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TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS

Concerned Citizens
Huron Kinloss

Municipality of Huron Kinloss
21 Queen Street
Ripley, ON
N0G 2R0

For the purpose of this letter please refer to the following terms & definitions

Feral cat - a cat that has no owner, is not socialized and is extremely fearful or resistant to humans.

Stray cat - a cat who has been abandoned but is socialized to humans.

TNR program a trap-neuter-return - ("TNR") program that traps feral cats, sterilizes and returns them to the locations where they were found.

Caretaker residents who voluntarily care for the homeless outdoor cats in their neighborhoods.

Dear Municipality of Huron Kinloss;

As residents and tax payers of Huron Kinloss we would like to address the suggested bylaw recently proposed in the local newspaper.

This article states that the proposed by law would prohibit "feeding of wildlife or feral animals" & leaving of food outdoors, with a penalty fine of \$250.

We do not agree that there is any "Danger" to the public involved in this complaint. Therefore, Since the complaint was about feeding "**stray cats**" specifically; we assume that the intention of this bylaw would be to eliminate the stray/feral cat population in Huron Kinloss.

While counsel may think this is a solution to a problem; it is actually a very unnecessary, cruel and inhumane act to starve out a stray/feral cat community.

Many communities across Ontario & Canada as a whole, have effectively controlled the stray/feral cat communities through a simple but effective program called **TNR program (Trap, Neuter, Release)**. Yes, there is a cost associated with this program, but that is what responsible, educated, informed communities do. Instigating neighbors to report neighbor's for caring of **stray/feral** cats is definitely not promoting community spirit and should be voted against simply for that reason alone. This is a promotion of unkind deeds; it is greedy, inhumane, uneducated and completely irresponsible.

Why do we feel so strongly about this? For over 30 years a group of **"caregivers"** in the Kincardine/Huron Kinloss area have quietly kept hundreds of **stray/feral** cats alive through harsh winters by setting out shelters & food on our porches. **Feral** also means "fearful" & many of these cats were domesticated pets that became lost or unfortunately dropped off. The cats we care for eventually learn to trust or we live trap them and take them to the vets at our own expense then rehome them or keep them as pets.

What you are suggesting is **caregivers** completely ignore these animals who could actually be a lost pet in the community. You are suggesting that we starve them out, let them become sick, and die a slow miserable death. Starving out a community of cats will not work because cats will travel miles to find another source of food. As responsible pet owners we leave kibble and water out on our porch during the day to ensure our animals who spend a lot of time outdoors are fed and well hydrated. As pet owners that is our right to feed our animals, but your proposed bylaw suggests this would result in a fine and that is not OK. This bylaw will be ineffective, as it is impossible to manage, control or prove and will only cause hardship and division amongst neighbors in our community.

TNR programs are a humane approach to population control, have been around for a long time & proven successful. Consider these reports and links from other successful communities.

https://www.animalalliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/7129_Feral-Report_2018_V2-SM-rev-FINAL.pdf

<https://www.ontariosheltermedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/List-of-TNR-groups-in-Ontario.pdf>

<https://kwsphumane.ca/services/trap-neuter-return>

https://feralcatrescue.ca/About_us.html

To conclude, for reasons stated above, we as residents of Huron/Kinloss oppose this suggested by law, & would like this proposal removed.

Sincerely,

Karen McDonald



Laura Dahmer

