

The sentences and paragraphs in bold are from the PPB ordinance. Below them is our analysis of those sentences and paragraphs.

WHEREAS, feral cats are...not adoptable as companion animals...

Feral cats can and do tame down. Shelters may not be in a position to work on socialization of adult feral cats, but various cat rescue groups and individuals do. Many of the cats in colonies are semi-feral and simply need some time and effort to adjust. Once tame, feral cats can be very loyal pets.

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States have determined that the practice of trapping and euthanizing feral cats is not effective in reducing their numbers...

We know of no community that has been scientifically polled about their thoughts on the effectiveness of trapping and euthanizing feral cats.

ANDERSEN, M. C., B. J. MARTIN, AND G. W. ROEMER. 2004. Use of matrix population models to estimate the efficacy of euthanasia versus trap-neuter-return for management of free-roaming cats. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 225:1871–1876.

The above study used mathematical models to compare the effectiveness of removal versus sterilization in reducing numbers of free-roaming cats. They reported that populations can be stabilized through annual neutering of at least 75% of the population, assuming that there is **no immigration** of new cats. Populations can be stabilized through annual removal of 50% of the population.

For more information about this study, click on the link below:

<http://pamelajohatley.com/Articles/JAVMA%20study%20report.pdf>

WHEREAS, a present goal of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is to decrease the number of cats in the environment and thereby reduce feral cat predation on wildlife...

That goal is unattainable. There are an estimated 60 to 100 million feral cats roaming throughout the country. Not even one percent of them has gone through TNR. The American Veterinary Medical Association has stated that any reduction through such programs is **insignificant**.

Further, **TNR will never help wildlife**. First, these colonies simply do not die out. *The cats are always there. Newcomers* continually replace old ones. Second, well-fed cats still hunt. The hunting instinct is separate from the urge to eat. Third, cats are often present in whatever isolated and fragmented patches of suitable habitat are left for migrating birds and other wildlife.

Cat-injured wild animals seldom survive the ordeal due to the bacteria from the cats.

The out-of-control population of the domestic cat is vastly larger than all native predators put together. A single cat can extirpate native fauna from a given site. Furthermore, cats can affect raptor populations through competition for food. Cats can also harbor and transmit diseases to wildlife. Finally, in addition to direct mortality, cats may also cause stress responses in birds that result in reductions in breeding success or survival.

WHEREAS, programs for the managed care of feral cat colonies that include trapping, neutering and returning such cats to their habitats have proven to be effective in reducing the number of feral cats and is more humane than trapping and euthanizing...

Cats do not have habitats. The domestic cat is not native to any North American ecosystem.

There is no scientific evidence that has shown that TNR is effective in reducing the number of feral cats through natural attrition.

There are individuals and organizations that believe that euthanasia is a far kinder fate than re-abandoning domestic cats to live and die in the wild through TNR.

WHEREAS, TNR programs are beneficial to communities and the public health because cats in managed colonies are vaccinated against rabies, which has positive public consequences, and are spayed or neutered, thereby controlling the population...

We see no benefit to communities. TNR infringes on property rights.

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians has stated that there is no evidence that colony management programs will reduce diseases. Not every cat may be trapped. Any cat that evades capture is fed, better able to breed, and remains unvaccinated. Cats are usually not re-trapped for additional medical care.

PPB experienced a rabies outbreak one year after legalizing TNR.

Nuisance means disturbing the peace by (a) habitually or continually howling, crying or screaming, or (b) the habitual and significant destruction, desecration or soiling of property against the wishes of the owner of the property.

Are there not many more nuisances created by the presence of free-roaming cats? Why does the nuisance have to be habitual? Why does the destruction have to be significant? What about the killing of wild birds at a bird feeder? The above definition of nuisance provides little recourse to property owners.

22-16.3 Sponsor requirements.

It shall be the duty of the sponsor to:

- a. Review and approve of colony caregivers;**
- b. Help to resolve any complaints over the conduct of a colony caregiver or of cats within a colony;**
- c. Maintain records provided by colony caregivers on the size and location of the colonies as well as the vaccination and spray/neuter records of cats in the sponsor's colonies; and...**

According to the Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics Monthly Summary for September 2009, there were “no records on the cats in the feral cat program being vaccinated against rabies”.

There is no external oversight in this ordinance.

Please click on the link below to view a set of 20 questions that help determine if a program has succeeded in reducing the number of feral cats through natural attrition and to evaluate any problems that have arisen as a result of the colony and/or program:

http://tnrrealitycheck.com/media/TNR_evaluative_questions.pdf