New Business #8

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Chairman Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	Thursday, April 10, 2014	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of the Fayette County Humane Society's request to conduct a trial Trap / Neuter / Return feral cat program and to apply for Trap / Neuter / Return grant funds to pay for the trial project.

Background/History/Details:

The Fayette County Humane Society is seeking to obtain approval from the Fayette County Board of Commissioners to conduct a trial Trap / Neuter / Return (TNR) feral cat program, and is seeking approval to apply for TNR grant funds to pay for the trial project.

Potential test sites for this program would are the Fayette Pavilion shopping center and business district, Bryson Lane in Fayetteville, the Highway 85 connector near Brooks, and the Paschal and Dividend Drive industrial area of Peachtree City.

The Fayette Humane Society is able to obtain multiple grant awards for this project. The goal of this project is to lower Fayette County's costs, for the Fayette County Humane Society pay for the project, to utilize volunteer labor and freeing Fayette County Animal Control resources, to reduce concerns about diseases among the animals, to sterilize the animals, to motivate animal lovers to help partner with the Fayette County Animal Control in order to save the cats, and, ultimately, to be more humane to the cats.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Fayette County Humane Society's request to conduct a trial Trap / Neuter / Return feral cat program and to apply for Trap / Neuter / Return grant funds to pay for the trial project.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable. The Fayette County Humane Society will be responsible for all necessary funding for this project.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) Test Site Proposal to Fayette County Commissioners

by Fayette Humane Society (FHS) and
Fayette County Animal Control (FCAC)

April 2014

Purpose

To obtain approval from the Fayette County Board of Commissioners to conduct a trial Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) feral cat program, and approval to apply for TNR grant funds to pay for the trial project.

The Problem

- Estimated 20,000 feral cats in Fayette County.
- Cats reproduce exponentially.
- Current program—trap and euthanize--is not controlling the population.
- Cost to taxpayers to trap and euthanize one feral cat: $100. Approximately $48,000 spent on euthanasia in 2013.

The Solution - TNR

- Trap all members of a colony.
- Fix, eartip, and vaccinate.
- Adopt out kittens and tame strays.
- Return feral cats to original site and monitor.
- Sterilization prevents new births, existing population keeps away most new arrivals; colony stabilizes and eventually shrinks by attrition.

Eartip = ¼ inch straight line cut off tip of left ear
Indicates this cat has been sterilized and vaccinated.

TNR Success Stories

TNR proven most effective way to reduce feral cat population:

Indianapolis, IN – intake down 37%, euthanasia down 29%

Jacksonville, FL – intake down 66%, euthanasia down 41%

San Francisco, CA – intake down 28%, euthanasia down 71%

Fayette County (unofficial):

- 8 feral sites
- 529 cats fixed and vaccinated over 2-5 years; colonies reduced to 286

Proposed Trial

Test Sites

- Fayette Pavilion shopping center and business district (25-50 cats)
- Bryson Lane, Fayetteville residence (30-40 cats)
- Highway 85 connector rural residential area near Brooks (25-50 cats)
- Paschal and Dividend Drive industrial area in Peachtree City (20-25 cats)

Measurement

- Initial population at site
- Number fixed
- New arrivals and births
- Attrition data
- Behavior observation / complaints
- Resident feedback

Grants Supporting TNR

- **ASPCA - $2K to $10K**
- **Best Friends Animal Society – $5 to 10K**
- **Petco Foundation - $2K – $10K**
- **PetSmart Charities – $10K to $100K**
- **Alley Cat Allies - $1k (requires full cooperation from local animal shelter to work toward no-kill policy)**

FHS can receive multiple grant awards.

$10K fixes 400 cats (includes rabies & ear tip)

Benefits of Implementing TNR

- Lower costs to county ($35 to fix and vaccinate vs. $100 to trap and kill).
- FHS pays, not taxpayers.
- Volunteer labor; frees FCAC resources.
- Vaccination minimizes concerns about disease.
- Sterilization eliminates much unwanted behavior (thus, fewer cat complaints).
- Animal lovers more likely to ask for help and partner with FCAC when they know cats will not be killed.
- TNR is more humane.