

From: Bob Marotto
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 9:17 AM
To: David Stancil
Subject: Animal Services: Wildlife & Free-Roaming Cats in Orange County

David,

We are reaching out to environmental or conservation groups based and/or active in Orange County to invite them to participate in an upcoming meeting about free-roaming cats and wildlife. The meeting is part of the effort of a task force of the Animal Services Advisory Board seeking to address free-roaming cats as a component part of the county's pet overpopulation problem.

I'm not sure whether the issue of potential and actual conflicts between cats and wildlife is "on your radar." It is an issue that has percolated since research was done suggesting that outdoor cats prey on many different kinds of wildlife (including native species) and that their predation may have substantial impacts on wildlife. A recent NYT op-ed along with responding letters gives you a sense of some of the current discussion of this issue (<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/31/opinion/a-lively-debate-over-outdoor-cats.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>).

I believe we have contact with the local Audubon Society and the Arboretum as well as some of the subject matter experts including Wildlife Resource Commission staff. But I thought you might have some suggestions and we would greatly appreciate any you might make.

Thank you,

Bob

***Bob Marotto, Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY TO HOST FREE-ROAMING CAT TASK FORCE INPUT SESSIONS

Orange County, NC (March 31, 2014)—The Orange County Animal Services Free-Roaming Cat Task Force, a subcommittee of the Animal Services Advisory Board, will offer upcoming interactive sessions for community organizations and stakeholders. The last of these is a general public input session.

The sessions began on March 5 and have been designed to gain input and valuable information. The first session was designed to seek input from various community partners and stakeholders that included include low-cost spay/neuter groups, veterinarians and veterinary personnel, educators, and others.

Upcoming sessions are as follows:

- Wednesday, April 9 – Cat Caretakers & Free-Roaming Cats
- Wednesday, April 23 – Wildlife and conservation professionals
- Wednesday, May 7 – A Listening Session with the General Public About Free-Roaming Cats

All sessions will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will be held in the Community Room of the Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill. Sessions are open to the public and filled on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information about the Free-Roaming Cat Task Force and the Animal Services Advisory Board, please visit <http://www.orangecountync.gov/animalservices>