

The Citizens' Working Group on Feral and Free-Roaming Cats presents the following Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, FL:

1. **Approve the Groups pursuit of Feral and Free-Roaming Cat Initiatives in Pinellas County, Florida** that accomplishes the following:
 - Humanely reduces the current feral/ free-roaming cat population,
 - Prevents free-roaming cats from becoming feral,
 - Encourages and elevates the status of feral and free-roaming cats back to that of a companion/pet with a residence and responsible owner/family.
2. Promote an education campaign that emphasizes the following points: necessity of early spay/neuter (by 5 months of age for kittens), benefits (to the cats, wildlife, and community) of keeping cats indoors, and the availability of low cost spay/neuter programs.
3. Provide input and advice to this campaign through existing resources (veterinary and media experts, county websites, flyers in utility bills, etc...) in accordance with any budgetary limits.
4. Continue to support and potentially expand the current spay/neuter programs of Animal Services (including the Animobile) directed towards low income citizens. Encourage humane organizations and local veterinarians to participate in similar programs and publicly recognize them for their contributions. The BOCC is also highly encouraged to explore the possibility of sharing county resources such as the Animobile with humane organizations conducting such programs.
5. Continue to support the current animal control code that requires owners to vaccinate, license, and prevent their cats from roaming free. This code also discourages leaving food or garbage outside where it attracts a variety of animals and encourages cats to free- roam and gravitate toward a feral existence.
6. Encourage private humane organizations to interact with citizens involved in TNR programs in order to work towards common goals that are in the best interest of the BOCC and citizens of Pinellas County. (Animal Services will not actively pursue anyone participating in the Group's cat initiatives; however, it will respond to any and all nuisance or related calls.) Our Group, on your behalf, has identified these goals as ones that humanely reduces the total number of free-roaming and feral cats in the County, encourage responsible ownership of all cats, minimize nuisance complaints attributed to free roaming cats, protect the health and safety of our citizens, protect the welfare of all cats as domestic and companion animals and give protection to our wildlife and encourage a peaceful co-existence between domestic cats and wildlife and among the residents of Pinellas County.