

## **No-Kill Solution for Cats Pilot Project Recommendations**

### **Background:**

A committee for a No-Kill Solution for Cats formed by council resolution #CR1236/2001 began public meetings in October 2002 with the mandate to consider the following as part of a no-kill solution:

- Mandatory registration
- Trap/release spay/neuter program for feral cats
- Mandatory spay/neuter of owned cats

This committee was formed based on public complaints of nuisance concerning cats. A review of citizen complaints suggests that the nuisance problem is citywide. The committee held nine meetings and received input from pet store owners, and community members including Jazzpurr Society for Animal Protection.

### **Committee members:**

Alan Halberstadt chair

Doug Jeffery Windsor Essex County Humane Society

Dr. Ken Mackenzie veterinarian community

Bernie Butts cat club representative

Elizabeth Essex concerned citizen

The committee decided not to pursue a mandatory registration program or require that all owned cats be spayed or neutered at this time. It was decided that the cost involved in regulating mandatory registration and spaying/neutering of owned cats was cost prohibitive and that public education and incentives would accomplish the same objective for owned cats.

The committee decided to focus instead on the feral cat population determining that this is the necessary starting point in a no-kill solution. The Windsor Essex County Humane Society provided statistics that revealed over 4000 cats are received annually as drop offs from the public. It is expected that if populations of feral cats can be controlled it will result in fewer cats being handled by the Humane Society and fewer nuisance complaints as a result of feral colonies throughout the city.

A no-kill solution is considered a community solution to a community problem that requires citizen involvement as part of the solution. A variety of models were examined (see summary outlined in Appendix C) including success rates and after this extensive review the committee proposes that the following pilot project be approved and supported financially by city council. A pilot project is being proposed to look at the effectiveness of the solution. Further, a city-wide solution would be too costly all at once.

### **Project Highlights:**

The pilot project being proposed is a no-kill solution to deal with the feral cat population in the City of Windsor. This solution involves a trap-alter-release component and a public information component. This type of solution is a long-term commitment to

animal control efforts. The proposed pilot project is a two-year initiative to examine the effectiveness of a no-kill solution. The project is a community effort to manage a community problem. Currently no bylaw exists that deals with unowned cats. This initiative will be volunteer driven with reduced fees for surgeries performed by participating veterinarians. After the two years, a recommendation will be made to council to continue or not to continue depending on the results of the pilot.

**Project Overview:**

The project would begin with a public campaign in the pilot area. The residents in the area will be contacted to explain the program, outline objectives, ask for participation and advise that owned cats should be kept indoors during the trapping phase so that they do not become trapped and spayed/neutered along with feral cats thereby contaminating data and future statistical analysis. A free chipping clinic will be set up for residents in the pilot area that are concerned that their cat(s) may be trapped during the project. All cats trapped will be scanned at the time of capture. If a cat is chipped or visibly altered it will be released. At the same time, pet owners will be encouraged to participate in the project by spaying or neutering their own pets if they have not already done so.

The project will be a volunteer based where citizens within the pilot area will be asked to participate by allowing traps to be placed and monitored in areas in or around their property. Coordinating volunteers who will oversee the coordination of trapping and releasing would assist these volunteers. Once a cat has been trapped it will be taken to a shelter and be spayed or neutered the following day, sheltered overnight the day of the procedure and released back at the trapping site the following day. No other tests will be administered and no inoculations will be given. At this time the feral cat will also be micro-chipped and ear-tipped for the purpose of future follow-up and data analysis. In the rare circumstance that a trapped cat is assessed by a veterinarian to be suffering due to an injury or illness the cat will be humanely euthanized. This is expected to be the exceptional case since the project is aimed at a no-kill solution.

**Pilot Site:**

Citizen complaints and Humane Society records were reviewed by postal code to determine where to focus this project. Natural boundaries were also taken into consideration to limit other factors that may affect the reliability of data from follow-up research.

It has been proposed that the area located in the west side of the city as defined in the attached map be the area selected as the pilot project. (appendix A)

**Project Timeline:**

The results of this project are not expected to be immediate. Therefore a two-year commitment is being recommended.

During this two-year period trapping, spay/neuter, release will occur in the following intervals:

Late summer 2003 through January 2004 and Late summer 2004 through January 2005.

At each of these intervals data will be gathered to examine the impact the project is having on the feral cat population in the study area. A report will be prepared and reported back to council following year one and year two.

The development of protocols and public information would begin soon after project approval.

**Project Goal:**

After the two years, a recommendation will be made to council to continue or not to continue depending on the results of the pilot.

**Project Cost:**

As part of a community solution, members of the veterinarian community have agreed to provide services at a reduced fee. Also, the Windsor Essex County Humane Society has offered shelter space for the project. It is expected that other community donations of time or in-kind donations will be offered as the pilot project is further developed and the public becomes aware.

At this time the expected costs per year to the city include:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| ➤ Printing Costs for public campaign              | \$4,000.00         |
| ➤ Chipping Clinic                                 | \$2000.00          |
| ➤ Pager   | \$600.00           |
| ➤ Traps (one time expense)                        | \$2,500.00         |
| ➤ Microchips and reader                           | \$3,000.00         |
| ➤ Veterinarian fees                               | \$30,000.00        |
| ➤ Food/litter                                     | \$3,000.00         |
| ➤ Fuel  | \$2,500.00         |
| <b>Total excluding staffing AND vehicle costs</b> | <b>\$47,600.00</b> |

During the pilot project term it is expected that up to 250 cats will be trapped, altered and released.

