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Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 1:10 PM
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Subject: PowerPoint about the benefit of TNRM
Attachments: TNRM_PPP.January.05.2016.Revised.35 Slides.ppt; ATT00001.htm

As there are time restrictions for presentations I hoped to share this comprehensive PowerPoint about the benefits of introducing Trap Neuter and Return in the City of Vaughan.



**Presentation on the
Benefits of a TNR (Trap,
Neuter, Return)
Program
for the Management of
Free-roaming Cats**



Purpose of Presentation

In this presentation to Council, we would like to:

- 1) address the unsuccessful practice of Trap and Kill;
- 2) suggest amendments to the current municipal By-Law(s) that would provide for a TNR Program;
- 3) The establishment of an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to steer policy related to feral cats, investigate issues surrounding both feral and non-feral cats, and provide recommendations via written reports;
- 4) Request the support of the municipality in establishing a TNR Program; and
- 5) Funding, in an amount to be determined.

Background

The municipality currently does not have By-laws or programs which support TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Return). TNR is a proven methodology of successfully managing and controlling the population of community cats within the municipality.

Municipalities all across Ontario, Canada, as well as many international countries are now making sweeping changes to implement TNR programs, by amending their bylaws to include a comprehensive TNR Program.

Background

There are also other issues that relate to the current situation in the municipality:

- Irresponsible pet owners abandon cats and/or don't get them spayed or neutered.
- Lack of public understanding about the problem.
- Well meaning people FEED community cats but don't FIX them.
- **NO spaying/neutering is being done by the municipality. Individual residents are utilizing their own personal funds to spay and neuter.**

Why Is Change Needed to Manage the Issue of Community Cats?

Today, killing (euthanizing) homeless animals is becoming an out dated methodology as a means of feline population control, is not optimally effective, and killing animals is becoming increasingly unpalatable by the public. Population control is the goal.

