

Memorandum

Date: August 3, 2006

To: City Council Members

CC: Rocky Fluhart, Ed Rutan, Steve Fawcett, Kay Christensen, Ken Miles, Shon Hardy, Peggy Raddon, Gwen Springmeyer, Annette Daley, Barry Esham, and Holly Sizemore

From: Jan Aramaki

RE: Ordinance to amend Sections of Salt Lake City Code to Chapter 8.04, Animal Control Ordinance, relating to feral cat colony registration permit requirements

As part of the fiscal year 2006-07 annual budget, the City Council adopted a resolution accepting the study performed in compliance with Utah Code Section 10-8-2 and authorizing a \$10,000 contribution to No More Homeless Pets in Utah to support its Feral Fix Program within Salt Lake City. A copy of the resolution and a memorandum dated April 18, 2006 prepared by Kay Christensen is being provided once again for background information purposes. The benefit of the \$10,000 contribution to No More Homeless Pets in Utah is “the program includes workshops to train members of the public in how to perform Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), support services such as trap loans and vouchers for free or low cost spay/neuter services.”

In conjunction with the \$10,000 allocation to No More Homeless Pets in Utah, the Council may wish to consider adopting proposed amendments to sections of Chapter 8, Animal Control ordinance, that pertain to feral cat colony registration permit requirements. Before Salt Lake County Animal Control is able to work with residents who wish to be caretakers of feral cats, an ordinance must be adopted for Salt Lake City. A person who wishes to maintain a feral cat colony and participate in the TNR process will be required to find a veterinarian or work with No More Homeless Pets in Utah to obtain vaccinations, sterilization, traps, and ear-tipping for feral cats. Salt Lake County Animal Services’ does not provide services for vaccinations, sterilization, traps, or ear-tipping for feral cats. They will be the provider of enforcement services for feral cat colonies that take place within Salt Lake City.

The following proposed amendments are for the City Council’s consideration:

1. Section 8.04.010: Definitions for “feral cat” and “feral cat colony” have been included.
2. Section 8.04.135: Feral cat colony registration permit -- any person over eighteen (18) years of age, who wishes to maintain a feral cat colony may obtain a feral cat colony registration permit unless prohibited by zoning or other ordinances or laws. The resident will be required to:
 - a. present proof that the cats in the feral cat colony have been sterilized, vaccinated, and ear-tipped or are being actively trapped so as to perform sterilization,

vaccination and ear-tipping;

- b. present a detailed description of each cat in the colony including vaccination history;
 - c. present proof of property owner and/or landlord permission at the site where the colony is being maintained; and
 - d. provide contact information in the event that complaints are received by the Office of Animal Services concerning management of the colony.
3. Section 8.04.136: Additional requirements in maintaining a registered feral cat colony – A feral cat colony permit holders shall take responsibility to:
- a. feed the cat colony on a regular basis throughout the year; ensure that the food storage area(s) are secure from insect, rodent, and other vermin attraction and harborage; set feeding times; and remove remaining food immediately after feeding.
 - b. sterilize, vaccinate, and ear-tip all adult cats that can be captured – a microchip implant is recommended;
 - c. remove droppings, spoiled food, and other waste from the premises as often as necessary, at least every seven days, to prevent odor, insect or rodent attraction, or breeding, or other nuisance.
4. Section 8.04.150: Commercial and Pet Rescue Permits – Fee Schedule -- includes feral cat colony registration permits to the fee schedule.
5. Section 8.04.210: Commercial establishments-Emergency Suspension of Permit -- includes feral cat colonies to the list of commercial establishments to be inspected by an Animal Services officer – under conditions of unsanitary or other conditions in the operation that constitute a substantial hazard to the animal(s) and/or public health, a written notice may be issued to the permit holder or operator which immediately suspends the establishment's permit.
6. Appendix A: A feral cat colony registration permit fee of \$25 is proposed.

