

**From:** [Eilers, Wendy](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** February 14 City Council Agenda Item: Provide Direction to Staff on Negotiations with Pets in Need for Operations and Capital Improvements at the City's Animal Shelter  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 10:59:38 AM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from weilers@stanfordhealthcare.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

I am writing to let you know of my strong support for continued negotiations with Pets In Need to operate the City's Animal Shelter. Palo Alto, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills must have their own shelter, which should also operate a fully functioning spay-neuter clinic, a vital service to those in the community who work tirelessly to humanely decrease the overpopulation of cats and dogs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Wendy Eilers

**From:** [Vanessa Forney](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Pets In Need: Feral cat plan (item #9)  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 10:22:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Dear City Council,

I am a volunteer trapper and I manage a trapping group, run an educational [Instagram](#), and share resources for TNR in the Bay Area on my website [bayareacats.org](#). I am continually asked what people in Los Altos and Palo Alto can do with the feral cats they feed. My answer is spend \$50/cat and wait for appointments.

**What does this mean?** People do nothing and the cats reproduce on the streets. Unless the TNR program is FREE and straightforward (e.g. no appointments, traps readily available for borrowing), people will not trap the cats. They are not their cats, and they are unwilling or unable to spend money on these cats.

Every single city besides Los Altos and Palo Alto have free TNR and medical care for ferals (see this [overview here](#) on how the other shelters support TNR). This includes but is not limited to: Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Campbell, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Alviso, etc. In all of these cities, cats are TNR'd at no cost (including vaccines, spay/neuter, microchip, flea treatment, and sometimes deworming), many kittens are socialized and adopted out, and ferals are provided additional medical care at no cost.

There is no other solution than TNR. No person feeding or trapping will ever support a euthanasia program, and as you know there are not homes, rescues, sanctuaries, or shelter space for every feral cat. Therefore, TNR is the only solution besides leaving the cats to breed on the street.

Attached are the cats that have gone to SJACC, SCCAC, HSSV, and SVACA between myself and a few other volunteer trappers in the last 12 months. Without these free TNR programs, that would be over 1200 cats breeding on the street. Even in just the next 2 months that would have been 3000 more kittens. And wait 6 more months, that could be 10000 or more cats. Female cats reproduce at 4 months of age, and can have 3-4 litters per year. TNR is the only solution to stop the breeding and suffering.


Imagine if we had to pay \$50 per cat. That would be over \$50,000 for the cats in the last year. Nearly all trappers are independent volunteers or are people looking to fix the cats they feed. These are not rescue organizations that can easily raise money or ask for donations. These are not people that have \$50,000 lying around. I would not trap cats if I had to make appointments and trap one cat at a time and pay \$50, and I know many are in that same boat.

Every month you delay a TNR program is more cats breeding on the street. TNR is the only way we will get ourselves out of this kitten and cat overpopulation problem. We need free TNR, low cost spay/neuter for pets, and a lot of it. The longer we delay, the longer it will take to get out of this situation.


Please don't delay and implement a TNR program and return-to-field program as soon as possible. The suffering is unnecessary, and we need your help to stop it.

Thank you,  
Vanessa Forney


SVACA




Grey Girl




Blackjack




Marble Tabby




Shadow




Bear



Big Mango




Carla




91 records


HSSV




Buff Twin




Small Torbie




Battle Grey




Calico



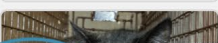
Small Tabby



Olivia




Livvy




413 records


SJACC



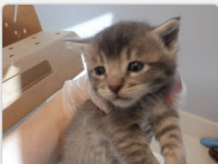
Dottie




Canoli



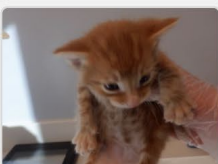
Dottie Kitten #1




Dottie Kitten #2




Dottie Kitten #3



Dottie Kitten #4




Dottie Kitten #5




722 records

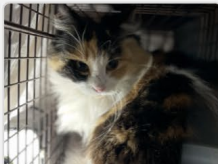
SCCAC




Black Nose



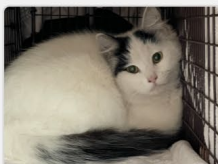
Big Zolezzi Orange



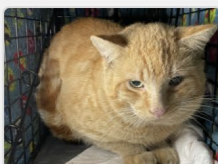
Calico



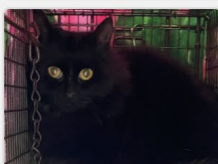
Big Blackie




White Fluff



Zolezzi Orange



Small Blackie



7 records

**From:** [Barb Jaarsma](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment/Plea - FERAL CAT Plan  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 9:52:43 AM

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Dear City Council -

Feral cat plan – The current Agreement states that PIN cannot release feral cats within the City of Palo Alto or any of its Partner Cities. PIN would like to establish a Trap-Neuter- Release plan for feral cats in cooperation with the City. City staff are open to exploring this topic with participation from community stakeholders.

As a resident of Palo Alto since 1958, I have been involved in caring for and managing "feral" (actually fearful) cat colonies for many years, and run a small non- profit dedicated to TNR, socializing, and rehoming these furry darlings since I was a child.

I am grateful that our City Council is open to working with other established TNR & colony management programs to establish a working model for the many stray cats on the streets of Palo Alto who are being cared for unofficially by small, independent operators such as myself.

We literally have no resources available unless we reach out to neighboring cities and counties and programs and beg for help.

All shelters along the peninsula and south bay have TNR policies for area feral cats. This is so wildly important to help decrease the number of abandoned and homeless kitties in our area, while at the same time, humanely take care of this population.

