

August 16, 2024

Deshundra Jefferson, Chair-at-Large
Prince William Board of County Supervisors
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192

RE: DIR 22-33 - September 20, 2022 - Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release Program

Dear Chair Jefferson and Board of County Supervisors:

In September 2022, the Board of County Supervisors directed county staff to bring back recommendations for consideration at a future Board meeting to amend the County Code for the implementation of a community trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) program for cats. This directive was provided in response to the memo from Chief Newsham, dated September 2, 2021, which was sent to the Board in response to DIR 21-46. The response came through the attached Police Departmental Memo of March 8, 2023 (RE: DIR 22-33 – TNVR). It is our understanding that no action or further direction was taken after this memo was presented.

Current County Code does not allow for free-roaming cat colonies: *Sec. 4-5.1. Impoundment of animals running at large. Any animal, other than a dog, found running at large in the county, shall be taken up by the animal warden or other officer, as defined in section 4-21, and impounded at the animal shelter and thereafter disposed of under the provisions of section 4-5. For the purposes of this section, "animal" shall not include agricultural animals. (Ord. No. 03-47, 6-24-03, effective 7-1-03) State law reference(s)—Enabling provisions, Code of Virginia, § 3.1-796.96.*

At this time, we are asking the Board to provide a directive to staff to authorize and schedule a public hearing to change Section 4-5.1 of the County Code, such that impoundment of free roaming cats is not required. This change would mirror the code in neighboring jurisdictions and broaden efforts to address this issue in our community. In addition, we ask the county to consider the second part of the directive, which is to fund the TNVR program in the upcoming budget process.

Sincerely,

Members of the Prince William County Community Cat Coalition:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Prince William SPCA

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Save a Dog, Save a Cat (SADSAC)

CC: *Peter Newsham, Chief of Police, Prince William County*
Anthony Cleveland, Director, Prince William County Animal Services Center
Patti Bright, Chair, Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee
Prince William County Community Cat Coalition