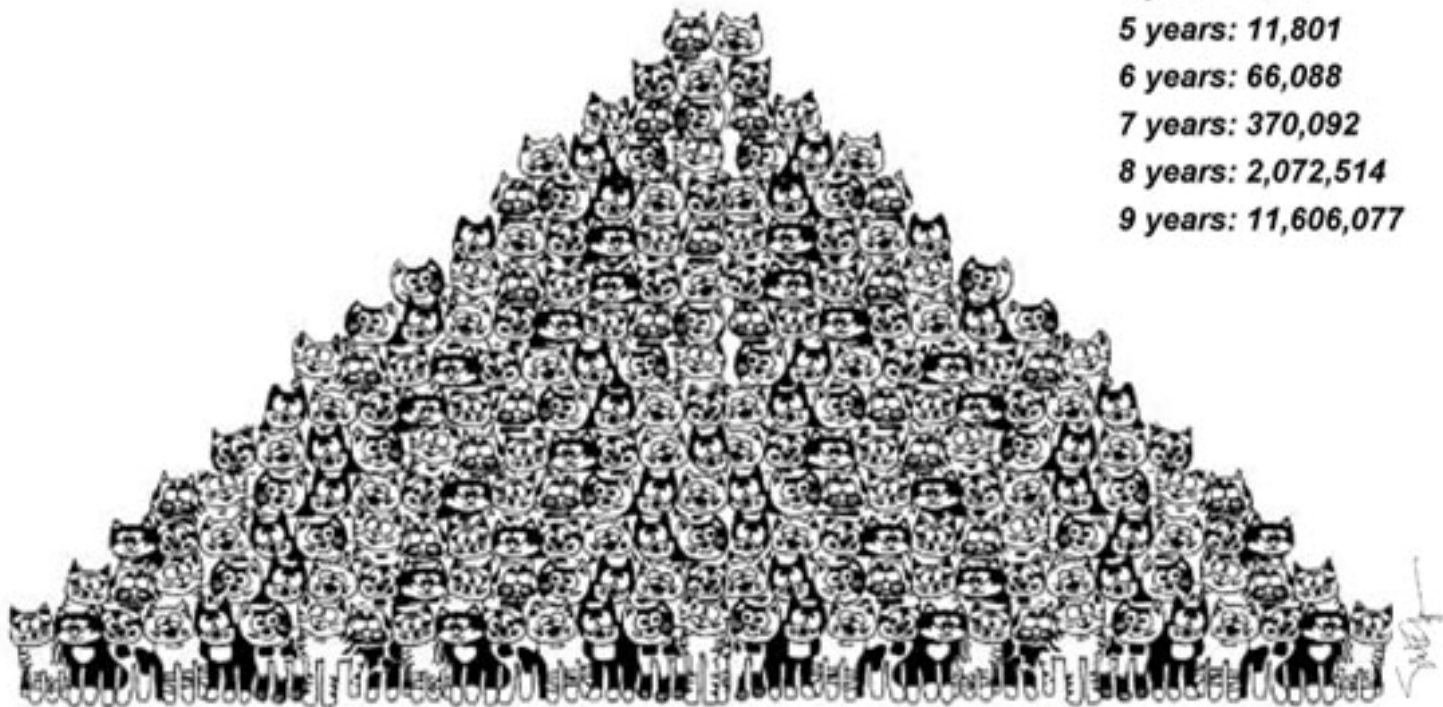


Cat Population Pyramid



An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

1 year: 12
2 years: 67
3 years: 376
4 years: 2,107
5 years: 11,801
6 years: 66,088
7 years: 370,092
8 years: 2,072,514
9 years: 11,606,077



The Solution...TNR

There IS a practical solution....

TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return), that both puts an end to the perpetual cycle of killing, and facilitates the maintenance of stable colonies of sterile cats, rendering them unable to multiply.

To explain in detail what TNR involves, we need to provide some definitions...



Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

What is a cat colony?

- A cat colony is a group of free-roaming cats that live in close proximity to each other. Colonies are often formed around shelter and a common food source.



Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

What is a “feral cat”?

- Feral or free-roaming is a term that has been used to describe a homeless cat that is undomesticated and unsocialized; was born without human contact or formerly had human contact and became unsocialized from living on its own due to becoming lost or abandoned.

Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

What is a “stray cat”?

- A stray cat is a cat who has been socialized to people at some point in her life, but has left or lost her domestic home, as well as most human contact and dependence. “Stray [cats] were once pets and they can usually be successfully rescued and placed in homes.” - *Stray Cat Handbook*
- Stray cats are living on their own, but remain socialized and adoptable.

What is Ear Tipping?



Eartip = $\frac{1}{4}$ inch straight line cut off tip of left ear

Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

What is “The Vacuum Effect”?

- Animal Control’s traditional approach to feral cats – catch and kill – won’t keep an area free of cats for long. Catch and kill is cruel, inhumane, and creates a vacuum as do attempts to “relocate” cats and there is no guarantee all of the cats have been caught
- Known as the ‘**vacuum-effect**’, this is a documented phenomenon in a variety of animal species throughout the world. Once the cats are removed from a territory, other cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources and breed, forming a new colony.
- Catch and kill, or Trap and Kill, is an endless and costly cycle.

Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

What is a Trap and Kill Policy and/or Shelter?

- Trap and Kill (or Catch and Kill) essentially means that free-roaming cats are trapped by Animal Control. Selected cats deemed domesticated may be put up for adoption, and if not adopted within a minimal time span, are at risk of euthanasia.
- Those cats that are deemed unadoptable (e.g. ferals), would be euthanized.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR)

What is TNR?

- Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is a program/strategy that allows free roaming cats to live out their lives without adding to the homeless cat population. Cats are humanely 1) trapped, 2) vaccinated (rabies), 3) spayed/neutered, 4) ear tipped 5) microchipped 6) released back into their colony and 7) monitored by a colony caregiver.



Management of Cat Colonies

What does ‘management of cat colonies’ by a Colony Caregiver entail?

- A colony is managed by a Colony Caregiver, who has undergone training in TNR.
- Setting up shelters (built or purchased).** This ensures the cats will be attracted to, and maintained within a confined area, enabling better control of the colony.



Management of Cat Colonies

What does ‘management of cat colonies’ by a Colony Caregiver entail?

