



3/5/2026

Dear Honorable Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee,

My name is Katie Haines, and I am the Assistant Director of Community Care and Advocacy at the Maryland SPCA. I am here to urge a speedy and favorable report on SB 0750 with one amendment to LINE 19 (4) UNLESS VETERINARY CARE IS REQUIRED **OR DEEMED INADVISABLE BECAUSE CONDITIONS IN THE ORIGINAL LOCATION POSE A DIRECT THREAT TO CATS' LIVES.**

In 2025 alone, the Maryland SPCA took in 1,071 kittens and 1,352 adult cats. We regularly take in what we call "mega transports" of kittens from other counties to provide some relief to those shelters that experience an even greater volume of kitten and cat intake. Community cat caretakers have a big impact on shelters; By TNR'ing community cats, they keep thousands of cats and kittens from entering overburdened animal shelters. From the standpoint of Maryland animal shelters already operating at or beyond capacity, suggestion from out of state entities that feral or community cats should be removed from their outdoor environments and housed indoors - within our shelters - is both impractical and inhumane. Animal shelters across Maryland are struggling with limited space, staffing shortages, and high intake numbers. Introducing large numbers of healthy community cats into already full facilities would inevitably lead to overcrowding, increased stress and illness among shelter animals, and higher euthanasia rates -precisely the outcomes we strive to prevent.

Shelter Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programs reduce intake pressure on shelters by humanely managing outdoor cat populations where they live, rather than funneling them into systems that are not built to support them long-term. Moreover, TNR has been used for decades with consistently positive outcomes, including reduced population size, fewer nuisance behaviors, and improved overall community coexistence. While it is true that life outdoors has risks, the alternatives proposed in our house hearing of removing cats from their environment unless idealized conditions can be met is simply not attainable in real-world sheltering and are also inhumane for feral cats. Communities that use TNR responsibly see declining feral cat numbers without overwhelming shelters or subjecting healthy cats to unnecessary confinement or euthanasia.

Sincerely,

**Katie Haines**

Assistant Director of Community Care & Advocacy

Maryland SPCA



