

RESOLUTION

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
ENDORING TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN AS A HUMANE METHOD OF ADDRESSING
FREE-ROAMING AND FERAL CAT POPULATIONS IN BOWIE

WHEREAS, free-roaming, feral and community cats are abundant across the United States and in Bowie; and

WHEREAS, traditional approaches to decreasing free-roaming cat populations have largely failed, TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR) has come to be widely recognized as the most effective approach to managing their numbers. TNR participants trap, spay or neuter and vaccinate free roaming cats and return them to their familiar surroundings; and

WHEREAS, TNR assists with the reduction of cat euthanasia rates and the overcrowding at the Prince George's County Animal Management Facility; and

WHEREAS, three local 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and several caring Bowie residents participate in TNR to support the health of free-roaming cats and to maintain and reduce the feral and free-roaming cat populations; and

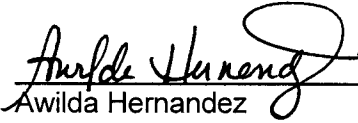
WHEREAS, Bowie embraces the importance of TNR toward addressing the free-roaming and feral cat populations; and

WHEREAS, Bowie recognizes the time and effort of those persons and organizations engaged in TNR.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council endorses TNR as a non-lethal trap-neuter-return program and supports the efforts of local participants performing TNR toward reducing the free-roaming and feral cat populations.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

ATTEST:



Awilda Hernandez
City Clerk

THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND



G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

TO: David J. Deutsch, City Manager

FROM: Steve Roberts, Animal Control Supervisor

DATE: November 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolution Endorsing TNR, Trap-Neuter-Return R-70-14

The City of Bowie Animal Control Office recognizes the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program as a valuable tool in the stabilization and reduction of feral and community cats. TNR is a nationally accepted method to humanely and effectively manage community cat colonies. Within Prince George's County, Cheverly, Greenbelt and Laurel officially endorse the TNR option. The primary goal is the reduction of free-roaming cats by care givers who trap, spay or neuter, and vaccinate the cats.

The benefits of TNR are:

- Stabilization and reduction of free roaming and feral cats.
- Fewer cat nuisance complaints to Bowie Animal Control.
- Lower intake of cats taken to the Prince George's County Animal Maintenance Facility thereby reducing the euthanasia rates and overcrowding at the shelter.
- The networking and organization among the TNR participants to ensure the adequate care and coverage of stray and free-roaming cats.

There are three local 501(c)(3) organizations and several City residents that maintain cat colonies in Bowie. The residents provide food, shelter and veterinary care and participate in the TNR program. They take unaltered cats from their respective colonies, have them spayed, neutered and vaccinated, and return them to the colony at their own expense.

This Resolution will endorse TNR as a non-lethal trap-neuter-program and support its participants. The Resolution will allow staff to assist TNR organizations by referring nuisance cat concerns, loan and deliver City traps and other equipment during "Spay Day" events, and promote TNR through the City's social media and other publicity outlets. The Resolution will assist TNR organizations toward obtaining funding from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Grant program and PetSmart charities.

A representative of Alley Cat Allies will brief Council.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the introduction and approval of Resolution R-70-14.

Attachment