

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FOR PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED IN THE SPRING OF 2014*

As part of the project, staff summarized information for programs that were identified in the spring of 2014 with the consideration of the animal ordinance. *These programs are not indicative of policy direction.*

Stanford Program – Feline Friends Network

Organization

The Feline Friends Network (FFN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is comprised of Stanford University staff, students, faculty, and community volunteers. The FFN operates by agreement with, but is not funded by, Stanford University.

Executive Summary

The FFN calls feral cats “unsocialized cats” and provides an alternative approach to euthanasia through the Trap-Vaccinate-Alter-Release (TVAR) method. Program participants humanely trap “unsocialized cats” which are then spayed or neutered and vaccinated by the Palo Alto Humane Society. After administering clinical procedures, the cats are released back into their University Campus territory where they are fed and monitored daily by network volunteers. In the event the FFN discovers a tame cat within the Campus territory, the FFN boards or fosters the cat for at least one week before placing him/her up for adoption. With the help of Pet Food Express, the FFN coordinates a no-kill adoption program for the tame cats. Adoption fees range from \$80 to \$100 and include spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and micro-chipping. Cats are euthanized only when warranted by a veterinarian to relieve suffering. According to the FFN, the TVAR method stabilizes the population at manageable levels, is humane to the animals and fosters compassion, is more effective and less costly than repeated attempts at extermination, prevents the spread of infectious diseases, helps reduce the abandonment of animals, and benefits adoption efforts by placing tame cats in new homes.

Portland Program – Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon

Organization

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) is a 501(c)(3) organization supported solely through donations; they do not receive any taxpayer support or other public funding.

Executive Summary

The program aims to improve the welfare and reduce the population of feral and stray cats through spay or neuter procedures and education. The FCCO maintains that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) reduces the number of cats breeding, and educating citizens about the importance of spaying and neutering helps to facilitate increased communitywide understanding about feral cats. Additionally, the FCCO contends that even though cats may be feral, all cats are domesticated creatures that rely on humans for food. As a result, this program is a resource for caregivers that are feeding feral and stray cats. Caregivers obtain FCCO services by committing to feed the cat(s) on a permanent basis, trapping the cats, bringing the cats to a FCCO clinic to have procedures administered, and returning the cats to where they are being fed. What's more, FCCO services are only available for feral cats, barn cats, and stray cats that are being fed consistently by a caregiver; services are not for tame cats living as part of a family. Lastly, the FCCO does not trap and remove cats from their colonies.

Hawaii Program – the Hawaii Cat Foundation

Organization

Formed in 1993, the Hawaii Cat Foundation (HCF) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that receives no government funding and relies solely on donations.

Executive Summary

The HCF is dedicated to the welfare of the humane reduction of the feral and stray cat population through a non-lethal management program known as Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM). Volunteer caretakers use humane traps to catch and transport feral and stray cats from their cat colonies to veterinarian or agency clinics to be neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped. Following these procedures, the caretakers return the cats to their colony environment. While adhering to established program guidelines, the caretakers continue to provide daily care for the feral and stray cats. Cats are available for adoption through the HCF for a “nominal” fee. Euthanasia is never used to manage the adoptable cat population. Euthanasia is administered only as a means of alleviating suffering from an injury or illness from which the cat cannot recover or has no chance of rehabilitation.

Foster City Program – Project Bay Cat

Organization

Project Bay Cat was created in 2004 as a collaboration between the City of Foster City, the Homeless Cat Network, and the community.

Executive Summary

The goal of Project Bay Cat is to humanely manage the cats and gradually allow their numbers to decline by natural attrition and adoption while also balancing the needs of the City and levee/trail users. The program founders adopted the TNR practice, encourage cat adoption, provide public education, and organize anti-abandonment programs. With the help of volunteers, a feeding program was developed and feeding stations were built and strategically placed throughout the area and well away from wildlife habitats. Examples of Project Bay Cat's anti-abandonment efforts are the signage and brochures along the levee/trail which help to remind people that it's not just inhumane, but it's also illegal to abandon cats. The program claims that to date, the population has been reduced by 65 percent. In addition, no more kittens are born along the Foster City levee/trail and cats are no longer abandoned at the colony.

Santa Cruz Program – Project Purr

Type of Organization

Project Purr is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit rescue organization for feral cats and kittens.

Executive Summary

Project Purr funds a TNR program that offers resources for feral cat colony caretakers and those who want to learn more about TNR. The program provides spay and neuter veterinary packages for feral cats and kittens to all residents of Santa Cruz County. According to Project Purr, feral cats and their kittens are domestic cats that have been abandoned and become wary of humans and the most cost-effective and humane solution to manage feral cats is through the TNR method. In order for cats to receive Project Purr's services, all cats must be at least four months or about four pounds and delivered to one of Project Purr's participating clinics in humane traps. Traps can be obtained from Santa Cruz County Animal Services in either Santa Cruz or Watsonville. Project Purr's participating veterinary clinics typically provide spaying or neutering, FVRCP and rabies vaccines, parasite control, and mandatory ear tipping (ear-tipping is the universal symbol for identifying a neutered feral cat and involves removing approximately a quarter-inch off the tip of the cat's left ear in a straight line cut). Cats

are available for adoption for \$125 but the program suggests adopting cats in pairs or triplets; the adoption fee increases by \$50 for each additional cat.

Beverly Hills Ordinance – Ordinance Number 09-0-2568

Executive Summary

On September 5, 2009, the City of Beverly Hills adopted the City of Beverly Hills Feral Cat TNR Program, found under Article 5, Chapter 2, Title 5 of the City's municipal code. The TNR Program is the City's method for humanely reducing and controlling the population of feral cat colonies within the City. TNR is defined by the City as a practice whereby feral cats are humanely trapped by feral cat caregivers or TNR individuals, taken to a veterinary hospital or spay-neuter facility where they are sterilized and vaccinated, ear tipped, de-fleaed, and adopted or returned to their colony to be cared for until the end of their natural life. Trapping is not permitted within 1,000' of any city park and the city requires permits for each feral cat colony and from professionals conducting TNR activities. A cat not trapped through the city's TNR Program is prohibited from being released into the city. Any person illegally releasing cats will be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, the program requires the city to provide a 10-day resident comment period for feeding devices and a three-day resident comment period for trapping devices to be considered in approving the application filed for a feeding station within 150' of a residence. The feeding of feral cats is prohibited unless done in accordance with the TNR program and guidelines.

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Executive Summary

The ASPCA endorses TNR as the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies. The ASPCA states that TNR helps the community by stabilizing the population of feral cat colonies and over time, reducing it. The ASPCA claims that by neutering male cats, the risk of injury and infection is reduced, since intact males have a natural instinct to fight with other cats. Spaying female cats prevents them from going into heat. Additionally, after being spayed or neutered, cats living in colonies tend to gain weight and live healthier lives. At the same time, nuisance behaviors such as spraying, excessive noisemaking, and fighting are largely eliminated and no more kittens are born. If cats are sterilized and live in a colony that has a caretaker, they may live more than 10 years. In addition, the benefit of natural rodent control for the community is continued.

*Sources – See Attachment 4