

Three fluffy kittens are perched on a wooden ledge. The kitten on the left is orange and white with large, round eyes. The middle kitten is a tabby with a white chest and belly. The kitten on the right is also orange and white with large, round eyes. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

# **OCAS Non-Profit Board Fellows Project**

**March 26, 2014**



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# Team Overview

**Ellie Nave**



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# Setting the Scene



## Cat overpopulation is a national problem that must be addressed

- Nationwide – Approximately 5 - 7 million animals enter animal shelters every year, and approximately 3 - 4 million are euthanized (**70% of cats**).
- Less than 2% of cats are returned to owners
- The average number of litters a fertile cat produces is 1 – 2 a year; the average number of kittens is 4-6 per litter.





## TNR is a widely supported, researched and effective solution

|              | Cost Differences  | Effectiveness of Program   |
|--------------|---|--|
| TNR Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$50-60 per cat</li><li>• Annually = \$9 billion nationwide</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of Texas A&amp;M, a TNR program neutered 123 cats in 1 year and discovered no new kittens in the next year</li><li>• Berkeley and San Diego County: reported euthanasia rates for all cats have been reduced by 50%</li></ul> |
| Euthanasia   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$100 per cat</li><li>• Annually = \$16 billion nationwide</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption and euthanasia alone are ineffective solutions</li></ul>  |



**North Carolina**



## Wake County's Community Cat Initiative passed on June 4, 2012

### TNR Ordinance Highlights:

- Registration through TNRWake.org is encouraged but not required
- Responsibilities of community cat caregivers include:
  - Cats must be:
    - Trapped humanely
    - Deemed healthy by a veterinarian
    - Spayed/neutered and vaccinated for rabies and FVRCP,
    - Eartipped
  - Bites must be reported
- Responsibilities of Wake County Animal Services Division include:
  - Members of the public that contact WCAS about stray or community cats will be provided information and contacts at TNRWake
  - Complaints about eartipped cats will be referred to TNRWake, who will then assist in resolving the complaint



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

# TNRWake is comprised of several partner organizations in the surrounding area



**ALLEY CATS AND ANGELS**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA



**SPCA**  
OF WAKE COUNTY

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



**Shirley's Animal Ministry**  
*Helping dogs and cats*



Trap | Neuter | Return  
TNRWake.org



**SAFE HAVEN**  
Cat Shelter & Clinic

FOR CATS. FOR LIFE.

**Operation Catnip**  
Raleigh, NC

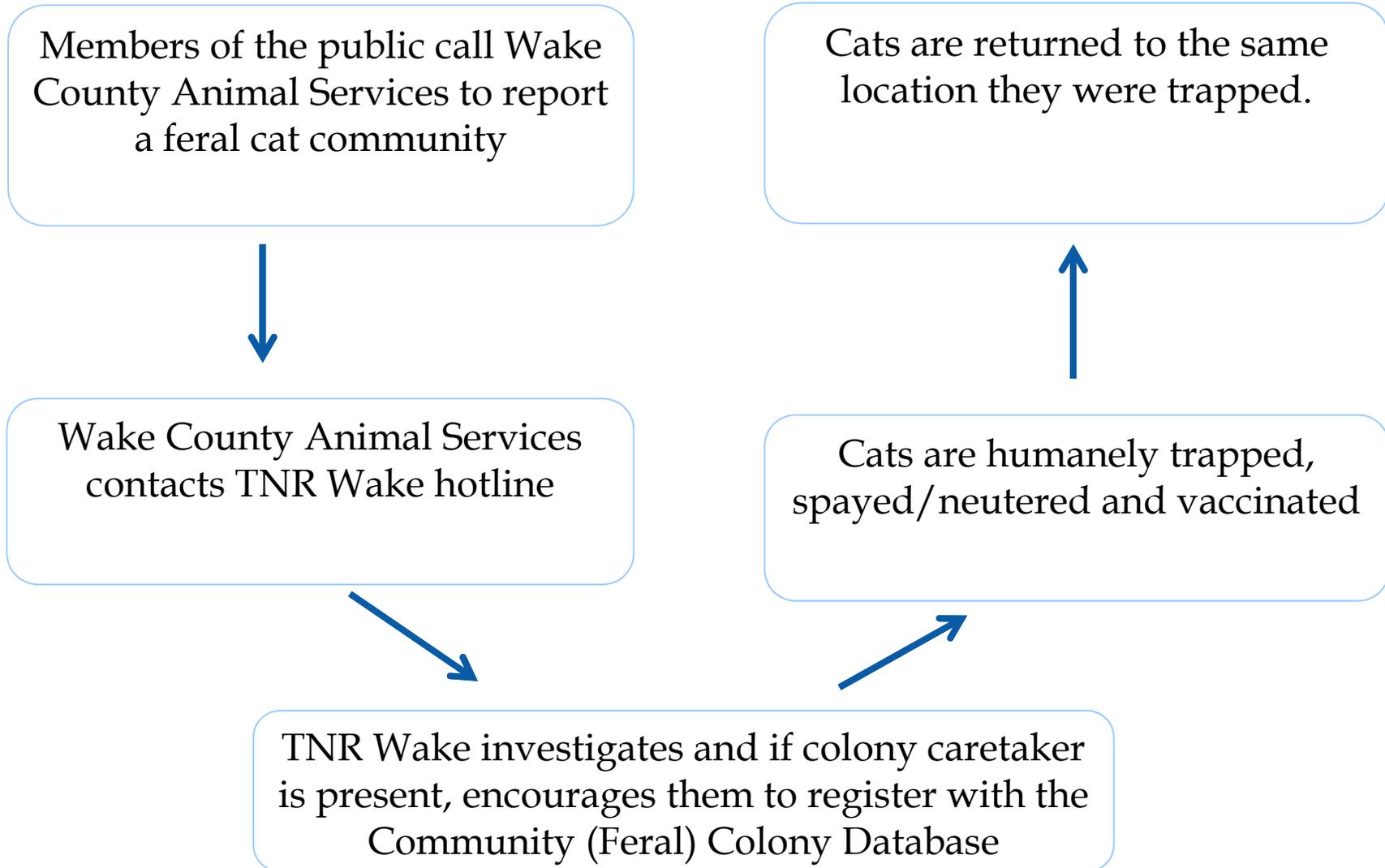


**Paw Prints**  
Animal Rescue

**CAT**  
**Angels**  
PET ADOPTIONS



## The Wake County TNR process is similar to other communities' processes





## Partner organizations are responsible for funding

### Individual Donations

- Local fundraising events
- E-mail marketing
- Direct mail

### Sponsorships

- TNR Wake is not a 501c3 organization but partner organizations each maintain their own status

