



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

May 2, 2017

Administration Building,
4th Floor, BCC Meeting Room, 477 Houston
Street,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Bolla

INVOCATION

Commissioner Hutchings

PLEDGE

Commissioner Rollins

ROLL CALL

Chairman Bolla

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Public Comments

NEW BUSINESS

2. PowerPoint Presentation on Animal Care & Control
3. Staffing Recommendations from the National and Florida Animal Control Associations
4. The University of Florida's 2014 Evaluation of Clay County Animal Care & Control
5. The Humane Society of the United States estimate of the number of pets in your community
6. Facts about Chaining and Tethering
7. Sept. 30, 2016 Memo from County Auditor to Commissioners regarding Animal Control mission, concepts and informal best practices survey
8. Position statements regarding free roaming/feral cats
9. Background on Trap Neuter Return Program

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the Clay County ADA Coordinator by mail at Post Office Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, or by telephone at number (904) 269-6347 no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

TO: DATE:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

AGENDA
ITEM
TYPE:

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:54 PM	
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:54 PM	



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County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:55 PM	
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TYPE:

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:56 PM	
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:56 PM	



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

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AGENDA
ITEM
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REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:53 PM	
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:53 PM	



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

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AGENDA
ITEM
TYPE:

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:57 PM	
County Manager	Kopelousos, Stephanie	Approved	4/26/2017 - 9:57 PM	



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM


TO: DATE:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

AGENDA
ITEM
TYPE:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type	Upload Date	File Name
 PowerPoint	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	5.2.17_PowerPoint.pdf

REVIEWERS:

Department Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
No Reviewers Available			

CLAY COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL



Workshop
May 2, 2017

Animal Control Basics

- Hours of Operation
- Shelter
 - Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 4 pm
 - Saturday 10 am to 3 pm
- Animal Control Officers
 - 7 days a week 7 am to 5:30 pm
 - Emergency Call Out 5:30 pm to 7 am 365 days a year, including holidays

Staffing at CCACC

- **Director (1) filled**
- **Shelter Veterinarian (1) filled**
- **Veterinary Technician/Foster Coordinator (1) filled**
- **Executive Secretary (1) filled**
- **Customer Service/Dispatcher/Call Taker/Front Desk/Adoption & Rescue Coordinator (1) filled**
- **Senior Kennel Attendant (1) filled**
- **Program Manager (1) Vacant**
- **Senior Animal Control Officer/Bite Coordinator (1) Vacant**
- **Kennel Attendant (3) 1 vacant**
- **Animal Control Officer (5) 2 trained, 2 in training, 1 vacant**
- **Temporary Labor (2) Vacant**

Animal Control Monthly Breakdowns

- CCACC front desk handles approximately 870 phone calls per month to our main line
- An average of 288 animals enter the shelter each month
- Animal Control Officers complete an average of 456 calls for service per month
- Officers complete an average of 49 animal bites cases per month
- Officers respond to an average of 50 emergency call outs after hours
- Officers handle an average of 139 after hours phone calls per month
- Shelter Medical staff spay and neuter an average of 200 animals per month
- Shelter staff averages 165 adoptions per month
- CCACC staff participates in an average of 2 offsite adoption or community events monthly
- Rescue partners pull an average of 52 animals from the shelter monthly

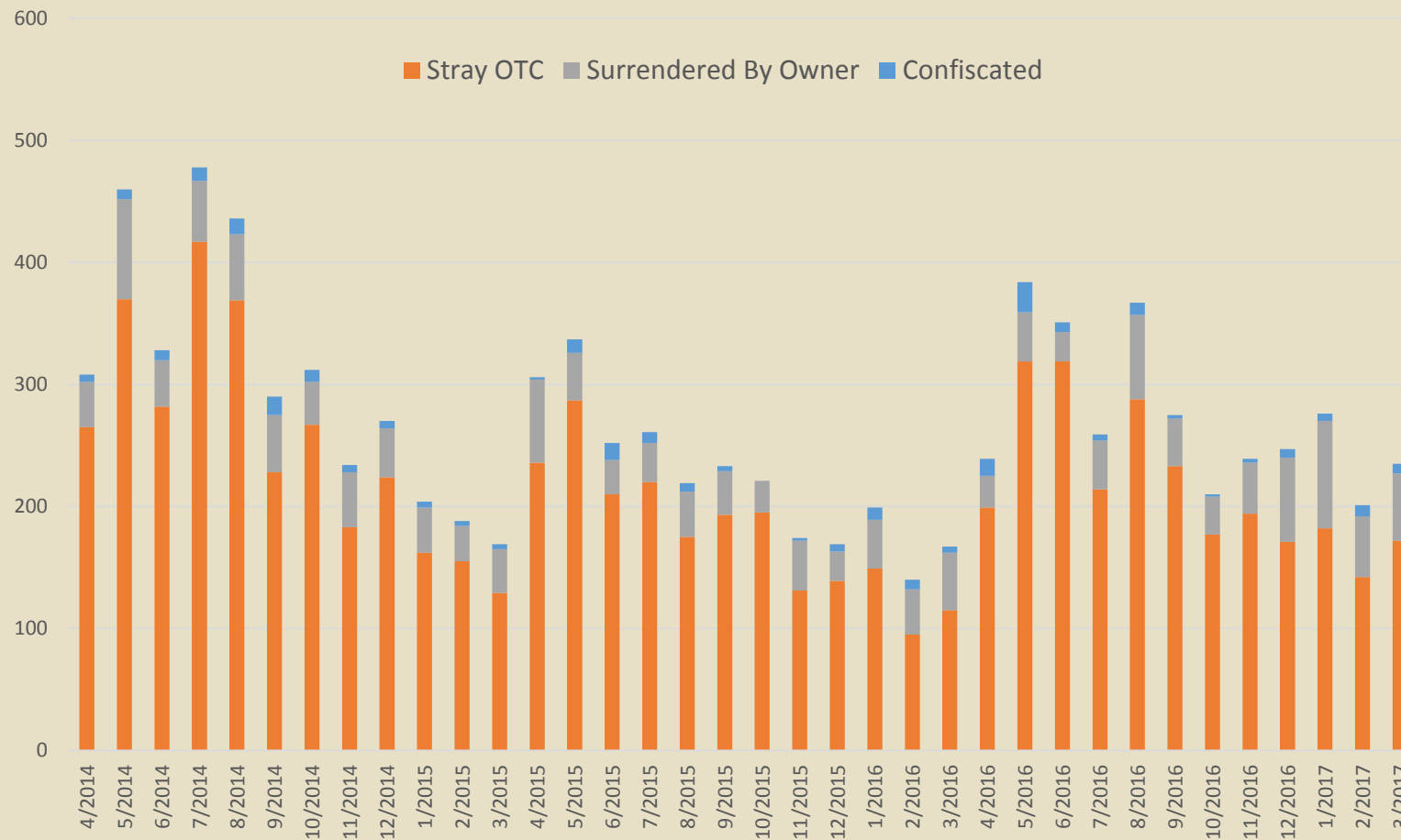
How many animals we care for in a day

	Dog Inventory	Cat Inventory
January 2016	127	123
February 2016	140	98
March 2016	133	73
April 2016	90	61
May 2016	86	94
June 2016	107	299
July 2016	141	336
August 2016	102	249
September 2016	103	196
October 2016	70	145
November 2016	57	101
December 2016	60	122
January 2017	67	60
February 2017	88	78
March 2017	81	44
April 2017	55	37

Average Length of Stay	2014	2015	2016	2017 (to date)
Cats	40	45	34	20
Dogs	38	43	33	19
Kittens	39	65	40	18
Puppies	27	34	19	10

Note – the Average LOS includes all time from intake to final outcome including stray holding time and time in foster care. This does not reflect the average time that the animals were actually available for adoption. We do not currently have a report to reflect this.

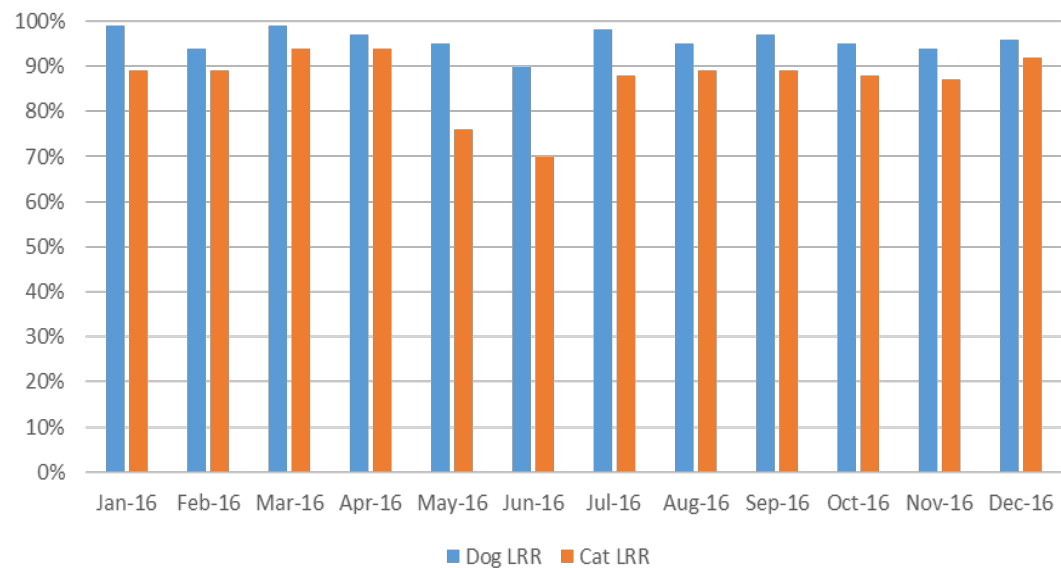
Number of Impounds and Source



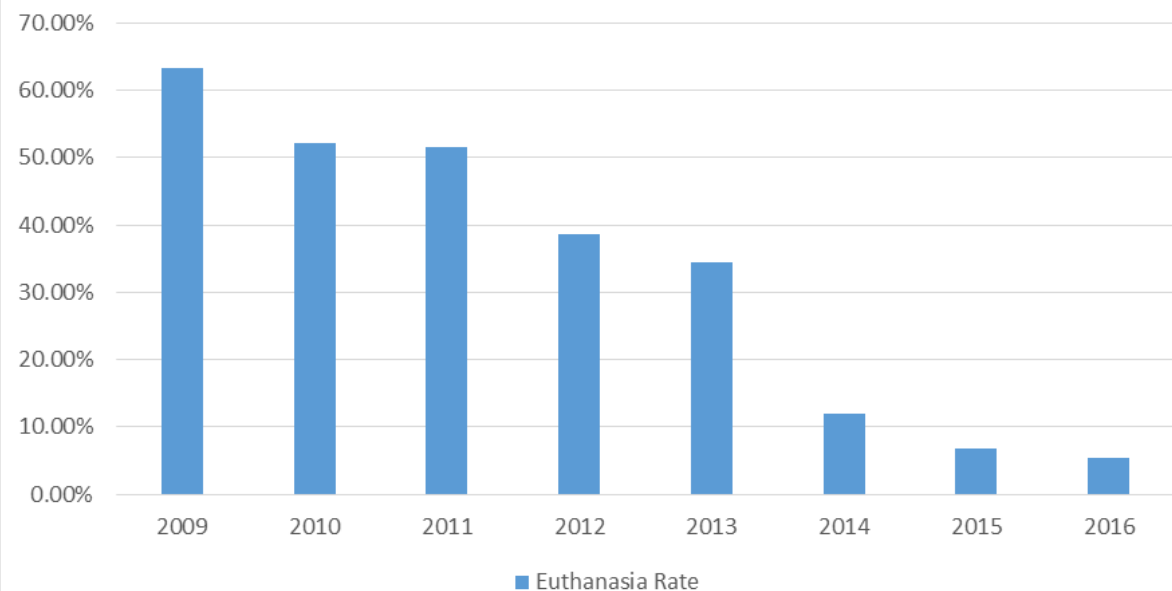
- January 1 to December 31, 2015 Intakes 2,865
- January 1 to December 31, 2016 Intakes 3,419
- January 1 to April 30, 2017 Intakes 1,171

	Dog Intake	Dog LRR	Dog Euth	Cat Intake	Cat LRR	Cat Euth
01/2016	119	99%	1	85	89%	10
02/2016	100	94%	6	48	89%	6
03/2016	91	99%	2	81	94%	1
04/2016	113	97%	2	141	94%	5
05/2016	107	95%	2	287	76%	12
06/2016	140	90%	10	223	70%	21
07/2016	121	98%	2	147	88%	7
08/2016	183	95%	9	205	89%	8
09/2016	130	97%	5	201	89%	15
10/2016	94	95%	5	178	88%	13
11/2016	111	94%	3	180	87%	19
12/2016	127	96%	5	173	92%	13

