



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street, 8th Floor
Queens, NY 11101-4132

+ 1 347 396 4100 tel

**Statement of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
on the Preconsidered Intro. related to trap-neuter-return (TNR) information
and activities in New York City**

Submitted to the City Council Committee on Health

August 17, 2012

Thank you Chairperson Arroyo and members of the New York City Council Health Committee for this opportunity to submit written comments today on the Preconsidered Intro related to trap-neuter-return (TNR) information and activities in New York City.

This legislation would require DOHMH to maintain on the Department's website a regularly updated list of organizations in New York City that offer trap-neuter-return information and conduct trap-neuter-return activities. Following the passage of Local Law 59, the Department consulted with the City Council, organizations that promote and conduct TNR and other interested groups. Based on these discussions, the Department believes that there is no need to promulgate rules regarding TNR practices in New York City. For this reason, the Department supports this amendment as drafted and looks forward to its swift passage.

NYC City Council Hearing before the Health Committee August 17, 2012

Good morning Chairperson Arroyo, Council Member Lappin and members of the City Council Health Committee.

My name is Jane Hoffman and I am the president of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose goal is to transform New York City into a no-kill community by the year 2015. The Alliance is a coalition of more than 150 animal rescue groups and shelters working with Animal Care & Control of NYC to end the killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs at AC&C shelters.

I would like to thank the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Council for working collaboratively with us over the last few months to revisit and re-evaluate Local Law 59 in relation to trap-neuter-return activities in the city of New York. I would also like to thank Council Member Lappin for sponsoring this legislation.

The conclusion we all reached after attempting to draft regulations that would actually work in NYC and after listening to concerns from the community was that we need education not regulation at this time.

The Alliance has long recognized the existence of a serious feral cat overpopulation crisis in New York City and has consistently stated that the solution to this crisis lies in the implementation of citywide trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs. Cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped for future identification and returned to their colony caretakers who feed and monitor them. The colony population is reduced over time with the removal by caretakers of friendly cats who enter the colony and because no new kittens are born.

To provide an infrastructure that could help deliver education, services and resources to those NYC residents helping our community cats and in furtherance of its commitment to assist the city in solving the problem of feral cat overpopulation through the use of TNR, the Alliance formed the New York City Feral Cat Initiative. Since its inception in 2005, the Feral Cat Initiative has reached out to the general public and TNR caretakers by providing information and training sessions regarding feral cat matters, free food giveaways, the free loans of TNR traps and equipment, the free transport of traps to and from feral cat trap banks and free transportation to and from spay neuter clinics run by the Humane

Elizabeth Stein, Esq.
5 Dunhill Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Telephone: (516)747-4726
Fax: (516)742-6680
Email: liddystein@aol.com

Testimony Related to the Proposed Amendment to Local Law 59

Before the City Council Health Committee

August 17, 2012

Good morning Chairperson Arroyo, Council Member Lappin and members of the City Council Health Committee. My name is Elizabeth Stein and I am an attorney who deals exclusively with issues regarding animal protection, animal welfare, and animal rights. I am the former co-chair of the Nassau County Bar Association Animal Law Committee and am an active member of the Animal Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. My clients include many rescue organizations that regularly engage in trap-neuter-return (TNR) activities both in New York City and Nassau and Suffolk counties. One such client is SaveKitty Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping New York City's homeless animals through rescue, adoption, and TNR. SaveKitty Foundation is a member of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and the Feral Cat Initiative and has seen first-hand the positive effects that a robust TNR program has on both the community and the plight of the city's homeless cats.

On behalf of SaveKitty Foundation and myself, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today in support of the proposed amendment to local law 59 which would relieve the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene of its obligation to promulgate rules providing for the registration of individuals or groups conducting trap-neuter-return activities, and the establishment of criteria for such registration.

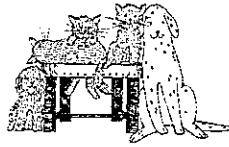
At the present time, TNR is successfully being conducted in New York City and across the country in an effort to humanely and effectively reduce and control the overpopulation of feral cats. Both scientific and anecdotal evidence have established the efficacy of such TNR activities and there are many municipalities that publicly sanction TNR as their official policy for the management of feral cats.

The benefits of performing TNR activities not only include the humane and effective reduction in the number of feral cats in the community but also results in a reduction in the number of cats entering the New York City animal shelter system and consequentially, a decline in the number of cats euthanized therein. TNR also improves the health of these community cats and has been shown to cause a reduction in or elimination of the unwelcome behavior oftentimes associated with unaltered cats.

