



TALKING POINTS – *Secretary Landgraf*
Community Cats Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release press conference
July 29, 2015, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Newark Municipal Building - in the Atrium
220 E. Main St.
Newark, DE 19711

Good morning. I'd like to congratulate and thank Forgotten Cats and PetSmart Charities for their coordinated efforts to minimize the free-roaming cat population in Newark, New Castle, and Bear.

The Division of Public Health, under which the Office of Animal Welfare operates, is unique in that we manage programs to protect and improve the lives of people as well as companion animals in Delaware. We recognize the power of the human-animal bond and how important it is in the overall health and well-being of Delaware's families and communities.



Our shared goal is to humanely eliminate the free-roaming cat population and decrease the spread of rabies. The only proven, effective approach to do this is to conduct large-scale, targeted sterilization and vaccination programs, called TNVR: trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return.

TNVR projects result in healthier cats and healthier communities by ending the breeding cycle. By sterilizing a substantial percentage of community cats in a targeted area, TNVR prevents the birth of more unwanted cats. The population of cats gradually declines.

There are an estimated 60,000 free-roaming cats in Delaware. How can there be that many feral, stray, and even lost cats in our small state?



Consider that one female cat can have three or more litters every year. And, each kitten can begin to reproduce as young as four months of age – actually, while still a kitten.

Each year, one un-sprayed female and her mate can produce up to three litters totaling 9 kittens or more. If the female cat keeps having kittens, and these kittens have their own litters, there could be over 2,000 resulting free-roaming cats after four years.

Under a TNVR program, for every cat that will be fixed, we eliminate hundreds of unwanted kittens that would add to this statistic.



A very big thank you to PetSmart Charities for their generous support of TNVR in Delaware and to Forgotten Cats for their “boots on the round” work to make a difference in the quality of life and health of the Delaware cat population.

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TALKING POINTS – *Dr. Rattay*
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Delaware Public Health is so pleased to be a part of this effort through our Office of Animal Welfare.

Hetti Brown and Secretary Landgraf discussed the many benefits of TNVR. It also increases our protection against zoonotic diseases like rabies. Rabies is a preventable viral disease most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal which is ultimately fatal without immediate treatment. Rabies can rapidly move through an animal community and spread to other animals and humans if not stopped.



The American Public Health Association recognizes Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs as the preferred management method to control the number of community cats over time. And the American Public Health Association recommends that public agencies work with local animal protection and rescue groups to implement well-designed TNVR programs.

TNVR is widely adopted by municipalities throughout the country and here in Delaware. Harrington and Delaware City are the latest towns to successfully implement TNVR and abandon old “catch and kill” methods. The Division Public Health is pleased that Newark has joined the list of Delaware municipalities that support TNVR, and we appreciate Newark’s cooperation and support in making this project a success.



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