

SAVE cats

A Program of



RUDE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE
3200 Ivy Way
Harwood, MD 20776



SPAY SPA & NEUTER NOOK
1251 West Central Ave
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Plan Prepared in January, 2019
by Robert J. Rude &
Katherine Evans

1 MISSION	Page 3 of 21
2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Page 3 of 21
3 ORGANIZATION PLAN	Page 6 of 21
3.1 Description of Business	Page 6 of 21
3.2 Clinic Staffing	Page 8 of 21
3.3 Key Personnel and Board of Directors	Page 9 of 21
3.4 Key Clinic Personnel and Advisors	Page 10 of 21
3.5 Method of Record Keeping	Page 11 of 21
3.6 Insurance	Page 11 of 21
4 MARKETING PLAN	Page 12 of 21
4.1 Target Market	Page 12 of 21
4.2 Competition	Page 12 of 21
4.3 Fund-Raising Plan	Page 13 of 21
4.4 Promotion	Page 14 of 21
5 FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS	Page 16 of 21
5.1 Summary of Startup Costs	Page 16 of 21
5.2 Three Year Budget	Page 16 of 21
6 CONCLUSION	Page 17 of 21
7 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	Page 17 of 21
7.1 Rude Ranch 990	Page 17 of 21
7.2 501 c(3) Designation Letter	Page 17 of 21
7.3 Proven models of success	Page 17 of 21
7.3.1 ACA Article	Page 17 of 21
7.3.2 Chicago, IL	Page 20 of 21

1 MISSION

Significantly, humanely & permanently reduce community cat population in Anne Arundel County while improving their quality of life. We will do this by leading targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) projects given our available resources and community volunteer involvement and ownership

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. is a public non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation established in 2001. Our original goal was to provide a refuge to abandoned, abused and homeless animals. The focus was to bring in special needs animals from local animal controls and traditional shelters and find new permanent homes for them. Since 2001 we've found homes for more than 3,000 animals and facilitated the veterinary care and placement for more than 10,000 additional animals.

In 2008, we made the corporate decision to move from a placement/adoption agency to a more proactive spay and neuter organization. It became very obvious over the years that we will never adopt our way out of the over population problem. What was needed was an aggressive sterilization approach to get ahead of the current problem.

In October of 2012 Rude Ranch embarked on a new project and opened the first high-volume, high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter clinic in the State of Maryland. (The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook) By 2014 the clinic's surgery slots were filled two to three weeks in advance. The clinic was at it's physical capacity. In 2015 the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook was expanded to a capacity to do up to 15,000 spay/neuter surgeries per year. Since opening the clinic has performed over 40,000 surgeries.

While we've made great strides in helping many pets in Maryland, there was still one animal population that was vastly under served: Community Cats. Community cats many times are cats that have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves. Over time, they procreate and form their own families or colonies. Without human contact the cats are afraid of humans, and are considered feral. These cats (although healthy) are often immediately euthanized at most shelters and animal control agencies. To help these cats, we've adopted and promote TNR, (Trap/Neuter/Release). This methodology promotes spaying/ neutering and vaccinations for feral and community cats. The cats are then returned to their location. Studies have shown that TNR is the most effective non lethal means of controlling the population of community cats.

Currently there are estimates of up to 100,000 feral and community cats in Anne Arundel County. While many people across the county love and care for these cats, there was no mechanism to track the cats. Likewise quite often a caretaker would spay/neuter one or two cats,

but not be able to afford to fix the remaining cats in a location. As a result the cats continued to reproduce. Rude Ranch, in conjunction with several local non profits, developed the SAVECats Program. SAVECats will provide oversight, management and funding to spay/neuter and track the community cats of Anne Arundel County. The program is able to offer these services thanks to help from other Charitable organizations, foundations and individuals who support our mission. Most of our funding for these projects come from Petsmart Charities, Alley Cat Allies, the Rita Gude Brandt Foundation, the Petco Foundation, and the Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation.

This aggressive approach to maximize our efforts to spay and neuter more animals, especially community cats is making a significant impact in our community by greatly reducing the number of animals being euthanized in area shelters. In six months, the number of community cats euthanized compared to the previous year dropped 41%. This directly saves money for those agencies. The current cost to house and euthanize an animal is approximately \$250 per animal. This includes the cost of housing the animals until they have a chance to be claimed, the cost of administering the euthanasia agent and the cost of disposing of the animal. Multiply that by the thousands of animals being euthanized every year and it quickly adds up to significant cost reductions for publically funded animal control agencies .

