1,400	1,687	77	3,164
Transferred in from WCRAS and outlying shelters.....	2,595	2,888	183	5,666

OUTGOING ANIMALS

Adopted	3,675	4,164	331	8,170
Transferred to other shelters and rescues.....	55	55	3	113
Reclaimed by owner	104	95	1	199
Returned to habitat	0	89	0	89
Humanely euthanized (due to severe behavioral or medical issues)....	139	199	4	342

VETERINARY SERVICES

Veterinary exams	-	-	-	21,115
Vaccines	-	-	-	16,356
Spay/neuter surgeries	-	-	-	12,179
Low-cost medical services to public pet owners in need.....	-	-	-	1,061

SPECIAL CARE

Animals fostered	258	1,622	51	1,931
------------------------	-----	-------	----	-------

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Volunteer hours invested in NHS programs and services.....	-	-	-	40,415
--	---	---	---	--------

*Rabbits, birds, ferrets, other small animals

Donors

\$ 00,000-\$500,000

Nadean Fisher
Maddie's Fund
Carl F. & Virginia M. Mansfield
Endowment
PetSmart Charities

\$50,000-\$99,999

Richard W. Fennemore Trust
Roger Eugene Hiddahl
Candy Mae Jeffery Trust
Nevada State Bank
Wag.com

\$25,000-\$49,999

Irvin G. Martin Memorial Fund II

\$ 0,000-\$24,999

Joan Aguilar
Jack & Jane Becker Foundation
Berger North Foundation
Gale Brinton
Dick Campagni's Carson City Auto Group
Helen Close Foundation
Michael Gregg
Thomas & Thelma Hart Foundation
Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation
International Test Solutions
Kathlene Jones Trust
Harold B. Larson Charitable Trust
Craig & Suzan Lemons
Gayle Maine Trust
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Oil-Dri
William N. Pennington Foundation
Petco Foundation
Dr. Marshall & Pat Postman
Purina Pet Food
Robert E. Sloas Trust
John Ben Snow Memorial Trust
Walmart
Estate of Evelyn L. Windham

\$,000-\$9,999

Charlie Abowd
Advanced Pet Care
Arthur & Vikki Anderson
Barbara J. Anderson
Mary K. Andrews
Terese Marie Angwin
Animal Farm Foundation
Animal Welfare Fund
ASPCA
Atlantis Hotel & Casino
Ato Delta Iota
Craig & Sharon Bailey
Banfield Charitable Trust
Barbara Ceman Estate
Barrick Gold of North America
Krys T. Bart
T. Haydn Bertelson
Jackie & Russell Bolles
Tierra Bonaldi
Laurie Boyle
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Brigham Family Charitable Fund
Robert & Laurie Browne
Betty Buchanan

Suzanne Buenting
Michael & Roberta Burkit
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Dani Canziani
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Kathleen Cornell
Roland & Gail Cram
Brian Crane
Crystal Family Foundation
Jennifer Cunningham
Custom Ink
Gina Dapra
Darby Dental Supply
Pamela Darr
Robert & Joan Dees
Todd Denton
Dermody Properties Foundation
Anthony & Delores Desio
Beverly DeVille
Edward & Sherri Devine
Norman & Laura Dianda
Sandra Dillon
John Dryen
Barbara Dugger
Duncan Golf Management
Eagle Home Mortgage
Ebara International Corporation
Gregory & Frances Edison
Eldorado Hotel Casino
Mendy Elliot
David & Ann Etchell
Escalibur Foundation
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Foote Living Trust
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Randy Genis, DVM
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Rusty & Marie A. Goe
Ellen Goldsmith
Paul C. Graft
Greater Nevada Credit Union
GreaterGood.org
Jack Grellman
Grey Muzzle Organization
Romona Hackbart
Tom Hall
Gregory Hall
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Towner Hawkins
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Linda Joo
Juniper Hill Fund
Sen. Ben Kieckhefer
Kimmie Candy Company
Richard & Kaye Klaucke