- **Creating a feeding site.** The cats within a managed colony are fed and monitored on almost a daily basis at approximately the same time every day. The benefits of this practice are that 1) the cats will look forward to the food arriving, 2) it will make it easier to check on the health of the colony, and 3) feeding of cats is undertaken by knowledgeable/experienced caretakers.
- **Feeding areas are kept clean and neat.** Food is removed prior to nightfall. This will keep wildlife out of the feeding area. Routinely checking and monitoring feeding also demonstrates and assures residents that the colony is being effectively managed.

Management of Cat Colonies

What does ‘management of cat colonies’ by a Colony Caregiver entail?

- **Feral kittens left with their mothers until they are approximately five to seven weeks old.** At that time colony managers/volunteers would capture and socialize these kittens in preparation for adoption. At approximately 12 weeks of age, the kittens if not able to be socialized, would be sterilized and returned to the colony (close management and actively sterilizing any new kittens would prohibit the growth of the colony).
- **Efforts are made to ensure additional colony managers/volunteers are available especially in winter months.**

Management of Cat Colonies

What does ‘management of cat colonies’ by a Colony Caregiver entail?

- The overall objective is to ensure humane care while gradually reducing the number of cats in a cat colony.
- Records are jointly kept with Animal Control and Volunteer Caretakers for each cat that is TNR’d.** Recording the number of colony members, health, new members who have joined the colony that most likely will need to be neutered.
- Following the TNR program facilitates monitoring and provides evidence of activities and identification of cats involved, including description, gender, age, date of spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and where and where applicable, additional veterinary treatment.

Management of Cat Colonies

What does ‘management of cat colonies’ entail?

- **Colony managers/volunteers would register their colony with the municipality.**
- **Colony managers/volunteers work with local animal humane organizations, rescues, and municipal shelters in an effort to find homes for any new colony cats that appear to be socialized, stray, or abandoned.**



Who Endorses TNR?

Animal advocacy groups, veterinarians, researchers, animal welfare professionals and protection groups are supporting TNR. Some of the many groups recommending and endorsing TNR are:

- **The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)**
- **The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)**
- **Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS)**
- **Animal Alliance of Canada (AAC)**
- **Durham Region Humane Society (DRHS)**
- **Toronto Humane Society (THS)**
- **Toronto Animal Services (TAS)**
- **Toronto Feral Cat Coalition (TFCC)**
- **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**
- **The Humane Society of the United States**
- **The American Humane Association**

Ontario Municipalities Involved with/Supporting TNR

A few of the Ontario municipalities with laws, programs, and/or policies supporting TNR for community cats (i.e. free-roaming cats not belonging to individuals, including feral cats), are listed below:

-Dryden – Kingston – Lanark County – London – Toronto – Markham – St. Thomas – Windsor – Innisfil – Thunder Bay

Municipalities about to, or currently looking into adopting TNR:

-Mississauga – Whitby – Clarington - Georgina

Other provinces where TNR is practiced:

-British Columbia – Alberta – Quebec – New Brunswick – Nova Scotia – Prince Edward Island

Why TNR Now?

- The number of community/free roaming cats and colonies appears to be increasing in number, demonstrating that more needs to be done.
- Intake and euthanasia rates, complaint calls, financial costs, and opportunity costs can be better managed.
- Better management of public health issues.
- Less roaming.
- Fewer, or no kittens.
- Multiple rescue volunteer groups and individuals in or near the municipality are poised to partner with the municipality to manage and curtail the free roaming cat population.
- Collaboration between municipalities is necessary for optimal TNR effectiveness.

Why TNR Now?

- Other provincial and national animal welfare groups are supporting TNR initiatives across the country.
- TNR does not promote the abandonment of cats, in fact, owners abandon cats for a variety of reasons, and establishing a TNR program would not encourage abandonment.
- TNR also takes into account the effective management of cat colonies by volunteer, or appointed groups, in collaboration with the municipality.



Why TNR Now?

Municipal Due Diligence:

- Sweeping change is taking place regarding municipal involvement and bylaws are taking place all over Ontario, Canada, and internationally.
- Demonstrates the municipality is attentive to a trending sensitive social issue (animal welfare).
- Similar programs in other municipalities have proven that TNRWORKS.