### Grants

- PetSmart Charities has been a big supporter
- Potential for community-wide grant



# Robust community outreach efforts include both formal and informal initiatives



Cat colony  
outside animal  
shelter



Dedicated TNR  
and feral cat  
sections on  
websites



Animal control  
officers educate  
in the field



"TNR 101"  
classes for the  
public



Information  
tables at local  
events

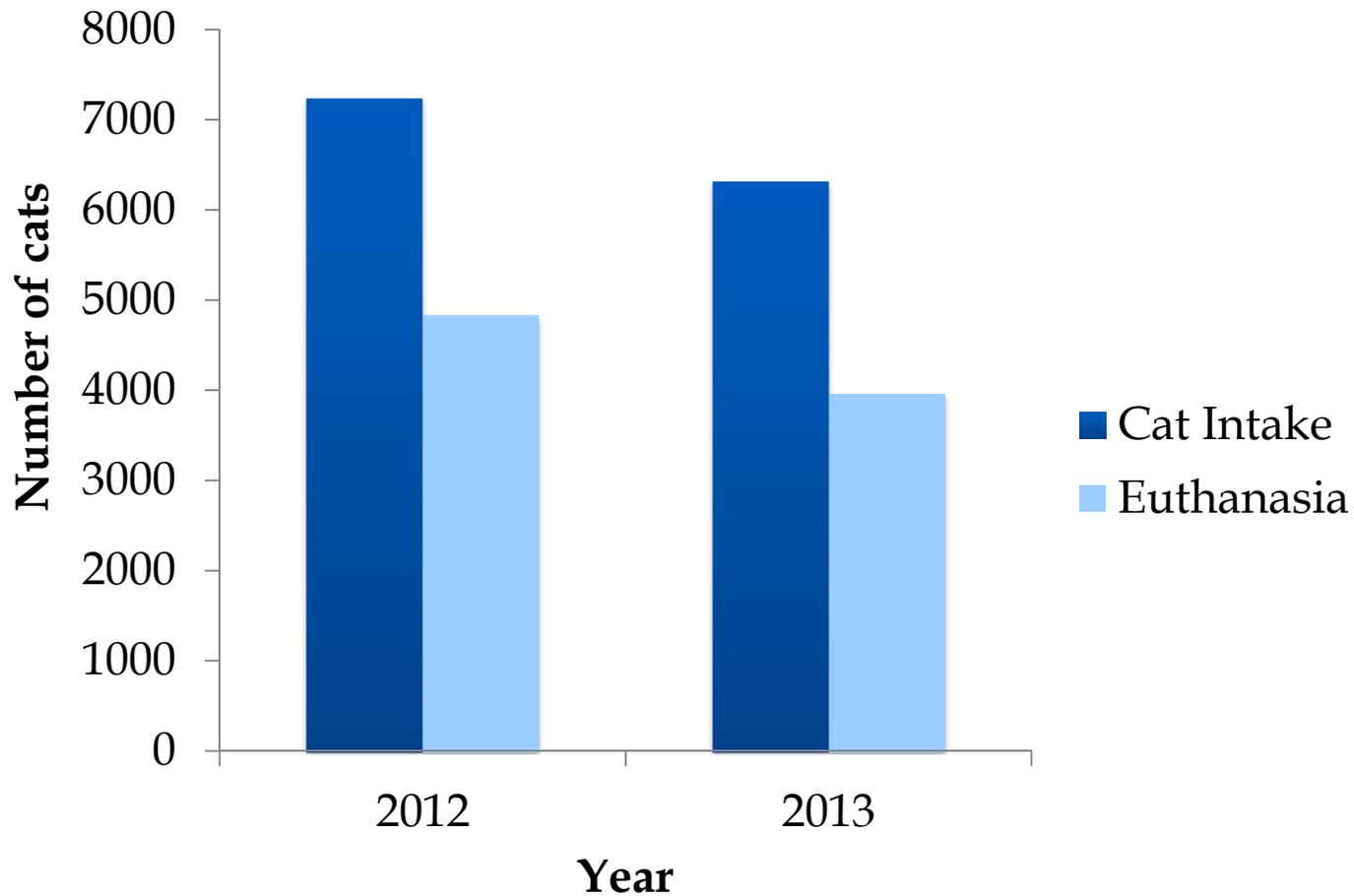


Feral cat  
feeding teams



## Wake County has already seen success

- Cat intake and euthanasia numbers were down from 2012 to 2013





## Wake County faces several challenges with the current program

### Coverage

- Raleigh, with a population of 423k, is not included in the ordinance

### Permanent Identification

- Microchips are not currently implanted in cats
- Leads to difficulty in identifying which cats need to be revaccinated, possible bites

### Capacity

- Operation Catnip no longer uses SPCA facilities and use of SAFE Haven facilities allows for less than half the spay/neuters per month

### Community Awareness and Support

- General lack of awareness
- Divided opinions on the subject
- Audubon Society was openly opposed during the time that the ordinance was passed



## However, a bright future lies ahead

- Wake County Animal Services and several partner organizations have come together to apply for a PetSmart grant
- Wake County Animal Services is seeking approval to perform TNR at the facility
- SAFE Haven and Operation Catnip plan to expand spay/neuter operation
  - Capacity has increased significantly at SAFE Haven
  - Intention to create second Sunday shift for Operation Catnip
  - Longer term goal to utilize Saturdays for TNR purposes