On March 30, 2006, the City Council received a briefing regarding the Administration's proposed revisions to Salt Lake City Code, Chapter 8, Animal Control ordinance. At that time, the Council made the decision to form a subcommittee who would make recommendations for the Council's review and consideration.

On April 11, 2006, the City Council Animal Control subcommittee presented recommendations to their Council colleagues relating to revisions to sections of Chapter 8, Animal Control ordinance. At that time, the Council discussed the proposed amendments to Chapter 8 relating to feral cat colonization permit and fee. In response to the Administration's proposed \$25 fee for a feral cat colony registration permit, Council Member Jergensen, subcommittee member, suggested that the City Council consider reducing the Administration's recommended fee of \$25 to a lower fee which will serve as an incentive for residents who wish to take care of feral cat colonies. Council Member Jergensen pointed out residents who are interested in feeding feral cats will bear the costs

for vaccinations, sterilization, recommended microchip implant, and ear-tipping. The City Council expressed support at that time to lower the proposed \$25 fee to either \$10 or \$5 and made a request of Council staff to prepare a fiscal impact on the contract with Salt Lake County Animal Services based upon a lower fee.

Salt Lake County Animal Services would like to emphasize to the City Council that the proposed \$25 feral cat colony registration permit fee will basically cover their costs for feral cat colonies that occur in Salt Lake City. According to Animal Services, a \$25 permit fee will involve costs associated with: 1) an initial visit to the site where a feral cat colony registration permit has been applied for to maintain a colony and educate the applicant about the process involved; 2) a follow-up visit will be required by Animal Services to inspect the property to ensure compliance has been made by the applicant according to requirements in Salt Lake City code prior to issuing permit; and 3) administrative costs associated to input information into their system for tracking purposes. Animal Services states that if the proposed permit fee of \$25 is reduced, they will be providing a service below their costs. The proposed \$25 fee offsets the cost of their services.

Animal Services states feral cats are non-adoptable. The following process takes place at the County's shelter when a feral cat (identified by a tipped-ear) is received:

- If a caretaker has taken the step to microchip a feral cat, Animal Services is able to contact the caretaker to have the feral cat returned to the established colony.
- When a feral cat does not possess a microchip implant, Animal Services is unable to find the caretaker. Therefore, according to state code, Animal Services is required to shelter the cat for 3 days before euthanization takes place.

Ken Miles, Director of Animal Services, stated when a feral cat is received into the County's shelter, they make a concerted effort to contact No More Homeless Pets in Utah with the hope that they may assist in locating the caretaker to avoid euthanizing feral cats when possible.

Salt Lake City will be the first local municipality contracted with Salt Lake County Animal Services to implement a feral cat colony registration permit fee into city code. For example, West Valley City residents are allowed by West Valley City to participate in TNR but are not required to obtain a permit; however, the caregivers register with No More Homeless Pets in Utah. Therefore, it is difficult to forecast how many feral cat permits will be issued for Salt Lake City. However, No More Homeless Pets in Utah reported there were 40 Salt Lake City participants (caregivers) in 2004 who chose to participate in TNR.

Using 40 caregivers as an expected number and based upon the Council's suggested fee of \$10 or \$5 for a feral cat colony registration permit (rather than \$25 as proposed by the Administration), the following fiscal impact table represents impacts to Salt Lake County Animal Services.

**Proposed Animal Feral Cat Colony Registration Permit Fee
Fiscal Impact to Salt Lake County Animal Services**

Number of feral cats	Registration Permit Fee	Revenue
40	\$25	\$1,000
40	\$10	\$ 400
Fiscal Impact		\$ 600
40	\$25	\$1,000
40	\$ 5	\$ 200
Financial Impact		\$ 800

Which fee does the Council wish to implement for an annual feral cat colony registration permit?

1. \$25 fee as proposed by the Administration;
2. \$10 fee -- a reduction in the annual feral cat colony registration permit fee from \$25 to \$10 will result in a fiscal impact loss to Salt Lake County Animal Services of \$600 per year.
3. \$5 fee -- a reduction in the annual feral cat colony registration permit from \$25 to \$5 will result in a fiscal impact loss to Salt Lake County Animal Services of \$800 per year.