Knoop Family Charitable Fund
Tim Kretzchmar
L/P Insurance Services
Robert & Peggy Lamaysou
Las Vegas Sands Corp.
Robert M. Lawrence
Marvin Leech
Brad & Sherry Lencioni
Tom & Maureen Leshendok
John Ligon
Kelly & Richard Lippoth
Diana Lynch
Barbara Manurung
Mars Pet Care
Joseph & Lois McDermott
Darlene McFarland
Beverlee McGrath
Rod & Deena McInnis
Syd McKenzie
Rebecca McMillion
MGM Resorts International Operations
Ethel Morvay
Muhonen Charitable Fund
Nevada State Society of Anesthesiologists
NevadaGives
NMTA Activities
NV Energy
Gerald O'Driscoll
Oil Dri
Angela Pace
Pacific Coast League
Paradies Shops
Shannon Parke
Beverly M. Parker
George Parker
John Parsons
Anita Peake
Myriam Pennington
Peppermill Hotel & Casino
Angela S. Persigehl
Kathy M. Person
Sara Petersen
Kenneth & Pat Peterson
Pets Add Life
PetSmart Distribution Center
PetSmart
Picasso & Wine
Joel Pinkerton
Wayne & Kristie Piotrowski
Plumas Bank
Jeff & Gina Pogol
Nancy Powell
PTJ Industrial
Pupentric
Dianne Purcell
Robin Rakusin
Ginger Ramsey
RAN Services
Cathy Ree
Reno Aces Baseball Club
Reno Elks Lodge #597
Reno Disc Golf Association
Reno Dodge
Reno Media Group
Reno Tahoe Comedy
Renown Health
Revision Services
RGJ Gannett Foundation
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Michael & Faye Schwimmer
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Dianne & Preston Sides
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Sierra Skin Institute
Sierra Veterinary Specialists
Signature Landscaping
Silicon Valley Community Fund
Lynne Simons
Bert & Susan Skidmore
Albert W. Skidmore
Joan K. Smith
Lisa J. Smith
Squaw Valley
Step 2
Raelynn Stockman
Patricia Tench
Carey W. Teraski
Mary Tholl
Jacqueline Thornhill
Val Thornon
Warren & Jale Trepp
Patricia Tripple
Mathew & Holly Turville
Eryn Virginia
United Federal Credit Union
Michelle Vanantwerp
Wags and Menace Make a
Difference Foundation
Lori Ward
Janice Watson
Janett Weber
Mekki & G.H. Weinzierl
Wells Fargo
Weidab
James & Cynthia Wetra
Linda K. White
White Family Charitable Lead Trust
Brad & Sheryle Wilkerson
Donna Williams
Richard & Karen Wilson
Charlene Ying
Chris Zicarelli

Special thanks to the Carl and Virginia Mansfield Endowment for helping forge a sustainable future for NHS and the animals of Northern Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield's love and dedication to homeless cats will be remembered in perpetuity thanks to their lifesaving legacy gift.



Corporate Partners

Dick Campagni's Carson City Auto Group
Mars Pet Care
Nevada State Bank
NV Energy
Petco
PetSmart
PetSmart Distribution Center
Sierra Veterinary Specialists
Wag.com
Walmart/Sam's Club
Wells Fargo



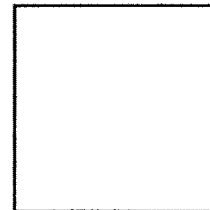
Charitable Partners

ASPCA
Banfield Charitable Trust
Berger North Foundation
Carl F. & Virginia M. Mansfield Endowment
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Helen Close Foundation
Jack & Jane Becker Foundation
John Ben Snow Memorial Trust
Lifestyle Homes Foundation
Maddie's Fund
Petco Foundation
PetSmart Charities
RGJ Gannett Foundation
Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation
Thomas & Thelma Hart Foundation
William N. Pennington Foundation



Nevada
HUMANE SOCIETY

2825 Longley Lane, Suite B
Reno, NV 89502



Foster Volunteers Save Lives

NEWTON'S STORY

Nurturing foster families who welcome needy animals—often tiny kittens like Newton who are too young to be adopted—into their homes for short-term care are at the very heart of our lifesaving mission.

"Newton was one special guy. He was 4 weeks old and facing several physical ailments. He had fleas, ear mites, and wouldn't use his back leg. The veterinarian team diagnosed nerve damage. I tend to foster the special needs kittens, so Newton became my next challenge. My husband and I combined exercise and massage to help Newton use his leg. Slowly, his nerves remembered and he began to walk. It took nearly two weeks, but suddenly he was racing around like a typical kitten. Now, Newton is thriving. No one would ever guess anything was wrong. His personality is that of gratefulness. He knows he was saved; the way he looks at us says it all. This is why we foster—not just to make a difference, but to earn that look."

