



Do you notice **Feral** cats in the neighborhood?

Email: JacqJordan@aol.com to learn more.



February, 2015 - In my few months of taking in a pair of abandoned domestic cats, I have come to recognize the issue of feral homeless cats in our neighborhood. Feral cats are homeless cats, the wild offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners' abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, allowing them to over populate more unwanted felines. To complicate our neighborhood situation, upon doing my research, I have come to learn through speaking with organizations such as www.kittybungalow.org, that five years ago, an injunction went into effect ostensibly placing a gag order on City Officials to discuss, refer or finance anything that had to do with Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR). TNR is considered the humane solution to the overpopulation of stray cats through sterilization. This is a successful program in cities all over the United States that cuts the euthanasia rate (I prefer to call it the genocide rate) of unwanted cats to ZERO!

Apparently, a bureaucratic loophole has put this injunction in place and has kept the City's Humane Cat Plan from going into affect. The details, I won't bore you with, nor do I fully understand because the consequence already trumps the reason. If, however, you have more knowledge or require more information, please feel free to email me at JacqJordan@aol.com. or go to kittybungalow.org (Kitty Bungalow: Charm School for Wayward Cats www.kittybungalow.org) which has a full page detailing the injunction. With that said, since this injunction has been in place the result is more unwanted cats, and a higher rate of kill cats at shelters. One can easily dismiss the cats being killed in the shelter as hissy, mangy, feral cats, but the truth is that the fluffy kitten offspring are paying the price with their lives.

N.I.M.B - I remember learning that phrase in college. Not in My Backyard. Unfortunately, this problem is in our backyard, and if we clean it up in our own backyard, we do our neighborhood and the cats, a great service - only having to deal with one generation of homeless cats.

This April is cat mating season. We have two months to organize our own Trap. Neuter. Release program. Remember a pair of breeding cats can have two or more litters per year, which can exponentially produce 420,000 offspring in seven years. I would like to see my \$2.00 increase its value like that in seven years. The price tag of this neglect in our own neighborhood is that 10,000 cats will be killed this coming year, with some city shelters at a nearly 60% feline kill rate. Our Government Animal Services use Trap and Kill, since Trap, Neuter, and Return cannot be legally discussed at this time.

I'm advocating that our neighborhood do a volunteer - humane Trap, Neuter, Return, in order to create a short-term solution for a long-term problem. If you recognize, notice, or have feral cats identified in your neighborhood, please contact me and we will work with local organizations for free spaying and neutering over the coming weeks. I am also seeking local volunteers to put door hangers on our neighbors front doors with similar information, options, and opportunities, before mating season begins.

In Neighborly Service,
Jacquie