Why TNR Now?

Municipal Due Diligence:

- Mitigation of any potential municipal liability regarding public health and safety for municipal residents.
- Liability could inadvertently be assumed if the Town did not put into effect currently accepted and endorsed measures to manage and control animal populations. Council has a higher duty of care to residents as stated in a variety of statutes, e.g. the Municipal Act, RSO 2001, the Negligence Act, RSO 1990, as well as Canadian Tort Law.
- Pro-active public image of the municipality – transparency to public with efforts and accountability.

TORONTO ANIMAL SERVICES STATISTICS

Bar graphs indicate substantial reductions in:

- a) Stray cat intake
- b) Number of euthanized cats

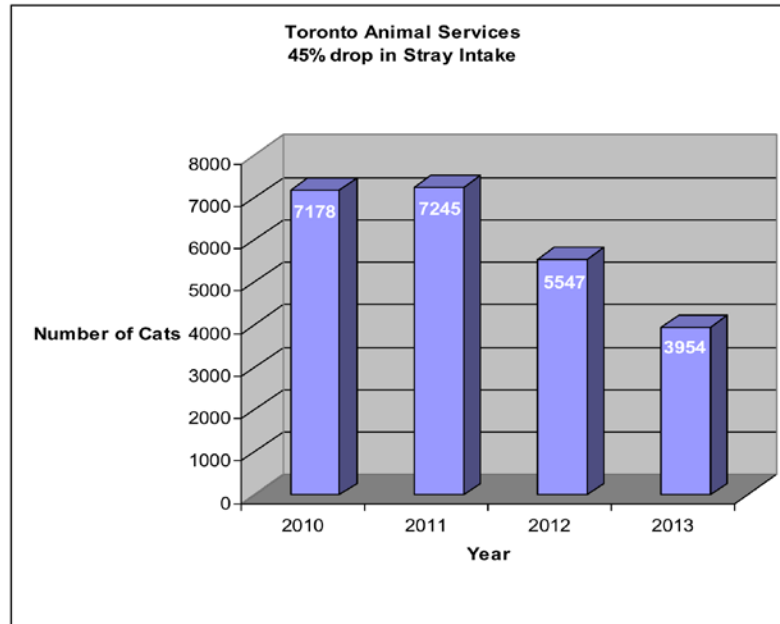
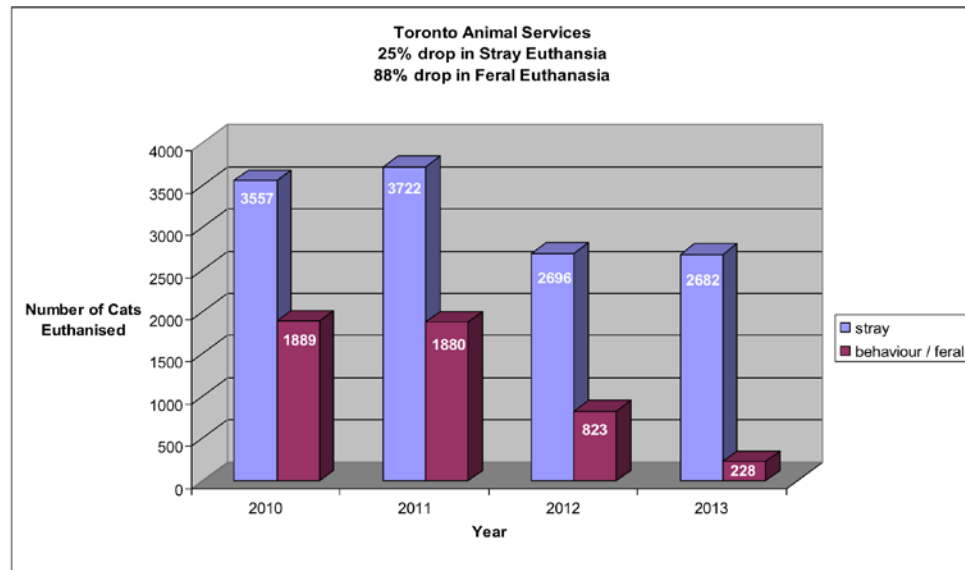


Figure 2

Note:

In Figure 1, the number of stray cats decreased by almost 45% within 3 years.