– Kimberly

2014 Wins: 1,931 animals fostered



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Susan Koppel Photography

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY

Audited Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Table of Contents
December 31, 2013

Independent Auditors' Report	1
Financial Statements:	
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets	3
Statement of Functional Expense	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	7



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
Nevada Humane Society
Reno, Nevada

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Nevada Humane Society (a Nevada non-profit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2013, and the related statement of activities and change in net assets, functional expense, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nevada Humane Society, as December 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

PANGBORN & Co., LTD.

Reno, Nevada
May 27, 2014

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2013
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2012)

	ASSETS		Totals	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2013	2012 (Memorandum Only)
Current Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 919,586	\$ 168,212	\$ 1,087,798	\$ 1,027,264
Grants and contracts receivable	28,718	-	28,718	3,501
Prepaid expenses	10,237	-	10,237	10,256
Note receivable, current portion	-	-	-	3,457
Pledge receivables, current portion	1,553	-	1,553	1,430
Prepaid facility lease, current portion	117,905	-	117,905	125,946
Total Current Assets	<u>1,077,999</u>	<u>168,212</u>	<u>1,246,211</u>	<u>1,171,854</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>199,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199,269</u>	<u>76,177</u>
Other Assets:				
Pledge receivables, net of current portion	1,135	-	1,135	2,288
Prepaid facility lease, net of current portion	3,085,181	-	3,085,181	3,203,086
Investments	-	1,691,817	1,691,817	1,694,150
Other investments	6,000	-	6,000	8,000
Total Other Assets	<u>3,092,316</u>	<u>1,691,817</u>	<u>4,784,133</u>	<u>4,907,524</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,369,584</u>	<u>\$ 1,860,029</u>	<u>\$ 6,229,613</u>	<u>\$ 6,155,555</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 56,883	\$ -	\$ 56,883	\$ 47,193
Accrued payroll	45,999	-	45,999	35,834
Accrued employee benefits	42,035	-	42,035	34,184
Vouchers payable	9,920	-	9,920	9,920
Total Current Liabilities	<u>154,837</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,837</u>	<u>127,131</u>
Net Assets:				
Unrestricted	4,214,747	-	4,214,747	4,117,115
Temporarily restricted	-	1,860,029	1,860,029	1,911,309
Total Net Assets	<u>4,214,747</u>	<u>1,860,029</u>	<u>6,074,776</u>	<u>6,028,424</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 4,369,584</u>	<u>\$ 1,860,029</u>	<u>\$ 6,229,613</u>	<u>\$ 6,155,555</u>

The attached auditor's report and notes should be read with the financial statements.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Statements of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2012)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Totals	
			2013	2012 (Memorandum Only)
Support and Revenues:				
Grants and contributions	\$ 2,936,835	\$ 76,130	\$ 3,012,965	\$ 3,158,112
Program income and fees (Net of fee discounts of \$324,452)	357,755	-	357,755	385,431
Special events (Net of costs of direct benefits to attendees of \$77,160)	217,522	-	217,522	139,092
Net assets released from restriction	229,227	(229,227)	-	-
Total Support and Revenues	3,741,339	(153,097)	3,588,242	3,682,635
Expenses:				
Program Services -				
Public service	429,066	-	429,066	456,251
Animal care				
Clinic	749,492	-	749,492	694,698
Shelter	2,029,540	-	2,029,540	2,071,030
Supporting Services -				
General and administration	342,057	-	342,057	172,966
Fundraising	138,368	-	138,368	187,962
Total Expenses	3,688,523	-	3,688,523	3,582,907
Other Income and (Expenses):				
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	-	40,283	40,283	88,494
Interest and dividend income	-	61,534	61,534	62,826
Interest expense	(512)	-	(512)	(1,384)
Gain on disposal of land and equipment	45,328	-	45,328	-
Total Other Income (Expenses)	44,816	101,817	146,633	149,936
Change in Net Assets	97,632	(51,280)	46,352	249,664
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	4,117,115	1,911,309	6,028,424	5,778,760
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 4,214,747</u>	<u>\$ 1,860,029</u>	<u>\$ 6,074,776</u>	<u>\$ 6,028,424</u>

The attached auditor's report and notes should be read with the financial statements.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Statement of Funtional Expense - Page 1
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2012)