The need is great and the sooner we can expand our SAVECats program, the sooner we can make a larger dent in the over population problem. Animal control agencies in and around the District of Columbia area have cat euthanasia rates in excess of 50%, with some as high as 90%. Most of these are offspring of community/stray and feral cats that are turned in by owners and caretakers when the cats have kittens and they can no longer afford the food and veterinary care. With a low cost or free alternative, many of these people would be willing to spay or neuter these cats and no longer head to animal control every time they have unwanted litters.

We are in a strong position to accomplish our goal to spay/neuter every community cat in Anne Arundel County. We believe in working cooperatively with animal control agencies and other animal welfare organizations. Over the years we have partnered with more than 50 organizations in and around Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. We've received numerous honors and awards since our inception including an Executive Citation from Anne Arundel County, an award from Maryland Votes for Animals and an award from the Thomas E. Quade Foundation.

The total capital we are seeking is \$150,000. This will cover the costs of surgery, equipment, personnel and overhead for the first year. Over time, the county should be able to fund this program through re-assigning funds that would have been designated to hold and euthanize these cats. We are seeking individuals and business partners that share our vision of ending the needless euthanasia of tens of thousands of animals annually. Please review the rest of this document and contact Bob Rude at 410-798-9559 or email him at info@ruderanch.org to discuss how you can help.

Too many cats,
not enough homes!!!



3 ORGANIZATION PLAN

3.1 Description of Business

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. was formally established in 2001 to further the efforts of its founder's (Robert and Katherine Rude) to help abandoned, abused and homeless animals. Their mission was to provide aid to the animals and the people who help animals in and around Anne Arundel County, Maryland with the goal to end the needless euthanasia of companion animals.

Rude Ranch shifted its' focus to providing low cost spay and neuter services and a trap/neuter/return service to the local community. In 2012 we built and opened the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. The location of the clinic is Davidsonville, Maryland 21035. It is well located to the population base of the county, close to large population bases in other counties, and has easy access via Route 3, Route 2 and Route 50 to the people of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding counties and communities. We currently average 7,500 surgeries a year through our clinic. Our aggressive approach to providing spay/neuter is showing significant impact by greatly reducing the number of animals being euthanized in area shelters. Over the past 3 years the statewide euthanasia rate has decreased by over 6%.

While we were pleased that we've been able to help so many animals, our local animal control agency (and many others in the counties surrounding us) were still reporting very high rates of impoundment and euthanasia of feral and community cats... in Anne Arundel County in 2017 almost 100% of the cats euthanized were considered feral. Unfortunately for the cats, the typical protocol in most government animal control agencies, and even several Humane Societies was to trap the cat(s) and euthanize. The practice of Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) was not considered an option for them. (Trap–neuter–return (TNR) is a program through which free-roaming cats are trapped, spayed and neutered, then returned to the outdoor locations where they were found. ... TNR is the most widely implemented non-lethal method of managing community cat populations.). Likewise, these cats are at the highest risk of producing the most kittens throughout the county. One cat can potentially produce thousands of offspring in just a two year period. For example, a cat that produces 4 offspring during each of 3 heat cycles, and assuming each subsequent generation does the same, will result in more than 4,000 kittens born over a two year period.

In 2017, Rude Ranch facilitated the passage of the Community Cat Bill. This bill clearly described the legal rights of citizens practicing TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) regarding

community cats in Anne Arundel County. The bill also states the county's animal control agency does not have to impound a community cat that has gone through a TNR program. The SAVECats (Spay And Vaccinate Every Cat) program was created as a result of this legislation.

The SAVECats program is comprised of a partnership between Rude Ranch, and its spay/neuter clinic, Anne Arundel County, MD Animal Control, and several other animal welfare agencies. The goal of the program is to provide spay/neuter and vaccination services for feral, community and stray cats in Anne Arundel County, MD. This program is considered ground breaking for several reasons: it will save many cat's lives (previously, feral and community cats were caught, impounded and immediately euthanized); it will reduce the volume of unwanted and homeless cats at large; it is the first attempt at a cooperative agreement between a County Government agency and non profits; and it is changing the culture of our local animal control from a dark, sad place to a more open adoption option.