A public hearing will be scheduled due to a proposed fee associated with the feral cat colony registration permit.

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE
No. _____ of 2006
(Feral Cats)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8.04.010, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, PERTAINING TO DEFINITIONS; ENACTING SECTION 8.04.135, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, RELATING TO FERAL CAT COLONY REGISTRATION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS; ENACTING SECTION 8.04.136, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, RELATING TO MAINTAINING A REGISTERED FERAL CAT COLONY – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING SECTION 8.04.150, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, RELATING TO COMMERCIAL AND PET RESCUE PERMITS – FEE SCHEDULE; AMENDING SECTION 8.04.210, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, RELATING TO COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS – EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF PERMIT; AND AMENDING SUBSECTION A OF APPENDIX A TO TITLE 8, *SALT LAKE CITY CODE*, RELATING TO PERMIT FEES.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

SECTION 1. That Section 8.04.010, *Salt Lake City Code*, pertaining to definitions be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

8.04.010 Definitions:

As used in this Title:

A. "Abandonment" means: 1) placing an animal in an unsafe or dangerous environment where the animal is separated from basic needs such as food, water, shelter or necessary medical attention, for a period of longer than twenty four (24) hours; or 2) failure to reclaim an animal

seventy two (72) hours beyond the time agreed upon with a kennel, grooming service, veterinary hospital, or animal shelter.

B. "Allow", for the purposes of this ordinance, shall include human conduct that is intentional, deliberate, careless, inadvertent or negligent in relation to the actions of an animal.

C. "Animal at large" means any domesticated animal, whether or not licensed, not under restraint as defined below.

D. "Animal boarding establishment" means any establishment that takes in animals for board for profit.

E. "Animal groomer" means any establishment maintained for the purpose of offering cosmetological services for animals for profit.

F. "Animals" means any and all types of livestock, dogs and other nonhuman creatures, both domestic and wild, male and female, singular and plural.

G. "Animal services" means the office referred to in section 8.04.020 of this chapter, or its successor.

H. "Animal shelter" means a facility owned and/or operated by a governmental entity or any animal welfare organization that is incorporated within the state, used for the care and custody of seized, stray, homeless, quarantined, abandoned or unwanted dogs, cats, or other small domestic animals; or for the purpose of protective custody under the authority of this ordinance or state law.

I. "Animal under restraint" means any animal under the control of its owner or person over the age of twelve (12) years having charge, care, custody or control of the animal, by means of:

1) a leash or lead not to exceed six feet (6') in length, 2) other physical enclosure, or 3) within the real property limits of the owner.

J. "Bite" means an actual puncture, tear or abrasion of the skin inflicted by the teeth of an animal.

K. "Carriage" or "horse drawn carriage" means any device in, upon, or by which any person is or may be transported or drawn upon a public way and which is designed to be drawn by horses.

L. "Carriage business" means any person offering to transport another person for any valuable consideration and by means of a horse drawn carriage.

M. "Cat" means any age feline of the domesticated types four (4) months of age or older.

N. "Cattery" means an establishment for boarding, breeding, buying, grooming or selling cats for profit.

O. "Commercial animal establishment" means any pet shop, grooming shop, animal training establishment, guard dog auction or exhibition, riding school or stable, zoological park, circus, rodeo, animal exhibition, or boarding or breeding kennel.

P. "Confinement" means that the animal is kept in an escape-proof enclosure or walked on a leash of not more than six feet (6') in length by a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Confinement does not restrict contact with other animals or humans.

Q. "Custody" means ownership, possession of, harboring, or exercising control over any animal.

R. "Dangerous animal" means any animal that is a hazard to the public health and safety.

S. "Dog" means any *Canis familiaris* four (4) months of age or older.

T. "Domesticated animals" means animals accustomed to live in or about the habitation of people, including, but not limited to, cats, dogs, fowl, horses, swine and goats.