**Florida**



## Florida contains several communities with comprehensive TNR efforts

- Jacksonville, FL: In 2002, 70% of cats and dogs entering shelters were euthanized
- Miami Dade County: In 2011, 20,000 adoptable animals were euthanized
- 300,000 are euthanized in Florida each year
  
- Feral Freedom implemented in Jacksonville, FL
- A TNR program was implemented in Miami Dade County



## Florida TNR and Feral Freedom finds, vaccinates and IDs community cats

### Finding the Colonies

- Contact known colony feeders
- Track complaints from the public

### Medical Care

- Rabies vaccination given to as young as 12 weeks old
- Other vaccines dependent on grant funding
- Disease testing only done with the very visibly ill

### Identification

- Eartip
- Tattoo



## Active and passive outreach efforts solve the problem in different ways

Actively seek out and sterilize

Passively seek out and sterilize

Reduce euthanasia rates



## Comprehensive set of neutering programs allow TNR to have maximum impact

Neuter before adoption

Low-income targeted  
programs

Targeted programs for  
problem populations

**Comprehensive  
Set of Neutering  
Programs**

Feral Freedom program

Low-cost, high-volume  
spay/neuter for the general  
public

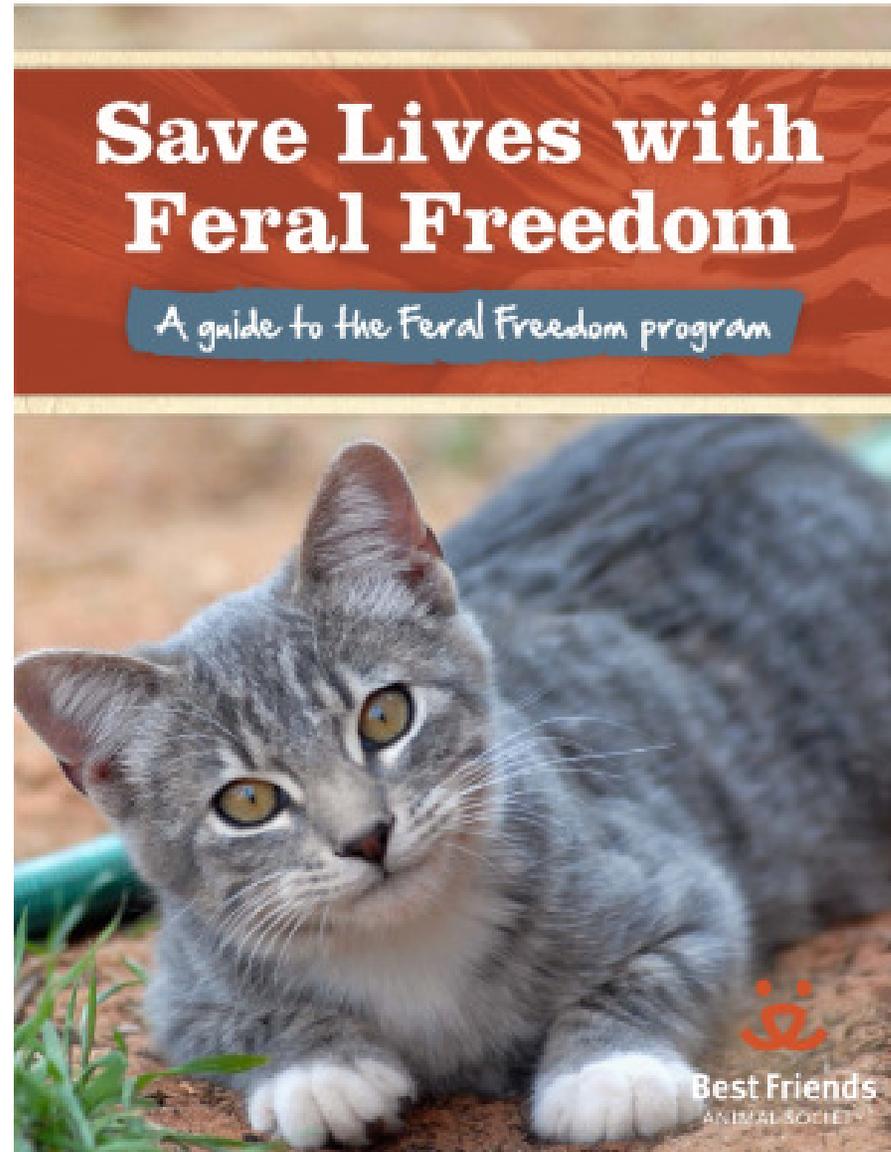
TNR programs at low cost  
to general public



## Best Friends Animal Society provides information on TNR best practices

A step by step guide to  
with resources regarding:

