



NYSAPF is the voice of New York's humane societies, municipal animal shelters and SPCAs.

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Memo of Support for A.2778 (McDonald)/S.1081 (Marchione)

Communities throughout the state have been struggling with the challenge of managing feral cat colonies, also known as “Community Cats.”

Many times the financial burden for these cats is carried by local governments through their municipal animal shelters, local humane societies and/or SPCAs. **The best way to save hard-earned taxpayer dollars and to put philanthropic dollars that support local municipal and 501-C-3 humane societies and SPCAs to the best use is to allow for a small portion of the state’s Animal Population Control Program fund to support local Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) programs in upstate New York and on Long Island.**

Evidence has shown the following:

- The strategy of trap and kill (which falls mostly on the shoulders of local municipalities and their shelters) does not work. Feral cat colonies will simply repopulate instead of disappear because it is impossible to trap and kill all the cats in a colony.
- Financially, the cost to trap and euthanize an animal runs between \$100 and \$125 compared to the low cost of TNR, which also includes vaccinations. This cost is between \$35 and \$55.
- During an 11 year study to TNR at the University of Florida, the number of cats on campus declined by 66% with no new kittens being born after the first four years of operation.
- Another program at the University of Texas A&M neutered 123 cats in its first year and found no new litters the following year.
- When communities institute TNR programs, local shelters report less cats coming in that are unadoptable and ultimately euthanized. The Mayor’s Alliance for Animals credits the City’s TNR program for the significant drop in the City’s euthanasia rates from 32,000 in 2003 to 6,000 in 2013.
- Connecticut’s TNR program has resulted in the spay/neuter of thousands of cats. Over the 16 year period that the Dept. of Agriculture’s Animal Control Division and Animal Population Control Programs have tracked statistics, the impound rate has dropped 32%, the adoption rate is down 16% (less animals means fewer adoptions) and the euthanasia rate is down 51%.

These types of statistics are within New York’s reach with the implementation of the proposed TNR Fund.

The humane societies, animal shelters and animal welfare organizations throughout upstate New York and Long Island support its establishment. Many are already using funds available from the Animal Population Control Fund to spay/neuter pets of low-income folks in the communities they serve.

They are well equipped and ready to take on the challenge of pro-active TNR programs. They know their communities, their animal advocates and their cat colonies. All that needs to happen is for the TNR fund to become a reality.