	Program Services			
	Public Service	Animal Care		Subtotal
		Clinic	Shelter	
Salaries and wages	\$ 164,635	\$ 341,044	\$ 945,726	\$ 1,451,405
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	32,207	55,861	130,981	219,049
Total Salary Costs	<u>196,842</u>	<u>396,905</u>	<u>1,076,707</u>	<u>1,670,454</u>
Accounting Fees	-	-	-	-
Advertising	55,863	1,341	-	57,204
Bank charges	-	-	-	-
Bad debts	-	70	300	370
Computer service and expenses	3,727	40	3,319	7,086
Communication expenses	1,797	1,281	4,972	8,050
Contract personnel - temporary	-	-	108	108
Donated supplies and services	-	11,494	499,539	511,033
Dues and subscriptions	266	570	100	936
Equipment rental and maintenance	4,256	3,897	27,238	35,391
Facility lease	-	23,581	82,533	106,114
Facility maintenance	-	493	32,002	32,495
Grants to other organizations	-	-	600	600
Insurance	-	-	11,024	11,024
Janitorial	-	24	42,711	42,735
Meals and entertainment	2,204	871	3,690	6,765
Miscellaneous	1,526	10	2,074	3,610
Office expense	2,268	2,589	4,911	9,768
Postage	8,824	2,536	12,213	23,573
Printing	21,553	372	909	22,834
Professional fees	98,692	58,293	21,318	178,303
Staff development	2,340	2,203	2,251	6,794
Supplies	514	232,083	81,677	314,274
Travel	13,411	2,798	13,886	30,095
Uniforms	-	617	2,332	2,949
Utilities	-	1,725	48,153	49,878
Volunteer expense	920	250	-	1,170
Vouchers issued	14,063	-	3,737	17,800
Workers compensation	-	-	32,162	32,162
Total Expenses Before Depreciation	<u>429,066</u>	<u>744,043</u>	<u>2,010,466</u>	<u>3,183,575</u>
Depreciation	-	5,449	19,074	24,523
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 429,066</u>	<u>\$ 749,492</u>	<u>\$ 2,029,540</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,098</u>

The attached auditor's report and notes should be read with the financial statements.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Statement of Functional Expense - Page 2
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2012)

	Supporting Services			Totals	
	General and Administration	Fund-raising	Subtotal	2013	2012 (Memorandum Only)
Salaries and wages	\$ 220,700	\$ 18,105	\$ 238,805	\$ 1,690,211	\$ 1,728,692
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	33,567	2,372	35,939	254,988	267,355
Total Salary Costs	254,267	20,477	274,744	1,945,199	1,996,047
Accounting Fees	17,500	-	17,500	17,500	6,092
Advertising	618	11,210	11,828	69,032	47,603
Bank charges	24,024	101	24,125	24,125	22,993
Bad debts	-	20	20	390	580
Computer service and expenses	419	-	419	7,505	3,116
Communication expenses	141	-	141	8,191	8,263
Contract personnel - temporary	36	-	36	144	3,069
Donated supplies and services	-	7,879	7,879	518,912	508,178
Dues and subscriptions	-	-	-	936	849
Equipment rental and maintenance	326	-	325	35,716	32,939
Facility lease	11,791	-	11,791	117,905	117,905
Facility maintenance	64	-	64	32,559	41,712
Grants to other organizations	-	-	-	600	993
Insurance	5,563	-	5,563	16,587	11,769
Janitorial	195	-	195	42,930	42,043
Meals and entertainment	161	336	497	7,262	5,720
Miscellaneous	3,044	-	3,044	6,654	4,113
Office expense	1,795	120	1,915	11,683	12,776
Postage	2,515	321	2,836	26,409	18,010
Printing	147	46,639	46,786	69,620	74,245
Professional fees	16,314	46,405	62,719	241,022	126,259
Staff development	412	1,759	2,171	8,965	7,174
Supplies	-	-	-	314,274	295,961
Travel	-	3,101	3,101	33,196	15,683
Uniforms	-	-	-	2,949	1,568
Utilities	-	-	-	49,878	71,093
Volunteer expense	-	-	-	1,170	654
Vouchers issued	-	-	-	17,800	35,781
Workers compensation	-	-	-	32,162	45,067
Total Expenses Before Depreciation	339,332	138,368	477,699	3,661,275	3,558,255
Depreciation	2,725	-	2,725	27,248	24,652
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 342,057</u>	<u>\$ 138,368</u>	<u>\$ 480,424</u>	<u>\$ 3,688,523</u>	<u>\$ 3,582,907</u>