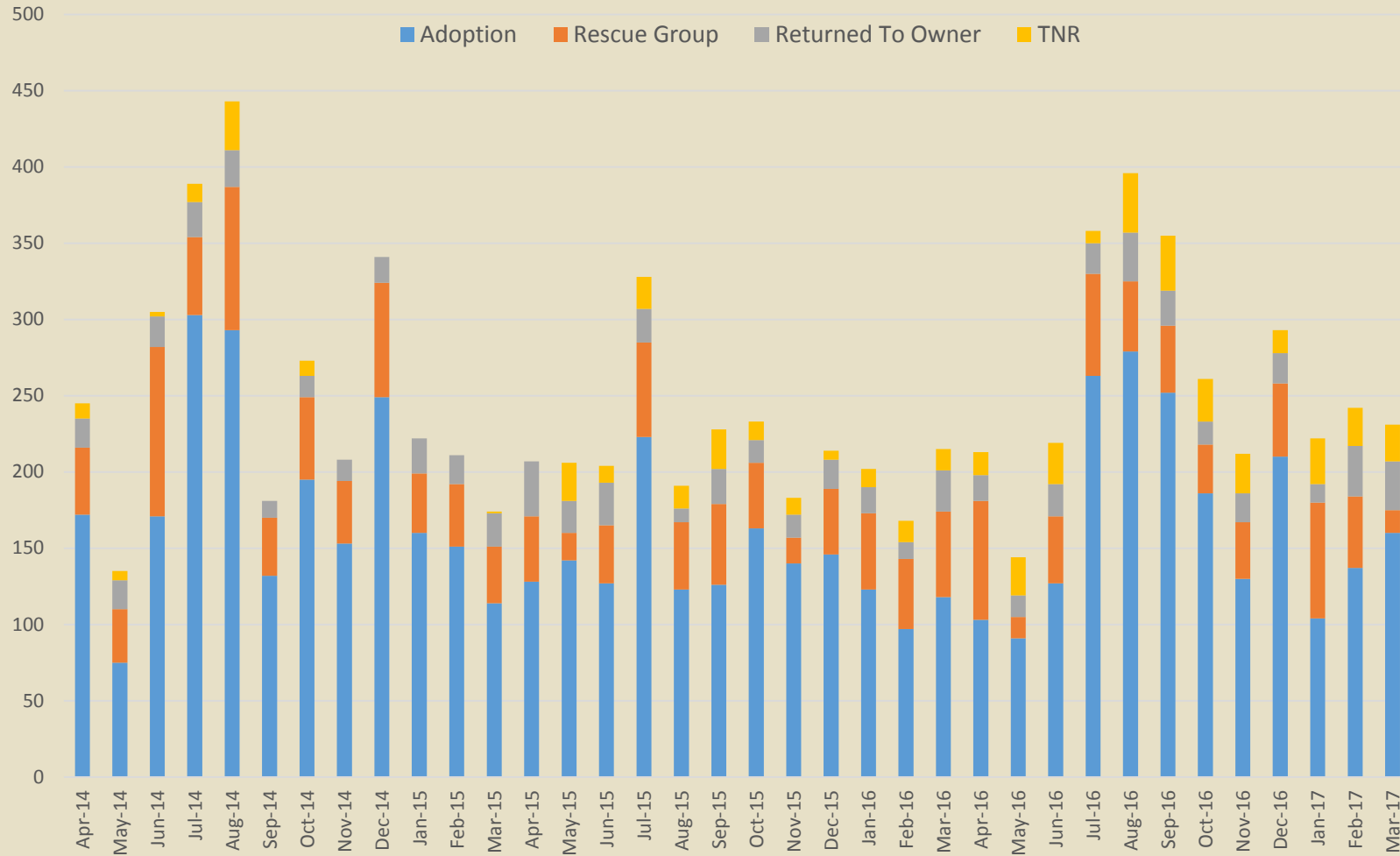
CCACC Live Release Rates for 2016



CCACC Euthanasia Rate



Where Do the Animals Go?



How many pets live in Clay County?

There are approximately 208,000 people in Clay County
Based on the 2012 Pet Ownership & Demographics
Sourcebook the breakdown of owned animal in Clay is;

	Number of Pet Owning Households	Pet Population
Dogs	29,200	46,720
Cats	24,320	51,040

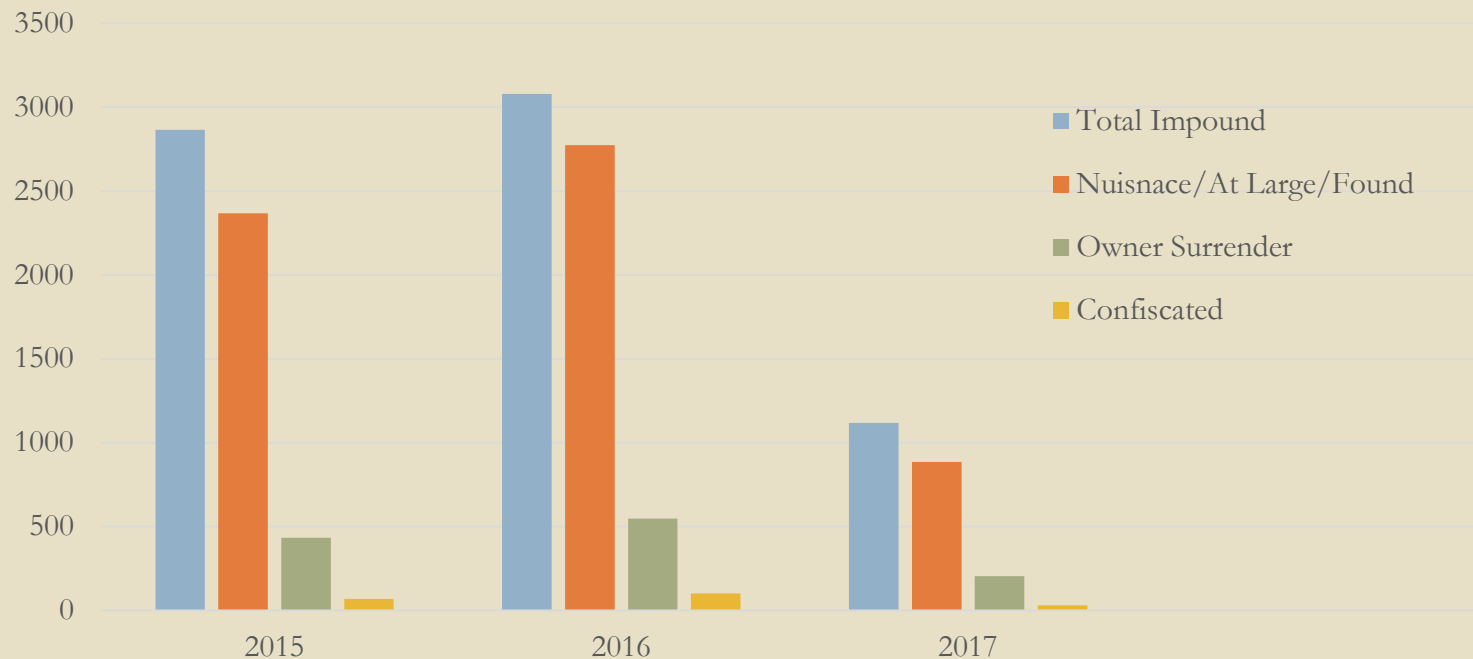
Population projections for Clay County are estimated to be
300,000 people by 2030 resulting in an increase of animals

	Number of Pet Owning Households	Pet Population
Dogs	42,115	67,385
Cats	35,077	73,615

*These formulas will give you an approximation of the number of pet-owning households and pet populations. These formulas assume that the demographics and rates of pet ownership in your community are similar to national, state and regional demographics and rates of pet ownership. However, because these formulas use sample survey data, they should not be considered 100% accurate.

How many animals come to Animal Control?

- An estimated 97,760 owned cats and dogs reside in Clay County
- Our intake number from Jan 1 2016 to Dec 31 2016 was 3385
- Resulting in 3.5% of owned animals being impounded
- Intakes in the first quarter of 2017 are up 31%
- If our population reaches 300,000 in just 12.5 years estimated numbers will be at 141,000 owned cats and dogs
- At a rate of 3.5% owned animals impounded our expected intake will be 4,935 cats and dogs



Our current facility

- Current location started in late 1960s, when our population was 32,059 residents
- 59 medium to large dog kennels
- 9 small dog/puppy kennels
- 79 cat/kitten kennels
- No separate isolation/secure area for bite or rabies exposure quarantine
- No area to properly house impounded livestock due to septic drainage fields
- Facility is located in a flood plane
- Lobby/Intake/Adoption/Customer Service area is 167 sq feet
- Overall layout does not allow for separation of cats and dogs during intake and outtake.
- Limited medical/surgery area, no place for proper animal recovery from anesthesia.
- No place to safely house and maintain TNR (trap/neuter/return) cats while awaiting or recovery from surgery
- Limited storage area
- Limited office space to properly perform administrative functions
- Significant insect and rodent population plaguing the animal, storage and office areas

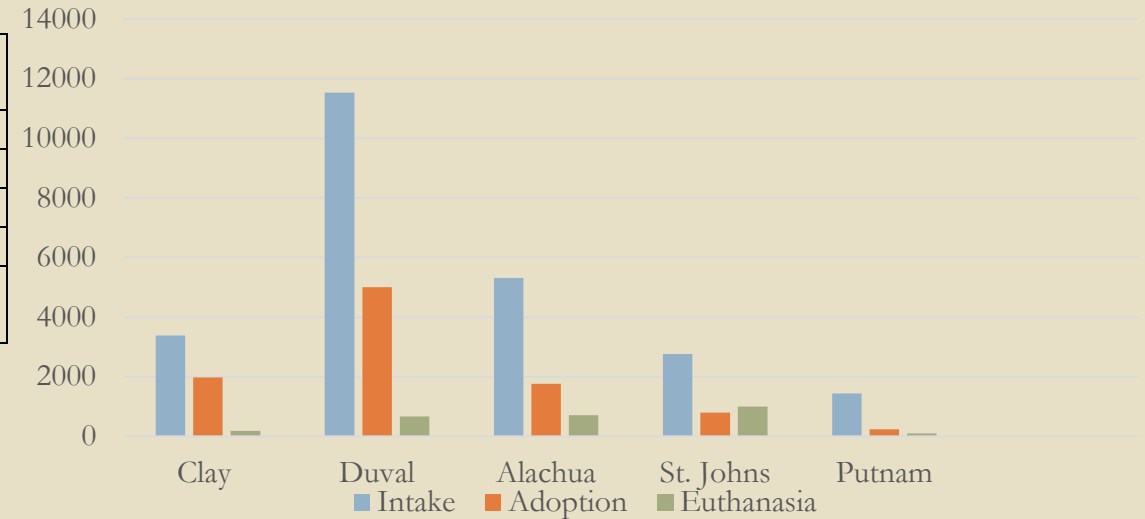
What have we already done?

- Had the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program evaluate the shelter operations in 2014
- Implemented the following recommendations from that study
 - Decrease Length of Stay in animal population
 - Form and maintain a Population Management Team
 - Implemented daily rounds and behavior welfare monitoring
 - Reduced cat density
 - Reorganized the environment to reduce physical stress on cats
 - Provide daily enrichment to all animals housed at CCACC
 - Have fosters in place to treat ringworm in a foster home rather than shelter environment
- Increase Animal Control Officer normal shift coverage to 7 days a week
- Increased accessibility to for the public by opening additional days and hours
- Increased and optimized our social media presence to promote adoptions
- Trained Volunteers to assist citizens in adoptions and selection of animals
- Implemented limited TNR practices for citizens
- Increased community involvement for offsite adoption events and to promote community awareness
- Partnered with Friends of Clay County Animals to support and promote health and wellness of shelter animals, increase adoptions and community awareness at no additional costs to the County.

What are Surrounding Counties doing?

2016	Clay	Duval	Alachua (2015)	St. Johns	Putnam
Intake	3,385	11,533	5,316	2,758	1,443
Adoption	1,978	5,009	1,767	797	239
Euthanasia	183	666	715	998	96
Average LRR	91%	91%	74%	59%	93%
Approx. Annual Budget	\$1 million	\$3.4 million	\$2.1 million	\$1.2 million	\$421,101

Note – All statistics are for the municipal facility in the counties and do not include statistics from any private shelters located in the county. Alachua did not have their published 2016 statistics, so the 2015 stats were used.



County	Leash Laws	Tethering	Pet Licensing	Spay&Neuter	Breeders/Dealers	Feral Cats	Microchipping
Clay	✓						
Alachua	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Duval	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Johns	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Putnam	✓	✓	✓		✓		

Budget

FY 16/17 Budget			
PERSONAL SERVICES:		OPERATING EXPENDITURES Cont.:	
Regular Salaries	553,993	Telephone/Communications	12,500
Overtime	61,000	Postage and Freight	2,500
FICA Taxes	47,047	Utility Services	27,506
Retirement Contributions	46,101	Rental and Leases	18,500
Health Insurance	197,095	Repairs and Maintenance	50,000
Life Insurance	768	Legal Advertising	500
Dental Insurance	2,896	Training & Certification	5,000
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	908,900	Office Supplies	3,500
		Operating Supplies	60,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES:		Uniforms	6,000
Professional Services	1,000	Chemical & Lab Supplies	60,000
Medical, Dental & Related Support	80,000	Food	30,000
Other Contractual Services	57,000	Books, Publications, Dues, Memberships	1,050
Temp Lbr, Bill Coll, Mgmt & Oper Svcs	60,320	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	480,376
Travel and Per Diem	5,000	TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	1,389,276

What concerns do we face in Clay County?

Keeping up staffing levels at CCACC.

Current calls for service far outnumber our current number of officers.

Customer Service and call volume are chronic complaints from citizens

Calls for service are usually about aggressive dogs or bites, concerns for animals welfare (tethered or neglected), nuisances such as number of animals (cats primarily) and barking, stray/roaming/abandoned animals.

Our current Violation enforcement system is weak and often ignored by violators

Lack of ordinances result in Animal Control Officers relaying on Deputies to investigate cases based on State Statutes

Owners often abandon their animals at Animal Control after impoundment for roaming or bite quarantine with no repercussions.

Most areas do not have limitations on numbers of animals owner which results is hoarders, backyard breeders and animals dealers continuing to operate in Clay County and contribute to pet overpopulation.

Tethering

What is tethering?

Why is tethering a concern?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

Chained dogs 2.8 times more likely to bite

Dogs most likely to bite are male, unneutered, & chained

Victims are most often children

Documented 109 people killed by chained dogs

- 99 were children that wandered into dog's reach

- 11 attacks by dogs who broke free

Chained dogs are statistically more dangerous than free-running packs of dogs

In 1997, USDA disallowed chaining as primary source of confinement under the U.S. Animal Welfare Act

To TNR or Not to TNR

TNR has become the alternative for massive euthanasia of feral cats, which other animal rights supporters consider inhumane. Also, massive euthanasia of feral felines is not practical, so local governments have resorted to TNR for a more natural control of the feral colony.

