



November 3, 2020

Brampton City Council

Dear Councillors,

My name is Phil Nichols. I am writing this letter on behalf of Toronto Humane Society, as an active participant in animal welfare activities and initiatives for over 130 years. I am writing to express my support for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Community cats are the same species as pet cats. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors. During TNR community cats are humanely trapped, taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped for identification, and, after recovery, are returned to their outdoor homes. Toronto Humane Society has additionally engaged in the practice of implanting microchips to all of the cats that go through TNR at our location.

TNR is a community-based program that will benefit the cats and residents of Brampton in many ways. TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle. TNR improves cats' lives and benefits public health by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy and vaccinating them against rabies. TNR stops disruptive mating behaviors—like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting—so cats and people can coexist peacefully. Lastly, TNR saves taxpayer's money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls of concern to animal control.

Over the years we have seen the many benefits associated with the implementation of a collective community cat management program in Toronto. Most importantly the benefits of TNR programs in municipalities is the correlated decrease to community euthanasia rates in animal shelters. Additional information surrounding TNR and a scientific estimate of the prevalence of community cats within Brampton can be found within a report published by Toronto Humane Society in 2019 which can be found here - <https://www.torontohumanesociety.com/pdfs/THS-EstimatingTheFeralCatPopulation-2019-web.pdf> .

Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize that outdated approaches can be cruel and ineffective. It's time for the cats and residents of Brampton to experience the many benefits of TNR firsthand.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phil Nichols RVT, CAWA  
Chief Operating Officer  
Toronto Humane Society