U. "Driver" means any person operating or in actual physical control of a horse-drawn carriage, or any person sitting in the driver's seat of such carriage with the intention of causing it to be moved by a horse.

V. "Enclosure" means any structure that prevents an animal from escaping its confines.

W. "Estray" or "stray" means any "animal at large", as defined herein.

X. "Euthanasia" means the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method approved by the most recent Report of the American Veterinary Medication Association Panel on Euthanasia.

Y. "Feral cat" means any homeless, wild or untamed cat.

Z. "Feral cat colony" means a group of homeless, wild or untamed cats living or growing together.

YAA. "Guard dog" means a working dog which must be kept in a fenced run or other suitable enclosure during business hours, or on a leash or under absolute control while working, so it cannot come into contact with the public.

ZBB. "Holding facility" means any pet shop, kennel, cattery, groomery, riding school, stable, animal shelter, veterinary hospital, humane establishment, or any other such facility used for holding animals.

AACC. "Impoundment" means taken into the custody of an animal services agency, police department, or an agent thereof.

BBDD. "Kennel" means an establishment having dogs for the purpose of boarding, breeding, buying, grooming, letting for hire, training for fee, or selling.

CCEE. "Leash" or "lead" means any chain, rope or device used to restrain an animal, being no longer than six feet (6') in length.

DDFF. "Owner" means any person having title to, or custody of, or keeping, or harboring one or more animals. An animal shall be deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered during a period of twenty four (24) consecutive hours or more.

EEGG. "Person" means a natural person or any legal entity, including, but not limited to, a corporation, firm, partnership or trust.

FFHH. "Pet" or "companion animal" means any animal of a species that has been developed to live in or about the habitation of humans, is dependent on humans for food and shelter, and is kept for pleasure rather than utility or commercial purposes.

GGII. "Pet shop" means any establishment containing cages or exhibition pens, not part of a kennel or cattery, wherein dogs, cats, birds or other pets are kept, displayed or sold.

HHJJ. "Provoked" means any deliberate act by a person towards a dog or any other animal done with the intent to tease, torment, abuse, assault or otherwise cause a reaction by the dog or other animal; provided, however, that any act by a person done with the intent to discourage or prevent a dog or other animal from attacking shall not be considered to be a provocation.

HKK. "Quarantine" means the isolation of an animal in a substantial enclosure so that the animal is not subject to contact with other animals or persons not authorized by the Office of Animal Services.

JLL. "Riding school or stable" means an establishment which offers boarding and/or riding instruction for any horse, pony, donkey, mule or burro, or which offers such animals for hire.

KKMM. "Service animal" means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

LLNN. "Set" means:

1. To cock, open or put a trap in such a condition that it would clamp closed when an object or person touches a triggering device; and/or
2. To place a spring-loaded trap which has been opened or fixed so that it would close upon the triggering device being touched upon the ground, or in a position where a person or animal could become caught therein.

MMOO. "Specialized equipment" is that equipment, other than the usual patrol vehicles of animal services, which is designed for specific purposes such as, but not limited to, livestock trailers and carcass trailers.

NNPP. "Species subject to rabies" means any species that has been reported to the Center for Disease Control to have contracted the rabies virus and become a host for that virus.

OOQQ. "Spring-loaded trap" means any clamp-like apparatus which is utilized to catch animals, objects or persons when, after being set and the triggering device being activated, clamp-like jaws are designed to come together with force so as to clamp or close upon an animal, person or object activating the spring or triggering device.

PPRR. "Stable" means any place or facility where one or more horses, ponies, donkeys, mules or burros are housed or maintained, and are offered for hire.

QQSS. "Veterinarian" means any person legally licensed to practice veterinary medicine under the laws of the State of Utah.

RRTT. "Vicious animal" means:

1. Any animal which, in a threatening or terrorizing manner, approaches any person in apparent attitude of attack upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds or places;
2. Any animal with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, to cause injury or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or animals; or
3. Any animal which bites, inflicts injury, assaults or otherwise attacks a human being or domestic animal on public or private property.