Our neighbors in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and Milpitas get free spay and neuter services for feral cats from the HSSV. PHS offers low cost and free spay neuter for this same class of cat. San Jose residents receive this service from SJACC. They offer vaccinations, deworming, flea treatments and microchipping services. They loan out traps to residents.

All of this helps low income residents and local rescues that are overloaded with expenses and animals to save, to participate in ensuring that we can spay/neuter every free roaming cat in our area. This is the only way to reduce the population. One female cat can have several litters of kittens (3-6 at a time) starting at only 6 months old. Without a concerted effort to spay and neuter this population you can see the multiples and understand how quickly this cat population can grow without this effort.

If you do not support TNR, leaving them to breed means there will be even more cats than there already are. There are not homes for hundreds of thousands of these cats in the area, there are not enough rescues, and sanctuaries are non-existent. Euthanasia is not a solution and it is not humane.

Not all of these homeless cats are wildly feral... many are friendly enough after being fed by humans, to rescue and find homes for. These "feral" cats are the same breed as your everyday

house cat... these animals deserve a chance too. It's a very hard life living outside 24/7.  
**Having Pets In Need (or any experienced nonprofit rescue), support TNR in our community is a very good thing. For the people and the cats.**

Please support this effort.

Thank you so much,

Barbara Jaarsma  
3335 Stockton Place  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4202  
650-644-5360

**From:** [Peter Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Comments re: Agenda item #9  
**Date:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:58:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [BFAS public comments PIN-Palo Alto.pdf](#)

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from peterw@bestfriends.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning.

Attached, please find comments regarding Agenda item #9 (Provide Direction to Staff on Negotiations with Pets in Need for Operations and Capital Improvements at the City's Animal Shelter).

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have—I can be reached at the e-mail address shown below.

Respectfully,

Peter J. Wolf  
Research/Policy Analyst  
Best Friends Animal Society  
602.499.1474

**From:** [herb](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#); [Clerk, City](#)  
**Subject:** February 14, 2022 Council Meeting, Item #9: Animal Shelter and Pets In Need  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2022 5:37:24 PM

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Herb Borock  
P. O. Box 632  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

February 12, 2022

Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**FEBRUARY 14, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA ITEM #9  
CITY'S ANIMAL SHELTER AND PETS IN NEED**

Dear City Council:

I urge you to terminate the City's relationship with Pets in Need and have City employees hired to provide the City's required animal services function.

The staff report for this agenda item at Packet Page 248 in the first paragraph under "Background" shows the City's requirement to provide animal services.

That is not Pets in Need's purpose.

Pets in Need's Form 990 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020 at page 2 says, "Most of the shelter guests are loving animals that have been rescued from public facilities where they were in danger of being killed."

Pets in Need does not want a contract with the City of Palo Alto to provide the animal services the City is required to provide by law.

Pets in Need wants a contract with the City to obtain a building paid for by the City to house the animals it "rescues", and Pets in Need wants to use the City's name to enable Pets in Need to solicit contributions for its objective of rescuing animals.

Letters from citizens in prior agenda packets have reported the failure of Pets in Need to provide the services the City is required to provide by law.

Newspapers have reported the neglect of Pets in Need that resulted in the death of animals it was "rescuing".

The City has already paid for the capital improvements that a City operated animal shelter needs.



The budget issue before you is the same issue you have been presented with by three City Managers: Do you want to spend money on capital improvements while eliminating City employees, or do you want to balance expenditures between salaries and capital improvements so that the workers in the buildings have the commitment to provide the services that buildings were constructed to house?

Below is a copy of my September 6, 2016 letter to the Council on this subject.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock

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Herb Borock  
P. O. Box 632  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

September 6, 2016

Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2016, CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA  
ITEM #5  
ANIMAL CARE SERVICES AND ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITY**

Dear City Council:

I suggest that you structure your direction to staff based on the adopted Operating Budget's description of the Animal Services division and the functions it provides; the Animal Services annual staff cost including benefits adjusted for salary adjustments in the most recent collective bargaining agreement; and the additional proposed services Pets in Need would like to provide at its proposed facility.

The adopted budget for Animal Services includes four Animal Control Officers and four other employees.

Pets in Need proposes that the City retain the four Animal Control Officers while Pets in Need would have eleven other employees.

What would the additional seven employees be doing

that is not being done now?

The budget description for Animal Services says the division "Provides animal control, pet recovery/adoption services, animal care, animal health and welfare, and regional animal services", where the term "regional animal services" currently includes only Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Although Pets in Need's proposal would receive revenue from the City for each animal collected within the Palo Alto Animal Services service area, Pets in Need accepts rescues from other northern California cities.

To what extent does the staffing and facility size depend upon Pets in Need being an open access shelter for other northern California cities to achieve its goal of validating the no-kill movement?

If, as the staff report states in the first full paragraph on Packet Page 372, "adjustments may be required to service levels based on the negotiated fee structure and facility's capacity", how would the need for such adjustments depend upon the extent to which the facility accepts rescues from other northern California? Should animals from the Animal Shelter's current service area have preference at the shelter over animals from other communities?

Who would be responsible for licensing animals, vaccinating animals, and ensuring that the appropriate City fees are paid on a timely basis and received by the appropriate part of the City organization?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock

Reply

Forward

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**From:** [Tran, Joanna](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Cc:** [Executive Leadership Team](#); [ORG - Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Council Action Agenda Question for 2/14/22: Item 9  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2022 1:22:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

On behalf of City Manager Ed Shikada, please view the following links for the staff response to a question from Councilmember Filseth regarding Monday night's Council Meeting:

- [February 14, 2022 Amended Agenda](#)
- [Staff response to Action Item 9](#)

Thank you,  
Joanna

## Joanna Tran

Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Office of the City Manager

(650) 329-2105 | [joanna.tran@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:joanna.tran@cityofpaloalto.org)

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



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