Breaking Down the Pros and Cons

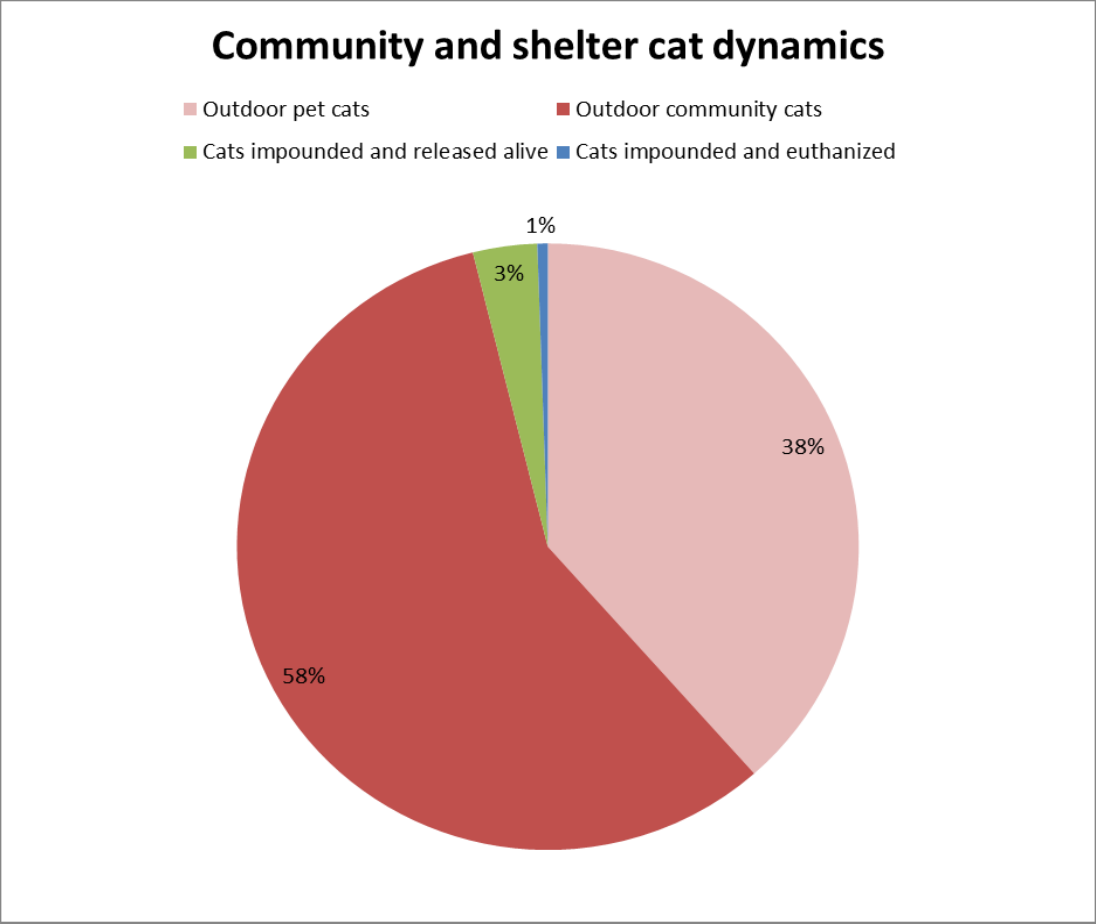
The main reason supporters of TNR believe in this process is because they feel it is a practical solution. The ASPCA endorses TNR as “the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies.” More and more cats are released on public lands due to the increasing population of domestic cats, and TNR is used to help reduce that population by spaying and neutering the reproductive adults.

However, there are a couple of studies that prove that TNR may be ineffective in controlling feral populations. The movement of cats from one colony to the other can limit the effectiveness of the whole program. Thus, the number of free-roaming cats in feral colonies does not decrease significantly over time. Another point is that feral cats pose a danger to wildlife, particularly to ground-feeding and ground-nesting animals. However, feral colonies do provide natural rodent control as well.

Attempts to completely eradicate feral cat populations usually fail due to the other cats which have not been spayed or neutered take their place. While TNR programs have not been proven to solve or eradicate outdoor/feral cat populations this is the option, along with ordinances and regulations most Counties and Municipalities have adapted.

Position statements from Florida Animal Control Association, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Humane Society of the United States, Florida Department of Public Health, American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Florida Veterinary Medical Association and National Animal Care and Control have been included.

Outdoor cat population dynamics calculator									
				Indoor pet cats	Outdoor pet cats	Outdoor community cats	Cats impounded and released alive	Cats impounded and euthanized	
Human population	Annual feline intake	Live release %	Euthanasia %	20293	19810	29714	1720	280	
208,000	2,000	86%	14%						



Trap Neuter Return (TNR) vs. Alternative Approaches

TNR is a humane method for reducing feral cat populations. In this approach, feral cats are trapped in humane traps, spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and then returned to where they are being fed. Socialized adult cats and kittens are adopted into homes whenever possible.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Pros	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It can be less expensive than other approaches because caregivers and other volunteers may help.• Cats are spayed/neutered.• Nuisance behaviors are reduced or eliminated.• Cats are ear-tipped for identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to trap the cats.• Staffing and monetary concerns• Citizens who do not want cats around• Predation on wildlife

Alternative Approaches

Do Nothing

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes no effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cats will continue to breed, and there will be more cats.• Nuisance behaviors like fighting, yowling, spraying and breeding will continue.

Stop Feeding

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No pro for the cat in this approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It doesn't reduce the number of cats.• Hungry cats will remain where they are and take greater risks to get food.• Cats will continue to breed.• The cats and kittens will be less healthy and more prone to disease/infection/parasites.

Trap and Remove Options

Volunteers and caregivers are not typically willing to help trap cats for any of the following options, so for all these approaches there is the added cost of paying someone to trap the cats.

Trap and Take to a Shelter

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The cats you catch are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Even if you remove all the cats, new cats may move in.Remaining cats will breed and the number of cats will increase again.Euthanasia is typically only option at a shelter

Trap and Take to a Sanctuary

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The cats you can catch are removed.It feels like the perfect solution as the cats are relocated and can live happily and safely at a sanctuary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Very few sanctuaries exist.They are typically full.Expensive to operate so few new ones are created and those that do open quickly fill.Same issues as trap and take to a shelter.

Trap and Abandon Elsewhere

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No pro for the cat in this approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is cruel and inhumane to abandon a domestic animal to fend for themselves.The cat faces tremendous danger and suffering.

Trap and Relocate to Barn Home or other location

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The cats you catch are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Few barn homes exist, and finding them is time consuming.Relocation success is not guaranteed.Requires confining the cat(s) for up to a month to acclimate them to the new location.

What are our next steps?

Update ordinances to better the quality of life for citizens and animals in Clay County

- Tethering
- Violation fees and handling
- Pet Licensing
- Spay/Neuter and Microchipping on impound (specifications to ordinance)
- Direction from board on feral cat policies/ordinances

Increase our hours of accessibility to the public.

Build a facility that is in a more populated area that meets the needs of our community today and in the future.



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Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

TO: DATE:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type	Upload Date	File Name
▢ Staffing Recommendations	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	attachment_2.pdf

REVIEWERS:

Department Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
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No Reviewers Available



FACA Policy Statement

Recommended Staffing

FACA recommends that the minimum staffing levels for Animal Control officers would be one (1) Field-deployed Animal Control Officer for every 15,000 -18,000 population. Population density, urban versus rural environments, budget, severity of the problems, etc. are factors that play a role in this staffing recommendation.

FACA has determined that the recommended staffing for kennel personnel would be one (1) kennel attendant for every 1,000 animals handled per year.

These policies were based on research and information provided by the American Humane Association, National Animal Control Association and the Humane Society of the U. S.

Last Revised: June 2013



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DETERMINING KENNEL STAFFING LEVELS

More in this Section...

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Determining Kennel Staffing Needs

Approved: 09/03/14

Guideline Statement

The National Animal Care and Control Association recommends that each animal care and control shelter be staffed each day with the appropriate number of kennel personnel to insure that the facility, and every animal within, is maintained at, or in excess of, minimum care standards. Animal housing facilities should be operated so that each animal is properly cared for in a safe and humane manner and a safe working environment for employees is maintained.

Basis for Guideline

Every animal housing facility should strive to meet, or exceed, the minimum care standards for animal shelter facilities. It is the responsibility of the facility to maintain a staffing level that insures that the standards are met on a daily basis and that every animal housed within is provided the highest level of care.

Formula for Determining Kennel Staffing Needs

(Human Population)	Multiplied by 7%	(Incoming Animal Population Per Year)
(Incoming Animals Per Year)	Divided by 365 (days per year)	(Incoming Animals Per Day)
(Incoming Animals Per Day)	Times Four* Day Holding Period =	(Animals in Shelter Per Day)
(Animals in Shelter Per Day)	Times fifteen minutes** per animal =	(Number of Minutes Needed)
(Minutes Needed)	Divided by 60 (minutes) =	(Number of Hours Needed)
(Number of Hours Needed)	Divided by 3*** (hours for cleaning/feeding) =	(Staff Needed Per Day)

This formula is intended as a guideline. Any individual facility may require more or less kennel personnel to meet, or exceed, minimum care standards.

* The HSUS is using the average holding period of four days as a basis for this study. Some animals may be held for a much shorter period; however, many animals may be held for a period exceeding the four day requirement.

** This formula is based on a per-animal time of nine minutes for cleaning and six minutes for feeding.

*** These three hours are solely for the performance of these two tasks, but allowing for further time in the day to perform routine maintenance tasks such as laundry, dishes, lost and found checks, etc.

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Latest News

3/28/2017

\$150,000 in Grants Available to Municipal Animal Shelters and Nonprofit Organizations

2/7/2017

New Resource Enables Animal Control Officers to Report Animal Cruelty to FBI

2/1/2017

NACHO Training Academy Fees

Calendar

5/1/2017 » 5/5/2017
NACHO Module A - Kannapolis, NC - May 1-5, 2017

5/8/2017 » 5/12/2017
NACHO Module A - Birmingham, AL - May 8-12, 2017

6/5/2017 » 6/9/2017
NACHO Module A - Columbus, OH - June 5-9, 2017

6/5/2017 » 6/9/2017
Disaster Preparedness Boot Camp - Knoxville 2017

6/12/2017 » 6/16/2017
NACHO Module B - Longmont, CO - June 12 - 16, 2017

NATIONAL ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

40960 California Oaks Rd. #242
Murrieta, CA 92562

Phone: 913-768-1319
Fax: 913-768-1378



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DETERMINING FIELD STAFFING LEVELS

More in this Section...

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Determining Field Staffing Needs

Determining the optimum or desirable number of Animal Control Officers has remained an elusive goal for the profession. Several professional groups have tried to develop a model for justifying the desired level of officers. In some cases, this model appeals to budget officials and executives because of the apparent scientific approach to this issue.

However, results have been mixed. In some cities, the model has done nothing more than measure the volume of work and provides a basis for deploying personnel.

The service spectrum in each Animal Control department varies according to the management style and philosophy of the director, policies of government and community expectations. Where cities or agencies only count the calls for service within a community to determine optimum staffing, officer safety, citizen safety and major types of service delivery are not factored into overall staffing needs. In Animal Control work, enforcement responsibilities, population density and diversity, along with coverage area need also be a consideration for future planning.

Staffing which is determined solely on the ability "to respond quickly to a call" does not address a basic Animal Control responsibility - protection of people and animals. Policies, community expectations, and in some instances, ordinances affect staffing needs. In cases where officers can give warnings or educate violators to prevent future occurrences, the officer has spared an animal the distress of impoundment or reduced the possibility of further violations. Attendance in court by officers also affects their availability to respond to calls for service.

Although there is no universally accepted scientific methodology for determining the number of Animal Control Officers needed in a given jurisdiction, there are three models that are variously employed in Animal Control in determining an appropriate number of personnel.

- Some jurisdictions have attempted to evaluate the estimated growth in residential and business activity to predict the need for additional personnel.
- The use of comparative data from the NACA Data Survey factoring in population, square miles served, and whenever possible, enforcement responsibilities.
- The "calls for service" model is used primarily as a workload indicator because the data represents a recognizable and readily measurable demand for Animal Control service. Comparing the number of calls for service from one jurisdiction to another, however, can be very tenuous, because of the variety of calls and the response to Animal Control efforts to encourage citizens to call on any perceived problem.

Determining the number of officers requires an assessment of citizen calls, officer-initiated calls, citations, written warnings, assisting outside agencies, the need for safety and security, a flexible beat structure, time spent on investigations, preventive patrol time and the specific types of service that the public wants and expects.

The basic elements of the "calls for service" model are as follows:

- Each 8-hour Animal Control position requires 2,920 hours to fill one shift for 365 days.
- Officer availability for staffing is determined by deducting from 2,080 hours (the maximum for one year), and the time required for vacation, sick leave, court time, "flex" days and training. In using this model, the average number of hours dedicated to Animal Control for Animal Control will be 1,832 hours (a standardized ratio), or 229 days.
- Determine the relief factor (relating to the number of officers needed to fill one position for the entire year) by dividing the number of days of work required for each beat area in a year (365) by the average number of days officers actually work in a year. In using this ratio, the 365 divided by 229 = 1.60 officers per day, per beat area.

In most situations, NACA utilizes the "calls for service" model in determining an appropriate number of field personnel.

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Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

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Department Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
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Clay County Animal Care and Control – September 30-October 2, 2014

Clay County Animal Care and Control has demonstrated remarkable increases in live release rate and community engagement during 2014. CCACC is on track to adopt or transfer almost 2900 animals this year. This is an unprecedented accomplishment: about 600 more dogs and cats have achieved live outcomes this year than in 2013. The shelter is receiving national recognition for their success.

Key Challenges and Action Items

❖ **Staffing**

CCACC currently has 4 FTE staff members providing direct care to animals, with shifts spread over 7 days of the week. Industry standards recommend basic animal care staffing equivalent to 15 minutes per day per animal housed in the shelter for cleaning and feeding. Based on the large population housed on-site during our visit, 62.5 hours of staff time, equivalent to 8 FTE, are needed to provide basic daily care to 250 animals.