The mission of the SAVECATS program is to Significantly, humanely and permanently reduce the community and feral cat population in Anne Arundel County, MD while saving their lives and improving their quality of life. This will be accomplished through community partnerships to identify problem areas, providing support, training and veterinary care (TNR) where needed. Additionally, we are developing a barn cat/working cat component for situations where the cats must be moved from a particular area.

There are several partnerships in this program: Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, and its clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook is providing the overall leadership, and most of the veterinary care. (Several other local veterinary clinics have also agreed to provide low cost spay/neuter for this project). Anne Arundel Animal Care and Control is re-training staff and officers to educate/work with the general public when calls come in regarding feral/stray or community cats. (Likewise, cats that have already been through a TNR program are no longer impounded). Several smaller rescue groups that specialize in TNR protocols are tasked with training/working with communities and individuals regarding how to trap, transport and maintain community cats. Lastly, the local SPCA and larger animal adoption groups have agreed to foster and adopt friendly kittens and cats from the program.

When an individual or a community calls any of the above agencies for help with a "bunch of stray cats", an assessment is made to determine how many cats are in the area, if they are abandoned, owned, but allowed to roam, or an established colony. From there the SAVECATS program will work with the individual/community to develop a plan to TNR the cats (spay/neuter, vaccinate, microchip and eartip), establish a feeding area, and ensure an on-going caretaker to monitor the cats. The cats/colonies are registered in a

cloud based database that is available to all the groups in the partnership (and the animal control agencies in neighboring jurisdictions in case a cat is turned in there)

Over time, the SAVECATS program will significantly reduce the numbers of homeless, stray and free roaming cats in Anne Arundel County, MD (currently we estimate 60,000 - 100,000 community cats in the county) Likewise, the number of cats turned into all animal welfare agencies (and euthanasia) will be significantly reduced. This program will be a key component in the overall goal of moving Anne Arundel County and all of Maryland towards becoming No-Kill in the next few years.

The core expenses of SAVECats are funded through grants from foundations, and fundraising efforts with the public. Performing the spay/neuter surgeries through a high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinic helps keep our costs low while still offering an exceptional quality service to our customers. This is not a program that keeps costs low by cutting corners or providing a lesser quality product. SAVECats provides a high quality product at a by streamlining the standard spay and neuter protocols. All applicable standards for quality veterinary care will be followed with the goal to exceed these standards

SAVECats first full year goal will be to spay and neuter a minimum of 1,500 community cats, while establishing a working base of volunteer caregivers, trappers and administrative support. The ultimate goal of SAVECats will be to grow as necessary to handle the demand for our services from the community.

SAVECats will continue to develop strategic relationships with other animal welfare agencies, local businesses, local community groups and all other individuals and groups interested in the welfare of community cats. This includes businesses and individuals willing and able to assist in the funding of this endeavor; as well as those interested in using our services.

As a non profit organization, we work through foundations and other donor sources to supplement our costs to offer SAVECats' services to the residents of Anne Arundel County. This is why the SAVECats program is the only viable solution to the current problem and the only humane method to reduce the current practice of euthanizing healthy cats because they are homeless. With your help we can make this goal a reality.

3.2 Clinic Staffing

To properly implement the SAVECats program, we are adding two positions to our current staff:

1 Program Manager

1 Trapper

The program manager is responsible for recruiting additional volunteers to aid in all aspects of this program. We are blessed with many talented and dedicated volunteers who help keep our cost low and our quality high. They come from all walks of life, but share a common bond to help the animals in need. Without these dedicated volunteers our mission would be much more difficult.

3.3 Key Personnel and Board of Directors

Katherine Evans Rude is the President and cofounder of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. She handles the overall planning with the board of directors and coordinates any changes with the appropriate personnel. Her background in animal welfare includes working with several veterinary and animal rescue groups as a volunteer in a variety of positions including implementing a very successful adoption program. She coordinates all business, administrative and fund-raising activities for Rude Ranch. Her working background was as a database administrator for the U. S. Bureau of the Census for seventeen years, supporting the systems that produced most of the leading economic indicators for the United States. She graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and a Master's Degree in Information Systems.