There is no question that TNR is necessary to humanely and effectively reduce and manage the serious overpopulation of feral cats in New York City. The issue then is how the city may encourage and foster the growth of TNR activities and programs so as to remediate this crisis.

We affirmatively believe that the means to this end is not through the issuance of regulations but rather through education. The enactment of the amendment to local law 59 will do just that by relieving the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene of its obligation to issue registration regulations and, in lieu thereof, require that the Department disseminate information on its website regarding organizations offering information about TNR and conducting TNR activities.

We therefore strongly urge the Health Committee and the Council to support the amendment to local law 59 before you today. Thank you.



Humane Society of New York

ANIMAL CLINIC / VLADIMIR HOROWITZ AND WANDA TOSCANINI HOROWITZ ADOPTION CENTER
306 East 59th Street, NYC 10022 / tel: (212) 752-4842 fax: (212) 752-2803

August 17, 2012

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak today. The Humane Society of New York is pleased to support the amendment of Section 17-804 of the administrative code of the city of New York. We applaud the Department of Health for posting and maintaining on its website a regularly updated list of organizations in New York city that offer trap-neuter-return information and conduct trap-neuter-return activities. This will help to educate the public by directing them to available resources as it reinforces TNR as a viable option. The Society has been actively involved with TNR for over thirty years, and we continue to spay, neuter and treat feral cats in our clinic seven days a week. Spaying and neutering is the first line of defense in helping to control the overpopulation of animals, and TNR is a highly important component in bringing the number of homeless cats down to a manageable number. Again, we are grateful for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this very important issue.

Anne-Marie Karash, Associate Director

ESTABLISHED 1904

Supported by: Private & corporate contributions • Foundations • Benefits • Bequests
Matching gifts • Non-cash contributions • Workplace giving campaigns

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Email: info.hsny@verizon.net / Website: www.HumaneSocietyNY.org



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Testimony for City Council Hearing to amend the administrative code

in relation to TNR information

Health Committee August 17, 2012

Good morning Chairperson Arroyo, and thank you to all members of the Health Committee for this opportunity to address you. My name is Brian Shapiro and I'm the New York State Director for The Humane Society of the United States, the country's largest animal protection organization with 11 million supporters nationwide, 800,000 supporters in New York State and over 217,000 supporters in New York City alone.

The HSUS has committed great resources to aid and implement effective humane management of the estimated 50 million feral and stray cats, also known as community cats, in the United States. Our organization's online certification course through Humane Society University, which has trained more than 4,000 individuals on effective Trap/Neuter/Return methods and techniques, is used nationwide as a standard program.

Understanding this complex and emotional issue is essential if we are to focus on addressing the cat overpopulation problem and if we are to help make a better life for the tens of thousands of community cats living throughout the city boroughs. We applaud city government for recognizing the value of TNR and for accepting input from such a knowledgeable group of stakeholders in an effort to increase the effectiveness of local law 59.

New York City is quite fortunate to have a veritable army of dedicated volunteers maintaining independent programs designed to control the feral cat population. And of course the New York City Feral Cat Initiative is recognized nationally as a successful collaborative model for raising awareness, offering solutions and managing existing colonies.

The HSUS believes that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene can also play a vital role to promote these practices by sharing essential information on its website. Providing the public with more information and better resources will benefit the entire community.

The Humane Society of the United States supports the proposed amendment to Local Law 59, leading the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to share information on its website and highlighting New York City organizations that provide vital TNR services to the community.

Once again, thank you kindly for affording me the opportunity to address this committee.

Testimony of Bryan Kortis, Neighborhood Cats
August 17, 2012
City Council Health Committee
Re: amendment of Local Law 59 (2011)

I'm Bryan Kortis, co-founder of Neighborhood Cats. My testimony is on behalf of Neighborhood Cats and does not necessarily represent the views of my current employer, PetSmart Charities.

Neighborhood Cats, more than any other organization, is responsible for the growth of Trap-Neuter-Return in New York City. We were the first to introduce TNR on an organized basis back in 2000 when we saw the tremendous need. Since then, we have trained over 4000 NYC residents to perform TNR safely and in compliance with local laws, resulting in the spay/neuter of tens of thousands of feral cats. We led the original TNR project on Rikers Island, and have performed similar projects with numerous city agencies, including the Departments of Sanitation, Transportation and Police, as well as the Medical Examiner's Office and the NYC Housing Authority. We operate free trap banks, provide hands-on assistance for TNR, and maintain a database tracking over 1300 cat colonies and 13,000 cats. Working with Animal Care & Control, we have an 85% save rate for TNR'ed cats turned into their facilities.