- Grants
- Public Support
- Ordinances





## Ordinances were first checked and changes were submitted by those implementing the programs

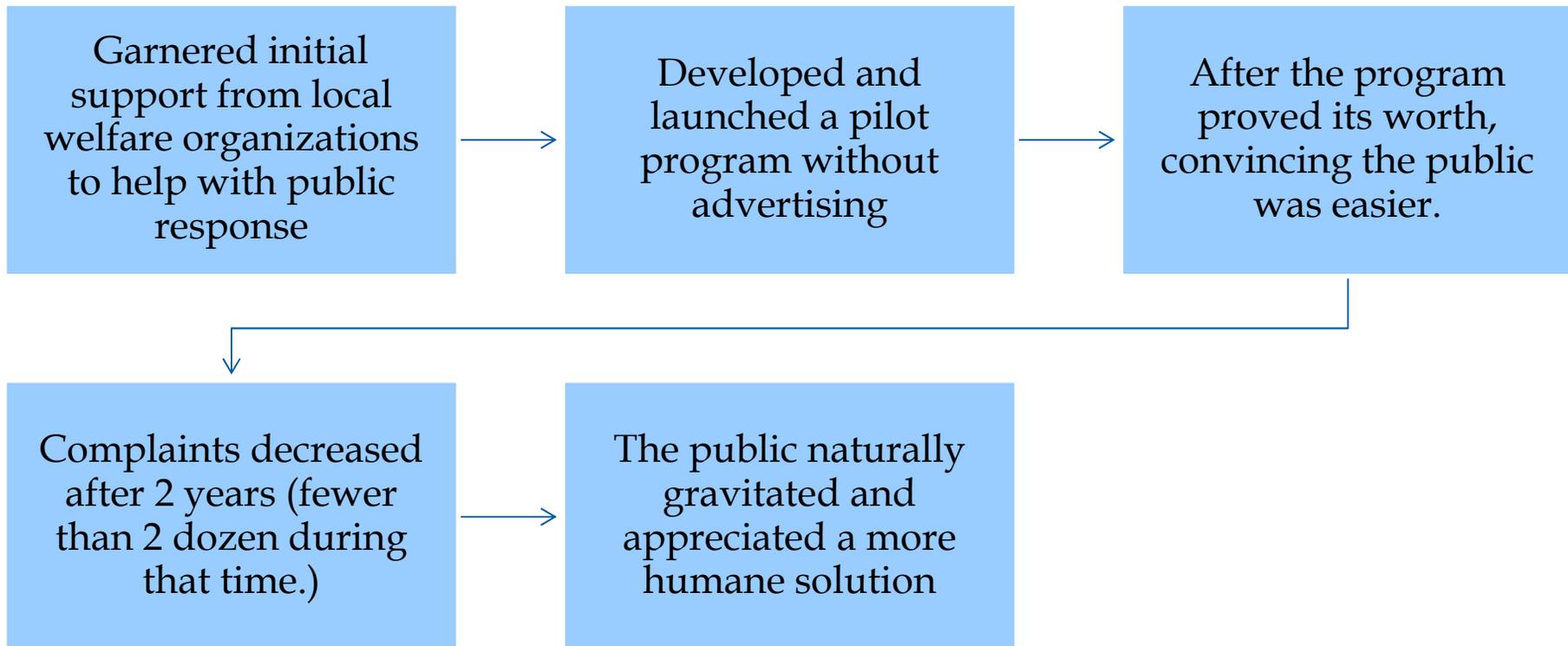
Ensure ordinance does not forbid a program.

Submit changes to ordinances if needed

Miami Dade eventually launched a no-kill initiative, passing ordinances that turned the shelter into a no-kill shelter.



# Working with the public was easier than anticipated





# Enacted the support of local Animal Control officers to continuously educate the public

When a cat was picked up, door hangers were left in the area.



### What Is A Feral Cat?

The City of Jacksonville has a new approach to controlling the feral cat population - **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)**. This program will directly affect the number of stray, outdoor and feral cats on our streets and help Jacksonville get its outdoor cat population under control.

### What is TNR? (Trap-Neuter-Return)

Outdoor cats are humanely trapped and brought to Animal Care & Control. Instead of being euthanized, these cats are turned over to FCNMHP for sterilization, vaccination, microchipping and left ear tipping. The left ear tip is the universal symbol of a sterilized feral cat (if trapped again, it could simply be released because you would know that it has already been "bied"). Once recovered from their vet care, the cats are returned to their home territory to continue living out their lives. Relocation doesn't work; removal of cats from an area opens up the territory for new cats to move in (this is known as the vacuum effect).

**Trap-Neuter-Return** is the most effective solution to controlling the feral cat population.

- It costs less taxpayer dollars to sterilize than to kill feral cats
- The population will be controlled with no new litters
- Population will decrease as feral cats live shorter lifespans than inside cats
- The cats are vaccinated against disease
- Annoying behaviors like howling, fighting and marking territory will stop or decrease dramatically
- It's humane

Visit [www.fcnmhp.org](http://www.fcnmhp.org) for more information on feral cats and tips for a better life for you and the cats in your neighborhood. Call us today to learn more about the low cost spay/neuter surgeries and pet wellness services that we provide.



**NEED HELP?**  
CALL OUR HOTLINE

**904-425-0005**

6817 Norwood Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32208



## Feral Freedom program is financed through local government support and grants

### Costs

- \$50 per cat for TNR program.

### Cost Benefit Analysis

- Done to compare costs of TNR vs euthanasia
- Feral Fiscal Impact Calculator or Fiscal Impact of TNR Calculator
- Helps determine number of cats and cost differentials

