

HFC Committee

From: Save An Animal <info@saveanimal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:12 PM
To: HFC Committee
Cc: ccc@mauihumansociety.org; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin
Subject: Please read for the HFC meeting when discussing feral cats

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Save an Animal advocates the protection and well-being of all animals and has been working with feral/homeless cats for 15 years. Feel free to contact us for more information or if we can help further.

1 What is your main objective? I would guess healthy communities and families??

- a. If so, then you absolutely want there to be cats outdoors. Cats keep the rodent population down, which are terrible disease spreaders. Cats also kill more rats than birds, and has been even said by DLNR staff that they don't want to see the cats gone, because they kill more rats and rats kill more more birds...
- b. If someone says that cats are solely responsible for spreading disease then they are not looking at the facts. You are thousands of times more likely to get sick from a bell pepper or meat in your fridge than from a cat.. Certainly it makes a lot more sense to sponsor a bill to prohibit meat because of how often people get sick and actually die from it! Instead of someone just forgetting to wash their hands after playing outside.
- c. And in case you haven't seen the facts regarding seals, too... The DLNR has said themselves that toxo is not an issue. And actually, parasites are needed to keep populations healthy, as anyone studying biology or zoology should understand and advocate.

2. **THE ISSUE, is people ABANDONING cats and kittens, and people letting NON SPAYED/NEUTERED pets run free to breed.** THAT is what needs to be addressed.

- a. TNR does work, and it works very well! Proven over and over again. If you actually are new to this, and need to see more evidence just look or ask! There are lots and lots of testimonials and facts everywhere! Feeding stations keep animals to that area, away from places they shouldn't go. Remove the feeding station and the cats will go many other places searching for food! Properly managed TNR colonies make sure the animals are healthy and fixed! Cat populations always get smaller with TNR, its when other people dump more animals, is when the numbers go up, which won't stop even if you remove all feral cats! Etc...
- b. Make it more than just a misdemeanor to abandon any animal! Give rewards to turn someone in. Put up cameras and notices at spots known to attract people. Make it known (and a fact) that the Humane Society will take ALL animals and not kill any that are healthy or treatable.
- c. Prohibit the sale of cats or dogs by anyone, other than an authorized group, or non profit, such as Maui Humane society, HARF, etc with only shelter animals... Stop the breeding!
- d. Make it a law that ALL pets are spayed or neutered! Or at the very least all pets that ever go outside... Walk by the homeless areas, most have pets, dogs and cats, and the ones you see are not fixed, and breeding all the time! Cats you let run at night... Dogs at dog parks... etc... all need to be fixed!

The problem: The county and State puts all the work and responsibility on private citizens to take care of community animals, and resolve any so called issues or disagreements...

Even now, we, are labeled as "stake holders", and *we* are told to find the solution. You are busy, yes, but so are we! And WE aren't getting paid for it. We are forced, constantly, daily, to take our personal time, our hard earned money, and put it towards doing the ethical thing, in managing cat colonies. In actuality none of us WANT to spend our money on cat colonies, and we have many many other things we would rather spend our time on, but it is what we are ethically forced to do unless we want to see these animals killed just because *they* weren't lucky in where they were born or whom they were taken by, and aren't considered adoptable within a couple days. And this is what is going on all over the islands.

We aren't "stake holders", we are ethical people dealing with an ethical issue. Its not cat people against the bird people... Taking care of the sentient beings around us is a humanity issue. A truly humane society would make this a priority. And Maui should!

a) More money must be allocated by the govt for the care of community animals. Stop depending on good hearted people to do the ethical thing. We *need* cat colonies with colony care takers, but the

government should have funding for this, for food and even offer paid jobs to manage the care of these community animals.

c) The Maui Humane society, under Jerleen Bryant become a much better, more ethical place for animals, than it was in the past, and we hope this continues under the new management. As Maui Counties official animal shelter, they need to receive more money to be able to *do all they should*. Residents need to know, without a doubt, that they can bring in any animal and it will be taken care of, not just killed because the MHS didn't have enough room at the time or it wasn't a lap cat... This will stop a lot of the abandoning of cats, and adding to outdoor populations, which is the main issue you wanted to address.

D) More money must be allocated for free spay and neutering too! And for ways to reach more people, picking up their pets, even picking up the homeless peoples pets.. Stop the breeding!

E) Put major funding into other non profits too! Harf, 9th life, East Maui Animal Refuge, yes Save an Animal too. All are doing so much to help community animals, yet most struggle, whereas they can do so much more for the community, and items you consider issues, with more funding.

Just, please, It is so disturbing that anyone would even consider starving/torturing any animal as a way to address any issue or non issue! To have to actually ask you to "please not torture animals" is atrocious and I sincerely hope it is nothing any of you could even contemplate!

Stop the breeding, dont stop the feeding, with any animal.
Cruelty is never right.

As I said, feel free to contact us for more information or if we can help further.

Pam WOLF

A few more key notes if you still need :

Saving birds or seals, or is not the objective. By "removing" cats will not have any impact on Saving any species. Humans are the number one reason for any and all species demise. You already know that. Loss of habitat number one! Pollution, cars, even other birds have a larger impact on bird species than the cats do! Cats are used only as a scapegoat. Besides, of the birds killed by cats, most are non native birds, usually even the ones considered invasive.

Often times you cannot deduce a feral cat from a pet cat that escaped a home. Scared cats hide, are shy, often try to defend themselves, all the things feral cats do, so even if you personally don't care, or you think that its "ok" to kill a homeless animal, because it

doesn't "belong" to someone you might be torturing or killing some little girls best friend. (None the less all animals should have a right to live their life for their own sake.)

Cats are necessary as a part of a healthy society. Originally, the clans or groups with cats were a lot healthier than those without, because cats kept the rodent population down, so cats were allowed and encouraged to stay near! Which is true today as well. Besides the happiness and meaning they give to peoples lives is certainly worth a lot, and should be worth major consideration as a necessity.

Cats belong outside! As much as I would love to see every single cat in a nice house with a loving family, that is not going to happen any time soon! We are trying to change evolution by saying cats belong inside, when in fact, It was only since the 1950s with the invention of kitty liter, that we even considered bringing them inside! And even so, it is a rich society invention. We now try to tell poor people, or those from other societies, that even though, for thousands of years, it was ok for cats to be outside, today you have to spend hundreds of dollars on kitty liter and keep the cat inside! Is that the right thing to do? Just because it is what WE grew up with, and WE are the ones making the rules, does that really make it the *correct* way? Plus for the health of the cat for being able to run and climb is necessary too. Just because a cat is smaller than a dog does not make it ok to lock it inside and not let it be able to run. It is no different than keeping a tiger in a small cage. They are meant to run and get exercise. Homes with cats *should be* made better for the cats needs, with places to run, hide, climb, and with more than one animal so they are stimulated all the time for the need to hunt and catch, so they don't need to go outside to hunt and catch *if you don't want them to*. But that is what they were raised next to us for. To hunt and chase, particularly useful when there are no other predators around and can help control rodents!

Cats are a part of human evolution. Period! If humans are there, then you should expect and allow cats to be a necessary part of that space too, yes outside, and yes, killing a bird or rat now and again. If you want to change evolution, and perhaps make all cats indoor cats, it wont happen overnight, or even within 100 years or with all societies or Countries! Treat it and everything with logic and reason, and compassion. As a truly humane society should be.

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