Inmates provide 16 hours of cleaning labor per day. Two kennel attendants are responsible for the remainder of the cleaning and all feeding, in addition to a multitude of other duties, including intake processing and customer service. This creates a deficit of 30.5 hours of staff time daily, or 4 FTE staff members to provide basic daily care.

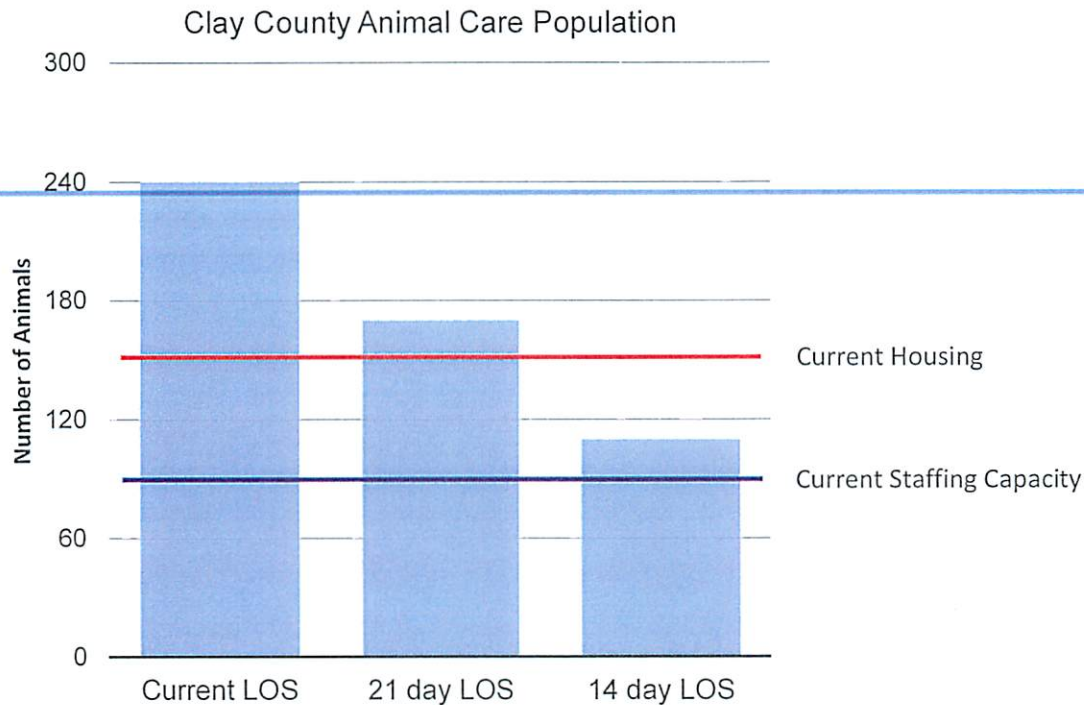
Recommendations:

- Increase staffing levels to meet basic needs of the animals housed on site by hiring 4 additional FTE kennel technicians.
- Restructure staff duties to improve customer service and facilitate rapid live release.
 - Reassign dispatch duties to a staff member not in direct face-to-face interaction with the public, such as the bite coordinator.
 - Appoint a population manager responsible for reducing length of stay while increasing live release.
 - Appoint a cat advocate responsible for ensuring feline welfare.
 - Relocate shelter manager's office to the shelter lobby office space.
 - Relocate off-site adoption center coordinator's office to the house.
 - Reassign social media presence to an administrative staff member, such as the bite coordinator.
 - Train volunteers to greet visitors and assist with adoption counseling.
- Create a new staff position for medical assistant/kennel technician.
- Create a new staff position for a volunteer coordinator to rebuild a cohesive volunteer team to support shelter operations.

❖ **Population management**

Animals at CCACC have an average length of stay of 31 days in the shelter, leading to an average daily population of approximately 240 animals. This average is balanced by animals that stay for one or two days, and animals that stay several months, and is not a time limit.

The daily shelter population can be decreased by reducing length of stay. A smaller population allows the staff to provide better care for the animals. This results in reduced stress and disease, leading to more adoptions. The graph below illustrates that the current population exceeds both the housing and staff capacity at the shelter. Reducing length of stay from the current 31 days to 21 or 14 days brings the daily population closer to the shelter's capacity for care.



Dedicated population management is the most important tool to decrease length of stay in the shelter. Considered, frequent and thoughtful management will be required to achieve a 14 day length of stay.

Recommendations:

- **Form a Population Management Team.** Suggested team members include the shelter manager, veterinary technician, and kennel technician. The team approach is the most efficient and proven method to facilitate efficient planning. This maximizes each animal's opportunity to move through the shelter system quickly to a positive outcome.
- **Implement population rounds and incorporate daily behavioral welfare monitoring.** Population management rounds are performed by the Population Management Team 3-5 times per week. The team spends one hour moving through the shelter systematically from animal to animal. The goal is to identify delays in animal movement through the shelter, to maximize each animal's chances of a live outcome, and to provide early recognition of the needs of individual animals. This also provides an opportunity to identify and formulate a plan to address concerns regarding physical and behavioral health.

- **Formalize the pathway planning process.** Pathway planning is a proactive process in which each animal is evaluated upon intake and assigned an appropriate, efficient pathway out of the shelter to maximize humane care and live release potential. Animals are assigned pathways such as adoption, transfer to rescue partners, likely owner reclaim, or euthanasia for public safety or untreatable illness or injury. Proactive planning and scheduling for each animal will allow for a more effective use of resources and will decrease the length of stay per animal.

❖ **Managed Admission**

Managed admission refers to any form of regulating or scheduling intake using strategies that address the "how" and "when" of intake, but not necessarily the "who." Scheduled intake smooths out fluctuations in the shelter population, allows planning to match the number of animals admitted to the shelter's capacity for humane care, and maximizes the opportunities for better outcomes for animals within a reasonable time frame. Managed admission does not mean saying "no," but rather "not now."

Managed admission initiatives:

- Schedule intake appointments.
 - Admit based on space available
 - Admit based on fast track vs. slow track adoption criteria
 - Leave room for emergency intake
- Provide positive alternatives to keep owned pets in the home or to help owners re-home them.
- Provide support to finders of underage kittens and puppies that allow them to care for these vulnerable youngsters in their home until they are old enough for placement.

Ultimately, the question that should be asked for every dog and cat presented to the shelter is: "Is admission to the shelter the best choice for this animal, and those already in the shelter, at this moment in time?" If the answer is no, then the shelter can implement these managed admission initiatives to protect the welfare of the animals entrusted to their care.

❖ **Operational Efficiency**

It is common for animal shelters like CCACC to pursue the community's goals of ending unnecessary euthanasia for population control without optimal budget, staffing, and facilities. In such cases, it is essential that all resources be used as effectively as possible, and that all staff coordinate their activities in a seamless process.

The Chameleon shelter software system purchased by Clay County can be a powerful tool for optimizing shelter management but it requires extensive customization and training for effective implementation. Shelter managers are handicapped in their mission when they lack this essential tool.

We strongly recommend contracting with efficiency expert Dr. Cynthia Delaney, a veterinarian and experienced municipal shelter manager, to evaluate the staff's workflow and to program Chameleon templates and reports. A consultation encompassing a site visit and several weeks of communication and customized software programming would cost approximately \$10,000-\$12,000. While this may

seem costly at first glance, the returns on this investment in the quality of shelter operations, animal care, and staff morale would be repaid many times over.

Objectives of shelter software and efficiency consultation:

- Maximizing live release rate.
- Minimizing euthanasia of animals with a potential live release option.
- Minimizing length of stay.
- Minimizing on-site population and associated daily animal care costs/workload.
- Improving efficiency of general shelter operations as relates to animal population management.
- Improving efficiency of shelter medical program as relates to managing shelter animal population and addressing goals outlined above, including maximizing live release rate and minimizing length of stay.
- Improving use of shelter software, systems, reporting, workflow, work process and duties assignment to maximize positive outcomes, maximize efficiency and productivity while minimizing costs/workload.
- Specific focus on maximizing use of technology and automated systems to achieve the goals above and improve overall efficiency of operations.

❖ Advocating for Cats

The facility was originally designed for dog housing and care; however, the majority of shelter intake and daily population is now cats. Consequently, housing for cats is inadequate and health and welfare is often compromised. A high occurrence of shelter-acquired respiratory infections in cats consumes resources and staff time for medication, creates long lengths of stay, and undermines public confidence in the shelter as a viable source of healthy pets. The most effective strategies for improving cat health at CCACC are:

- **Reduce cat density.** The single highest impact measure to decrease feline upper respiratory disease is to house cats in larger cages, especially in holding areas. CCACC can connect adjoining cages with portholes to improve health outcomes. Many shelters have instituted this disease management tool with demonstrable results.
- **Regulate the environment to reduce physical stress.** Cold housing areas, loud noise, and poor ventilation predispose cats to rapid and prolonged illness. Cats housed in shelters need access to natural light, housing out of direct air currents from vents or fans, ambient temperature above 72 degrees, and limited exposure to the noise of barking dogs or loud music.
- **Provide daily enrichment to improve health.** Improving comfort and stimulation is critical and achieved by providing every cat with a hiding space, bedding, a changing variety of toys, and daily positive social interactions with staff and volunteers.
- **Treat ringworm and respiratory illness in foster homes.** The current shelter design is not conducive to recovery from these illnesses. Foster homes can provide the time-intensive treatments needed while increasing resources to keep cats in the shelter healthy.
- **Designate a cat advocate.** Empower a staff member to suggest protocol improvements with the health and welfare of cats as priority, identify particularly stressed cats, and suggest volunteer projects to create enrichment items. The advocate will coordinate increased volunteer and FOCCA support for cats.

- **Initiate a return-to-field program.** Sterilize, vaccinate, and return healthy stray cats to their original location as an alternative to euthanasia. By providing this timely alternative outcome for healthy cats, shelters with limited capacity can reserve their efforts for the animals that most need the shelter's care.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to work with you. We are impressed and inspired by the lifesaving accomplishments of Clay County Animal Care and Control. We are here to offer ongoing assistance and support in any way possible, and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Maddie's® Professor of Shelter Medicine

Amie Burling, DVM
Maddie's® Resident in Shelter Medicine

Staci Cannon, DVM
Maddie's® Resident in Shelter Medicine

Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD
Maddie's® Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine

Lena DeTar, MA, DVM
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Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

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▢ Humane Society	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	attachment_4.pdf

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Estimating the Number of Pets in Your Community

A figure that often seems difficult to estimate is the total number of owned animals in your community. Even if you have a handle on the number of licensed animals, there'll still be a high percentage of people who don't register their pets.

The formula that follows is by no means exact; it is based on national averages and does not account for potential variables among regions, states, and communities. If, for example, you live in a densely populated suburban area with a large number of apartments and full-time workers, cats may be the pet of choice for many more people with limited time and space. On the other hand, a suburban area with mostly housing developments may be the stomping ground for a higher number of dog lovers.

Keep such variables in mind so you can make necessary adjustments when using this formula. For the purposes of explanation, we'll use the fictional example of Anytown, a community with 100,000 households.

Step 1

Find out the number of households in your community; the local emergency management or property appraiser's office should be able to help with this. Again, in this example, the number of households is 100,000.

	Percentage of U.S. Households Owning A Pet	Number of Pets Per Household
Dogs	39	1.7
Cats	34	2.3
Birds	6	2.5
Source: The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association's 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey		

Step 2

Using the figures in the table above, determine how many households in the community own dogs, how many own cats, and how many own birds. You can arrive at this number by multiplying the number of households in your community by the percentage of people who own each species nationally. Here's what the math would look like in a community of 100,000 households:

- 100,000 households in Anytown x 0.39 (percentage of dog owners nationally) = 39,000 dog-owning households in Anytown
- 100,000 households in Anytown x 0.34 (percentage of cat owners nationally) = 34,000 cat-owning households in Anytown
- 100,000 households in Anytown x 0.06 (percentage of bird owners nationally) = 6,000 bird-owning households in Anytown

Step 3

Multiply the numbers you arrived at in Step 2 by the average number of each species owned per household.

- 39,000 dog-owning households in Anytown x 1.7 (percentage of dogs owned per household nationally) = 66,300 dogs in Anytown
- 34,000 cat-owning households in Anytown x 2.3 (percentage of cats owned per household nationally) = 78,200 cats in Anytown
- 6,000 bird-owning households in Anytown x 2.5 (percentage of birds owned per household nationally) = 15,000 pet birds in Anytown

Now Anytown has rough estimates of the number of dogs, cats, and birds in its community. You can also apply this formula to other species, using national statistics for fish, reptile, equine or small-animal ownership.

From *Animal Sheltering* magazine, Jan-Feb. 2001, updated APPMA figures March 2008. www.APPMA.org

Estimating the Size and Cost of an Animal Shelter

For a ballpark estimate of the size and cost of a new animal sheltering facility, use the formula below. For more accurate size and cost estimates, local governments must go through a comprehensive needs-assessment process.

1. Enter the number of dogs housed¹ _____
Multiply that number by the square
Feet (s.f.) per dog (90-100 s.f. per dog).² _____ x _____ = _____ s.f.
2. Enter the number of cats housed.¹ _____
Multiply that number by the
s.f. per cat (45-50 s.f. per cat)² _____ x _____ = _____ s.f.
3. Add the totals in 1. and 2. above to
determine total building square footage. _____ s.f.
4. Multiply the total building s.f. (3.) by the
cost per s.f.³ to determine the total
building cost. _____ s.f. x 150 = \$ _____
5. Multiply the total building cost (4.) by
the total project cost factor.⁴ _____ x _____ = \$ _____

The result of 5. is the total project cost.

Example:

1. 100 dogs x 100 s.f. = 10,000 s.f.
2. 50 cats x 50 s.f. = 2,500 s.f.
3. Total building s.f. = 12,500 s.f.
4. 12,500 s.f. x \$200 = \$2,500,000
5. \$2,500,000 x 1.67 = \$4,175,000

Note:

New Construction costs ranged from \$175 - \$212 per square foot, not including land.

