

Feline Folks



***Dedicated to Humane
Feline Management***

**King's Point Membership Meeting
October 19, 2007**

Free-Roaming Cats

Introduction

- Earlier this year some local residents met to discuss problem of free-roaming cats
- Gathered information on the problem
- Found that the problem is much larger than most people are aware

Problem Is Larger Than Most People are Aware

- For many years the county has pursued a policy of euthanasia to try and address the problem of free roaming cats.
- It has not been successful
- A cat can have several litters of kittens each year
- Average litter can be from 4 to 6 kittens
- Many pet owners are not getting their animals spayed or neutered and if these animals are abandoned or allowed to roam a night, they will add to the problem
- Communities that are most affected have large transient populations (trailer parks and apartments)

Problem Is Larger Than Most People are Aware

- Hillsborough Co. shelters are typically full (including C.A.R.E.), and they focus on adoptable pets, not ferals**
- Animal Services does not have the resources to solve the problem**
- County has highest euthanasia rate in State**
- One of the highest in the country**

Hillsborough County, FL Animal Services Statistics

- FY05
 - 19,586 cats impounded
 - 18,144 cats euthanized 93%
 - 788 cats adopted 4%
- FY06
 - 19,609 cats impounded
 - 18,266 cats euthanized 93%
 - 754 cats adopted 4%

Cost to Taxpayers to pick-up, house, euthanize and dispose of one (1) cat: \$160 = approximately **\$2.9 million annually**

ASPCA – Mission Orange

- ASPCA sent 5 experts to Tampa to work with Animal Services and local rescue groups to assess problem and provide meaningful direction
- Their report states there are over 200,000 free-roaming cats in the county
- One of their proposals to help reduce the number of free roaming cats is increase TNR (Trap, Neuter & Return)
- TNR is one of several programs being used successfully in other areas of the country and by other nations

Feline Folks

- Base on the information available, it is clear that the free-roaming cat issue is a significant problem
- Our group decided our first step was to form an organization that could work with the community to address the problem
- In July, we started a monthly educational program at the South Shore Regional Library



Mission

To provide meaningful direction and assistance for feline care and management and humanely reduce the free-roaming cat population.

Focus: South Shore Zip 33573

Community Problem

- This is not just another issue for the county to resolve.
- Resources available to the county are very limited and it is highly unlikely that they will be able to solve the problem in our community
- This is a community problem
- Problem is not going to go away on its own
- Only way we will be able successfully reduce the number of free-roaming cats in our area is to develop a comprehensive plan and then work together as a community to put that plan into effect

Feline Folks

With the membership's approval, Feline Folks would like to begin to work with the leadership in Kings Point to develop a comprehensive plan that would begin to reduce the number of free-roaming cats in the community and provide a long-term solution to this issue