

Free Roaming Cat (FRC) Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Prepared by: Suzanne Roy

December 11, 2013

Members in attendance: Dewana Anderson (chair), Aviva Scully, Judy Miller, Suzanne Roy, Warren Porter.

Staff in attendance: Bob Marotto, Animal Services Director

UNC Kenan-Flagler Fellows in attendance: Steven Pray, Eleanor Nave, Maria Grimshaw

Public in Attendance: Five members of the public were in attendance.

1. Agenda approval

Agenda approved unanimously.

2. Public comments for items not on the agenda

None.

3. Process items

a. Meeting notification

- Meeting notifications and agendas will be posted online on the Orange County website under committees /Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB)/Subcommittees – Free Roaming cats
- Staff will look into adding the subcommittee membership to the website.

b. Meeting summaries

- Suzanne will be taking notes
- Meeting summaries will be posted online

c. Other

- Dewana has created a Google Drive for resources, studies, etc. on the FRC issue.

4. Task Force Goals and Timetables

The subcommittee engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the free roaming cat issue and task force goals. The subcommittee recognized that that addressing the FRC issue is a critical component of the Strategic Plan for managing pet overpopulation, which has

been approved by the ASAB and the Board of County Commissioners. The subcommittee also acknowledged that the current approach to managing FRC overpopulation is not working, and that better approaches are needed. Bob Marotto observed that we are with cats today where we were 25 years ago with dogs. Cats are the frontier in animal sheltering.

In the end, the members agreed on the following:

a. Goal

- ***Develop a set of recommendations based upon careful research and hearing from public. Went to ASAB for consideration. Recommended to BOCC for consideration.***
- **Make recommendation to the ASAB for a holistic, multifaceted approach to reduce the free-roaming cat population based on humane and effective alternatives to a trap and euthanize approach to the problem.**
- ***Base recommendations on the following:***
 - Is it worth it?
 - § Outcome (data) driven
 - § Measurement based
 - How can it be implemented?
 - § Partnerships – private, public, cross-country, departmental
 - § Financing?
 - Other considerations.
 - § Public Health Department
 - § Education – Community Cat-Human Bond
 - § Legal Implications
- Evaluate the following:
 - Terminology definitions (feral cat, feral colonies, TNR)

- [trap/neuter/release], caretaker, hoarder, etc.)
- The FRC situation in Orange County using statistical data and information from Independent Animal Rescue and other individuals or entities involved in TNR activities in the county.
 - Formulas for estimating the FRC population.
 - Model community programs in NC and beyond.
 - In NC: Beaufort County, Buncombe County, Wake County
 - In U.S.: Spartanburg, SC; San Jose, CA; New York City; Phoenix, AZ; Rhode Island; etc.
 - Model ordinances
 - Partnership opportunities
 - Legal framework
 - Public health concerns
 - Opportunities to promote the human/cat bond through outreach and education.

b. Timetable

Although there is urgency to the situation with the pending spring kitten season, the subcommittee is looking at an approximately 6 month timetable for its work. The committee set forth topics and areas for coverage at each of its next meetings:

- Meeting 2 (January 8, 2013, 6:45 p.m.)
 - Terminology
 - Local situation - data from Animal Services
 - Charge
- Meeting 3 (February 5, 2013, 6:45 p.m.)
 - Model Community Programs
 - Model Ordinances
 - Measures of Success
- Meeting 4
 - Local community situation
 - Community partners
- Meeting 5
 - Community listening session
- Meeting 6
 - Discuss recommendations and assignments for drafting report
- Meeting 7
 - Finalize and approve report

c. Assignments

The subcommittee made the following assignments to the UNC Fellows:

- Research neighboring community TNR efforts and models
 - Successful and unsuccessful
- Research other community legislation
- Research Financing efforts
- Research campaigns to tighten the bond between communities and cats

5. Meeting Adjourned 8:52 p.m.