In Figure 2, a 25% drop in Stray cat euthanasia is indicated, and Feral euthanasia dropped by 88%.



*figures excluded: owner surrendered, protective custody, owner animal quarantined, and

Why TNR Now?

Other benefits:

- Compliance/cooperation in line with OSPCA, HSDR, Canadian Medical Veterinary Association, HSDR, and many others, who have issued pro-TNR position statements.
- Improve cost effectiveness, management of tax payer dollars.
- Reduces the need for euthanasia, provides a more humane solution.



Change is Needed

Unfortunately, current local by laws conflict with the creation of TNR programs.

- The definition of “owner” may construe anyone who manages a cat colony as an owner, and subject them to pet ownership limitations and/or other requirements such as licensing of the animals.
- “At Large” provisions also do not cover feral/free-roaming cats/colonies.
- There currently is no “link”, or committee that brings the municipality together with key stakeholders such as local rescue groups, individual volunteers, adoption groups, municipal animal control, or humane organizations to establish TNR.

Recommendations

- 1) The municipality draft and amend bylaws, similar to the City of Toronto*, including provisions for feral cats, TNR, and banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores unless these animals are from rescue groups and city shelters;
 - 2) The municipality create an “Animal Welfare Committee” that would bring together stakeholders such as municipal animal control, humane organizations, rescue groups, and individual volunteers, thus fostering positive working relationships between community stakeholders;
- http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_349.pdf
 - http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_545.pdf

Recommendations

- 3) Seek assistance from municipal/regional colony caretakers and rescue groups to establish a comprehensive Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program unique to the needs of the municipality;
- 4) Review a 2004 lecture by Bryan Kortis, Executive Director of Neighborhood Cats;
- 5) Spay and neuter animals prior to adoption from Animal Services if not already in practice, as not spaying/neutering undermines the current efforts of neighboring municipalities;

Recommendations

- 6) Microchip animals prior to adoption from Animal Services. Many domestic cats that socialize with feral cat colonies can be positively identified and returned to their owners in a timely manner before becoming semi feral or feral and joining a colony;
- 7) Include a definition of “Feral Cat’ to read: “an unsocialized cat who, in general, receives little human contact or care and lives outdoors or unconfined at all times”;
- 8) Include a definition of “Feral Cat Colony” to read: “a collective term, referring to a group of mostly or all feral cats in the municipality that congregate as a unit”.

Recommendations

- 9) Include a definition of “Feral Colony Caretaker” to read: “any natural person or body corporate who provides managed long-term care, in conjunction with trapping, neutering and return, for a feral cat colony”;
- 10) Include a definition of “Stray Cat” defined as “a domestic cat of any age, lost or abandoned by its owner, who lives outdoors or unconfined at all times”; and
- 11) Exempt Feral Cat Colony Caretakers from the controlled confinement, licensing, unattended animals, nuisance animals, and running at large provisions of the municipality’s bylaws.

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals

ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS. 349-4 and 349-5

FERAL CAT - A cat found in the City of Toronto that has no owner, is not socialized and is extremely fearful or resistant to humans.

FERAL CAT COLONY - A collective term, referring to a group of mostly or all feral cats in the City of Toronto that congregate as a unit.

KEEP - To have temporary or permanent control or possession of an animal; "keeping" has the same meaning.

OWNER - A person or persons who possess, harbour or have custody of an animal and, where the owner is a minor, the person responsible for the custody of the minor.

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals

RESCUE GROUP - A not-for-profit or charitable organization, registered with Toronto Animal Services, whose mandate and practices are predominately the rescue and placement of animals, and facilitating the spaying or neutering of animals, for animal welfare purposes.

STERILIZATION - Either the spaying or neutering of a dog or cat.

TRAP NEUTER RETURN PROGRAM - A trap-neuter-return ("TNR") program that traps feral cats, sterilizes and attempts to return them to the locations where they were found.