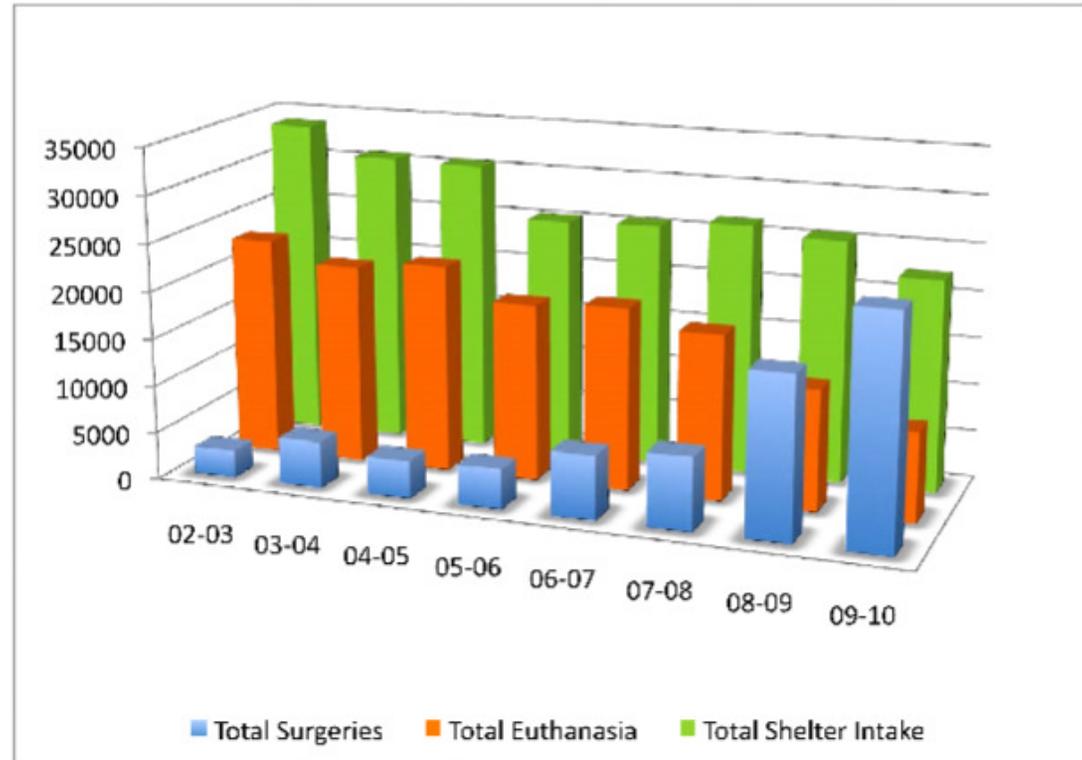
### Funding

- Reallocating funds from current budget
- By not holding cats for 5 days before euthanizing, the shelter saved \$50 on each cat, canceling these costs.
- Grants, Voucher System, Property Taxes



## Increasing the volume of spay/neuter surgeries affects admissions and euthanasia statistics

- Success was tracked by number of feral cats sterilized
- Minimal data was stored on a spreadsheet.
- There was little reported impact on wildlife.



|                      | 02-03  | 03-04  | 04-05  | 05-06  | 06-07  | 07-08  | 08-09  | 09-10  |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Surgeries      | 2,910  | 4,937  | 4,000  | 4,232  | 6,775  | 7,744  | 17,062 | 24,111 |
| Total Euthanasia     | 23,104 | 21,004 | 21,886 | 18,690 | 19,242 | 17,430 | 12,744 | 9,500  |
| Total Shelter Intake | 33,847 | 30,862 | 30,658 | 25,355 | 25,616 | 26,443 | 25,603 | 22,359 |



**South Carolina**



## Overview of Spartanburg, SC Program



### Prior to TNR

- Population: 39,000, 2 animal control officers
- Euthanizing 100% of feral cat population, which was increasing each year



### Program operated by Police Department - Animal Control

- Partnered with local non-profit, Animal Allies, for spay/neuters
  - Bidded out the request to local veterinarians and low cost spay & neuter clinics
  - 10 volunteers to assist with trapping cats



### Targeted Spay & Neuter

- Executed a targeted TNR based on past 2 years data of nuisance calls
- Utilized a GIS Map to reference the nuisance calls and known cat colonies