Renovation/New Construction ranged from \$160 - \$215 per square foot not including land.

Most of these figures were derived from actual costs but were on projects completed in 2002-2004, so you can add at least 20% onto these prices for current estimates. The renovation project prices above included a combination of retrofitting an older facility combined with some new construction for additional square footage. Pricing MUST be considered as a range, as construction costs vary widely by geographic region.

¹ This is the estimated total number of animals to be housed at the facility at any one time. Most jurisdictions can estimate this number by analyzing the number of animals housed at the existing facility during previous years and adjust that number on the basis of relevant data about the community – data such as the number of other shelters in the area, existing animal control ordinances and programs, demographic trends for both people and animals, and the location of the new facility vis-à-vis the community's population base.

² The s.f. allowance includes space for administrative offices, education space, medical space (such as assessment and spay/neuter areas), storage, and support space.

³ The national average is \$150.00 per s.f. (in 2000).

⁴ In this example, building-related costs are estimated at 60% (a typical percentage) and other costs (grounds, architects' fees, interest, etc.) are estimated at 40% for the complete project. Divide 40 by 60 (result: .666) and add 1, for a final project cost factor of 1.67. Note that the result of this formula is that building-related costs are represented by the 1 and other costs are represented by the .67.



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

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Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

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▢ Facts	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	attachment_5.pdf

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The Facts About Chaining and Tethering

Why this practice is cruel to dogs

The Humane Society of the United States



iStockphoto

Have you seen chained dogs in your neighborhood and wondered whether leaving a dog outside is humane? Here are some frequently asked questions about chaining and tethering dogs and why it's considered inhumane.

What is meant by "chaining" or "tethering" dogs?

These terms refer to the practice of fastening a dog to a stationary object or stake, usually in the owner's backyard, as a means of keeping the animal under control. These terms do not refer to the periods when an animal is walked on a leash.

Is there a problem with continuous chaining or tethering?

Yes, the practice is both inhumane and a threat to the safety of the confined dog, other animals and humans.

Why is tethering dogs inhumane?

Dogs are naturally social beings who thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. A dog kept chained in one spot for hours, days, months or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive.

In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to escape confinement. Dogs have even been found with collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain.

Who says tethering dogs is inhumane?

In addition to The Humane Society of the United States and numerous animal experts, the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued a statement in the July 2, 1996, Federal Register against tethering:

"Our experience in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and potentially causing injury."

How does tethering or chaining dogs pose a danger to humans?

Dogs tethered for long periods can become highly aggressive. Dogs feel naturally protective of their territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory.

Numerous attacks on people by tethered dogs have been documented. Tragically, the victims of such attacks are often children who are unaware of the chained dog's presence until it is too late. Furthermore, a tethered dog who finally does get loose from his chains may remain aggressive, and is likely to chase and attack unsuspecting passersby and pets.

Why is tethering dangerous to dogs?

In addition to the psychological damage wrought by continuous chaining, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans, and biting insects. A chained animal may suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans, stinging bites from insects, and, in the worst cases, attacks by other animals. Chained dogs are also easy targets for thieves looking to steal animals for sale to research institutions or to be used as training fodder for organized animal fights. Finally, dogs' tethers can become entangled with other objects, which can choke or strangle the dogs to death.

Are these dogs dangerous to other animals?

In some instances, yes. Any other animal that comes into their area of confinement is in jeopardy. Cats, rabbits, smaller dogs and others may enter the area when the tethered dog is asleep and then be fiercely attacked when the dog awakens.

Are tethered dogs otherwise treated well?

Rarely does a chained or tethered dog receive sufficient care. Tethered dogs suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, and extreme temperatures. During snow storms, these dogs often have no access to shelter. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. What's more, because their often neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection. Tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.

Are the areas in which tethered dogs are confined usually comfortable?

No, because the dogs have to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a single confined area. Owners who chain their dogs are also less likely to clean the area. Although there may have once been grass in an area of confinement, it is usually so beaten down by the dog's pacing that the ground consists of nothing but dirt or mud.

How else can people confine dogs?

The HSUS recommends that all dogs live indoors as a part of the family, are taken on regular walks, and otherwise provided with adequate attention, food, water and veterinary care. If an animal must be housed outside at certain times, he should be placed in a suitable pen with adequate square footage and shelter from the elements.

Should chaining or tethering ever be allowed?

To become well-adjusted companion animals, dogs should interact regularly with people and other animals, and should receive regular exercise. It is an owner's responsibility to properly restrain her dog, just as it is the owner's responsibility to provide adequate attention and socialization. Placing an animal on a restraint to get fresh air can be acceptable if it is done for a short period or while supervised. However, keeping an animal tethered for long periods is never acceptable.

If a dog is chained or tethered for a period of time, can it be done humanely?

Animals who must be kept on a tether should be secured in such a way that the tether cannot become entangled with other objects. Collars used to attach an animal should be comfortable and properly fitted; choke chains should never be used. Restraints should allow the animal to move about and lie down comfortably. Animals should never be tethered during natural disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, or blizzards.

What about attaching a dog's leash to a "pulley run"?

Attaching a dog's leash to a long line—such as a clothesline or a manufactured device known as a pulley run—and letting the animal have a larger area in which to explore is preferable to tethering the dog to a stationary object. However, many of the same problems associated with tethering still apply, including attacks on or by other animals, lack of socialization and safety.

What is being done to correct the problem of tethering dogs?

More than 100 communities in more than 30 states have passed laws that regulate the practice of tethering animals. Maumelle, Ark., and Tucson, Ariz., completely prohibit the unattended tethering of dogs. Many other communities only allow tethering for limited periods of time or during certain conditions. Orange County, Fla., for example, does not allow tethering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or during times of extreme weather.

Why should a community outlaw the continuous chaining or tethering of dogs?

Animal control and humane agencies receive countless calls every day from citizens concerned about animals in these cruel situations. Animal control officers, paid at taxpayer expense, spend many hours trying to educate pet owners about the dangers and cruelty involved in this practice.

A chained animal is caught in a vicious cycle; frustrated by long periods of boredom and social isolation, he becomes a neurotic shell of his former self—further deterring human interaction and kindness. In the end, the helpless dog can only suffer the frustration of watching the world go by in isolation—a cruel fate for what is by nature a highly social animal. Any city, county, or state that bans this practice is a safer, more humane community.



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

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No Reviewers Available

DRAFT

September 30, 2016

To: Finance and Audit Committee
County Manager
County Attorney

From: Commission Auditor

Subject: Animal Control mission, concepts and informal best practices survey.

1.A.) The originally conceived statutory mission of animal control facilities is disease vector control. This was because domestic animals which are allowed to roam free can eventually become feral. Feral dogs and cats can carry numerous diseases which can become costly to address and can be extremely harmful (sometimes fatal) to humans, domestic animals, commercial livestock and native wildlife populations. Feral cats are particularly dangerous in this regard. The National Fish and Wildlife Service classifies feral cats as a non-native invasive species. They estimate that the feral cat population in the lower 48 states has grown to a number in excess of 60 million animals and is responsible for significant harm to native wildlife which that agency is commissioned to protect. (For example, they and the National Audubon Society estimate that the feral cat population in this country now kills in excess of six billion wild native birds each year, some of which are listed as protected or endangered.)

B.) Many years ago, the BCC set the goal for Clay County Animal Control (CCAC) to eventually become a “no kill” facility. As a result, our local operation was renamed “Clay County Animal Care and Control” (CCACC) and the division began moving away from actively patrolling for strays and employing euthanasia as a primary control tool and began emphasizing animal care, rehabilitation and adoption instead. Such an approach has many positive features; However, it fails to fully recognize and address the fact that the supply of adoptable animals in Clay County is vastly greater than the demand for adoptable pets and it has done little to measurably control feral animal populations and the associated risk of spreadable disease.

C.) Commissioner Bolla has expressed to the Board that he has received an increasing number of complaints regarding feral cats in his district and asked this office to survey other counties and municipalities for “best practices” and programs which might be considered in order to enhance Clay County Animal Care and Control’s operations to better address these problems.

D.) The following are practices and tools used by other Florida counties and municipalities to deal with their feral cat problems. Some of these are already being employed to greater or lesser degree by the division. At this juncture, the listed practices are presented for discussion. They represent concepts only, to be fleshed-out if the Board decides it wishes to further explore or implement any or all of them.

Counties and municipalities were surveyed informally via visits to their respective internet sites. Organizations surveyed had yearly intakes of animals ranging from 3,000 to 11,000 animals and had staffing and budgets ranging from 2 to 5 times that of Clay County's. Additionally, I had discussions with the Director of the Pinellas County Animal Control program who is also the current president of the Florida Animal Control Association. Many of the resultant practices below would require significant increases in staffing and budget for CCACC.

- 1) Specifically define the mission of Clay County Animal Care and Control with regard to control/elimination of feral, non-native animal populations within the county. Specific missions range from doing nothing to being strictly adoption-oriented to being focused on disease vector control (or some combination of these). BCC policies guiding mission accomplishment should authorize specific tools such as those outlined in this paper. Any tools authorized should be empirically proven to achieve stated program goals and objectives. (In other words, use a "plan-perform-measure-adapt type of process.)
- 2) Consider an ordinance prohibiting the feeding and watering of feral cats. Include significant monetary fines for violators.
- 3) Consider an ordinance requiring people to have licenses for their pets (to be distributed by local veterinarians like local rabies tags are currently). Include significant monetary fines for violators.
- 4) Consider an ordinance requiring pet owners to spay/neuter pets unless you are a licensed breeder in the county. Include significant monetary fines for violators.
- 5) Consider an ordinance requiring micro-chipping of all pet cats and dogs. Include significant monetary fines for violators.
- 6) FACA (Florida Animal Control Association) states that: "Free-roaming cats and dogs are the primary cause of pet overpopulation. There is no good justification for allowing pets to roam. Many of these animals are responsible for injuring or annoying people; attacking domestic animals and wildlife; destroying property; and contributing to the cause of automobile accidents. Additionally, free-roaming animals are exposed to such hazards as disease from other animals, injury from traffic, retaliation by irate property owners, etc."
 - a) TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release) program success is critically dependent upon being able to very accurately determine actual feral cat population sizes. The success of such programs is also critically dependent upon understanding and effectively controlling interaction between feral and domestic cat populations. Performing an accurate census of a feral animal population is extremely difficult and expensive, and domestic cat owners consistently and strongly reject attempts to prevent their animals from roaming at large.
 - b) Moreover, cats are exceedingly prolific breeders: According to the ASPCA, 1 un-spayed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years. (This statistical average takes into account such factors as kitten mortality and untimely demise due to such factors as predation, disease and accidents.) This is the mathematical reason behind the failure of TNVR programs. TNVR programs have been conducted in U.S. cities and counties for almost 30 years without providing any empirical evidence of reductions in feral cat populations. Critics of such programs maintain that many major metropolitan areas (such as San Diego, California) have actually

experienced increases in feral cat populations after many years of TNVR experience. There is, unfortunately, no evidence that TNVR is succeeding in Clay County.

- c) If the BCC's long term objective is to eliminate the feral cat population, then the County should get out of the TNVR business. If private organizations with dedicated volunteers desire to run such programs, they should be allowed to do so under the "community cat colony concept." The community cats concept should limit feral cat colonies to specific areas and restrict the care and feeding of those colonies. For example, the Board may wish to allow for cat colonies on private property only, locations which would be greater than 150 feet from any public property, right-of-way or easement, and provide that those colonies could only be fed and cared-for by private groups on private property and only with the written permission of the private property owner. The concept should be memorialized in local ordinance with significant fines for violators.
- 7) Allow private individuals to trap feral cats and bring them to CCACC. (CCACC would make traps available to the general public for such purposes but would not actively trap such animals unless impromptu colonies become established on public property, rights-of-way or easements, or unless in response to the complaints of a private property owner.) CCACC would evaluate these animals for health and adoptability. Animals deemed unadoptable would be euthanized.
- 8) Beef up county animal control officer force. Actively patrol the community for strays/unlicensed animals. Empower them to cite people for violations of prospective ordinances above.
- 9) Establish an aggressive public education program graphically describing the fate of unwanted domestic and/or feral animals and extolling the virtues of spaying/neutering of pets. Program should consist of professional marketing efforts, school visits, ad campaigns, etc. If this program were to emulate those in other counties, it would entail considerable increases in CCACC Division funding and personnel. Consideration could be given to conducting this program with a private partner such as the Humane Society, ASPCA or First Coast No More Homeless Pets, or it could be outsourced altogether.
- 10) Establish an aggressive professional marketing campaign advocating for adoption of shelter animals. This program could also entail considerable increases in CCACC Division funding and personnel (if not outsourced). Consider conducting this program with a private partner such as the Humane Society, ASPCA or First Coast No More Homeless Pets.
- 11) Extend animal intake hours and operating hours. Increased operating hours would entail concomitant increases in CCACC Division funding and personnel.
- 12) Aggressively use the resources of the National and Florida Animal Control Associations (NACA and FACA) to continuously sample "best practices" for dealing with nuisance feral animal populations nationally and across the state. These associations offer members-only portals to professional resources for everything from certification and training of employees to best practices databases and access to membership networks for common program problem solving.



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

TO: DATE:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

AGENDA
ITEM
TYPE:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type	Upload Date	File Name
▢ Position Statements	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	attachment_7.pdf

REVIEWERS:

Department Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
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No Reviewers Available

The HSUS's Position on Cats

A collaborative approach to giving all cats the best life possible



The current approach to managing outdoor cats isn't working. The HSUS is committed to finding a way to serve the interests of cats, wildlife, and communities. The HSUS

Cats are the most popular companion animal in the U.S., with more than 86 million of them living in nearly 39 million American households.

Tens of millions more unowned cats live outdoors and usually rely on people to provide them with food and shelter.

Their sociability ranges from truly unsocialized feral cats to friendly strays cats who have become lost or have been abandoned.