SSUU. "Wild, exotic or dangerous animal" means any animal which is not commonly domesticated, or which is not native to North America, or which, irrespective of geographic origin, is of a wild or predatory nature, or any other animal which, because of its size, growth propensity, vicious nature or other characteristics, would constitute an unreasonable danger to human life, health or property if not kept, maintained or confined in a safe and secure manner, including hybrids, and animals which, as a result of their natural or wild condition, cannot be vaccinated effectively for rabies. Those animals, however domesticated, shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Alligators And Crocodiles: Alligators and crocodiles;
2. Bears (Ursidae): All bears, including grizzly bears, brown bears, and black bears;
3. Cat Family (Felidae): All except the commonly accepted domesticated cats, and including cheetahs, cougars, leopards, lions, lynx, panthers, mountain lions, tigers and wildcats;

4. Dog Family (Canidae): All except domesticated dogs, and including wolf, part wolf, fox, part fox, coyote, part coyote, dingo and part dingo;
5. Porcupines: Porcupine (erethizontidae);
6. Primate (Hominidae): All subhuman primates;
7. Raccoon (Prosynnidae): All raccoons, including eastern raccoons, desert raccoons and ring-tailed cats;
8. Skunks: Skunks;
9. Fish: Venomous fish and piranha;
10. Snakes Or Lizards: Venomous snakes or lizards;
11. Weasels (Mustelidae): All, including weasels, martins, wolverines, ferrets, badgers, otters, ermine, mink and mongoose, except that the possession of such animals shall not be prohibited when raised commercially for their pelts.

FFVV. "Work", with reference to a horse, means that the horse is out of the stable and presented as being available for pulling carriages; in harness; or pulling a carriage.

SECTION 2. That Section 8.04.135, *Salt Lake City Code*, pertaining to feral cat colony registration permit requirements be, and the same hereby is, enacted to read as follows:

8.04.135 Feral Cat Colony Registration Permit – Requirements

It is unlawful for any person to maintain a feral cat colony without a permit. Unless prohibited by zoning or other ordinances or laws, any person over eighteen (18) years of age, may obtain a feral cat colony permit from Animal Services or its designee upon:

A. Presenting proof that the cats in the maintained colony have been sterilized, given their vaccinations as required and ear-tipped, or are being actively trapped so as to perform sterilization, vaccination and ear-tipping;

B Presenting a detailed description of each cat in the colony including vaccination history;

C. Presenting proof of property owner and/or landlord permission at the site that the colony is being maintained; and

D. Providing contact information, in the event that complaints are received by the Office of Animal Services concerning management of the colony.

SECTION 3. That Section 8.04.136, *Salt Lake City Code*, pertaining to maintaining a registered feral cat colony – additional requirements be, and the same hereby is, enacted to read as follows:

8.04.136 Maintaining a Registered Feral Cat Colony – Additional Requirements

Feral cat colony permit holders shall:

A. Take responsibility for feeding the cat colony regularly throughout the year, while ensuring that the food storage area(s) are secure from insect, rodent, and other vermin attraction and harborage. Feeding times shall be set, and any remaining food shall be immediately removed after feeding;

B. Sterilize, vaccinate and ear-tip all adult cats that can be captured.

Implanting a microchip is recommended; and

C. Remove droppings, spoiled food, and other waste from the premises as often as necessary, and at least every seven (7) days, to prevent odor, insect or rodent attraction or breeding, or any other nuisance.

SECTION 4. That Section 8.04.150, *Salt Lake City Code*, pertaining to commercial and pet rescue permits – fee schedule be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

8.04.150 Commercial And Pet Rescue Permits-Fee Schedule:

Fees for commercial operations (kennels, catteries, groomeries, pet shops, veterinary clinics or hospitals) ~~and~~ pet rescue permits and feral cat colony registration permits shall be as indicated in Appendix A of this Chapter.