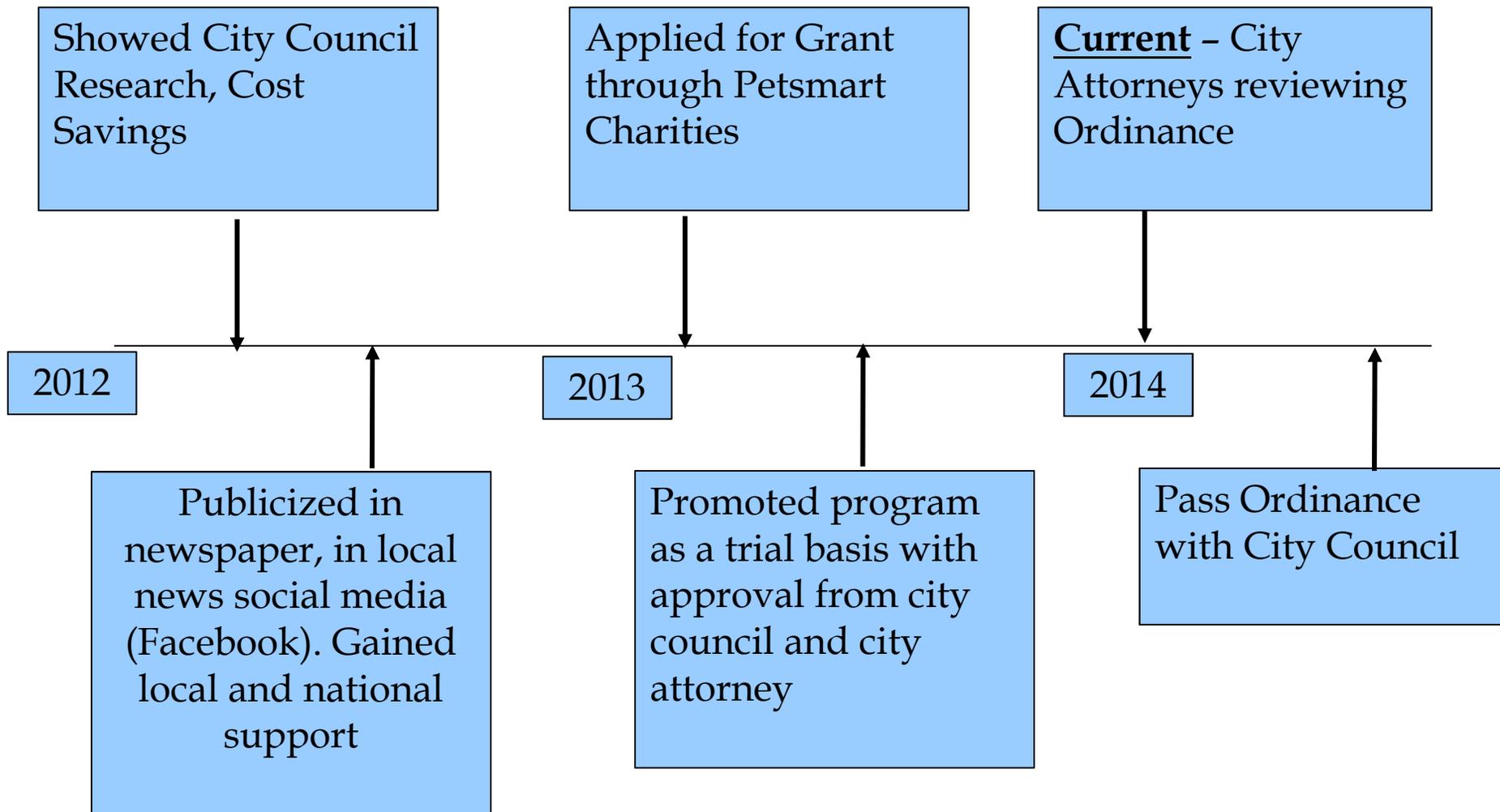


### Free Roaming Cats

- All "free roaming cats" were given: rabies, distemper, ear tipped, tattoo and released to the same area they were trapped
- Cats that could be treated were given care by Animal Allies (donations)



## Promoted and operated a trial program prior to passing an ordinance





## Grant plus non-profit partnership made program financially feasible

| <b>Grants</b>   | <b>Partnership with Non-Profit</b>  | <b>Taxpayer Funds</b>                         | <b>Financial Analysis</b>   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>\$38,000 grant through Petsmart Charities for 750 cats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HSUS has a formula to calculate</li><li>• Gas, advertisements, etc.</li><li>• \$5000 of the grant was unused – received permission to spay/neuter extra cats</li></ul> | <p>Bidded out the low cost spay/neuter to providers, vets in the areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$45 per cat</li></ul> | <p>No taxpayer funds used for spay/neuter</p> | <p>Reduce intake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 400 cats by animal control</li><li>• 400 cats from the public</li></ul> |



## Other key considerations of Free Roaming Cat Program

### Success of Program

- Success = ↓ in cat intake; ↓ in shelter expenses
- Overall believed to be a success, but unable to determine costs savings until Year 2
- Nuisance calls down 75% from 2013

### Records

- Animal department & Animal Allies use Petpoint,
- Animal allies maintains the rabies info, cats that are brought in by volunteer, spay and neuter

### Impact on Wildlife

- Placed cameras in known feral cats areas to see if they affected the bird population
  - No clear impact
- Met with Audubon society - initially had some reservations, but now no complaints



# Overview of Charleston South Carolina Free Roaming Cat Program



## Prior to TNR

- Population: 350,000; 20 animal control officers
- Based on in-take of cats – 4 years of increasing number of intakes
- Framed program as an animal control issue, not save the cats



## Charleston Animal Society

- Operated under local humane society – Charleston Animal Society



## Trap, Vaccinate, Alter and Release (T.V.A.R.)

- All “free roaming cats” were given: rabies, vaccinated, microchipped and returned to a 300 foot radius of where they were trapped or to a cat colony (self-identified caretaker)



## “Free roaming cats”

- Free roaming cat: feral and stray cats (unwanted or abandoned) living outdoors
- Extremely sick cats, as determined by medical director, will not be accepted into program



## Once County Ordinance passed, public support of the program increased significantly

1. Free roaming cats shall be allowed in Charleston County as long as all of the following requirements are met:
  - (a) Cat must be spayed or neutered.
  - (b) Cat must be microchipped.
  - (c) Cat must be vaccinated for rabies, feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia.
  - (d) Cat must be ear tipped.

B. The Charleston Animal Society ("CAS") shall be the designated shelter and will work with the Humane Net Collaboration to develop rules and regulations for the Program. CAS shall create and develop rules and regulations for the Program. These rules and regulations shall be reviewed by County Council and, if approved, adopted by resolution of County Council prior to implementation of the Program.

C. The County may review the Program two (2) years after its inception to assess its functionality and success.



## Promoted the program through English and Spanish fliers

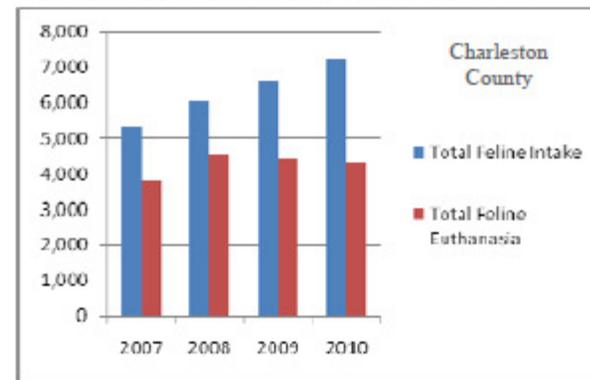


### Help Us Reduce Free-Roaming Cats!

The past and current strategy of “catching and killing” free-roaming cats has failed. Their numbers continue to grow. Adding Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to current strategies will stabilize the cat population!

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most effective and humane solution to controlling the free-roaming cat population.

- It costs less taxpayer dollars to sterilize than to kill feral cats.
- The population will be controlled with no new litters.
- Population will decrease as feral cats live shorter life spans than inside cats.
- The cats are vaccinated against disease.
- Annoying behaviors like howling, fighting, marking territory and subsequent odors will stop or decrease dramatically.