The attached auditor's report and notes should be read with the financial statements.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended December 31, 2013
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2012)

	2013	2012 (Memorandum Only)
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Cash received from grants and contributions	\$ 3,012,964	\$ 3,220,597
Cash received from program income and fees	357,755	385,431
Cash received from special events	217,523	192,112
Cash paid to vendors and employees	(3,527,633)	(3,583,981)
Interest and dividend income received	57,376	62,826
Interest paid	(512)	(1,384)
Net Cash Flows Provided by Operating Activities	117,473	275,601
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Principal payments from notes receivable	3,457	24,524
Purchase of property and equipment	(168,012)	(17,625)
Proceeds from sale of investments	225,927	446,143
Purchase of investments	(183,311)	(149,606)
Proceeds from sale of equipment	55,000	-
Proceeds from sale of land	10,000	-
Net Cash Flows Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	(56,939)	303,436
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	60,534	579,037
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	1,027,264	448,227
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 1,087,798	\$ 1,027,264
 Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Net Cash		
Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 46,352	\$ 249,664
Adjustment to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash flows provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation	27,248	24,652
Net realized and unrealized (gains) losses on investments	(40,283)	(88,494)
Gain on sale of land and equipment	(45,328)	-
Donated assets	-	(1,700)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Grants and contracts receivable	(25,217)	48,677
Pledges receivable	1,030	54,208
Prepaid facility lease	125,946	109,864
Prepaid expenses	19	(2,465)
Accounts payable	9,690	(67,056)
Accrued payroll	10,165	760
Accrued employee benefits	7,851	(13,809)
Deferred pledges	-	(38,700)
Total adjustments	71,121	25,937
Net Cash Flows Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 117,473	\$ 275,601

The attached auditor's report and notes should be read with the financial statements.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Activities:

Nevada Humane Society (the Society) was established on February 19, 1932, as a domestic non-profit corporation, organized to prevent cruelty to animals, establish and maintain a veterinary hospital and animal shelter, and provide education of a public sentiment of humanity and gentleness toward domestic and other animal programs and services offered to the community include the following:

Adoption Services - Owner surrendered pets and pets that pass their stray hold period at the county animal shelter are accepted for adoption into new homes. Adoption policies are designed to ensure permanent and successful placement. Homes were found for approximately 9,658 formerly homeless pets in 2013.

Foster Care Program - Over 7,000 volunteer Families provided pets with temporary care in their homes.

Mobile Spay/Neuter/Adoption Van - Allows the Society to extend its work beyond the shelter walls.

Clinic - Provides spay or neuter surgeries, vaccinations and care for all dogs and cats passing through the shelter. Low-cost spay/neuter services are provided for public animals on a financial need basis.

Pet Food Assistance Program - Provides pet food on a temporary basis for people who are unable to afford food for their pets.

Veterinary Assistance and Spay/Neuter - Available for cats and dogs in conjunction with the Shakespeare Animal Fund and the cat voucher program. These programs, funded in part by various grants, subsidized \$100,000 in cat spays and neuters, in addition to low-cost surgeries provided through the Clinic and other clinics.

Volunteer Opportunities, Education Programs and Other Services - The animal help desk provided free assistance to over 22,635 people with animal related issues or problems. The Society hosted dog training and other educational opportunities for volunteers and the general public. Volunteer opportunities include a wide variety of activities within the shelter as well as the "Hiking Buddies" program in which volunteers take dogs on hikes.

Disaster Preparedness - The Society works with Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) to meet the needs of animals during disasters.

Basis of Accounting:

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Financial Statement Presentation:

The Society's financial statements are in accordance with ASC Topic 958, Financial Statements for Not-for-Profit Organizations. This statement provides standards for financial reporting by not-for-profit organizations and requires the classification of net assets as follows:

Permanently Restricted Net Assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that are to be maintained permanently by the Organization. As of December 31, 2013 there were no permanently restricted net assets.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that either expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled and removed by actions of the Society pursuant to those stipulations.

Unrestricted Net Assets - Net assets not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenses are reported as decreases in unrestricted net assets. Gains and losses on investments and other assets or liabilities are reported as increases or decreases in unrestricted net assets unless their use is restricted by explicit donor stipulation or by law.