SECTION 5. That Section 8.04.210, *Salt Lake City Code*, pertaining to commercial establishments – emergency suspension of permit be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

8.04.210 Commercial Establishments-Emergency Suspension Of Permit:

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Title, when the inspecting officer finds unsanitary or other conditions in the operation of feral cat colonies, kennels, catteries, groomeries, veterinary clinics or hospitals, riding stables, pet shops, or any similar establishments, which, in such officer's judgment, constitute a substantial hazard to the animal(s) and/or the public health, such officer may, without warning or hearing, issue a written notice to the permit holder or operator citing such condition and specifying the corrective action to be taken. Such order shall state that the permit is immediately suspended, and all operations are to be immediately discontinued. Any person to whom such an order is issued shall comply immediately therewith. Any animals at such

facility may be confiscated by the Animal Services Office and impounded or otherwise provided for according to the provisions of this Title.

SECTION 6. That Subsection A of Appendix A to Title 8, *Salt Lake City Code*, relating to permit fees be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

APPENDIX A

SALT LAKE CITY ANIMAL SERVICES

PERMITS AND FEES

A. Permit Fees:

Commercial operations up to 30 animals	\$ 75.00
Commercial operations over 30 animals	150.00
Riding stables	40.00
Business selling only tropical or freshwater fish	50.00
Pet rescue permit	25.00
If issued at shelter's request	0.00
<u>Feral cat colony registration permit</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Late fee (in addition to regular fee)	25.00

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah this _____ day of _____, 2006.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

Transmitted to Mayor on _____.

Mayor's Action: _____ Approved. _____ Vetoed.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

(SEAL)

Bill No. _____ of 2006.

Published: _____.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Fawcett

FROM: Kay Christensen

DATE: April 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Non-Departmental Budget – Contribution to No More Homeless Pets in Utah: Study to Comply with Utah Code Annotated Section 10-8-2 *

The Administration proposes contributing \$10,000 to No More Homeless Pets of Utah to be used to support their “feral fix program” within Salt Lake City. The purpose of this program is to help resolve the problem of stray cat (recently abandoned) and feral cat (un-owned, “wild”) overpopulations in the City through the use of a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) strategy. The program includes workshops to train members of the public in how to perform TNR, support services such as trap loans and vouchers for free or low cost spay/neuter services.

To insure that this transaction is in compliance with UCA 10-8-2, the following study has been performed. UCA 10-8-2 states the purposes for which a municipal body may appropriate funds and the factors that must be considered in determining the propriety of such an appropriation. This study will consider the following factors:

- (1) The specific benefits to be received by the City;
- (2) The City’s purpose in making the appropriation, including an analysis of how the safety, health, prosperity, moral well-being, peace, order, comfort or convenience of the residents of Salt Lake City will be enhanced; and
- (3) Whether the appropriation is “necessary and appropriate” to accomplish the City’s goals.

Benefits and Costs to Salt Lake City: Feral and stray cats can be found throughout our community. Their unchecked reproduction has created a significant burden in terms of quality of life. As catalogued by Dr. Margaret Slater, DVM, of Texas A&M, a leading veterinarian in the field, complaints

include such behaviors as, “spraying, fouling yards and gardens with feces, yowling and fighting; sick, injured, or dead cats; and dirty footprints on cars.”⁶ The cats have commonly been accused of driving people from their gardens and backyards with the noxious odor of unaltered males spraying, and waking residents up night after night from the noise of fighting and mating.

The feral and stray cat population also heavily impacts the cost and effectiveness of Salt Lake City’ animal control system. The un-neutered street cat population serves as a constant source of new cats and kittens. Many of these animals find their way into local shelters, taking up badly needed space, making it more difficult to adopt out cats already rescued and contributing to a financial burden of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year from the cost of euthanizing cats.

In sum, the present situation in Salt Lake City is characterized by a city overrun with feral and stray cats, an animal control agency flooded with complaints that cannot be properly addressed, and a shelter system overburdened with the cats and their offspring.

