

State of New Jersey
Fish and Game Council
and
Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Joint Resolution on Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) and Free-Ranging Domestic Cats

January 20, 2010

WHEREAS, free-ranging domestic cats are a non-native, invasive predator species; and

WHEREAS, free-ranging domestic cats annually kill millions of native birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and

WHEREAS, free-ranging domestic cats are a threat to the survival of endangered and threatened species, those that are considered rare, those designated as being of special concern, and other native wildlife; and

WHEREAS, free-ranging domestic cats kill many of the species that serve as prey for a variety of native wildlife, including raptors, which, by depriving these native species of valuable food unnecessarily compounds the difficulty of their survival, and places unnecessary stress on the larger ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, supplemental feeding and the trap-neuter-release of domestic cats does not significantly reduce the negative impacts on natural resources as even well-fed cats still kill native wildlife; and

WHEREAS, domestic cat colonies are sometimes established in areas that are considered to be of little wildlife value but, in fact, these areas provide temporary, essential resting and foraging areas for migrant species, especially birds; and

WHEREAS, any time large numbers of animals congregate in one area, as in domestic cat colonies, there is an increased risk for the spread of diseases, including feline leukemia, toxoplasmosis, and rabies, among others; and

WHEREAS, food provided for free-ranging cats also attracts skunks, raccoons, black bears and other species that are capable of contracting and/or spreading rabies through interactions with vector species; and

WHEREAS, these diseases not only endanger native wildlife, but rabies, toxoplasmosis and other diseases also pose significant health risks to people; and

WHEREAS the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians has stated that there is no evidence that colony management programs will reduce diseases; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-14 makes it illegal to intentionally leave out food that can be accessed by or attract bears; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Fish and Game Council and the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee do not support non-native, invasive domestic cats being allowed to roam freely anywhere in New Jersey.