



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Request for Trap, Neuter and Release Cat Program**

**Prepared By: Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer**

**Department: By-Law**

**Date: Sep. 8, 2021**

**Report Number: BLE-2021-09-15**

**File Number:**

**C-11 BLE21**

**Attachments: Letter to address the Feeding Wildlife and Feral Animal By-law**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number BLE-2021-09-15 prepared by Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer AND does not support a trap-neuter-return program for the Township at this time.

### **Background:**

At the June 21, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting, staff was directed to bring forward a report on potential mechanisms to control the feeding and gathering of stray cats on an individual's property as a result from received nuisance and safety complaints regarding a resident making food available for stray cats in the Point Clark area.

On August 16, 2021, the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law No. 2021-93 was passed prohibiting citizens from feeding wildlife and feral cats and leaving food accessible to these animals or in a way that attracts them.

On Monday August 27, 2021, a letter from Karen McDonald, Laura Dahmer and Doug Dahmer received by the Township addressing the By-law. This letter indicates that they do not believe there is any "danger" to the public involved with the previous complaint made to Council. They oppose the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-law and suggest a trap, neuter, and release program would be more effective at controlling the cat population.

### **Discussion:**

Staff reviewed the programs that were provided in the letter including the idea of a trap, neuter, vaccinate and release program. Administering a new program would come with additional costs and increase staff workload.

The Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals is not intended to be cruel or inhumane, the intent is to stop residents from feeding wildlife and feral animals to disperse the concentrated population and aid in health and disease control of the neighbourhood that was residents' concern.

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no financial implications at this time.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer