



PORT ORANGE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Council Chambers

Thursday, January 9, 2020 @ 5:15 PM

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Pursuant to Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Port Orange, the Mayor has called a **Workshop** of the City Council to be held for the following purposes:

OPENING

1. Silent Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion on Feral Cat TNR Program

ADJOURNMENT

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO ENSURE AT HIS OR HER OWN EXPENSE FOR THE TAKING AND PREPARATION OF A VERBATIM RECORD OF ALL TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE OF THE PROCEEDINGS UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF PORT ORANGE, 1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE, PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA 32129, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-506-5563, CITYCLERK@PORT-ORANGE.ORG, AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, BUT PREFERABLY WITHIN 2 WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE OR 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE. IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CONTACT THE RELAY OPERATOR AT 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771.

UPON REQUEST BY A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY, THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT. IF YOU NEED TO REQUEST THIS DOCUMENT IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK WHOSE CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ABOVE.

ANY INVOCATION THAT IS OFFERED BEFORE THE OFFICIAL START OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING SHALL BE THE VOLUNTARY OFFERING OF A PRIVATE PERSON, TO AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY COUNCIL. THE VIEWS OR BELIEFS EXPRESSED BY THE INVOCATION SPEAKER HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OR THE CITY STAFF, AND THE CITY IS NOT ALLOWED BY LAW TO ENDORSE THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR VIEWS OF THIS, OR ANY OTHER SPEAKER. PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ARE INVITED TO STAND DURING THE OPENING INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. HOWEVER, SUCH INVITATION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A DEMAND, ORDER, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF COMMAND. NO PERSON IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OPENING INVOCATION THAT IS OFFERED. A PERSON MAY EXIT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND RETURN UPON COMPLETION OF THE OPENING INVOCATION IF A PERSON DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN OR WITNESS THE OPENING INVOCATION.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING DATE 1/9/2020

Consent item: No

SUBJECT: (4) Discussion on Feral Cat TNR Program

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

GOAL: 1 - Public Safety

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

SUMMARY:

The City has incorporated a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program a strategy to reduce the feral cat population in the city since 2011. TNR is accomplished by trapping unowned, outdoor cats, sterilizing them and returning them to a "colony" that is overseen by a human caregiver. The theory of TNR is that it will eventually reduce the feral cat population while reducing the number of cats euthanized.

Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare (CCFAW) partnered with the City when the program began, and it still runs the program today. While volunteers and caregivers trap, feed and take care of the cats, the City pays for the sterilization and vaccination. The City began with 1 colony in 2011. In 2012 there were 4. Four years ago, there were 50 and today there are 300 registered cat colonies in Port Orange.

During the budget process for FY 2020, the City Council suspended the funding for the sterilization of cats in the TNR program but did not eliminate the TNR program. Staff and Council were unsure if the program was effective due to the significant increase in registered colonies. In addition to the increase in colonies the number of surgeries paid for by Port Orange has increased over the last three years. From 2017 to 2018, the number of surgeries increased from 281 to 394. Through November 2019 the number of surgeries was 390 and the annual total would have likely been 40-60 more had it continued through December. Also, the number of cats dropped off at Halifax Humane Society has increased slightly over the last three years. From 2017 through 2019 (forecast), the number of cats dropped off was 418, 503 and 434 respectively.

In order to analyze the effectiveness of the current program, staff called all 300 registered colony caregivers, spoke to 129 of them and physical inspected 16 colonies. We also:

- Conducted in-person interviews with Pat Mihalic (CCFAW), Miguel Abi-Hassan (CEO of Halifax Humane Society), Port Orange Police Department staff (current and former) and CCFAW colony caregivers and trappers,
- Completed phone interviews with local cat rescue organizations (Furry Nation Salvation and Integrity Cat Rescue), PETA, Halifax Audubon Society, Florida Department of Health, Volusia County Department of Health, Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), University of Florida faculty: Julie Levy and Mark Hostetler, TNR program managers and ACO's from cities in Volusia County, St. John's County and Duval County, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, and several other proponents and opponents of TNR programs,
- Reviewed summary information and individual invoices from HHS and Redinger Clinic from various timeframes between 2017 and 2019,
- Reviewed TNR program documents from CCFAW, Feral Freedom (Jacksonville) and other cities in Volusia County,
- Read about 15 peer-reviewed journal articles and reviewed position papers from organizations such as PETA, Alley Cat Allies and FWCC, and
- Participated in a TNR webinar through University of California – Davis,

Based on this analysis staff's recommendations are as follows:

1. Adopt a contract with the Redinger Clinic to clearly establish responsibilities and costs.
2. Make regular-interval, visual census counts mandatory for all colonies.
3. Insource the TNR program to enhance oversight and management capabilities.
4. Require program participants complete an educational course on TNR before they are qualified to be a caretaker.
5. Adopt a restrictive feeding ordinance that has a carve-out for certain situations.
6. Increase penalties for pet abandonment and cruelty.
7. Request landlords in the City to obtain spay/neuter documents along with other documentation before allowing tenants with pets.
8. Increase the cost of Animal Licenses to help pay for the TNR program.
9. Allow customers who purchase animal licenses the option of providing an additional donation to the TNR program.
10. Work with stakeholders to create low cost spay neuter programs for pets.

Project No.: Funding Account No.:

Presenter:

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Feral Cat Program Presentation	Feral Cat Program Presentation.pdf
2.	January 2020 Statement from Rich Scheibel	January 2020 Statement.docx

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Created/Initiated - 8/1/2019
Approved - 11/11/2019
Approved - 12/27/2019
Final Approval - 12/30/2019



Feral Cat Program Recommendations

January 9, 2019



Reduce the Size of the
Feral Cat Population in
Port Orange

RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED



Recommendations



Adopt Contract With Redinger Clinic (HHS)





Recommendations



Mandatory Periodic Colony Census

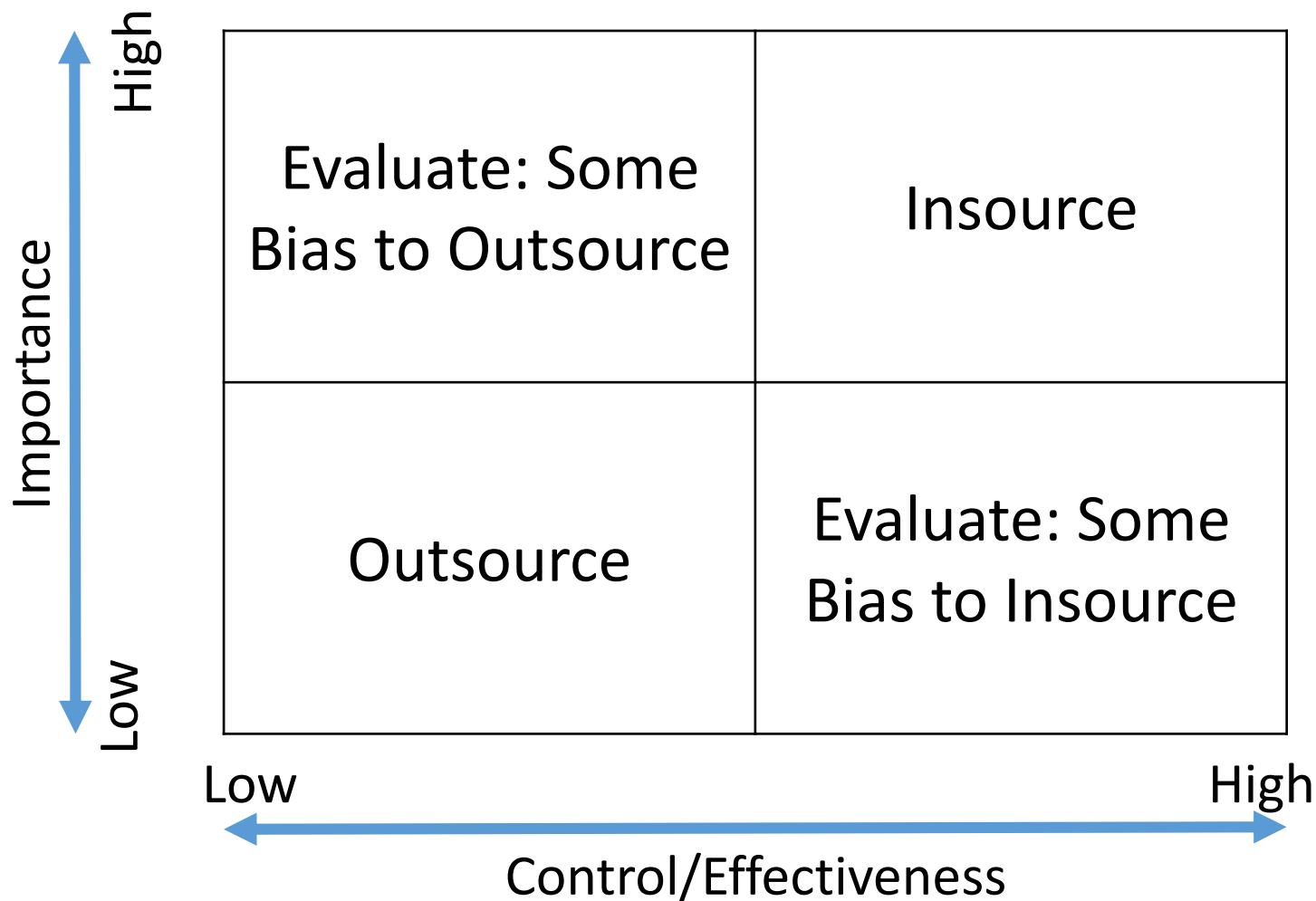




Recommendations



Insource Management of TNR Program





Recommendations



Require Training for Colony Caregivers





Recommendations



Adopt Feeding Ordinance



Target Parking Lot Port Orange. Rogue Feeding and Unaltered Cat.
November 2019



Recommendations



Increase Penalties for Pet Abandonment

City	1st Offense
Port Orange	\$103
Ormond Beach	\$200
New Smyrna Beach	\$50-\$100
Ponce Inlet	\$250
Edgewater	Up to \$500
DeLand	\$250
Deltona	\$100
DeBary	\$500 / Court Possible
Oak Hill	\$500 / Court Possible



