

HFC Committee

From: Liz and Larry <lmdbjd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:13 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Feral Animal feeding bill

Dear Maui County Committee Members,

My husband and I are full time residents of Maui. He is a radiologist for Maui Memorial Medical Center and other CA hospitals. I am a Maui Hospice volunteer and property manager for our vacation rental on Sugar Beach. We are citizens who are involved and concerned about issues across Maui County.

In 2018, we befriended Darleen and Johnny Owens, who for 10+ years had taken care of registered Community Cat Colony #322. This colony is just outside the gates of our neighborhood in Wailea, Kai Malu.

Because of health issues, the Owens needed to move to Arizona and asked if we would take care of the colony. We agreed and have been doing so since early 2019.

We have 22 cats in the colony. They have all been spayed/neutered by us or previously by the Owens. They/we also flea treat the cats when we are able to do so. Most of these cats have been members of the colony for several years or more. Some of the cats are original, so more than 10 years old.

Colony #322 is a very stable colony, with only 4 new cats introduced in the past year. Those 4 cats were seemingly "dumped" at the colony in 2019. I say this because one night I discovered 4 young cats that looked to be from the same litter. We trapped them and MHS spayed/neutered. Since that time, 2 of those cats have been killed by cars, so now only 2 of the new cats remain in the colony.

My main point is that due to the stability of this colony, there have been no litters of kittens born in YEARS. And the existing colony keeps away new unspayed or un-neutered cats from the area.

We spend our own time and money to feed this colony every evening. We also monitor the health of the cats and any changes in the colony every evening.

Many of our neighbors have thanked us for maintaining the cat colony and have donated food or money unsolicited. We believe that because these cats have been consistently taken care of (every evening), they are NOT looking for food inside Kai Malu or around neighboring homes.

This debate is not new and there are no quick fixes. Almost 70 years ago, Illinois proposed a bill allowing its citizens to trap any free range cat and destroy it. Adlai Stevenson said this:

"The problem of cat versus bird is as old as time. If we attempt to resolve it by legislation who knows but we may be called upon to take sides in the age-old problems of dog versus cat, bird versus bird, or even bird versus worm. In my opinion, the state of Illinois and its local governing bodies already have enough to do without trying to control feline delinquency."

I also believe that now, MORE THAN EVER, Maui County Government has plenty other problems to tackle beside this issue.

Respectfully,
Larry and Elizabeth Sadler

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