Robert Rude is the Executive Director and cofounder of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. He directs the operations of the sanctuary, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, SAVECats and coordinates planning with the board of directors. His background in animal welfare extends from his youth working on dairy farms in his home state of Wisconsin to working with veterinary and animal rescue groups as a volunteer in a variety of positions. He has managed the day-to-day operations of Rude Ranch for the past fourteen years. His other duties include deploying in various capacities during natural and man-made disasters to assist with animal related issues ranging from hands on rescue in dangerous situations to setting up rescue centers for animals in disaster. He serves on the County Animal Response Team, the State Animal Response Team and is a first responder for many national groups including The Humane Society of the United States and Best Friends Animal Society. He worked for the U. S. Bureau of the Census for seventeen

years in a variety of positions. His last position was as Branch Chief responsible for all enterprise computer systems located at several data centers across the United States. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a minor in Business Administration.

Lauren Ponder is Rude Ranch's CFO. She handles all investment, bookkeeping, banking and Human Resource duties. She graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and acquired CPA credentials in 1997.

Robert Harrison, D.V.M. has been a board member for the past twelve years. He has served as a veterinarian in the Maryland area for more than twenty-five years. He currently provides low cost spay and neuter surgeries to several local animal welfare groups including Rude Ranch. He is a 1984 graduate of Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Diane VonSeggern, RD has been a board member for nine years. She never passes an opportunity to help an animal in need. All of her personal pets were rescued from dangerous situations. She helps with whatever is needed most and even does a few overnight visits at Rude Ranch when we are out of town. She is a registered dietician working for the Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Lynn Hopkins joined our board in 2014 and brings with her a long history of volunteering with animal rescue organizations. She has been a volunteer with Rude Ranch for the past fourteen years and served on the board of director for Maryland Votes for Animal. She also worked for the Federal Government as an IT specialist for more than Thirty years.

3.4 Key Clinic Personnel and Advisors

In addition to the board of directors, Rude Ranch has other key individuals that consult with us on major issues. The following persons will play an important role in making this a successful project.

Rachel Kurtzberg: Rachel is the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook's clinic manager. In addition to managing the day to day activities of the clinic, she is also responsible for keeping all expenses and programs within budget. She will coordinate with the SAVECats program manager, trappers and clients to ensure that all cats coming through the program are appropriately scheduled and documented.

Amy Carney, D.V.M.: Has been Rude Ranch's on-site veterinarian for many years. She owned and operated the Crofton Veterinary Center, worked at the Anne Arundel veterinary emergency center for two years and has worked in a wide variety of veterinary clinics as a relief vet for the past Ten years. She spends a lot of her free time volunteering with a wide variety of animal charities including ten years working with the Noah's Ark wildlife center. Most recently she has spearheaded the effort to help feral cats in the state of Maryland and serves on the Spay / Neuter advisory board. She is a 1987 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Alison Mocko, D.V.M.: Has been the medical director and surgical veterinarian at the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook since its' inception. She worked for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County for Eleven years and worked with Alley Cat Allies to found the first high volume spay / neuter program in the Washington, DC area. She graduated from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 1996.

Elizabeth Seibenhar is the program manager for SAVECats. Elizabeth has worked in the animal welfare sector for over 20 years. Before coming to Rude Ranch and the SAVECats program she was a program manager and adoption coordinator for Alley Cat Allies.



Without SAVECats, this scene will happen over and over again!

3.5 Method of Record Keeping

All bookkeeping requirements are handled by the Rude Ranch staff administrative person using Quickbooks. The financial statements are audited annually. The current auditing firm is Karl Thorn Accounting.

All cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated through the program are also microchipped. This information, including the name of the caregiver, and location of the cat's colony are stored in a cloud based database system developed by Rescue.org This database system also tracks calls/emails for help, volunteers and website information. Portions of the database (cat info) will be available for other groups and agencies to log into. The main purpose of these additional user portals is to look up microchips, and rabies vaccination data.

3.6 Insurance

Rude Ranch currently maintains general liability, auto, workman's compensation and property coverage with Scottsdale Insurance (liability), WSMT (worker's comp), Select Insurance(clinic and auto), and Erie (property and liability). As the program expands we will acquire other insurance deemed necessary to protect the business interests of Rude Ranch, its employees and its supporters.

4 MARKETING PLAN

4.1 Target Market

The target market for SAVECats is: animal welfare groups, individuals and groups performing trap/neuter/return programs. Most of the animals turned into animal control organizations and traditional shelters are community cats and their offspring throughout our State. By targeting these people we are able to significantly reduce the number of animals being euthanized.