The Humane Society of the United States believes that every cat deserves a life free from hunger or thirst, fear and distress, discomfort, pain, injury, or disease, and that cats at risk for these are our responsibility to care for. Regardless of whether they are owned or not, cats who are outdoors are the leading cause of cat overpopulation in communities and can be a conservation threat to at least some species of wildlife on a case-by-case basis.

[Owned Cats](#)

[Unowned Cats](#)

[Cats and Wildlife](#)

[Cats in Shelters](#)

[Collaboration/Humane Communities](#)

[Conclusion](#)

Owned Cats

The decisions people make for their cats are important for their cats' health and welfare; they also play a role in cat overpopulation as a whole. We urge all cat owners to take the following steps:

Have your cats spayed or neutered. Cats can begin reproducing as early as five months of age, so they should be sterilized by that age or younger whenever possible. Cats can have more than one litter each year, and each litter adds to the millions of cats across the country competing for homes. Close to two million cats are euthanized each year in shelters and animal control facilities nationwide. In addition to population control, sterilization can also eliminate unpleasant behaviors of intact cats, such as male cats fighting and female cats going into their reproductive season.

Keep your cats safe indoors. Indoor cats live longer, tend to be healthier, and can avoid some of the predators, injuries, parasites, and communicable diseases to which outdoor cats may be exposed. Indoor cats do not kill birds and other wildlife. An outdoor enclosure or walk on a harness and leash can provide a cat with safe outdoor access, if desired, although cats do not require outdoor access to live full and happy lives.

Put visible identification on your cats at all times. Accidental escape is a common risk for indoor cats. Only about 2 percent of lost cats who enter animal shelters are claimed by their families. A collar with visible identification attached is the best life insurance you can buy. Cats can easily and safely wear collars with identification, and a microchip is a good backup means of identification. Microchips alone are not enough, since it's the visible ID that will immediately alert people that the cat is owned.

Provide regular veterinary care. All cats, even cats who never interact with other animals or venture outdoors, should be examined at least once a year and receive vaccinations against rabies and other diseases, as recommended by their veterinarian. Regular veterinary visits, as well as preventative care, such as keeping cats indoors and providing good nutrition, are key to ensuring the highest quality of life for cats.

Unowned Cats

The most pressing cat issue in the U.S. is the large population of unsterilized outdoor cats. This results in many cats without permanent/conventional homes living in outdoor populations, quickly producing ongoing generations of cats. These cats may be feral, meaning they do not willingly interact with humans, while some are semi- or formerly-owned, or otherwise friendly cats who have been lost or abandoned. Until the day when the population has been reduced and all cats live in loving homes, The HSUS supports and promotes humane management of outdoor cat populations.

To this end, we support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and similar sterilization programs, legislation that allows for and supports non-lethal population control, and coalition-based approaches that involve community leaders, citizens, and stakeholders to implement effective community cat management programs. Programs that attempt to use lethal control to eliminate cat populations are inhumane, ineffective, and wasteful of scarce resources.

In standard TNR practice, cats are humanely trapped and, if healthy, spay/neutered, rabies vaccinated, eartipped (for identification), and returned to their community. These programs have shown evidence of stabilizing cat numbers that eventually dwindle to zero as the cats naturally pass away. The HSUS believes that the humane reduction and eventual elimination of unowned cat populations should be the end goal for all TNR participants and supporters. TNR should be considered a humane means to an end, not a method of permanently maintaining outdoor cat populations.

Cats in Shelters

In many areas of the U.S., unlimited admission of cats is not a legal mandate for shelters, yet millions of community (unowned and outdoor) cats are regularly admitted and, despite strong efforts by shelters, most cats do not make it out alive. Even though large numbers of cats are euthanized in shelters, the numbers do not come close to reaching a tipping point to decrease outdoor cat populations. This results in a cycle of intake and euthanasia for a small percentage of the overall cat population in a given community, with little to no impact on total numbers.

Managing cat populations in this way is not working. Instead, we as a society need to focus on finding and deploying solutions that will work - ones that will serve the interests of cats, wildlife, and communities. Shelters may consider reducing intake of healthy cats they cannot place into loving homes and can effectively use those freed-up funds to address cat overpopulation; whether that be through accessible spay/neuter programs; behavioral resources for people struggling with their owned cats; assistance with pet food, vaccines, and other services; or TNR and other non-lethal population control strategies.

Cats and Wildlife

Predation by outdoor cats on birds and other wildlife is a real and legitimate concern. While The HSUS believes that outdoor cats are entitled to protection, it also believes that wildlife populations need to be protected from cats. That's one of the reasons we actively promote TNR, and why we have been involved in programs such as the removal of feral cats from San Nicholas Island, Calif., in an effort to balance the needs of all animals, and not promote one species at the expense of others. The HSUS does not support managed colonies in ecologically sensitive areas or in areas where the cats are at imminent risk of harm, such as demolition sites or areas where nuisance complaints have escalated and remain unresolved.

The HSUS supports collaborative efforts, such as coalition-based initiatives, to humanely reduce outdoor cat populations while protecting threatened and endangered wildlife populations. The scope of the problem is so large, both geographically and in terms of the sheer number of cats, that a triage approach is needed to protect the most vulnerable wildlife populations, such as endangered species on islands. Also, incremental progress must be made to address harm done to all species of wild animals vulnerable to cat predation, as they all hold inherent value. Through wildlife-sensitive-area mapping, cat-colony relocation or feeding modification, the establishment of appropriate sanctuaries, and other innovative solutions, the negative impacts can be lessened and eventually eliminated.

Collaboration/Humane Communities

Each community is different, and there is no effective one-size-fits-all response to managing community (unowned) cats. Stakeholders must work together to create programs that address specific needs and maximize available resources in their community.

Communities will succeed when they pursue a combination of the following:

- Truly accessible spay/neuter and TNR services for pet and community cats
- Support and implementation of best practices for managing community cat colonies
- Pet food pantries, behavior assistance, and other programs to help people keep their cats in their homes
- Shelter and rescue innovations and partnerships to increase cat adoptions
- Shelter policy changes to reduce the intake of healthy community cats when euthanasia is the likely outcome
- Public education and outreach
- Adequate, enforceable cat-related ordinances and state laws

Of course, successful community programs will rely on sufficient government funding as well as private/public partnerships and significant volunteerism to support these broadly beneficial programs.

Conclusion

While the task ahead of us is complex, it is not impossible. Great efforts are already underway in a variety of cities, towns, and islands across our country and the globe. America's favorite pet deserves to live a long, healthy, and humane life, and The HSUS is dedicated to making that a reality.



FACA Policy Statement

Managing Feral/Unowned/Stray Cats

FACA recognizes that free-roaming cats are an ongoing concern and that measures must be taken with the ultimate goal of having no outdoor cats in the future. However, FACA further realizes that the problem has grown over centuries and the resolution of the problem will take substantial efforts and resources.

Since the number of cats entering shelters continues to rise each year with current practices; FACA recommends each community assess its local issues, resources and practices/policies to develop appropriate management programs for their areas – with the ultimate goal of having no outdoor cats. FACA further encourages community coalitions of stakeholders to best serve the needs of the local community.

With reductions in local animal control budgets and staffing over the past few years it is imperative that the local community, animal welfare organization, and charitable foundations provide the necessary resources to fund these new programs. The core function of the animal control agency is to enforce local and state laws, investigate animal cruelty and to address the issues of homeless and unwanted pets. Those functions tax the financial ability of most, if not all, animal control agencies making it difficult or impossible to fund new programs.

FACA encourages local agencies pass and strictly enforce both leash and license laws for owned cats to limit the number of owned and new cats that might be introduced into the area.

Should the local agencies wish to implement some form of feral/free-roaming cat management plan, the following minimum standards should apply:

- All cats MUST be sterilized and ear-tipped if allowed outdoors.
- Only healthy cats that have been vaccinated should be returned to caregivers and cats should only be returned to the location they came from and not relocated.
- Friendly cats and kittens should be removed and placed for adoption.
- Specific rules should be established to limit the time food may be placed outdoors (restricting it to daylight hours only), to limit the amount of food available to a proper amount for the known cats (twice a day feeding preferred), and to limit the number of cats they assist. There should be substantial penalties for non-compliance.
- Those cats that are suffering or cannot be treated for illness should be humanely euthanized.
- Ongoing or severe nuisances should be addressed in the plan.

The goal of any community cat management program must be to assure a proper quality of life for the cats' lifetimes and the elimination of all outdoor cats over time through attrition.

Last Revised: June 2013



Confinement of Owned Indoor Cats

December 2007

This AVMA (AAFP) policy statement strongly encourages owners of domestic cats in urban and suburban areas to maintain them indoors, or allowed outdoors only if strictly supervised or in a properly constructed and maintained outdoor enclosure.

Veterinarians are encouraged to educate clients and the public concerning the dangers associated with allowing cats free-roam access to the outdoors. Free-roaming cats may be exposed to injury, suffering, and death from vehicles, attacks from other animals, human cruelty, poisons, and traps. Additionally, these cats have an increased potential to be exposed to feline-specific and zoonotic diseases.

Lastly, adherence to this policy also reduces predation of native wildlife populations, a goal and policy of the AVMA and the AAFP.

Veterinarians are also encouraged to educate clients about the importance of an environmentally enriched indoor environment. Enriching the indoor environment or allowing cats to be in a strictly supervised outdoor environment or enclosure helps prevent boredom, stress, and inactivity - common causes of behavior problems, and diseases such as obesity and its associated risks (diabetes mellitus, hepatic lipidosis, osteoarthritis, heart disease), and feline interstitial cystitis.

Many feline behavior problems can be prevented or treated with an enriched environment that includes stimulation and materials to allow cats to perform their normal behaviors. Cats need companionship,

and enjoy both interactive toys and hunting games. They too enjoy playing on their own and rotation of toys prevents boredom. Cats need items in the house to allow them to perform their normal behavior — cat scratching posts to scratch in desirable locations; and cat trees, perches, or shelves to allow for climbing and to increase the overall space in the home.

Feral Cats

December 2007

The AAFP strongly supports efforts to humanely control the feral cat population. These efforts include reducing the source of feral cats by encouraging owners to keep cats indoors (see statement on owned indoor cats), permanent identification methods so that lost cats can be returned to their owners (see statement on identification of cats) and education on responsible pet ownership. Pre-pubertal spaying and neutering is also encouraged to decrease the numbers of newborn cats.

The AAFP recognizes the need to decrease the current population of feral cats to improve their welfare and to reduce their potential as a source of zoonotic diseases, public nuisance, and negative impacts on wildlife and ecosystems. Although no single control method is suitable for all situations the AAFP supports humane population control methods such as 'trap-neuter-return', relocation to managed colonies or appropriate sanctuaries, and where appropriate adoption into homes.

ASPCA Policy and Position Statements

Position Statement on Community Cats and Community Cat Programs

INTRODUCTION

The ASPCA supports humane, lawful, and effective strategies for humanely managing community cat^[1] populations, including programs involving trap-neuter-return-monitor (TNRM), return to field (RTF) or, as a last resort, community cat relocation (CCR). Such community cat programs not only provide life-saving options for cats who might otherwise be euthanized when admitted to a shelter but also can stabilize, and even reduce over time, the population of community cat colonies (Levy and Crawford, 2004; Robertson, 2008).

Community cat populations generally consist of a mixture of feral cats^[2], semi-socialized cats and lost and abandoned pets. Community cats are found in all areas of the country and tend to gather together in colonies. No one knows how many community cats live in the United States, but estimates are in the tens of millions. Community cat issues are complex and varied, impacted by geography, climate, the presence of other animals including predators, past and current community cat programming, cultural norms and numerous other factors. As such, multiple approaches, crafted to address the particular needs of a given community, are often necessary in order to effect a positive impact for cats and the communities in which they live.

Community cat programs may also raise legal issues, including those related to laws prohibiting abandonment of animals or defining and creating obligations for animal owners and caretakers. Before engaging in

any community cat program, legal counsel should be consulted to ensure that the program's activities are permitted under applicable state and local law.

COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAMS AND THEIR ALTERNATIVES

As discussed in detail below, it is the ASPCA's position that *unsocialized* community cats are best served by focusing resources on TNRM and RTF programs, distribution of exclusionary devices (such as fencing and keeping garbage bins closed) and deterrents, and public education concerning the humane management of community cats. *Socialized* community cats are best served by placement into new homes whenever possible.^[3] In all cases, community cat programs involve sterilization which decreases nuisance behaviors and increases welfare. To achieve the additional goal of decreasing the overall size of the community cat population, research has shown that a critical number of cats in a colony, neighborhood or other defined location must all be sterilized within a relatively short time period. Studies have estimated that more than 60 to 80% of remaining intact cats (Budke and Slater 2009, Miller et al 2014) in the group must be sterilized each year for the population to decline over time.

The alternatives to community cat programs, including trap-euthanize^[4] strategies, have been shown to be impractical, ineffective, and often inhumane. With the exception of closed populations of cats on islands, attempts to eradicate cat colonies almost universally failed. Cats who are removed are replaced through reproduction, the movement of other cats into the territory and the addition of lost and abandoned animals who repopulate the vacated space (Campbell, et al 2011). Feeding bans are difficult to enforce and are ineffective at decreasing cat populations. For those cats who have become dependent on food provided by a caregiver, a feeding ban can be inhumane, as it often forces cats to subsist on insufficient resources.

The ASPCA does not support the management of cat colonies in ecologically sensitive areas; in areas where demolition or development is

likely to cause harm or where cats are being subjected to harm or abuse. In such cases, the ASPCA recommends relocation of community cats and/or the adoption of friendly cats. After the cats are removed, exclusionary measures and deterrents should be put into place to prevent immigration of new cats to the area.

It is important to note that community cat programs should be considered as just one component of a multi-pronged approach to cat issues in the community served. A comprehensive approach requires that community cat stakeholder groups be engaged and any program be implemented in partnership with other TNRM, RTF or relocation programs, and with low/no cost sterilization programs. Any cat program implemented in isolation is less likely to be successful and often will not efficiently utilize whatever resources are available to support cats, whether community cats or owned cats.

