

From: Nicole Alexander

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To: Bowman, Jeff - Councillor <Jeff.Bowman@brampton.ca>; City Clerks Office <City.ClerksOffice@brampton.ca>; Medeiros, Martin - Councillor <Martin.Medeiros@brampton.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Supporting Feral Cats and their Caretakers

To your Worship, Mayor, Councillors and Staff

I understand there is an effort to once again approach the City of Brampton to establish a Trap, Neuter and Return program with the intent to effectively manage the feral cat populations within the municipality.

As a resident and feral cat caretaker I wish to inform you that I have received assistance from the charitable organization AVA (Action Volunteers for Animals) in humanly managing the feral cats under my care. Such assistance has funded spay-neuter, inoculations, including rabies and micro chipping together with any other veterinary procedures deemed necessary.

However, in reviewing the current animal by-laws there are two items I wish to bring to your attention that are of concern to me. Specifically, I note the city has provisions that ban cats from roaming and that they must be licensed.

It is my understanding that these provisions were enacted with the intent to regulate owned socialized cats whereas feral free roaming cats through no fault of their own are both unowned and unsocial often displaying a fear of human contact.

As a caretaker I am concerned that the current by-law provisions view me as the owner and I am therefore subject to both free roaming regulations and licensing requirements.

I understand that other municipalities that have established a TNR program such as Mississauga, Oshawa, Whitby and many others amend their by-laws to create exemptions to free roaming and licensing provisions that permit feral cat managers, such as myself, to responsibly manage these cats within a legal context.

I also participate in TNR partnering with AVA, to help control the pet population of feral cats in the City of Brampton. As the city doesn't yet support TNR I either pay for these vet services myself, ask the non-profit organization AVA to pay the cost, or drive 40km one way, to get any Brampton feral cat Neutered at the Toronto Humane Services (THS) in Toronto on River street. THS provides this service for free but of course there is a cost to me for my gas, time and wear and tear on the vehicle. I therefore urge the City of Brampton to support the effort of TNR for the health and welfare of the cats and the city itself.

I therefore urge the City of Brampton to create these exemptions that would recognize the valued contribution I make and to create any further operational protocols that will assist in this endeavor.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to call me should you wish to further discuss this issue.

Kindest regards,
Nicole Alexander