## Financial impact of program outweighs euthanasia-only programs

- Financed by the ASPCA for the first 3 years
  - Approximately \$50,000, plus received additional grant funding
- Petsmart Charities grant:
  - More targeted areas- hot spots identified by animal control
  - Does not entire program, but CAS will not turn away for spay/neuter
- Recommendation:
  - The organization with larger the budget, the more likely they will receive a larger grant
  - Petsmart Charities wants to a large volume of cats to be S/N

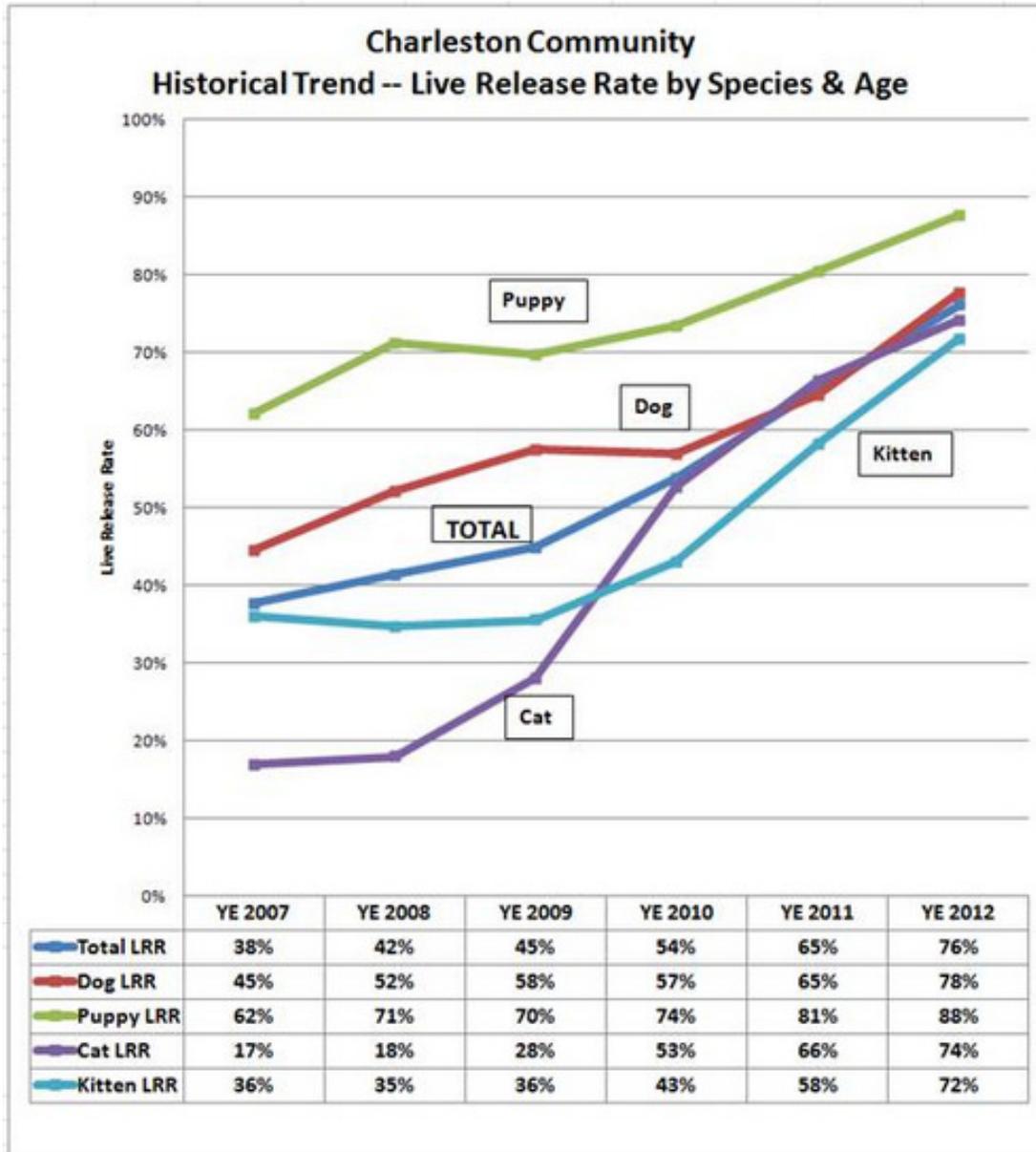
### Cost Analysis:

- Savings of \$50,000 after 2 years
- Fewer # of cats coming into the system





## After only a few years, the program showed clear success



- Live Release - 17% in 2007 to 66% in 2011
- Increase in spay/neuter from less than 1,800 cats in 2007 to more than 6,300 cats in 2011
- Adoptions increased 60% since 2007



## Other key considerations of Free Roaming Cat Program

### Success of Program

- Highly supportive: surprised by the public's active involvement in bringing in cats
- Opposition – one or two bird enthusiasts (not a biologist), but could not bring forward any reasoning
- Measure overall feline cats intake and juvenile cat intake (charts from 2007) long term trends

### Records

- Use Petpoint for intake and all data
- Return to field (cat surrendered to org.) microchipped to organization
- Colony cat (not surrendered) – microchipped to caretaker

### Impact on Wildlife & Public Perception

- Did not measure
- Popular program

Three fluffy kittens are perched on a wooden ledge. The kitten on the left is orange and white with large, expressive eyes. The middle kitten is a tabby with a white chest and belly. The kitten on the right is also orange and white, looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'Key Takeaways and Next Steps' is overlaid in the center in a bold, black, serif font.

# Key Takeaways and Next Steps



## Key Takeaways and Next Steps

### Key Takeaways

- TNR initiatives have been effective in reducing feral cat populations
- Public support has generally been positive, especially when combined with outreach and education efforts
- Partnership between government and non-profit organizations is beneficial

### Next Steps

- Gain community and government support for TNR ordinance in Orange County
- Partner with organizations in the area
- Apply for funding
- Curate educational and outreach materials for the public



# Appendix



# Wake County TNR Ordinance

## COMMUNITY CAT INITIATIVE

### § 91.40 COMMUNITY CATS.

The County of Wake adopts this community cat initiative subchapter.

(Ord. passed 6-4-2012)

### § 91.41 TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN PROGRAMS.

(A) Organizations or individuals that engage in Trap-Neuter-Return are encouraged to register through a sponsoring organization. Organizations performing or supporting Trap-Neuter-Return in Wake County shall identify and nominate a community cat sponsoring organization, which shall be recognized by the Wake County Environmental Services Director or his designee.