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The Society maintains its cash and equivalents in bank deposit accounts and brokerage money market accounts which, at times, may exceed insured limits. The Society has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Society believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents. Bank deposit accounts and money market accounts were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) at December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Grant and Contracts Receivable:

Support under grants and contracts is recorded when the related amounts are due from grantor agencies. Grants and contracts receivable are reported net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$3,469.

Pledges Receivable:

Pledges are stated at net realizable value, in accordance with financial accounting standards, and recognized as support in the period received. Conditional pledges are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met.

Investments:

In accordance with provisions of ASC Topic 320, Investments - Debt and Equity Securities generally accepted accounting principles require that nonprofit organizations report certain investments at fair value. Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets. Investment income and gains restricted by a donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets, if the restrictions are met either by (passage of time or by use) in the reporting period in which the income and gains are recognized. Information about the fair value of investments and the unrealized gains and losses is discussed in Note 3. The fair value of substantially all securities is determined by quoted market prices. The estimated fair value of securities without any quoted market prices is based on similar types of securities that are traded in the market.

Property and Equipment:

Property and equipment of the Society exceeding the capitalization threshold of \$500 are capitalized and recorded in the Society's records. Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Donated property is recorded at its estimated fair market value at the date received. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the assets estimated useful life of five to thirty-nine years. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expenses as incurred. Renewals and betterments that materially extend the lives of the assets are capitalized.

Contributions:

All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Contributions received designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support that increases those net assets classes. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purposed restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as unrestricted support.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Contributions In-Kind:

Contributions in-kind are recognized in accordance with an applicable accounting standard. Donated equipment and goods are recorded at their estimated fair value as of the date of the donation. Contributed services, which require a specialized skill and which the Society would have paid for if not donated, are recorded at the estimated fair value at the time the services are rendered. The Society also receives donated services that do not require specific expertise but are central to the Society's operations. While these contributed services are not reflected in the financial statements the estimated value of these services is disclosed.

Advertising:

Advertising costs are charged to program and supporting services when incurred. Advertising costs totaled \$69,032 for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Compensated Absences:

Employees of the Society depending on job classification, length of service and other factors are entitled to paid vacations. Accrued employee benefits represent the Society's liability for the cost of unused employee vacation at December 31, 2013.

Functional Expense Allocation:

Expenses that can be identified with a specific program are applied directly according to their natural expense classification. Non-specific program costs are allocated to programs and support services based on the best estimates of management.

Exempt Status:

The Society is a not-for-profit organization, exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), and has been classified as an organization that is not a private foundation under Section 509(a)(2) receiving a substantial part of its support from the general public as provided internal Revenue Codes Section 170(b)(1)(A)(VI). Accordingly, no liability for federal and state income taxes has been provided in the financial statements.

Management has determined that The Society does not have any uncertain tax positions and associated unrecognized benefits that materially impact the financial statements or related disclosures. The Organization has exempt tax filings open to the Internal Revenue Service for years ending December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates, making it reasonably possible that a change in these estimates could occur in the near term.

Contingencies:

Certain conditions may exist as of the date the financial statements are issued which may result in a loss to the Society but will only be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. The Society's management and its legal counsel assess such contingent liabilities and such assessment inherently involves an exercise of judgment.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Contingencies (continued):

In assessing loss contingencies related to legal proceedings that are pending against the Society or unasserted claims that may result in such proceedings the Society's legal counsel evaluates the perceived merits of any legal proceedings or unasserted claims as well as the perceived merits of the amount of relief sought or expected to be sought therein.

If the assessment of a contingency indicates it is probable that a material loss has incurred and the amount of the liability can be estimated the estimated liability would be accrued in the Society's financial statements. If the assessment indicates that a potentially material loss contingencies is not probable but is reasonably possible, or is probable but cannot be estimated, then the nature of the contingent liability, together with an estimate of the range of possible loss if determinable and material would be disclosed as of December 31, 2013 the Society has not recorded any contingencies.

Summarized Financial Information for 2012:

The financial statements include certain prior-year's summarized comparative information. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly such information should be read in conjunction with the Society's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 from which the summarized information was derived.

Date of Management's review

The Society has evaluated subsequent events through May 27, 2014, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. Subsequent events after that date have not been evaluated.

NOTE 2 – PLEDGES RECEIVABLE

In 2009, the Society began the annual Pets Alive Partners Event. Pledge receivables generated from this event are \$2,688 as of December 31, 2013. Pledges of \$1,135 are considered long-term, with the following payments due:

Year ending December 31,	
2015	\$ 675
2016	460
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,135

Discounts on pledges receivable are reported net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$24,188.

