



March 6, 2026

Honorable Chair and Members

Education, Energy and Environment Committee

RE: SB 750

The Anne Arundel County Animal Welfare Council **supports SB 750**, Ash's Law, which allows TNR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate for Rabies, Release) of feral community cats.

In 2018, Anne Arundel County passed a community cat ordinance allowing TNR. It has been very effective in decreasing the number of feral cats that were being euthanized in AA County prior to the community cat ordinance becoming law. Anne Arundel County Department of Animal Services (DAS - formerly known as AA County Animal Care & Control) euthanized approximately 750-1000 feral cats each year during the time frame of 2011-2014. In 2015, DAS started participating in the State Spay Neuter Grant Fund which resulted in lowering the number of feral cats euthanized to approximately 600 cats per year during 2015 and 2016. In 2017, a pilot program for community cat TNR was tested in AA County which produced further lowering of the number of feral cats euthanized that year to around 500 cats.

In 2018, Anne Arundel County Council passed the community cat TNR ordinance. Dedicated community non-profit organizations such as SAVECats, along with other coalition partners, strongly supported this TNR effort. This resulted in lowering the number of feral cats euthanized to about 100 by the year 2020. With continued strong support from non-profit organizations during the past 5 years, 2021 - 2025, Anne Arundel County DAS euthanized less than 50 feral cats each year. Through an effective community cat TNR program, AA County DAS has been able to lower the number of feral cats euthanized from a high of around 1,000 cats per year in 2011 to below 50 feral cats per year in 2025. Currently, only the ferals who are determined to be unhealthy are now euthanized to relieve their suffering.

The community cat TNR program has also helped to lower the overall intake of all cats (domestic and feral combined) coming into the shelter. In 2012, approximately 3,800 cats were brought into the AA County shelter. This past year, in 2025, approximately 2,000 cats were brought into the shelter. This reduction in intake saves lives and it saves taxpayer dollars as well.

A community cat TNR program is an effective and humane way to lower euthanasia of feral cats, lower overall cat intake in all Maryland shelters, promote healthier communities, and save taxpayer dollars. We respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 750.

Respectfully submitted,

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