(B) The community cat sponsoring organization shall make available to the public information about Trap-Neuter-Return and feral cats, shall attempt to notify the appropriate community cat caregiver when notified by the Animal Services Division about an impounded eartipped cat, and shall provide a single point of contact to the Animal Services Division for the coordination of Trap-Neuter-Return, calls about large cats, and calls about complaints related to community cats.

(C) Responsibilities of the community cat caregiver:

- (1) Cats must be trapped using humane trapping techniques;
- (2) Cats must be assessed by a veterinarian and deemed healthy at the time of spay/neuter surgery;
- (3) Cats must be spayed or neutered;
- (4) Cats must be vaccinated for rabies and FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia);
- (5) Cats must be eartipped;
- (6) Cat bites must be reported to Wake County Animal Control.

(D) Responsibilities of Wake County Animal Services Division.

(1) Persons that contact Wake County Animal Services about stray or community cats shall be provided information about Trap-Neuter-Return and referred to the community cat sponsoring organization.

(2) When a person contacts Wake County Animal Services with a complaint about an eartipped community cat, county staff will contact the community cat sponsoring organization for assistance in resolving the complaint.

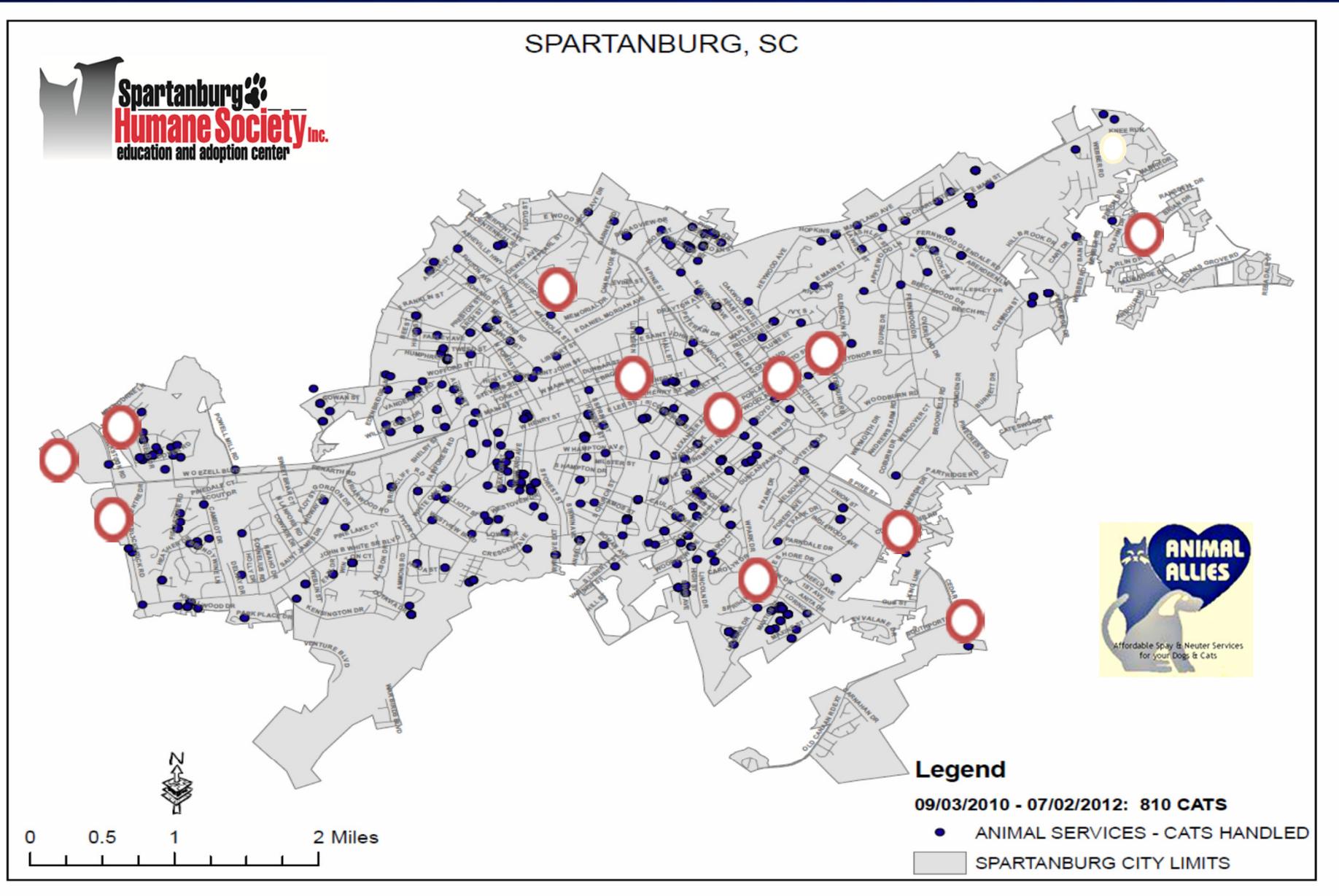
(Ord. passed 6-4-2012)



## Example of projected balance sheet for Feral Freedom program

| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                | <b>COST</b>      |
|--|------------------|
| Transport van, new                             | \$25,000         |
| Van modifications                              | 3,000            |
| Trap supply (200 @ \$65 per trap)              | 13,000           |
| Feral dens (20 @ \$85 per den)                 | 1,700            |
| <b>Total startup costs</b>                     | <b>\$42,700</b>  |
| <br>   |                  |
| Staff (60 hours per week @ \$9 per hour)       | \$28,080         |
| Payroll taxes, workers' compensation           | 2,000            |
| Gas, maintenance                               | 850              |
| Food, cleaning supplies                        | 8,000            |
| Auto insurance                                 | 1,560            |
| 30 traps (shrinkage)                           | 1,400            |
| Forms, brochures, printing                     | 1,950            |
| Surgeries (3,000 @ \$45 per surgery)           | 135,000          |
| <b>Total annual operating costs (approx.):</b> | <b>\$178,840</b> |

# Spartanburg, SC Animal Services - Feral Cat Research



810 Cat Complaint Incidences – Two Years