We are a national leader in the animal welfare field, having produced many of the primary educational materials on Trap-Neuter-Return. We host one of the most popular websites on TNR (www.neighborhoodcats.org), present at conferences throughout the U.S., offer grants and mentoring to other communities, and served as a consultant to The Humane Society of the United States when they decided upon their current pro-TNR policy.

Despite our preeminent position, the authors of Local Law 59 did not consult us when drafting the provisions at issue today. Had they asked our opinion, we would have said what we respectfully advise the Committee: the law mandating regulation by the DOH is completely unnecessary and potentially harmful. Unnecessary because the development of TNR in NYC has been a model of responsible, effective work by the private sector in cooperation with municipal authorities. Neighborhood Cats has always maintained a good relationship with the Dept. of Health and been able to resolve all issues that have arisen. After 12 years, there has not been a single case of serious injury or litigation resulting from our work. There is simply no need for government oversight in this area. Local Law 59, in its present state, could inadvertently disrupt a system that is functioning and developing well.

Therefore, we fully support the proposal to make DOH regulation permissive rather than mandatory, and to post available TNR resources on the DOH website. We would even recommend going one step further and repeal the provisions in question entirely. We thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Good Morning; my name is Elena Bass – I am the director of the Staten Island Feral Initiative. I'd like to thank the committee for inviting testimony; I do fully support the proposed amendment in question. I am here both as the founder of an animal welfare non-profit, and as a member of the SI community. Like most, I became involved in TNR in direct response to the situation (literally) in my own backyard. In Nov. of '07, my husband and I moved into a house on Staten Island. We quickly discovered that the house we had purchased came with a neighborhood full of unneutered cats. In place of a house-warming party, nightly rounds of howling and yowling; soon accompanied by mating calls as spring approached. We knew the situation needed to be addressed soon; not only for the sake of our sleep and sanity, but in order to avoid the inevitable conclusion: kittens.

We had never heard the term, "TNR." But we did the only thing that made sense; we stepped up. We did some research, discovered Neighborhood Cats, and attended a TNR-training course. One month later, we had fixed 19 cats, and placed 4 adults and 4 kittens...despite having to travel to acquire traps, and for sterilization services. We were determined. We now live on a street that has seen NO kittens in over 4 years, and where the only regular squabbling occurs *inside* the house, over the best spot for a nap. Through attrition, the outside cat count has dwindled from 19 to 8. And keep in mind that our success should be measured not by contrasting 8 to 19, but by contrasting 8 to what the count *would* have been had those 19 cats been reproducing for the past 4+ years. We are living proof that TNR does work, and that when you combine community motivation with accessible resources, the landscape can be changed for the better. Our experience was so clearly and immediately successful that we were inspired to create a community service non-profit with the primary mission of facilitating that same success in every neighborhood on Staten Island. In 2009, we began instructing the NC certification course on SI – and today are proud to claim 550 TNR-certified citizens, with that number growing steadily. We have now wholly eliminated the majority of obstacles we experienced during our project, and we help newly trained trappers navigate the rest. We advocate, above all else, *responsible* compassion in the community.

TNR is indeed a public health issue – it improves it. TNR has a direct and immediate positive impact on quality of life both for the cats and for the community. The aim of TNR is a smaller, healthier, managed population. This means fewer cats on the street and in the shelter, lower costs for Animal Control agencies, and fewer complaints from the public largely because TNR also eliminates the source of most of those complaints – *raging hormones!* TNR makes sense; we know this both as animal advocates and as pragmatists. It is time for our city to stand behind a firm plan to improve the situation *today*. I urge you in addition to passing this amendment, to establish a Community Cat Advisory Board, a group of individuals who could offer the benefit of their "on the ground" experience to the Health Committee on this issue. It is our position that oversight without infrastructure will get us nowhere – that regulating the practice of TNR in NYC would serve only as one more obstacle for TNR-certified citizens trying to effect positive change in their own neighborhoods. TNR need not be regulated – it needs to be mandated...across the board – and then facilitated to the fullest possible extent by the city whose best interest it serves. Thank you for listening.

Thank you for listening.

