

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FERAL CATS AND WILDLIFE STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following individual recommendations represent summaries made by City staff from flip chart notes gathered during the Working Group meeting on February 12, 2015. No official minutes or transcript was made. Specific content was received directly from each Working Group member prior to the meeting and is provided in Attachment 2.

### *Joe Chavez, Wildlife Fisheries Biologist:*

- Prohibit the feeding of any wildlife (bird or feral cat) in any park or open space land in the North Bayshore area (e.g., Shoreline Park and creek corridors)
- Protect endangered species' areas from feral cat feeding and maintain a separate area so that feral cat and wildlife feedings may occur.
- Cats should be tested for toxoplasmosis, feline leukemia, feline immunodeficiency virus, and feline pan leukopenia prior to their release from shelters into the Mountain View outdoors.
- Promote educational programs and materials that provide scientific information (to prevent the circulation of misinformation) on feral cats and the negative effects of cats living outdoors.
- Promote the adoption into indoor-only homes for eligible cats and the humane euthanasia of unadoptable cats.
- Hire professional trappers to remove existing feral cats in order to eliminate the immediate threat to burrowing owls.

### *Dan Soszynski, SVACA Executive Director, Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA - provider of animal care services to the City):*

- City should maintain its current practice of Trap-Neuter-Return and couple the practice with a Shoreline relocation program designed to protect wildlife.
- Establish an animal protection coalition (see the "Hawaii Coalition for the Protection of Cats and Wildlife").
- Nonprofits should provide collaborative outreach and education that focuses on maintaining cats indoors, spay/neuter, and proper cat care.
- Make efforts to build on local low-cost spay/neuter options.

### *Carol Moholt, "At-Large" member, Mountain View resident, General/Neutral viewpoint:*

- Recommendations should address the environment, North Bayshore Precise Plan, Shoreline Park, and Stevens and Permanente Creeks.
- Re-landscape the areas near Shoreline Lake and the most heavily visited areas of Shoreline Park to better reflect ecological sensitivity and wildlife friendliness.
- Develop a nature center headquarters and interpretive signage at the land near Shoreline Lake and throughout Shoreline Park.

- Seek funding to develop and support the educational activities of the proposed nature center.
- Remove trees from City-controlled streets, especially the trees that are not native, to a baylands environment and close to the boundaries of Shoreline Park.
- Encourage private landowners to also remove incompatible trees and replace them with more appropriate choices as needed.
- Enforce the “no dogs” policy at Shoreline Park through better education and working with adjoining municipalities.
- Train public and private staff on how to handle cats at Shoreline Park.
- Affirm the private property rights of the commercial, business, and housing owners and tenants in the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.
- Increase use of the Trailhead and upgrade the interpretive signage at La Avenida in North Bayshore.
- Develop additional educational efforts to promote the health of the riparian corridor along the Stevens Creek Trail outside of Shoreline Park and the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.

*Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D., Environmental Advocate Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society:*

- Prohibit the release, feeding, and support of cat colonies and feral cats in the North Bayshore area (e.g., north of Highway 101, Shoreline Park, neighboring creeks, nearby parks, and sensitive areas).
- Implement a monitoring and reporting program in the North Bayshore area.
- Implement trapping and removal activities throughout the North Bayshore area.
- Test cats for diseases (e.g., toxoplasmosis).
- Require permits and conduct Citywide monitoring of feral cats and cat colonies.
- Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA) should assume responsibility for reporting on the quantity of cats brought to North Bayshore, the quantity of cats rejected from North Bayshore, and the quantity of cats adopted or released to cat support group.

*Alan Launer, “At-Large” member, Mountain View resident, Bird/Wildlife-related focus:*

- Adopt general policies and specific strategies for addressing feral/homeless cats.
- Reduce the number of abandoned cats by making use of low-cost spay/neuter clinics and educational outreach.
- Certify all animals that pass through public and private groups as healthy, sick, or injured, and care for them according to their certification condition.
- Maintain a clear and transparent recordkeeping system for the certification of animals.
- Clarify the City ordinances related to the release of animals into the wild, and modify ordinances so that they become compatible with State Fish and Wildlife codes and Federal statutes.
- Prohibit the maintenance of feral/homeless cats in the North Bayshore area.

- Prohibit the feeding of cats, eliminate the use of feeding stations, and prevent the sanctioned release of cats and other domestic or exotic animals in the North Bayshore area.
- Create signage, outreach, and penalties to help discourage the release and abandonment of animals in the North Bayshore area.
- Provide the public with a clear method of reporting the sighting of feral/homeless cats.
- Provide routine monitoring, trapping, and removal activities in order to achieve the goal of zero cats in the area.
- Gain a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of cats throughout Mountain View and contingent upon the information gathered, prohibit the maintenance of feral/homeless cats, and/or develop a license for operating feral/homeless cat feeding stations.

***Eileen McLaughlin, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, Board Member:***

- Adopt and implement two “Good Neighbor Policies”: 1) ordinance of mutual cooperation among adjoining, overlapping, and internal jurisdictions that have existing restrictions on roaming cats; 2) ordinance that prohibits the release of cats if individual property owners, land managers, institutions, or businesses object.
- Establish a program to shelter unadoptable cats and avoid inflicting a hard and shortened life on feral cats to protect wildlife.
- Replace the release of cats with a “cat sanctuary.”
- Define North Bayshore as a roaming-cat-free district, whereby all of North Bayshore is designated as off-limits to free-roaming cats and the release and feeding of cats is prohibited.
- Address public health matters related to diseases like toxoplasmosis.

***Casey Leonardo – “At-Large” member, Mountain View resident, Cat-related focus***

***Denise Uriarte, Town Cats, Cat Rescue Group***

***Carole Hyde, Palo Alto Humane Society, Executive Director***

Carole Hyde, Casey Leonardo, and Denise Uriarte undersigned a report (Feral Cat and Wildlife Stakeholders Working Group – A Joint Report from the Cat Representatives) through which they offer collective best practices:

- Provide education and community outreach activities in order to reduce the number of free-roaming cats and protect local wildlife and their habitats.
- Instruct members of the community in a collaborative manner through “Pet Safe and Inside Campaign,” “Spay/Neuter Education,” “Responsible Community Cat Management Workshops,” “Youth Education Programs,” and “Wildlife Education & Preservation Campaign and Workshops.”
- Promote free or low-cost spay/neuter services and programs to residents.

- Incentivize pet spaying/neutering through partnerships with local businesses, and target spay/neuter efforts in the areas of Mountain View that exhibit higher concentrations of free-roaming cats.
- Continue strategies that are successful (e.g., multilingual education/outreach, media education/outreach, and its current collaborative efforts between Animal Control, rescue groups, and individual volunteers).