There are no specific estimates on the number of stray animals in Maryland, but it is generally accepted that there are at least 70,000,000 unwanted companion animals in the United States. Many experts believe that number is significantly higher. More than 4,000,000 companion animals are euthanized in the United States every year. And, that's just the ones that are documented. If you look behind any restaurant, or any business with a source of food, you will find a colony of cats. Most people have come across a stray cat wandering the street and had to take it to animal control or a shelter and never knew the animals outcome. We strongly believe there are hundreds of thousands, if not more, abandoned, homeless and feral community cats just in Anne Arundel County and the surrounding areas.

4.2 Competition

There is really no competition to provide the services that SAVECats provides; the program is a coalition of most of Anne Arundel County's animal non profits, eliminating the need to "compete" for clients. Likewise, most individuals and groups trapping and transporting the cats do not have the resources to raise the necessary funds for the surgeries.

While there are many individual veterinarians and veterinary clinics that offer spay and neuter services, a very few have the financial resources to offer reduced cost surgeries to individuals in any large volume. Most do not advertise this service and only occasionally offer when asked. They are a great help to solving the overall problem, but they just aren't structured to perform a high volume of surgeries on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, many veterinarians and veterinary technicians are not comfortable handling feral and community cats for surgery and treatment and already refer them to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook.

4.3 Fund-Raising Plan

Most of our current fund-raising benefits Rude Ranch's sanctuary and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. It is done through four mailings (a bi-annual newsletter, a Fourth of July flyer and a Christmas flyer), the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the United Way, the Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC), our "Sponsor a Rude Ranch Resident" campaign, sponsor a spay/neuter and various other events.

The CFC, United Way and MCC are our largest fund-raising efforts. It allows Federal, State, County and corporate employees to donate to Rude Ranch through payroll deduction. We promote this by attending as many charity fairs as possible at the various government agencies. We have been very successful with this campaign and have attended charity fairs at many government agencies including, NSA, CIA, Secret Service, IRS, various military bases, DIA and the Pentagon to name a few. When possible we bring one of our animals to show an example of who we help. It is also a much bigger draw to attract people to our display.

We also use technology to our advantage through our award winning website, Facebook and various other on-line medium to keep an interest and develop a following for what we do.

To fund SAVECats we will be reaching out to individuals, businesses and Anne Arundel County to raise \$150,000. As of the writing of this document we have already secured \$50,000 of capital for this project. We sincerely hope this is just the beginning and we will find additional support for this project in our local community.

We developed a sponsorship program to show our appreciation for individuals and corporate sponsors who share our dream of ending the needless euthanasia of animals in Anne Arundel County. You not only get the satisfaction of helping those who cannot help themselves, you also get a great tax deduction to boot.

Our sponsorship levels are as follow:

- \$10,000: Elite Sponsors will be highlighted on our SAVECats Hero Wall. The individual(s) and/or corporation(s) will also be part of our media campaign, will be listed in our bi-annual newsletter and will have a continued presence throughout the life of our organization.

- \$5000: Platinum sponsors will have their name on the SAVECats Hero Wall displayed in the lobby. The individual(s) and/or corporation(s) will be

listed in our bi-annual newsletter and will have a continued presence throughout the life of our organization.

\$2,500: Gold sponsors will have their name on the SAVECats Hero Wall. The individual(s) and/or corporation(s) will be listed in our bi-annual newsletter and will have a continued presence throughout the life of our organization.

\$1,000: Silver sponsors will have their name on the Silver level donor plaque on the SAVECats Hero Wall. The individual(s) and/or corporation(s) will be listed in our bi-annual newsletter and will have a continued presence throughout the life of our organization.

Our minimum fund-raising goal to fully fund SAVECats the first year is \$150,000. If we are fortunate enough to raise more than the minimum funding, these funds will be utilized to continue SAVECats offerings and outreach.



4.4 Promotion

We have budgeted minimal funds to run ads and promote SAVECats. Much of this money is ear-marked to produce flyers to place in the community and mail to key individuals and businesses.