To date, the policy for dealing with such animals has been “trap and kill” or do nothing. Studies have shown that a “trap and kill” strategy has little impact on the overall number of cats and is particularly ineffective when used sporadically and in random locations as has been the practice in Salt Lake City and County. An alternative that has proven effective at controlling the feral and stray cat populations in many communities is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR involves three steps: (1) trapping the cats in a colony, (2) veterinary intervention in the form of neutering, eartipping⁷ and rabies vaccination, and (3) return of the cats to their home territory where they are then fed, sheltered and monitored on an ongoing basis by a designated caretaker. Whenever possible, kittens and friendly, adoptable adults are removed from the colony and offered for placement in homes.

⁶ Slater, Margaret R., DVM, *Community Approaches to Feral Cats*, p. 39 (Humane Society of US Press, 2002) [hereinafter referred to as “Slater”].

⁷ “Eartipping” is the universal sign of a neutered feral cat and involves removing the tip of the left ear in a straight line cut.

No effective animal control policy for feral cats can be implemented on a large scale without the cooperation of the people who feed and watch over the cats on a daily basis. Trapping cats is generally accomplished by baiting humane box traps that close behind a cat when he enters to eat the bait. If food is not withheld the day prior to trapping, many cats will not enter the traps. Caretaker cooperation in withholding food is thus essential. Caretakers also possess unique knowledge regarding the cats, including their numbers, habits and whereabouts. As a result, a caretaker can either greatly assist or effectively thwart animal control efforts. A survey of cat caretakers who presented cats for sterilization in a TNR program revealed that they are intensely bonded to the cats they feed and will not participate in animal control programs that threaten their felines' welfare.⁸ At the same time, caretakers are easily recruited to perform much of the labor involved in getting the cats controlled through sterilization, representing, as mentioned, a substantial cost savings compared to traditional animal control programs using paid staff.⁹ Thus, TNR is an effective tool for enlisting public support to solve a difficult community problem while at the same time mitigating public anger resulting from either the "trap-and-kill" or "do nothing" strategies.

TNR reduces the number of feral cats because cats can't reproduce, a system of monitoring long-term colonies is put in place, and attrition over time leads to lower numbers. This results in a reduction of nuisance complaints because there is much less noise and smell (no mating, fighting spraying), and less roaming.

West Valley City has embraced the TNR program, and in one year their cat intake decreased by 26 percent and their cat euthanasia decreased by 34%. The additional decrease in euthanasia was attributed to West Valley City being able to hold their adoptable cats longer since the feral cats were

⁸Centonze LA, Levy JK, "Characteristics of feral cat colonies and their caretakers," *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2002; 220:1627-1633.

⁹ See caretaker participation in sterilization clinics described in: Williams LS, Levy JK, Robertson SA, Cistola AM, Centonze LA, "Use of the anesthetic combination of tiletamine, zolazepam, ketamine, and xylazine for neutering feral cats," *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2002; 220:1491-1495.

not taking up the cage space (West Valley City holds their animals longer than the minimum impound whenever room permits). This translates into at least \$30,000 in savings for West Valley City (based on a low handling fee of \$65 per animal).

TNR has worked successfully in various communities where it has been tried. In San Diego County, from 1988 through 1991, stray cat intake rates for municipal shelters were rising at a rate of approximately 10% a year, peaking in fiscal year 1991-1992 at a total of 19,077 cats, of whom 15,525 were euthanized.¹² In 1992, the Feral Cat Coalition of San Diego was founded and began implementing TNR on a county-wide basis. Two years and 3100 neutered feral cats later, stray intake rates had dropped by 35% and euthanasia by 40% with no other change in circumstance other than the TNR efforts.^{10, 11}

TNR provides substantial cost savings to animal control in two ways. First, there is the volunteer manpower generated to get the cats fixed and stop them from reproducing.

Secondly, substantial cost savings are also realized when TNR is implemented on a large enough scale to realize lower euthanasia rates in municipal shelters. In San Diego, during the period of 1992 through 1994, the average cost of interning and then euthanizing a cat was \$121. The 40% drop in euthanasia over those two years from the privately funded county-wide TNR program saved the county approximately \$796,000.