### **Other Cost Factors**

- For this program to be effective an organization needs to act in a lead capacity to ensure that program goals are met. Current staffing resources for the Windsor Essex County Humane Society and Licensing and Enforcement Services exist to support to this project but do not exist to promote, monitor, coordinate, transport animals and follow-up this initiative in a leading role. Additional staffing would be needed to provide those functions.

The Humane Society has proposed that if the city would like them to act in a leading capacity for this project additional funding would be required for staffing as outlined in Appendix B. This staffing would be for two six-month contracts at a total additional cost of \$12,480.00

- The costs outlined do not include transportation expense other than fuel. Additional costs can be expected to pay for the transportation of cats from the trapping site, to the shelter, veterinarian and return for release. A suggestion is to have a suitable city vehicle that is scheduled for replacement donated to the Windsor Essex County Humane Society for use in this project. The cost of repairs, if any, would be borne by the city during the two-year project. The cost of insuring the vehicle would be the responsibility of the Humane Society.
- The proposal has been circulated to the city legal department for an opinion concerning liability. The legal department has concerns due to liability issues. As a mitigating factor a free chipping clinic for project area residents was added to decrease the chances of owned pets becoming captured and altered.

### **In Conclusion**

Although other North American cities has had success implementing a no-kill solution it is the committees recommendation that Windsor consider a pilot project rather than a city-wide program to prove the programs effectiveness. Unfortunately Jazzpurr endorses only a city-wide solution rather than a pilot project but is welcome to propose an alternate solution to city council.

For this project to be successful a paid coordinator is recommended so that all project components are fulfilled. If paid staff is included as proposed by the Humane Society the total cost not including a donated vehicle as outlined will total approximately \$60,000.00. If the project is approved the committee will endeavour to seek further cost reductions through other funding, donations and other in-kind support.

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Diane Sibley  
Executive Director  
Licensing and Enforcement Services



## No Kill Committee Report

### My Comments:

Project Timelines: Oct, Nov, Dec 2003  
Jan, Feb, Mar 2004

Oct, Nov, Dec 2004  
Jan, Feb, Mar 2005

I see this proposal as requiring two 6 month part-time positions being posted.  
Guessing on the costs .

Rate: \$10.00 + benefit costs (CPP,EI, WSIB)= \$12.00/hr?  
24 hrs/week x 26 weeks per contract.  
Staff Cost per contract \$ 6,240 per contract x 2 = **\$12,480 or higher**

Day 1 Person would pick up traps with cats and transport to Shelter for overnight  
Half day stay. Make Surgery appointments for following day

Day 2 Transport cats to Clinic for surgery by 9 am and Pick up surgery cats from  
Full day Clinics by 5 pm, for overnight stay at the Shelter.

Day 3 Return cats to Community for release.  
Half day Contact with Community Volunteers, schedule next trapping area.

Day 4 Public Education in the Community. Prepare reports, register microchips,  
Half Day create database, do follow-up as required.

Duties would also include keeping records of all traps set; contact person; location; how many cats caught; how many released; microchip information, etc. Form should be developed to facilitate weekly, monthly tracking and reporting on the project.

Recommend that the staff person responsible be set up with an alpha/numeric pager, that allows community volunteers to leave an address and a phone number, when a cat is in trap. The person responsible can be reached directly without any mishandling of information.

(We use Kelcom answering service who also provides us with a printed list of calls sent to pager, giving us documentation for monitoring calls, effective handling of situations, etc.)

Cost \$.50.00 per month minimum\*\*\*should be verified. **\$600.00 or higher**

Additional Community Volunteers will be required to promote the program; find volunteers willing to assist with trapping in their community and provide educational information on the program, answer queries, etc. Supervision of the project could also be done by volunteers, with the stats reports going to that person or organization.

The Vehicle being driven by an employee is acceptable, however, a vehicle being driven by a volunteer is not recommended as I doubt we could get insurance coverage.

Clarification is needed as to which days the clinics will accept the cats for Spaying and Neutering, so a rotation schedule could be worked out.

The Windsor/Essex County Humane Society can offer the following:

- Arrange for Overnight Shelter for the trapped cats 2 nights
- Arrange for Hiring and animal safety training of part-time person, 6 month part-time posting, funded by the City;
- Arrange for Workstation for the person to work at, (Tracking shd/be on Excel spreadsheet program which is a universal program, easy to manipulate data);
- Provide General supervision to establish the program and iron out any initial wrinkles
- Arrange for Insurance for a Donated vehicle, driven by an employee but not a volunteer Our cost apprx. \$1500/yr.
- Arrange for purchase, numbering, color coding, and storage of all traps for the project.
- Arrange for Pager and Answering service for the Program through Kelcom, city funded
- Assist with Draft of reporting procedures, forms, etc, for Committee Approval (quite similar to wildlife program).

I trust this is satisfactory.

Regards

Leona

April 10/03

## Appendix C