A discussion of considerations and guidelines for TNRM, RTF, and CCR program continues below. In addition to the guidelines referenced herein, additional minimum guidelines for RTF programs are included in Addendum 2.

Program Considerations: Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor (TNRM)

Ideally, the management of community cats should include trapping, scanning for the presence of a microchip, vaccination, sterilization, ear "tipping" (surgical removal of the tip of one ear as a visible sign that the cat has been sterilized), microchipping (when feasible), returning the cat to its original location, and caregiver(s) monitoring and caring for the colony, e.g., ensuring the cats receive adequate food, water and shelter.

Sterilization not only prevents birth, but also largely eliminates the objectionable spraying, vocalizing and fighting behaviors of cats in the colony.

TNRM programs should only return the cats if they have a caregiver, if the environment is conducive to successful outdoor living, and if there are no

known threats by local residents to the cats. Recognition by animal control officers and shelter staff that an ear-tipped cat has already been sterilized allows for healthy cats to remain at or to be returned to their origin, rather than be admitted to an animal shelter. TNRM programs should also assist with installation of exclusionary measures or deterrents to limit cats' presence in dangerous, ecologically sensitive or contested areas.

TNRM programs are preferred over RTF programs because;

- 1) services are provided to the cat without involving admission to an animal shelter, which increases stress for the cat and the potential for exposure to disease, and
- 2) the involvement of a caregiver increases the likelihood of success of the community cat population, by supporting the wellbeing and safety of the cats, and provides a point of contact for the community when issues or complaints arise.

Resource for Best Practice: Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Colony Care from Alley Cat Allies, the ASPCA and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals
http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/TNR_workshop_handbook.3.pdf

Program Considerations: Return-to-Field (RTF)

RTF programs involve community cats who have been admitted to an animal shelter, brought in by animal control personnel or by members of the public. The ASPCA estimates that 3.4 million cats enter animal shelters each year, an event that may result in an opportunity for their owner to find them or new family to adopt them, but which also puts cats at risk of extreme stress, illness and euthanasia. Although a home for social cats and TNRM for unsocial community cats represent ideal results for those cats, it is important to consider the potential benefit of other programs like RTF given the millions of cats at risk in communities and in our nation's shelters.

To be considered for an RTF program, the cat must be unowned, ineligible or unlikely to be successful in an adoption program (with very rare exceptions, social cats admitted to animal shelters should be routed into adoption programs that demonstrate a high placement rate rather than RTF programs), be able to be returned to the location where found, and appear to have been thriving in their previous environment without known threats to their safety. It is crucial that the exact “found” address be available and recorded as part of the intake process, and every effort should be made to identify whether or not the cat is owned, including scanning for the presence of a microchip, looking for other forms of pet identification such as a collar or identification tag and placing “found” flyers within a few blocks of where the cat was found. If a cat qualifies for an RTF program, the services provided to the cat are similar to those of a TNRM program, e.g., vaccination, sterilization, ear “tipping” and microchipping.

Unlike TNRM programs, RTF programs rarely require that a caregiver be available to monitor and provide care for the cat following release. For this reason, the ASPCA does not consider RTF programs ideal for social cats and/or preferable to TNRM programs, and the use of RTF programs should never supersede robust and aggressive adoption programs for social cats ([ASPCA's Position Statement on Responsibilities of Animal Shelters \(/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-responsibilities-animal-shelters\)](#)). However, where permitted by law, RTF programs can represent an acceptable option for unsocial cats who would otherwise be at great risk of euthanasia in a shelter environment.

[Resource for Best Practice: Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return \(TNR\) and Colony Care from Alley Cat Allies, the ASPCA and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals \(http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/TNR_workshop_handbook.3.pdf\)](#)

Resource for Minimum Guidelines: ASPCA's Minimum Guidelines for RTF Programs (Addendum 2)

Program Considerations: Community Cat Relocation

Community cat relocation should only be considered as a **last resort** when the cats involved are at known risk, other community cat management strategies are unavailable, and relocation would be permitted under applicable law. Relocation is resource intensive and involves identifying a new location for the cat(s), trapping, scanning for the presence of a microchip, vaccination, sterilization, ear "tipping"), microchipping (when feasible), transportation and finally a carefully managed introduction to the new location. Cats being relocated are released in a new territory, introduced to an existing colony or released in a barn, warehouse or similar location. These locations can be rural or urban, are commonly on private property, and involve caregivers who own that building/property and who are willing to monitor and provide basic care for the cats. Generally, minimum guidelines for RTF programs apply also to community cat relocation programs.

Information regarding a variety of Community Cat Relocation programs can be found at <http://www.alleycat.org/Relocation> (<http://www.alleycat.org/Relocation>).

Wildlife and Environmental Considerations

In spite of rigorous debate between advocates of cats and advocates of wildlife, the desired outcome for each of these groups is the same – a reduction in the population of community cats. The ASPCA believes that TNRM, RTF and relocation programs are the most effective, humane and responsible ways to manage or lower the community cat population over time in conjunction with programs for owned cats including easy access to free/low cost sterilization services and free collars and identification tags with the owner's phone number.

While the challenges faced by wildlife are significant and complex, community cats are, at times, erroneously singled out as a convenient target. Indeed, it is well accepted that human impacts like construction,

roads, nest disturbance, light pollution, pesticides, destruction of habitat, etc. are the primary threats to wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, as well as changes in the environment. The existence of community cats is ultimately traceable to human activity, and communities bear responsibility for solving the problems they themselves have created. It is unscientific and irrational to choose a single factor, like the presence of cats, and assign blame for the challenges faced by wildlife. Furthermore, even if the presence of cats is shown to impact wildlife, community cat programs, which have as their goal a humane reduction in cat population, remain a desirable solution to minimizing any actual (rather than perceived) threats to other species.

Moreover, scientifically-based knowledge of the success of cat or other predator removal is incomplete. Some studies (Baker et al 2008, Doherty and Ritchie 2016) have specifically examined conditions before and after cat removal and have not shown an increase in breeding success or survival of the species of interest. Additionally, removing enough of any predator to decrease their population size is quite difficult. If the removal of an introduced species such as cats is considered, the ASPCA recommends a comprehensive assessment to determine the potential impact of such an intervention. Without such an assessment, it is quite possible to produce unintended and undesirable consequences for the remaining species and cause more harm than good.

CONCLUSION

While we continue our work to support robust adoption programs for cats, millions of cats who have no home remain at risk across the country. Community cats exist because of generations of human action and inaction, therefore humanely addressing the needs of these cats and implementing programs which help prevent their reproduction, are the responsibility of the communities in which they live. The ASPCA encourages cat advocates, animal shelters and rescues, local government officials and the public to work together, and believes that lawful TNRM,

RTF, and, as a last resort, community cat relocation programs, are humane and effective approaches for managing and controlling community cat populations.

ADDENDUMS

Addendum 1: Reference List and Other Resources

Addendum 2: Minimum Guidelines for Return-to-Field Programs (RTF)

Addendum 3: Definitions for Community Cat Terms

[1] "Community Cats" is a term used to describe outdoor, unowned, free-roaming cats. These cats could be friendly, feral, adults, kittens, healthy, sick, altered and/or unaltered. They may or may not have a caregiver. By this definition, the only outdoor free-roaming cats who are *not* community cats are those that have an owner.

[2] Although "feral" is a well-defined term in biology and behavioral ecology (see below), in animal sheltering it is a term used to describe a cat exhibiting certain behaviors. "Feral cats," as a subset of community cats, is a commonly used phrase generally referring to a cat who appears unaccustomed to close contact with people and, if taken to an animal shelter, is typically not a candidate for adoption into a home as a pet. In biology and behavioral ecology, feral refers to a domesticated animal who is now living wild or free and is not socialized to humans. Cats commonly referred to as feral or behaving in a feral manner may or may not actually fit this definition. Feral behavior can mask the social history of the cat. For example, a frightened cat may demonstrate feral behavior one day, but with time to acclimate will no longer demonstrate such behavior. The kittens of feral-presenting cats can typically be acclimated to humans particularly but not exclusively if behavior modification is done before 8 weeks of age.

[3] Testing for feline immunodeficiency virus and feline leukemia, while not always practical for community cats in general, is recommended for

any kittens or adult cats who are to be placed for adoption or who are showing signs of illness; a positive test result should be confirmed by subsequent testing in order to rule out false positive findings.

[4]“Trap-Euthanize” (TE) is a program involving trapping and euthanizing community cats. This program may be implemented in response to complaints from local residents or conducted by wildlife officials or others in an effort to reduce or eliminate the community cat population. These programs are often opposed by the general public, and are often seen as posing a significant risk for at-large pet cats. TE is sometimes advocated for as a means of population control but data does not support its long term efficacy as the percent of cat population actually trapped and euthanized each year is typically too low. The ASPCA does not consider TE programs to be humane or effective options for addressing community cat issues.



Rabies Advisory Committee Position Statements

Translocation of Raccoons and Other Wild Mammals (updated January 2007)

The translocation of raccoons from Florida to Virginia in the early 1970s is considered a major factor responsible for the expanding epidemic of animal rabies in the eastern part of the country. Within the state, the translocation of nuisance raccoons accounts for epizootics in counties previously unburdened by animal rabies problems.

The Florida Rabies Advisory Committee supports the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rule (68A-24.005, Florida Administrative Code) that prohibits the transport of wild-trapped, live raccoons within, into, or from Florida unless authorized by FWC permit due to the high prevalence of rabies in this species. The Rabies Advisory Committee strongly discourages the translocation of other rabies vector species.

Further, translocation of any wild animal species raises the possibility of the spread of other zoonotic diseases (e.g. plague) and should be discouraged.

Multi-year Rabies Vaccinations for Dogs and Cats (updated January 2008)

The Rabies Advisory Committee adopts the recommendation of the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, 2008 in regard to 3-year rabies vaccines for dogs and cats:

"Vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity. This constitutes the most effective method of increasing the proportion of immunized dogs and cats in any population."

Additionally, the Rabies Advisory Committee considers animals vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian using a United States Department of Agriculture-approved multi-year vaccine to be currently vaccinated in accordance with the schedule for which the vaccine is licensed. Local governments cannot mandate revaccination of currently vaccinated animals except in instances involving post-exposure booster for rabies (Florida Statutes 828.30).

Managing Feral/Free-roaming/Un-owned/Stray Cats (updated January 2007)

The concept of managing free-roaming/feral domestic cats (*Felis catus*) is not tenable on public health grounds because of the persistent threat posed to communities from injury and disease. While the risk for disease transmission from cats to people is generally low when these animals are maintained indoors and routinely cared for, free-roaming cats pose a continuous concern to communities. Children are among the highest risk for disease transmission from these cats.

While free-roaming cats can be vaccinated against rabies, this does not address the ongoing need to provide them health care, medications and prevention of other zoonotic diseases. Should one of these cats bite or scratch a person, it would need to be captured and observed for 10 days for signs and symptoms of rabies, even if it had been previously vaccinated. If the cat is not found, the person bitten

would need to undergo rabies post-exposure treatment (average cost >\$3,000 for previously unvaccinated individual).

In the past 10 years, cats were reported with rabies more frequently than dogs in Florida. The overwhelming majority of these cats were free-roaming animals. Human rabies in Florida was largely controlled by the removal of stray dogs when dog rabies was common during the first half of the 1900s.

Ideally, cats should have regular veterinary care and be maintained inside people's homes. Allowing cats to roam free is not in the best interests of the community's health and deliberate release or abandonment of feral or domestic cats is not sanctioned under Florida's conservation and cruelty laws. Domestic cats are not "indigenous" or native to Florida, and relocating and releasing non-native species into the wild is a violation of Florida Statute 379.231 and Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.005. Due to their adverse impact on wildlife, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission does not issue permits to make lawful either the release of cats to the wild or the establishment of feral/free-roaming cat colonies.

Exhibition, Sale, or Trade of Exotic or Wild Indigenous Mammals (updated June 2010)

The Rabies Advisory Committee condemns the practice of using most wild or exotic mammals for public contact activities (i.e., picture taking with Class II Wildlife).

Captive bred rabies vector species (e.g., raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes or bobcats) are being offered for exhibition, sale, or trade at a variety of venues (flea markets, pet fairs, exotic animal shows, swap meets, etc.). All persons in possession of these animals must be appropriately permitted by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Florida Statute 379.3761) and the Rabies Advisory Committee recommends that both vendors and purchasers be pre-immunized against rabies.

Due to the high potential for bites or scratches and difficulty of follow-up investigations, the Rabies Advisory Committee recommends that county government monitor all events of this type. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission law enforcement officers can seize illegally possessed wildlife including wild caught rabies vectors (Florida Administrative Code 68A-6.002).

CHAPTER 1

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Background

The first known human case of rabies in Florida was recorded as “hydrophobia” on a death certificate of a 38 year-old man from Key West in 1881. Since then, a total of 73 human cases of rabies have been reported as Florida-acquired. Historical documents indicate that rabies was considered rare in 1894 but was becoming more common in northern Florida counties. In 1895, despite legislation giving authority to the state health officer to prevent rabies among dogs, the disease continued to increase. By the turn of the century, severe outbreaks of canine rabies were occurring in most major cities resulting in 14 human cases reported between 1911 and 1913. The last case of human rabies acquired in Florida was reported in 1948 when a man from Tampa was bitten by a neighbor’s dog. Three additional cases have been reported in adult males in 1994, 1996 and 2004. All three were found to have been bitten by dogs while visiting either Haiti (1994, 2004) or Mexico (1996).