Elena L. Bass

Founder and Director | SI Feral Initiative, Inc. | www.siferalinitiative.org



**Statement by Shelby Davis, Director of Spay/Neuter Operations
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee
August 17, 2012**

Good morning, I am Shelby Davis, Director of Spay/Neuter Operations at the ASPCA. I have been overseeing many of the ASPCA's spay/neuter initiatives both nationally and in New York City since 2011. About 35% of the 40,000 spay/neuter surgeries our department currently performs every year in New York City are for rescue animals, thousands of which are feral cats brought to us for spay or neuter as part of a TNR, or trap-neuter-return, project. As such I work closely with AC&C, the Mayor's Alliance for New York City's animals, rescue groups, foster networks and more individual TNRers than I can count. We all share the common goal of wanting to end pet homelessness and the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals.

In late 2011, we launched our NYC Focused Project. This effort is designed to measure the impact of S/N on dogs and cats at risk of entering the sheltering system or becoming part of the feral population in NYC. When developing this research project, our Shelter Research and Development team studied Animal Care and Control shelter intake data to identify areas of high free-roaming cats beyond what was expected based on human population alone. In addition, we selected areas where we identified contacts that currently feed and care for cat colonies. We have been providing information on TNR to community based groups and have been doing one on one grassroots outreach in the East Harlem and Ocean Hill communities. To date we have spayed or neutered approximately 110 cats in these areas. In our focus communities, we are testing to see if highly accessible spay/neuter services combined with TNR for neighborhood cats leads to a reduction in euthanasia at the shelters.

We have been going out into the communities speaking with individual caretakers, concerned neighbors, even with the local community boards. It is crucial for members of the community to have access to information on TNR so that they can understand the process. We host community-based events promoting spay/neuter and TNR, and have even done outreach to school groups. At our events we have offered free and low cost spay/neuter services, free vaccines and nail trims, and free food. As part of our outreach and

education efforts we encourage people to contact us if they know people feeding cats and caring for cat colonies.

We will continue to be a resource for information on TNR as well as a support for those practicing TNR through our spay/neuter services.



**Statement by Jesse Oldham, Senior Administrative Director
Community Outreach
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee
August 17, 2012**

Good morning. My name is Jesse Oldham and I am a Senior Administrative Director in the Community Outreach department at the ASPCA and liaison to NYC's Feral Cat Initiative as part of my role with the ASPCA. I also have a decade of experience participating in Trap-Neuter-Return in many areas of southern Brooklyn.

Trap-Neuter-Return (referred to as TNR from here on) is a humane method of feline population control that entails humanely trapping cats, having them spayed or neutered, rabies vaccinated and returning them to their original location. While returning cats to their original location is not an intuitive step in a program that addresses population control, the process exists because the sterile cats act as placeholders, preventing a new set of reproducing cats from moving into the area. With this process the overall feline population numbers decline over time. When cats are removed and not returned, a "vacuum effect" occurs and new, reproducing cats move into the area that is no longer occupied by the resident cats. The reproducing cats not only then continue to contribute to the overpopulation issue but still display a number of community nuisance behaviors that spayed and neutered cats do not display.

During the TNR process, cats who are good candidates for adoption such as friendly cats or young kittens are often pulled from the streets and are found homes while the cats who are feral are returned to their original location with an eartip marking, indicating that cat is sterile. Despite its connotation, feral cats are not typically aggressive and make every effort to avoid human contact.

Fixing free-roaming cats decreases their chance for illness as it reduces fighting and mating which entail the transmission of body fluids. Fixing these cats also provides a community service for the surrounding neighbors as there is less smell (male spraying is reduced greatly), less noise (mating and fighting noises are reduced greatly or entirely), less cats (no reproducing cats, no females in heat attract less male cats to the area) and, anecdotally, many residents have commented on the efficacy of free-roaming cats keeping

rodents away. The cats also receive a rabies vaccination, administered at the time of sterilization, to help protect the cats, and thus the community, against rabies.

Trapping and euthanizing the cats has not worked to control population numbers in the past, nor has trapping and moving them elsewhere so we do not recommend either of these methods. They are not effective, carry a heavy price tag and do not have majority community support.

Personal Rescue Experience:

From my personal experience, as someone who began TNR nearly a decade ago in South Brooklyn, I have seen blocks littered with over twenty cats be reduced to a maintained population of 7 over just a couple of years. Another couple of years later, I am left with just two adults at my feeding station. I have heard countless stories from TNR caretakers in New York City reflecting similar success stories. I have had neighbors thank me for the reduction in noise outside their bedroom windows and the cessation of male cat spray on their car tires. I have also had people thank me covertly, since taking care of these cats publicly became such a point of shame with people who had been barraged by complaints from their ill-informed neighbors, neighbors who thought they wanted to enable the procreation of cats outdoors because they didn't know what TNR was.

