

TNR

Hello,

First of all, I am a cat owner and love cats. I am also a biologist. I can't accept the current proposed legislation the way it is written. I am in Howard County and we have 3 large greenways left to preserve biodiversity. The thought of cats being released into the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Patapsco State Park or Patuxent State Park is very disturbing to me. The birds and mammals they would kill, I don't even want to think about.

A TNR cat showed up in my neighborhood a few years ago (it had the clipped ear). It was completely tame and I took her in. She was chipped and had been trapped 4 years prior in Baltimore County and then released. She was never trapped again in the 4 years until she found me, no updated vaccines. I only had the cat for 4 weeks when I put her down. She had a stomach tumor that was preventing her from eating and drinking and all of her remaining teeth were rotting. You don't want to know about the medical bills I had. If TNR is so wonderful, why was this perfectly adoptable sweet cat not put up for adoption? Her end might have been different with proper medical care.

Near Rt. 1 and Rt. 175 is a colony of cats. I discovered this colony when I went into the Holiday Inn parking lot to check a cell tower for a nest on top. This is when a cat jumped out of the dumpster and ran across the parking lot into the wooded area. I walked over there and saw all the bowls of food (complete with bot flies all over them) and several cats staring at me. Not all of the cats had clipped ears meaning they weren't trapped and neutered etc. People were just adding cats to the colony. I took photographs if anyone wants to see them. I also noted all the rat poison traps that had been put out. I'm sure rats were feasting on this food as well. The worst part is, 400' from the cat colony was a homeless camp of humans. I really have a problem with people feeding cats but not the people.

These are just a couple stories, I could provide more! I would like to see more emphasis on fostering and adopting cats instead of throwing them out the door to fend for themselves and kill wildlife. Since TNR people have money to spay/neuter cats and release them, why not provide free spaying neutering for the community and maybe people wouldn't abandon their cats. Both of my cats came to me around 1 year of age. They were males and as soon as I brought them in the house, they started spraying. I have no doubt that whoever owned them, dropped them off in my townhouse community thinking someone would feed them so they wouldn't have to pay the vet bill to neuter them. It is expensive! Covering adoption fees is a great idea too!