NOTE 3 – INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE

The Society reports its fair value measures using a fair value hierarchy defined by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value.

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under GAAP are:

- Level 1 - Quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets;
- Level 2 – Observable inputs based on quoted prices in non-active markets or in active markets for similar assets or liabilities. Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, or inputs that are not directly observable, but are corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the measurement of assets and liabilities.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 3 – INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE (Continued)

The following are the major categories of assets measured at fair value (Level 1) on a recurring basis for the year ended December 31, 2013:

	Temporarily Restricted
Fixed Income:	
Government obligations	\$ 82,922
Corporate obligations	389,657
Domestic mutual funds	181,216
International mutual funds	199,165
	852,960
Equities:	
Domestic mutual funds	271,607
International mutual funds	68,498
Common trust funds	237,828
	577,933
Complementary strategies	86,094
Real asset funds	173,830
	\$ 1,690,817

There are no Level 2 or Level 3 investments held by the Society at December 31, 2013.

Net Investment income for the year ended December 31, 2013 consists of the following:

Net realized gains	\$ 17,226
Net unrealized gains on holdings	23,057
Interest and dividends	61,534
	\$ 101,817

Related expenses for investment fees totaled \$13,650 for the year ended December 31, 2013.

NOTE 4 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consist of the following:

Leasehold improvements	\$ 110,980
Furniture and equipment	227,659
Vehicles	223,539
	562,178
Less accumulated depreciation	(362,909)
	\$ 199,269

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$27,248.

The Society acquired donated real property located at 2825 Longley Lane, restricted to the use of charitable or civic purposes that provide animal services to the community, storage for pet and shelter donations, training center, rehabilitation center, or an animal clinic facility. The property cannot be transferred, sold, exchanged or encumbered without written consent from the Donor.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 5 – LINES OF CREDIT

The Society has various unsecured credit lines with banks and vendors for \$30,000. Amount borrowed from the credit lines bear interest at an annual percentage rate of 9.25%. The outstanding balances on the credit lines at December 31, 2013 were \$7,889 and have been included in accounts payable.

NOTE 6 – TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes:

Financial emergencies	\$ 1,783,899
Spay/neuter and marketing	64,000
Equipment	<u>12,130</u>
	<u>\$ 1,860,029</u>

NOTE 7 – ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Society is considered economically dependent on donations from local businesses, private foundations and individuals.

NOTE 8 – PRIVATE GRANTS

The Society was the recipient of a number of grants during the year. Most of these grants are subject to spending restrictions. If it were determined by the grantor that the funds had not been expended for the purpose intended the Society could be liable for a refund of part or all of such grant funds. Management does not anticipate any problems of this nature.

NOTE 9 – DONATED SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

The estimated fair value of donated supplies and services received are recorded as contributions. The Society received approximately \$519,000 of contributions in-kind for the year ending December 31, 2013.

During the year ended December 31, 2013 volunteers donated 35,752 hours of time valued at \$357,520 to the Society. No amounts of these services are reflected in the statement of activities because the criteria for recognition of such volunteer efforts have not been satisfied.

NOTE 10 - PROGRAM INCOME AND FEES

At December 31, 2013, program income and fees consist of the following:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Gross Program Income and Fees</u>	<u>Fee Discounts</u>	<u>Program Income and Fees, net</u>
Adoption service fee	\$ 428,375	\$ 175,920	\$ 252,455
Clinic service fees	168,476	107,676	60,800
Contract fees	<u>85,356</u>	<u>40,856</u>	<u>44,500</u>
	<u>\$ 682,207</u>	<u>\$ 324,452</u>	<u>\$ 357,755</u>

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 11 – SPECIAL EVENTS

The Society has various fundraising events to help assist current operations. The revenue and expenses from these events for the year ending December 31, 2013 are as follows:

<u>Special Event</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Cost of Direct Benefits to Attendees</u>	<u>Net Revenue</u>
Duck Race	\$ 76,971	\$ 31,163	\$ 45,808
Walf for Animals	80,375	11,918	68,457
Pets Alive Partners	1,945	40	1,905
Blue Jeans Ball	80,170	34,039	46,131
Miscellaneous	55,221	0	55,221
	<u>\$ 294,682</u>	<u>\$ 77,160</u>	<u>\$ 217,522</u>

NOTE 12 - RETIREMENT PLAN

The Society maintained a 401(K) Profit Sharing Plan to provide retirement benefits to all eligible employees. The Society may match 100% of the employee's contributions, up to a maximum of 3% of the employee's payroll compensation. The Society's did not make a contribution for the year ended December 31, 2013. The plan was terminated on June 30, 2013.

