



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate

Dear Mr. Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 100,000 members and supporters in Maryland urge you to **vote no on Senate Bill 0750 (SB 0750)**, which would strip free-roaming cats of any manner of protection from suffering, neglect, and cruelty by exempting anyone claiming to be doing trap, neuter, and release (TNR) of the animals—even though they may not be—from the state’s animal protection law, which prohibits animal abandonment. The bill also seeks to limit local government’s ability to oversee such operations, including ensuring that cats are provided with minimal care—including spaying, neutering, and vaccination—and restricts localities’ ability to provide adequate responses to resident complaints about outdoor roaming cats. We hope the information herein will be useful as you weigh the issue, and again, we **urge you to vote no on SB 0750**.

If passed, SB 0750 would also do the following:

- Prohibit local governments from requiring basic sensible measures like registration of those claiming to be doing TNR (even if they are not) or establishing effective procedures for addressing resident complaints about roaming cats and their welfare, impact on native wildlife, and more
- Give negligent animal owners a free pass to abandon social “house cats” by claiming that these owned cats are part of a homeless colony
- Allow and encourage shelters and other groups to abandon social, perfectly adoptable cats—even those who may have been recently abandoned and have **never previously spent a day outside**
- Endanger cats, wildlife, and the public

SB 0750 lacks any provisions to protect the **rights of private property owners**, many of whom don’t want cats trespassing on their land. Frustrated property owners commonly take matters into their own hands when they cannot get help, often poisoning, [shooting](#), or otherwise [harming](#) and cruelly killing cats.

SB 0750 would even **prohibit localities** from requiring colony feeders to register, a commonsense requirement that can help ensure that abandoned cats are vaccinated, sterilized, and provided with other needed care. Several counties throughout the state require registration of cat colonies to help ensure that those who are feeding cats also provide them with minimal care, including spaying and neutering, water, needed medical care, and protection from the elements. These are **reasonable requirements that seek to protect cats**.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Berkeley
2855 Telegraph Ave.
Ste. 301
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-763-7382

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Populations of homeless, roaming cats also pose a risk to public health. **The Maryland Department of Health** concurs with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and [reports](#) that “cats are the most frequently identified rabid domestic animal.” The near impossibility of re-trapping cats to provide them with legally required rabies vaccinations is one reason why free-roaming cat populations [have been identified](#) as a significant public-health threat. Rabid abandoned and homeless cats have recently been found in [Allegany](#), [Cecil](#), [Frederick](#), [Garrett](#), [Harford](#), [Somerset](#), [Washington](#), and [Wicomico](#) counties, to name just a few cases.

The **National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians** [notes](#) the following:

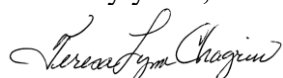
[N]o evidence exists that maintained cat colonies adequately reduce human public health risks or appropriately address their impact on pets or native wildlife. Several reports suggest that support of “managed cat colonies” may increase the public’s likelihood of abandoning unwanted pets in lieu of more responsible options.

Struggling native wildlife also don’t stand a chance against roaming cats. The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** [notes](#) that “[f]ree-ranging cats are associated with a number of sociological and ecological conflicts. They impact people directly through the spread of parasites and diseases, damage to gardens and property, and noise nuisances. Cats also cause conflict through their direct and indirect impacts on native wildlife through predation, competition, spread of disease, and impacts on species survival (e.g., nest failure, injury, behavioral changes).”

PETA is concerned about cats and wildlife alike, and we hope you’ll consider wildlife, too.
Please vote no on SB 0750.

I can be reached at 443-320-1277 or TeresaC@peta.org. Thank you for all your hard work for the residents of Maryland.

Sincerely yours,



Teresa Chagrin
Animal Care and Control Issues Manager
Cruelty Investigations Department

Attachments

- PETA Flier: “Homeless Cats Are Not Super-Felines”
- PETA, “Important Briefing for Community Leaders on Trap, Neuter, Reabandonment (TNR) Programs”