In the years I have done public outreach for TNR as a humane population control method I have seen public awareness go from just about everyone being confused as to what a "feral cat" is to knowing the difference between a feral cat and a friendly cat and having some awareness about TNR. In these one-on-one discussions about community cats, the number of people who know about TNR and know they can speak to their neighborhood cat feeders about TNR is growing. As everyone knows, NYC's feline overpopulation is an issue partly because most members of the public expect and understand outdoor cats as they are – intact and outside -- in a way that free-roaming dogs would never be accepted. I truly believe that in order for TNR to reach a critical tipping point for population control in NYC, we need to create the public expectation that all free-roaming cats, friendly and feral, need to be fixed. It is not intuitive for a member of the public to know that a cat who normally cannot be handled can be fixed. However, that is a teachable lesson and for that reason I believe our focus has to be on the education of NYC residents. Ideally, if a member of the public sees a cat outdoors, they know to look for that telltale sign that a cat has

been fixed – an eartip. If the cat is not fixed, they know that TNR assistance and subsidized spay/neuter are a viable option in NYC.

Our recommendation is to put the focus on the educational materials that teach people why and how TNR works and introduce them to the generous and subsidized TNR resources available in NYC. The ASPCA website includes a general FAQ regarding feral cats and instructions for getting involved in TNR in NYC and our ASPCA pro site includes best practice models and general information about TNR programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.



**Statement by Michelle Villagomez, NYC Legislative Director
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Testimony before the New York City Council Health Committee
August 17, 2012**

Good morning. I am Michelle Villagomez, New York City Legislative Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to thank the Health Committee and Madam Chairwoman Arroyo, for the opportunity to testify in support of legislation to amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). The ASPCA endorses TNR as the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies.

Local law 59 established good definitions of the terms 'feral cats,' 'full-service shelter,' 'sterilization' and 'trap-neuter-return' (TNR), which are vital to understanding the full scope of issues affecting the pets and people of New York. Education and access to information on TNR serve as valuable tools in creating the community partnerships necessary for TNR programs to thrive. In order to achieve this goal we support the creation of a regularly updated list of organizations in New York City that offer TNR information and conduct TNR activities. There are very valuable resources available on the Web and via feral cat organizations that can help guide people through the process.

A TNR infrastructure already exists through the ASPCA, Mayor's Alliance, Feral Cat Initiative, Humane Society of NY, Neighborhood Cats and the Toby Project. Currently the ASPCA partners with NYC's Feral Cat Initiative. The Feral Cat Initiative (FCI) provides a 4-hour training workshop on TNR best practices including but not limited to: community involvement, how and why TNR works to control feline populations, responsible feeding practices, outlining subsidized spay/neuter options, rabies vaccinations and safely and properly using proper TNR equipment. If an individual is following proper protocol, they will never have direct contact with the cat. This is a Neighborhood Cats certification workshop; the certification enables participants' use of local TNR resources. FCI also provides TNR coaches for hands-on assistance as well as situation-specific advice and outreach materials. Both the ASPCA and FCI manage equipment-lending banks and the ASPCA is a provider of spay/neuter for both feral and adoption-candidate cats for the rescue community.

Providing New Yorkers with a central resource with information on groups that offer TNR information and services would go a long way in supporting the TNR community in NYC- making people aware that TNR helps the community by stabilizing the population of the feral colony and, over time, reducing it. TNR also helps the community's animal welfare resources by reducing the number of kittens that would end up in shelter.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

The Committee on Health of the New York City Council

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL LAW 59

PURPOSE: Preconsidered Introduction to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to trap-neuter-return information and activities in the city of New York.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 2012, NY, NY – 10:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE, 16TH FLOOR
250 BROADWAY, NY, NY 10007**

**Prepared testimony by
Bernadette Ferrara
Animals Saved by God's Grace**

Friday, August 17th, 2012

Thank you to all the members of the City Council Committee on Health for this opportunity today to testify. My name is Bernadette Ferrara, a certified TNR rescuer in the Bronx, Manhattan and lower Westchester since 2003; founder of the Bronx animal rescue, Animals Saved by God's Grace, on Petfinder since 2005; presently serving on Community Board 11 in the Bronx; Vice President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance in the Bronx and freelance Computer Graphic Designer by profession.