NOTE 13 - LEASES

The Society leases its facilities from Washoe County, Nevada. As part of the lease agreement, the Society has prepaid the lease payments of \$9,825, per month, through January of 2041. The prepaid lease payments for twelve months have been reflected as a prepaid expense; the balance has been reflected in other assets. The lease, originating in January of 2006, is for a period of fifteen years with two renewal options – each for ten years. Annual lease payments for the year ended December 31, 2012 were \$117,905 and will continue at the same annual rate through the year 2021.

In March of 2009, the Society entered into a non-cancelable operating lease for three copiers. The terms of the lease agreement require monthly payments of \$1,330 for sixty-three months and excess image charges ranging from \$0.0567 to \$0.1136 per image, billed each quarter.

At December 31, 2013, future minimum operating lease payments are as follows:

Year ending December 31:

2014	<u>\$ 7,980</u>
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Equipment rental expense for the year ended, December 31, 2013 was \$ 19,154.

NOTE 14 – RENEWABLE GENERATIONS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

During 2011, the Society entered into various agreements to participate in Renewable Generations incentive program. With the installation of a photovoltaic solar system on site and by assigning the incentive payments to the contractor, the Society benefits from making their own electricity and working to improve the environment without a large capital outlay and annual maintenance costs. Energy savings is estimated to be \$14,000 per year. The Society, at its option, may elect to purchase the solar system in ten years.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 15 - PURPOSE OF ENDOWMENT FUND

The Society established The Dorothy Benson Humane Endowment Trust in 1987. Earnings from the endowment are distributed monthly and are considered to be available for unrestricted use. The principal, considered temporarily restricted may be distributed only in the event of a financial emergency. A financial emergency will be deemed to occur only if the Society's accountant, the appointed trustees, and a two thirds majority vote from the Board of Trustees determine that the Society will be unable to pay its debts as they become do or to continue the day to day operations.

NOTE 16 – ENDOWMENT FUND

The Society's endowment fund comprises funds designated by the Board of Trustees to function as an endowment. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, net assets associated with endowment funds, are classified and reported as unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted net assets based solely on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Society considers all endowment fund assets temporarily restricted at December 31, 2013. See Note 15 for information regarding the purpose of the Society's endowment fund.

Following is a summary of the changes in the endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2013:

	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ 1,745,429
Investment income	61,534.00
Net realized gains	17,226.00
Net appreciation (depreciation)	23,057.00
Amount appropriated for expenditures	<u>(63,347.00)</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 1,783,899</u>

Interpretation of Relevant Law

In the absence of explicit donor stipulations to the contrary, the Society has interpreted the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date. As a result of this interpretation, the Society classifies as temporarily restricted net assets (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund that is not classified in permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Organization in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence described in UPMIFA.

The Organization takes into consideration the following factors in its determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds in accordance with UPMIFA:

- The duration and preservation of the fund
- The purposes of the Organization, the board designated and donor-restricted endowment funds
- General economic conditions, including the possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the Organization
- The Organization's investment policies

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2013

NOTE 16 – ENDOWMENT FUND (Continued)

Funds with Deficiencies

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or UPMIFA requires to be retained as perpetual funds. Such deficiencies are not anticipated based upon the nature of the investments and the Organization's intent to hold the investments to maturity. However, if such deficiencies were to occur, they would be reflected as decreases in unrestricted or temporarily restricted net assets for the period.

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters

The Society has adopted investment and spending policies, approved by the Board of Trustees, for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets over the long term.

The specific goal of the Society is to provide for the good of the wealth entrusted to it, not only for its own operation, but for its constituent lodges as well. The primary investment objective is to preserve endowment assets by limiting exposure to unnecessary risk. Under this policy, the endowment assets are invested in corporate and government obligations, domestic and international mutual funds, and real asset funds.

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives

The endowment fund investment strategy is reviewed and evaluated by the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees at least annually with its investment advisors to ensure the portfolio's proper diversification, security and return of investment.

Spending Policy

The Society budgets amounts for distribution based upon available earnings and the related fund objectives as detailed above in Note 15.