

Hello,

I am writing to you to please beg you to not support TNR legislation HB0912. TNR has yet to be proven effective in reducing feral cat populations in peer reviewed data. However, lobbying organizations continue to selectively ignore the science to make false claims of TNR success. Please take a look at this excellent paper that examines several studies and claims about TNR.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340388874_How_Effective_and_Humane_Is_Trap-Neuter-Release_TNR_for_Feral_Cats

Several other things I plead with you to please consider:

Feral cats decimate native wildlife. Any cat owner can likely tell you their cat loves to chase laser pointers, toy mice, balls or fake birds on wires; regardless of how hungry they are. Fed or not fed feral cats will behave in the same manner- killing birds, amphibians, rodents and rabbits. Cat colonies keep cats in substantially higher concentrations than would be sustainable in the wild, packing an even bigger punch to native species already struggling with habitat loss, pollution, climate change and a myriad of other pressures.

Imagine a baby bird whose mother faces countless challenges desperately trying to find enough food for him, only to starve to death because his mother was killed by a feral cat. Is this truly a humane option?

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/18/820953617/the-killer-at-home-house-cats-have-more-impact-on-local-wildlife-than-wild-preda>

Feral cat colony promoters rarely, if ever, attempt to contend with cat waste which has been known to spread multiple diseases such as roundworm, hookworm and toxoplasmosis. Feeding an animal is always the most fun part of having a pet, picking up after it is by far the least! TNR advocates very rarely want to be responsible for maintaining litter boxes for the dozens of not hundreds of animals they enjoy feeding.

Per my first link, "In California, it is estimated that 2,309 free-roaming cats contributed about 108 tons of feces into the landscape (Dabritz 2006)." Would you want a cat colony next to your children's playground, next to a senior center, by the place your water comes from or by the farm that grows your lettuce? Would you want a colony next to your house?

I could go on but I know your time is limited!

Here is one last argument: TNR advocates claim TNR is the only humane option. However, they ignore the inhumane deaths of the dozens if not hundreds of small animals each of these feral cats will kill each year. Feral cats living outdoors will live drastically shorter and more brutal lives than their indoor brethren. Is this really a humane option?

If you would like more information, please see American Bird Conservancy's website!

<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/trap-neuter-release/>

Also this is a great little snippet from Adam Ruins Everything on the impact of outdoor cats:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=GpAFpwDVBJQ>

Or reach out to me! I would love to help answer any questions you might have!

Thank you,
Jill Adams
Howard County, MD resident