

Britto, John

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COMMUNICATION

From: heather reppen <heather_reppen@hotmail.com>
Sent: May-30-16 2:22 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: Monika Sudds
Subject: to the added to the agenda of The Committee of the Whole on June 1/16

CW (WORKING SESSION)
 JUNE 1/16
 ITEM - 2

Good afternoon,

I am sending this email in support of TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) - the item added to Wednesday's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to meet more than a dozen people in the City of Vaughan that needed some assistance with cats that they were feeding in their area. Most of these people were genuinely concerned for the welfare of the cats and were quite disappointed to know that the City of Vaughan had no services available to help them. Reaching out to local independent rescuers they soon learned the City bylaws are not designed to assist them in what they believed to be the morally correct/compassionate thing to do (ie: care for the cats by way of sterilizing, immunizing, feeding and sheltering).

There are a number of people that live in the City of Vaughan that are actively conducting TNR in the community and believe it is the humane and best method of addressing the issue of free-roaming/feral cats.

The most concise description of TNR, from Alley Cat Allies:

What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?

Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane and effective approach for stray and feral cats. Now in practice for decades in the US after being proven in Europe, scientific studies show that Trap-Neuter-Return improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with the people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time.

Trap-Neuter-Return is successfully practiced in hundreds of communities and in every landscape and setting. It is exactly what it sounds like: Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered and vaccinated. After recovery, the cats are returned to their home—their colony—outdoors. Kittens and cats who are friendly and socialized to people may be adopted into homes.

Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. It is a fact that the removal and killing of outdoor cats that animal control has been pursuing for decades is never ending and futile. Since feral cats are not adoptable, they are killed in pounds and shelters. With a successful program like Trap-Neuter-Return to turn to, it's hard to believe that animal control agencies continue to kill cats, even though that approach has shown zero results.

It is time to put an end to catch and kill. Trap-Neuter-Return provides a life-saving, effective solution for these beautiful, independent cats.

There are so many reasons to embrace and promote TNR! Trap-Neuter-Return:

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- Stabilizes feral cat colonies
- Improves cats' lives
- Answers the needs of the community
- Protects cats' lives
- Works—other methods just don't

The City of Vaughan's current bylaws as well as animal services policies need to be altered to facilitate the TNR activities currently going on in Vaughan to allow them to continue without fear of unnecessary persecution of the cats, the community people that feed/shelter them, and the community people assist in the TNR-ing of the cats.

Currently, several municipalities in the GTA are reviewing their bylaws and animals services policies in a manner conducive to TNR. The City of Toronto has made changes to facilitate TNR and Toronto Animal Services is part of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition.

TNR is the only proven, effective, humane method of managing free roaming/feral cats, and it is important for the City of Vaughan to assist the community people already involved in the TNR-ing of the cats in Vaughan.

Thank you,

Heather Reppen
Brampton, ON