Most of our promotion will occur by partnering with the print, radio and television media to provide as much free publicity for this project as possible. Rude Ranch has been very successful with this approach in the past. We are covered frequently by the Annapolis Capital. We have appeared on a number of local news telecasts and local television shows including the Hoofs and Woofs show originated by Ellen Moyer, the former Mayor of Annapolis. We were also featured on CNN during the Christmas season of 2008, and were featured on an episode of “Must Love Cats” on Animal Planet.

We will leverage our current presence on the internet with our website(s) Instagram and Facebook following; recruit our current volunteer and support base of more than 4,000 individuals to help get the word out; recruit other members of the animal welfare community to promote the services offered by SAVECats; and work directly with the local veterinary community to ensure their support of the program.

Word of mouth is still our most successful method of promotion. We strive to make the experience positive for our customers, volunteers and contributors to give them a reason to recommend SAVECats to friends, associates and family members who may be looking for help with a stray cat, contribute to a worthy cause or just looking for an opportunity to volunteer with an organization like ours. Success breeds success. People want to feel that their efforts are not only appreciated, but lead to results. Our goal is to make everyone feel their efforts are leading towards the ultimate goal of Anne Arundel County becoming a No-kill community.

5 FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

5.1 Summary of Startup Costs

Spay/Neuter/Vaccines for 1,500 Cats	\$90,000
Program Manager (½ Salary)	25,000
Trapping/Field Support (½ Salary)	20,000
Transportation (site to clinic & return)	8,000
Misc (add'l medical, equipment deterrents)	<u>7,000</u>
Total	<u>\$150,000</u>

5.2 Five Year Budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Income	1,500	2,000	3,000
	surgeries	surgeries	surgeries
Donations/Grants	\$150,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Support from AA County*	0	\$25,000	\$45,000
Total Income	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$185,000
 Expenses			
Spay/Neuter surgery	80,000	90,000	105,000
Vaccines	10,000	12,500	14,000
Admin/Field Support	20,000	20,000	20,000
Transportation	8,000	10,000	12,000
Program Manager	25,000	25,000	25,000
Miscellaneous Expense	2,000	2,500	3,000
Other medical	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$165,000</u>	<u>\$185,000</u>

***Note:** Support from Anne Arundel County is recognized in cost savings from no longer impounding, euthanizing and disposal of community cats.

6 CONCLUSION

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is passionate about finding a solution to the current practice of euthanizing community cats to control the over population problem. We believe a high quality well managed TNR program is the best approach to solve this problem. We are willing to explore new approaches, embrace alternate business models and implement ideas that are outside the standard practices for the industry. We feel it is necessary to challenge old ideas and explore alternatives to better serve the people and animals in our community. With your support we can make this concept a reality. We greatly appreciate your consideration and look forward to answering any questions you may have about this project. Please contact Bob Rude at 443-607-6496 or email him at ruderanch@comcast.net for additional information or to discuss how you can help.



7 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

7.1 Rude Ranch 990

Available at www.guidestar.org - Just enter Rude Ranch in the search parameter and follow instructions or call us to obtain a hard copy of this document.

7.2 501 c(3) Designation Letter

Available upon request.

7.3 Proven models of success

7.3.1 AP article

Baltimore Hearing Affirms Success of City Trap-Neuter-Return Program
September 27, 2017

In an overwhelming show of support for Baltimore's landmark Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, city officials, residents, and advocates hailed its success at a hearing on Tuesday and recommended that it continue without changes or modifications.

The Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee held the hearing to discuss Resolution 17-0042R, which required officials from the Health Department's Office of Animal Control to speak about Baltimore's TNR program.

About 60 people crowded into the hearing room, with an overwhelming majority in support of the TNR program that began 10 years ago. The program has become a model for the nation.

Sharon Miller, director of the city's Office of Animal Control, testified that TNR benefits residents and community cats. She was joined by Jennifer Brause, the executive director of the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS), which runs the TNR program, and its Community Cat Program Coordinator Grace Fellner.

Brause and Fellner presented statistics showing the positive impact of TNR since the program began a decade ago. Among the data:

Feline euthanasia at BARCS decreased by 73 percent.

The live release rate for cats (the number of animals who leave the shelter alive through adoption, return to owners, transfer to another facility, or the “return” part of TNR) rose from 60 percent to more than 90 percent.

Intake for adult cats declined by 9.6 percent, and for kittens under 6 months old, it fell by 54 percent.