Today's hearing on this proposed amendment to Local Law 59 will hopefully be the first of many. There is an old saying, "Do not judge me until you have walked a mile in my shoes." So be it with a rescuer practicing Trap-Neuter and Return (TNR)! Many who have taken the workshop are certified individuals, volunteering and in the Bronx, we do not have enough to even make a dent. And to add insult to injury, we have no animal shelter; no resources for our animal owners or for good Samaritans finding a lost and/or injured animal. The only people called are the rescuers, daily and all hours of the night with emergencies "What do I do? Where do I go?" And we do it because we care! Actions speak volumes and it is obvious that the Mayor and City Council do not care or do not understand, or simply don't want to understand.

Almost one year later, the only resource that the Bronx has is its Pet Receiving Center, a holding pen for transport to Manhattan. This receiving center still has no phone number for the public and is still only open 3 days from 8-4pm, closed on Holiday. What happened to 7 days a week, 24 hours a day? Queens has the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Glendale Clinic. The Bronx has nothing. It truly is disgraceful. If dogs were running loose, action would be taken because of lawsuits but feral cats are not an issue until they become one. This amendment addresses only the issue of relieving the DOH of its obligations to issue regulations governing TNR groups. Why the DOH was originally asked to issue those regulations remains a mystery. After all, the DOH is not interested in either the care of shelter animals or feral cats.

As Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer stated so clearly, "the City has instead resorted to obstructionist legal maneuvers rather than fulfill its obligation." All of this time and money wasted when building animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens would have rescued a multitude of animals and been the hub of information for animal owners.

Even today, many low-income communities in the Bronx can not afford a computer but everyone has a phone and a TV. We need Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to educate the public on TNR. 311 is not making the grade! Many of the cats trapped, are house pets dumped in existing colonies. The current LL 59's section on TNR was hailed as an official recognition by the City of the importance of TNR groups. What protections and aid (financial, spay/neuter services) will be made available to TNR groups...and by whom? This amendment to Local Law 59 is silent on that issue. If TNR is a key component of overcoming pet overpopulation, how can beleaguered TNR groups do it alone?

While this amendment is important, I strongly urge the City Council and the Mayor to revisit Local Law 59 in its entirety. The animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens desperately need to be built. AC&C has to be restructured and Intro655 now Local Law 59 should never have been passed.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Thank you,

Bernadette Ferrara ~

Certified TNR rescuer since 2003

Resides in the Bronx

Trap and rescue in the Bronx, Manhattan and lower Westchester

On Petfinder since 2005 and founder of animal rescue named Animals Saved by God's Grace
animalssavedbygrace.petfinder.com

Board member on Community Board 11 (Bronx)

Community Activist and Leader in Van Nest Neighborhood (Bronx)

Vice President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance (local Civic Group in Van Nest, Bronx)

Profession: Freelance Computer Graphic Designer

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bernadette Ferrara

Address: 636 Van Nest Ave, Bx NY 10460

I represent: TNR Group - Volunteer Bx, NY

Address: Same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
Local Law 5a amendment

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BRYAN KORTIS

Address: 241 W. 97th St., PH3 NY NY 10025

I represent: Neighborhood Cats Inc.

Address: 2576 Broadway, No. 555 NY NY 10025

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/2012

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Stein

Address: 5 Dumbhill Rd New York NY 11040

I represent: Save Kitty Foundation

Address: Woodside, NY

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jane Hoffman

Address: _____

I represent: Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals

Address: 244 J.M. Ave Suite R290 NYC 10001

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ^{Am 5-20 1092 630 59} _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BRIAN SHAPIRO

Address: 8 PINE GROVE ST. WOODSTOCK, NY 12498

I represent: THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Address: PO Box 1111 WOODSTOCK, NY 12498

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anne Marie Karash

Address: 3400 Vinton Ave Bklyn 11209

I represent: Humane Society of NY

Address: 306 E. 59th St, NY, NY 10022

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition
Date: 8/17/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Villagomez
Address: 520 8th Ave 7th Fl. NY NY 10018
I represent: ASPCA
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition
Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jesse Oldham
Address: 203 E. Pkwy Bklyn 11238
I represent: ASPCA
Address: 520 8th ave, NY NY 10018

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Shelby Davis (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 520 8th Ave

I represent: ASPCA

Address: same

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 8/17/12

Name: Elena L Bass (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 22 Cortelyou Place ST, NY 10301

I represent: ST Feral Initiative, Inc.

Address: same as above

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