

**New Jersey Fish and Game Council Resolution on Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR)
and Free-ranging Domestic Cats**

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, and also those that are considered rare and those designated as being of special concern; 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, the “management” (supplemental feeding, trap-neuter-release, etc.) of domestic cat colonies does not moderate unacceptable negative impacts on natural resources as even well-fed cats still kill native wildlife and in fact, are in better physical condition and therefore better able to 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 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, NJSA 23:2A-14 makes it illegal to intentionally leave out food that can be accessed by or attractive to bears; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Fish and Game Council does not support non-native, invasive domestic cats being allowed to roam freely anywhere in New Jersey.