Recommendations



Landlords Obtain Spay/Neuter Documents

LANDLORD TIPS

Collecting



PET DEPOSITS



Recommendations



Increase Pet License Fee to Support TNR





Recommendations



Allow Donations With Pet Licenses for TNR





Recommendations



Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program



I have lived in the same house for 22 years. I have never had a problem with feral cats until my neighbor started feeding them. Our quality of life has diminished and our health is starting to suffer. We are so stressed because the cats have more rights to our property than I do.

This is what I have been dealing with for the last 2 years. I have cats every day on my property. I have videos and pictures showing the intrusion of cats in our lives.

1. They have been on my roof of my house, car and fence.
2. They have dug holes in my yard using it as a litter box also my front porch.
3. They have crawled into my Webber grill from the bottom tearing it up to get the grease.
4. I am always worming my dogs because of the cats using my yard as a litter box which I never had to do before. Our vet also said they can get kennel cough from stray cats which we had an issue with. **My 5-year-old pom has gone blind due to a parasite found in cat feces.**
5. They attract other cats. Which could be rabid cats.
6. We are constantly chasing them out of our yard.
7. We have had a reduced population of birds, squirrels and chameleons because of the cats.

It should be illegal to feed feral cats in a residential area. All the groups that care for these cats can relocate the cats and take turns feeding them. **There needs to be accountability and financial responsibility for the damage these cats do. You cannot expect the taxpayer citizens of this city to absorb the financial and the burden to protect their own property when these people are so irresponsible with their actions.**

They say fix the cats and they won't have kittens and they will die off. How long will this take 10 years. It will never end. There are always people that will release their cats in the population.

This is my observation of this whole process. There is a problem with feral cats and you don't know how to deal with it so you turned it over to the cat people. Instead of them helping with the problem you are financing their hobby not to mention the vets doing the work. **Whenever you outsource a program without oversight you will be taken advantage of. This is a fact.** It seems that the city does not want to address domestic or feral cat problems.

First of all, these feral cat people are very self-centered and they have no accountability. These cats damage other people's property, use their property as litter boxes and they just don't care what happens to their neighbors. **They should not be allowed to impose their actions on people's lives and property without accountability.** They choose to feed these cats. They are not forced to feed them. They have no interest in decreasing the population. Here is an example.

My neighbor had two kittens. Why was she not forced to put these kittens up for adoption instead of increasing the feral cat population? They could be adopted. The reason is she wants all these cats around her when she feeds them. She is not interested in helping the city. Besides, the city probably paid to have them fixed. Why not keep them. There are always new cats at her house. It never ends like they tell you it would. It is one of the biggest scams I have ever seen.

Whenever I questioned her on damage by cats, she would say those are not my cats they never leave my property. She is taking ownership She gives them names. If they are domestic, they should be in an enclosed structure according to Port Orange Animal Laws. She can't have it both ways

You have signs on city property for people to pick up dog waste because it is a health hazard but you don't care about all the feral cat waste that carries diseases. You have documentation on this from Dr Judith Milcarsky. Are you waiting for a health outbreak and then do something?

If my dogs were caught running loose they would be taken to a shelter. If not adopted or claimed, they would be put down. If a cat is caught you would let it loose in the neighborhood. That doesn't make sense and this keeps the feral cat population growing.

If you make it illegal to feed feral cats I can guarantee the feral cat population will decrease.

These cats carry diseases. They kill other wild life. Not for food but just to kill. These cat people leave them outside in the elements. They fight with other cats and wild life. If they get infected wounds by fights with other cats, it could be a painful death unless the city pays for this also. They get run over in the street. Now that is animal abuse. If I did this to my dogs I would probably have animal control on my doorstep.

It's amazing how you put these cats above all other animals, pets and people in the city.

I am sure you would change the laws, if you all lived with what I have had to do in the last 2 years.

I hope you see how insane and one sided this program is and how the city is being taken advantage of and how the problem will never end with this program. I have offered several solutions in the past but nobody wants to hear them. **Just as long there is no accountability the cat people will continue to abuse the program.**

We all have a right to do things by law. If we choose to use these rights and they effect other people's lives and property you will be held responsible. For Example:

I have the right to free speech. If I choose to use this right and yell out fire in a movie theatre and people get hurt and property damaged I would be held responsible.

I have the right to drive a car. If I choose to use that right and drive on someone's property and damage the property I would be held responsible.

I have the right to feed feral cats. If I choose to use that right and the neighbor's property is damaged, creates a nuisance and quality of life diminished I should be held responsible. REMEMBER THEY CAN CHOOSE NOT TO FEED THE CATS. If you put food outside the cats will come.

I will say it again. If you never hold these people accountable and responsible for damages or nuisance issues you will never solve this problem. It is so easy.

