

TOWN OF WEST SENECA



SHEILA M. MEEGAN
TOWN SUPERVISOR

To: Fellow Town Board Members

From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor

Date: September 10, 2015

Re: **Resolution in Support of Trap-Neuter-Return for Free Roaming Community Cats**

Kindly move to adopt the attached resolution in support of trap-neuter-return for free roaming community cats

DRAFT Resolution in Support of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for Free Roaming Community Cats

Whereas the New York State Legislature has determined that TNR is now generally accepted as a viable and effective population control tool which is being successfully practiced in thousands of communities and in every landscape and setting; and

Whereas Trap-Neuter-Return programs humanely trap feral cats - which cannot be socialized to live with humans safely - and take them to a veterinarian to be neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped; and

Whereas, after recovery from surgery, the cats are returned to their colony and in some cases kittens of feral cats that can be socialized to people so they may be adopted into homes; and

Whereas, TNR is grounded in science, stops the breeding cycle of feral cats and therefore improves their lives, and

Whereas, the historically practiced, "catch and kill" approach formerly used to control feral cat populations, has been demonstrated to be ineffective, costly and futile in attempts to permanently clear an area of cats because of the scientifically-documented phenomenon known as the "vacuum effect;" and

Whereas whenever cats are removed and killed, new cats move in to take advantage of the now-available resources (like food and shelter), or the surviving cats left behind breed to capacity; and

Whereas, under TNR, the returned cats act as placeholders, preventing intact cats from moving into the area, have significantly reduced nuisance behaviors (spraying, noise from mating and fighting) and are better community neighbors than the intact cats who would otherwise fill that space if there were a vacuum; and

Whereas, as a result of the above, there is robust support for TNR both at the grassroots level and within traditional political structures, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that this Town Board adopts the following policy in the Town of West Seneca with respect to feral and community cats, and encourages residents of the Town to follow this policy:

- A. TNR of community cats shall be legal in the Town of West Seneca and interested citizens are encouraged to participate in and support TNR activities on a voluntary basis.
- B. West Seneca residents who practice TNR should be familiar with the guidelines supported by regional and national feral and community cat organizations, regarding appropriate methods of TNR.
- C. Socialized cats and all kittens subject to TNR shall be eligible to be, but not mandated to be, re-socialized and put up for adoption.
- D. An ear tipped cat received by local shelters shall be returned to the location where trapped unless veterinary care is required. A trapped ear tipped cat shall be released on site unless veterinary care is required.
- E. Dog control officers and Town employees shall use appropriate opportunities to inform stakeholders about TNR.
- F. Proof of ownership shall not be required to claim a community cat from a local shelter.
- G. It shall not be a violation of this section to determine that the best course of action for a particular cat, or cat colony, is to be left alone.