Studies have found there is a significant cost savings even when the municipality itself funds TNR efforts and does not rely on private organizations to bear the costs. For example, Orange County, Florida, implemented a TNR program for two and a half years from 1995 through 1998. Previously, when they received a feral cat complaint, they sent out an officer to trap the cat, held the animal for the mandatory waiting period and

¹⁰ Chappell, Michelle, DVM, "A Model for Humane Reduction of Feral Cat Populations," *California Veterinarian* (Sept/Oct 1999).

¹¹ Cat Fanciers Association Almanac (1995), www.cfainc.org/articles/trap-alter-release.html

then euthanized the cat. This cost \$105 per cat. By contrast, having volunteers trap the cats followed by spay/neuter and vaccination services cost the county \$56 per cat, a savings of \$109,172 over the length of the study (2228 cats).¹²

Meeting Salt Lake City's Purpose and Enhancing the Quality of Life for Residents: The TNR program will reduce cat shelter intake and euthanasia, therefore saving taxpayer dollars. The program will ultimately reduce the number of feral cats and, as a result, the frequency of nuisance behaviors associated with free-roaming, unfixated cats.

Salt Lake City contracts with Salt Lake County Animal Services (SLCAS) to handle all animal control issues in the City for a set contract price. It is estimated that the City's contribution of \$10,000 could result in at least 330 cats being spayed or neutered. This result would not change the contract fee, but would free up animal control officers, to that extent, to do community patrolling and enforcement work that is greatly needed in the community.

The modest contribution of \$10,000 would provide an opportunity to test the feral fix/TNR strategy and determine if the City would benefit from greater financial support of the program.

Accomplishing Salt Lake City's Goals: The feral fix/TNR program can be considered necessary and appropriate to accomplish Salt Lake City's goals in the area of improvement of quality of life for City residents and the efficient delivery of municipal services. The feral fix/TNR program requires community support from those who care for the feral animals and thus embraces the City's goal to promote community-based problem solving.

¹² Appendix 15 ("Orange County, Florida," Alley Cat Allies fact sheet).

*The information in this study was taken largely from a paper delivered by Holly Sizemore of No More Homeless Pets in Utah, entitled "Why Trap/Neuter/Return in Salt Lake City."

RESOLUTION NO. _____ OF 2006
(ACCEPTING THE STUDY PERFORMED
IN COMPLIANCE WITH UTAH CODE SECTION 10-8-2
AND AUTHORIZING A \$10,000.00 CONTRIBUTION
TO NO MORE HOMELESS PETS IN UTAH TO SUPPORT
ITS "FERAL FIX PROGRAM" WITHIN SALT LAKE CITY

WHEREAS, the City Administration has recommended a contribution of \$10,000.00 from the City's Non-Departmental Budget to No More Homeless Pets in Utah to be used to support its "feral fix program" within Salt Lake City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received and reviewed a Study regarding said proposed contribution prepared by the City's Department of Management Services in compliance with the requirements of *Utah Code* Section 10-8-2, and public notice has been given at least 14 days prior hereto in a newspaper of general circulation within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the Study, and has fully considered the analysis and conclusions set forth therein, and all comments made during the public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

1. The City Council hereby adopts the conclusions set forth in the Study, and hereby finds and determines that, for all the reasons set forth in the Study, the net value to be received by the City by making this grant will constitute adequate consideration, or equivalent value, both tangible and intangible, for the benefit being provided by the proposed contribution;

2. In the judgment of the City Council, this appropriation will provide for the safety, health, prosperity, moral well-being, peace, order, comfort, or convenience of the inhabitants of Salt Lake City;

3. That \$10,000.00 be and is hereby appropriated from the City's Non-Departmental Budget to No More Homeless Pets in Utah to be used to support its "feral fix program" within Salt Lake City as described in the aforementioned Study.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, this _____ day of June, 2006.

SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL

By _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Salt Lake City Attorney's Office
Date 4/21/2006
By [Signature]