

Boger, Linda

From: Martha Boden <MBoden@spcatampabay.org>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Woodard, Mark S; Bennett, John A
Cc: Brightwell, Doug
Subject: Support for Revising TNVR Ordinance

Mr. Woodard & Mr. Bennett,

SPCA Tampa Bay enthusiastically supports the proposed elimination of the sunset clause in the ordinance that currently permits trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) in Pinellas County.

SPCA Tampa Bay is an open-admission animal shelter that has been serving the Tampa Bay community for more than 75 years. In 2013, we joined with other animal welfare agencies and concerned citizens to form Managing and Ending Overpopulation Wisely (MEOW) Now.

The SPCA Tampa Bay leadership team believes strongly that TNVR is a key component to reducing the number of animals coming into shelters. As an active board member of MEOW Now and the SPCA's CEO, I closely monitor our community's animal shelter statistics. The figures include data from Pinellas County Animal Services, SPCA Tampa Bay and other organizations. I'm encouraged to see annual stray cat intake steadily decline, from over 8,900 cats in 2012 to approximately 6,700 in 2016. Ongoing innovative programs like TNVR can help that trend continue.

As evidence of our support for TNVR, SPCA Tampa Bay also provides staging space and surgical services for MEOW Now and other caregivers. We employ full-time veterinarians dedicated to our spay/neuter practice, a program operating out of our public veterinary center in St. Petersburg. The center includes a housing area designed specifically to meet the needs of community cats being prepped for veterinary care. We make this significant investment because we believe in the positive impact of TNVR.

Eliminating the sunset clause also removes uncertainty for animal welfare advocates who have hesitated to get more involved with TNVR. More volunteers are always needed for TNVR, so this could allow MEOW Now's trapping and education efforts to expand considerably. That can only help all our agencies.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Martha Boden, PMP, CAWA
CEO

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