Alley Cat Allies staff attended the hearing and called the dialogue between city officials and BARCS encouraging. We also appreciated that residents voiced their support for TNR at the meeting. Some shared their stories after seeing the benefits of TNR. In addition to those who testified, many people who were unable to attend the hearing submitted written testimony through our Action Center.

Other animal welfare groups that had representatives at the hearing included Community Cats Maryland, the Humane Society of the United States, Maryland SPCA, and ReLove Animals.

Alley Cat Allies is delighted that the city council now has a thorough understanding of the importance of the TNR program to Baltimore, and we’re optimistic that the city council will continue to support it.

It was 10 years ago that Baltimore enacted one of the country’s strongest and most effective ordinances on TNR and community cats. Alley Cat Allies worked with residents, humane organizations, and public officials to build citywide support for the program. Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, reaffirmed the success of this program in her September 25 letter to the editor in The Baltimore Sun.

7.3.2 Chicago Business.com

To solve a rat problem, send in the feral cats

April 05, 2016 07:00 AM

Danielle Braff

When pest control company Orkin named Chicago “the rattiest city in the nation” in 2013 and in 2014, the city decided something stronger than poison was needed to battle the problem.

It's releasing the cats. Feral cats.

With the city's blessing, the Cats at Work program at Tree House Humane Society in Lincoln Park has placed 3,500 feral cats with residents in the Chicago area to combat the rat problem, which is expected to grow as major construction projects in Lincoln Park get underway.

Chicago had 33,000 rats in 2014, 36,000 last year, and is forecast to reach 50,000 by the end of the year.

“Cats are a natural predator of rodents, so inviting feral cats onto your property is an environmentally friendly and extremely effective method of combating rats,” says Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th. “Not only can you avoid introducing chemicals and poisons near your home but you will be saving these cats from potentially life-threatening situations.”

The warm winter made the city a pleasant locale for rats, which usually die off during harsh Chicago winters. “There are two reasons why rats are so prolific in a city such as Chicago: resources—food and water—and shelter,” says Paul Nickerson, manager of the Cats at Work program.

Many of the feral cats, which can survive outside all winter, are pulled from the city's Animal Care & Control unit. Most of the felines used in the program would have been euthanized, Nickerson says.

The Tree House Humane Society charges \$500 to \$600 for a three-cat placement (it prefers to give out multiple cats because the animals are social), which includes vetting, microchipping, spaying, rabies shots and medical treatment. It also includes winterized cat shelters made from Rubbermaid storage totes insulated with straw bedding. Heated water bowls are also included, along with a litter box (homeowners are responsible for scooping and cleaning).

Nickerson helps families through a short acclimation process to train cats to stay in the family's backyard or garage.

Once cats catch the rats, they tend to kill them and leave them, or bring them back to where they live. (Eww. Disposal is on you.) “Cats in managed colonies that are fed just kill the rats for fun. They don't eat them,” Nickerson says.

Waiting list of two to four weeks

The program is so popular there's a waiting list of two to four weeks. (Interested persons can email Nickerson at TNR@treehouseanimals.org.)

The feral cat program may become even more in demand this spring, with looming major construction projects such as the demolition of Children's Memorial Hospital, which is expected to let loads of the vermin loose into the neighborhood.

Andrea Swank knew her Lincoln Park block had a major rat problem before she moved into her house, but she wasn't prepared for how extreme it was and how it would affect her at all hours.

She says many evenings she was awoken by people walking past her window, screaming when they saw a rat.

Paul Nickerson manages the Cats at Work program.

After hearing about the managed cat colonies from a friend, Swank signed up. Two of her brood immediately took up residence down the street, but one, whom her son named Jeff, remained. Swank hasn't seen a rat in months.

A downside: The cats aren't only feasting on rats. They're also nibbling on every other species they come across, says Jill Niland, co-chair of the Chicago Ornithological Society's Conservation Committee.

“We do know that these cats, even though well-fed, have an instinct to kill, and that they kill many birds as well as other wildlife including chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits and even some species of lizards and insects,” Niland says. “People don't see or ignore the collateral damage to wildlife.”

Sometimes it's a matter of choosing your poison.

Extermination may be a better option for the birds, but mouse and rat poisoning can be a danger to pets and children, and also creates a vacuum effect. “It becomes a never-ending revolving door of rats filling the void left by rats killed by poison and traps,” Nickerson says. “Cats are so effective because they remove the original population of rats and keep additional ones from moving into the territory.”