The disease in dogs was finally brought under control in the early 1950s as public concern stimulated passage of rabies vaccination and animal control ordinances in many Florida cities and counties. Vaccination of cats was not initially included in many of these local ordinances. However, cat vaccination is now required as part of a statewide rabies law passed by the legislature in 1994. Additionally, in 1998, rabies vaccination of ferrets was legislatively mandated. Rabies in raccoons and other wildlife is considered endemic throughout the state with four to six epizootics occurring sporadically each year. There was a dramatic rise in cases of animal rabies during 1996 and 1997 with over 250 cases reported each year. According to the Florida Department of Health (DOH)-Bureau of Laboratories (BOL), 128 confirmed rabid animals were reported in 2010. Raccoons, foxes and bats represent the greatest number of cases in wildlife. Among domestic animals reported, rabid cats outnumber any other domestic species and in recent years are similar in number to rabid foxes. Urban and suburban epizootics of raccoon rabies that spill over into foxes, bobcats, otters, and unvaccinated cats, dogs, horses and livestock present unique control problems for local authorities.

Rabies continues to be a feared zoonotic disease. Human exposure to rabies most frequently involves the bite of a rabid animal. Accurate figures are not available, but it is estimated that at least 60,000 Florida residents and visitors (especially children) are bitten each year by some type of domestic or wild animal. Dogs are the major source of animal bites in Florida, followed by cats, rodents, raccoons, bats, and other species. The threat of rabies transmission from animals to humans warrants the maintenance of a statewide surveillance system with thorough investigation and follow-up of all humans exposed to a suspected rabid animal. Successful control of this disease in any community ultimately depends upon a coordinated effort to: 1) immunize a large proportion of all dogs, cats and ferrets kept as pets; 2) manage domestic and wild nuisance and stray animals; 3) implement an effective public information campaign; and 4) provide continuous education and training for health care providers, animal control workers and employees of other allied agencies and organizations.



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FVMA 2014 Position Statement on Free Roaming Cats

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) promotes animal health, public health and responsible pet ownership through support of the veterinary medical profession in Florida. The FVMA embraces the concept of the human-animal bond and seeks to provide guidance for the welfare and care of all animals in Florida: domestic, livestock, captive wildlife and free-ranging native species. In fulfilling this mission, the FVMA seeks to address issues related to the management of free-roaming, abandoned, and feral cats in Florida.

The FVMA encourages and supports efforts to eliminate the problem of free-roaming, abandoned and feral cats. It is believed that millions of these cats exist in Florida. Unfortunately, most of these cats will suffer premature mortality from disease, starvation or trauma. The magnitude of their suffering is a tragedy of epidemic proportions. Free-roaming, abandoned and feral cats are a significant factor in the deaths of hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.³ Free roaming cats also pose a significant zoonotic disease risk to the general public, especially children.^{1, 4, 5}

According to the Florida Department of Health, domestic cats maintained indoors, without the risk of contact with wildlife and environmental threats, pose little to no risk of disease transmission to people.¹ On the other hand, free-roaming, feral and abandoned domestic cats are a persistent threat to our communities because these cats do not receive appropriate preventive veterinary medical care. Additionally, free-roaming/feral cats present a risk to native Florida wildlife, including the Florida Panther.^{4,6,7}

The FVMA supports the use of properly designed and appropriately maintained enclosures for the management of feral cat colonies. Such a management strategy mitigates the risk to the public at large, to the sensitive Florida ecological system, and allows for improved welfare of the cats.

The FVMA encourages public education that reduces abandonment of domestic cats and eliminates public feeding of free-roaming feral cats in compliance with existing statutes.²

References cited:

1. Florida Dept of Health. Rabies Prevention and Control Guide. 2014. Tallahassee, FL.
2. Florida Administrative Code. Rule 68A-4.001 (3).
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4. Fredebaugh SL, Mateus-Pinilla NE, McAllister M, Warner RE, Weng HY. Prevalence of antibody to *Toxoplasma gondii* in terrestrial wildlife in a natural area. *J Wildl Dis.* 2011 Apr;47(2):381-92.
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Policy on Feral and Free-Ranging Cats
Adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
May 30, 2003

The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is not native to Florida, but feral and free-ranging cats occur throughout the state and number several million. Cats prey upon both common and rare species of native wildlife in Florida, including species listed as threatened or endangered by state and federal governments. Although the cumulative impact of cats upon native wildlife in Florida remains uncertain relative to other impacts, predation by cats is common and can be especially detrimental to wildlife populations that are small or restricted in their distribution.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is mandated by the Florida Constitution to conserve and protect populations of native wildlife, and the FWC has authority to curtail adverse impacts that nonnative animals cause to native species. *Therefore, it is the policy of the FWC to protect native wildlife from predation, disease, and other impacts presented by feral and free-ranging cats.*

The FWC recognizes that local governments have the responsibility to regulate domesticated species, including cats, but the actions of local governments must not adversely impact native wildlife. Thus, the FWC will strive to minimize or eliminate the impacts of cats where they pose a significant threat to local wildlife populations, but will otherwise leave control of nuisance or feral cats and issues of local public safety and welfare to local governments.

Implementation

Implementing this broad policy will require a variety of FWC resources as well as cooperative efforts between FWC and other public agencies and private groups. Because of the extent of the domestic cat problem, protection of listed species and public lands are considered the highest priority. Several strategies may be followed and listed below are some that should be particularly useful in protecting native wildlife from feral or free-ranging cats. FWC staff should consider these and other potential strategies and recommend implementation measures, as appropriate.

Recommended strategies:

- (1) develop and implement a comprehensive education program to increase public awareness of the impacts that feral and free-ranging cats present to wildlife, identify ways for cat owners to minimize impacts, and inform cat owners of laws prohibiting the release or abandonment of cats to the wild
- (2) eliminate the threat cats pose to the viability of local populations of wildlife, particularly species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern
- (3) prohibit the release, feeding, or protection of cats on lands managed by the FWC, and strongly oppose programs and policies that allow the release, feeding, or protection of cats on public lands that support wildlife habitat
- (4) provide technical advice, policy support, and partnerships to land management agencies in order to prevent the release, feeding, or protection of cats on public lands that support wildlife habitat
- (5) oppose creation and support elimination of Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) colonies and similar managed cat colonies wherever they potentially and significantly impact local wildlife populations
- (6) evaluate the need for new rules to minimize the impact of cats on native wildlife



Agenda Item
Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Clay County Administration Building
Tuesday, May 2 3:30 PM

TO: DATE:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

AGENDA
ITEM
TYPE:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type	Upload Date	File Name
▢ Trap Neuter Return	Cover Memo	5/1/2017	attachment_8.pdf

REVIEWERS:

Department Reviewer	Action	Date	Comments
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No Reviewers Available



Trap Neuter Return (TNR) vs. Alternative Approaches

TNR is an effective method for reducing feral cat populations. In this approach, feral cats are trapped in humane traps, spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and then returned to where they are being fed. Socialized adult cats and kittens are adopted into homes whenever possible.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Pros	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is less expensive than other approaches because caregivers and other volunteers will help.• Cats are healthier after being spayed/neutered• Nuisance behaviors like fighting, yowling and spraying are reduced or eliminated.• Cats are ear-tipped for identification so it is easy to see which cats still need to be fixed and if a new cat shows up that need to be TNR'd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to trap the cats

Alternative Approaches

Do Nothing

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes no effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cats will continue to breed, and there will be more cats.• Nuisance behaviors like fighting, yowling, spraying and breeding will continue.• The cats suffer without human assistance.• Kittens will have to endure life on the streets.

Stop Feeding

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No pro for the cat in this approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It doesn't reduce the number of cats.• Hungry cats will remain where they are and take greater risks to get food.• Cats will continue to breed.• The cats and kittens will be less healthy and more prone to disease, infection and parasites.• There will be more suffering for the cats.• It is illegal to knowingly withhold food from a domesticated animal.

Trap and Remove Options

Volunteers and caregivers are not typically willing to help trap cats for any of the following options, so for all these approaches there is the added cost of paying someone to trap the cats.

Trap and Take to a Shelter

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cats you can catch are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are not feeding the cats, you don't know for sure the total number of cats at the location.• It is hard to trap all the cats if you aren't the caregiver.• It is difficult to trap cats who are being fed elsewhere and aren't hungry.• Even if you remove all the cats, new cats will move in. Also, any remaining cats will breed and the number of cats will increase again. This is often referred to as the "vacuum effect".

Trap and Take to a Sanctuary

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cats you can catch are removed.• It feels like the perfect solution as the cats are relocated and can live happily and safely at a sanctuary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very few sanctuaries exist.• They are typically full.• Expensive to operate so few new ones are created and those that do open quickly fill.• Same issues as trap and take to a shelter

Trap and Abandon Elsewhere

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No pro for the cat in this approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is illegal to abandon a domestic animal.• It is cruel and inhumane to abandon a domestic animal to fend for themselves.• The cat faces tremendous danger and suffering.

Trap and Relocate to Barn Home or other Location

Pro	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cats you can catch are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few barn homes exist, and finding them is time consuming.• Relocation success is not guaranteed.• Requires confining the cat(s) for up to a month to acclimate them to the new location.• Large farm animals can harm cats – especially cats not accustomed to large animals.

Outdoor cat population dynamics calculator

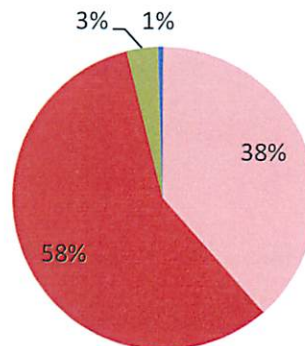
Human population	Annual feline intake	Live release %	Euthanasia %
208,000	2,000	86%	14%

To use this calculator, you must know the approximate population served by a shelter or group of shelters (e.g. a city, group of cities or county). Data can be obtained from the U.S. census bureau (<http://www.census.gov/#>). Enter the population served in column A. Enter the intake and outcome data for the shelters serving this population in the highlighted cells in columns B through C. The calculator will populate the remaining columns and generate the pie chart. Sample provided on next tab.

References: Pet cat population based on 2011 pet cat population estimate from 2012 AVMA Demographic sourcebook; estimated 40% of pets allowed outside (percentage may be higher in rural areas, lower in urban areas; range of estimates from 23% to 85% of cats allowed outdoors (Johnson, Lewellen et al. 1994; Johnson and Lewellen 1995; Lord 2008; Kass 2013). Unowned cat population based on composite of multiple studies leading to estimate of ~ 1 cat per 7 people in a community (mid-point of range estimated by Loss, et al. 2013, "The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States."). Range of estimates from 1 cat per 2.5 people to 1 cat per 12.2 people. To change assumptions of persons/cat, adjust denominator in cell H3. See references on tab 3 for details.

Community and shelter cat dynamics

- Outdoor pet cats
- Outdoor community cats
- Cats impounded and released alive
- Cats impounded and euthanized



Pros and Cons of Trap-Neuter-Release Programs for Community Cats

By Lorie Huston

Trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs for feral or community cats are a controversial subject. However, these programs are a viable option for dealing with community cat populations. Let's take a look at the arguments both for and against these programs.

What Is a Trap-Neuter-Release Program and How Does It Work?

Trap-neuter-release programs essentially trap the individuals in a colony of community cats, spay or neuter the cats, vaccinate them, and then release the adults back into the community. The cats that have been trapped and spayed/neutered are identified, usually through a notch on the ear that can be seen from a distance. This identification allows caretakers to identify, without getting too close to the cats, which cats have already been neutered and is necessary because these cats are not always easy to approach and handle. Kittens are usually removed from the colony, socialized, and placed for adoption. Once all of the adults have been spayed/neutered, the colony will remain as the same group of cats. Eventually, the colony will disappear through attrition as cats become ill and die.

What Are the Pros of Trap-Neuter-Release Programs?

Trap-neuter-release programs provide an alternative to the indiscriminate elimination of entire populations of cats. TNR colonies tend to be stable in size. The cats in the colony typically do not welcome newcomers into their group and strange cats are usually run off by the cats in the colony. In areas where TNR colonies have been removed, a vacuum effect is created. Soon other cats move into the area and establish a territory. These new cats are usually not spayed/neutered or vaccinated. As such, the population quickly swells as females give birth to litter after litter. A female cat can become pregnant again while still nursing a previous litter of kittens. It doesn't take long for populations to swell out of control. TNR colonies also keep rodent populations under control in the areas in which they live. In many of these areas, without the cats, the rodent populations would swell to unmanageable proportions, leading to sanitation problems and disease outbreaks even among the people in the area.

What Are the Cons of Trap-Neuter-Release Programs?

The major objection to having cats in our communities is their effect on wildlife populations. Cats, of course, are predators. They hunt and kill native wildlife and bird species. There is also concern that community cat populations might compete with native fauna for food to the detriment of some native species. This is a legitimate concern. However, human encroachment and engagement probably plays a larger role. Spread of disease to people in the community is a factor that is often mentioned as a risk with community cats also.

What Is the Reality for Trap-Neuter-Release Programs?

The reality is that these populations of community cats do exist and must be dealt with. Alternatives include TNR programs, the widespread trapping and killing of all cats, or simply ignoring the issue. Simply ignoring the issue will not make it go away. In fact, it will only get worse with time. Some people suggest trapping and killing all of these community cats. However, as a practical solution, this option leaves a lot to be desired. It is unlikely that it will ever be possible to catch and kill all of these cats. Even if possible, in a recent survey, the majority of people asked (81%) responded that they were not in favor of systematically killing these cats. Only 14% of the people surveyed actually favored this option. Trap-neuter-release programs have been shown to work in many communities. The major issues involved with these programs are finding the funding to be able to carry through with the program and, in some situations, locating caretakers who are willing to care for the colonies over the long-term. There is no doubt that community cats do kill birds. However, there are other factors involved in the decline of most endangered bird species that have nothing to do with community cat populations. Urbanization and the loss of breeding habitats for these birds are likely much greater contributing factors than the community cat population. In addition, cats perform a valuable service by keeping rodent populations in check in the areas in which they live. It is true that cats can spread some diseases. However, the risk is probably overstated, particularly in the case of feral cats that tend to avoid human contact whenever possible. When you consider that the rodent population would increase in the absence of these cats and that rodents are much more likely to spread disease, it becomes likely that the risk is higher without the cats.

Trap-neuter-release programs are an effective means of dealing with populations of community cats. Ideally, these TNR colonies are managed by a caretaker or group of caretakers that look after the cats, seeing that they are fed properly and have adequate shelter.