

ACR 4 - Allow community cats to become a part of a Trap Neuter Return program.

SUBMITTED BY: Shannon Basner, Mojo's Hope/Alaska's Kitty Advocacy, Awareness, and Adoption Tails (KAAATs)

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. I am writing to you as a representative of the non-profit organization Mojo's Hope to request a change to the current regulation: 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

<https://www.animallaw.info/administrative/alaska-exotic-animaltitle-5-fish-and-game-article-3-permits>.

The request for this change is in regards to Mojo's Hope, working with other local non-profits, implementing a Trap-Neuter-Return program for community cats. Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) is widely recognized, worldwide, as the most humane and effective strategy for reducing the population of feral and stray cats, often called community cats. TNR involves humanely trapping cats living outdoors in cities, towns and rural areas and transporting them to a veterinary clinic where they are vaccinated, tested for communicable diseases along with being spayed or neutered. After that, healthy but feral cats are returned to their colony if a dedicated caretaker manages them. Friendly stray cats will be brought to our local open admissions shelter or go up for adoption with one of the local rescue groups.

Why is this change needed here in Alaska? Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives, while preventing reproduction. It is a fact that the removal and killing of community cats is not an effective way to reduce the population of cats outdoors. Here in Alaska we have a large population of community cats both feral and stray. With a successful program like Trap-Neuter-Return to turn to, the community can actually help cats living outdoors and the population of free-roaming cats does decline.

Since feral cats are not adoptable, they are killed in pounds and shelters. Trap-Neuter-Return provides a life-saving, effective solution for these animals. There are so many reasons to embrace and promote TNR! Trap-Neuter-Return:

- Stabilizes feral cat colonies
- Improves cats' lives
- Answers the needs of the community
- Protects cats' lives
- Works—other methods just don't

Incorporate the term, "Community Cats," (umbrella term for feral or friendly stray cat). Community Cats would be the exception to the regulation with a properly managed TNR program.

Remove: Cat-Felis catus: to allow the implementation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? At this time the regulation prohibits the release of cats into the wild. We would like to modify the wording to allow community cats to become a part of a Trap Neuter Return program. This would allow volunteer nonprofits to trap, neuter/vaccinate and return cats to their habitat that are being properly managed by a responsible volunteer caretaker.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: To reduce the population of community cats in the most effective and humane way.

b) to correct an error in regulation:

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? If the problem is not solved prior to the regular cycle, a TNR program cannot be implemented and community cats that are true ferals will continue to be trapped and brought to the shelter to be euthanized by community members that do not understand that the colony where they came from will continue to prosper and populate due to the vacuum effect and lack of an effective spay/neuter program.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE: This is not an allocation of the state's wildlife resources. All funding will be donation based through our nonprofit 501(c)(3) program, Mojo's Hope and other non-profits working with us.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. Founder of Mojo's Hope and Alaska's KAAATs (Alaska Kitty Advocacy, Awareness and Adoption Tails), Animal Welfare advocate

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. Not to my knowledge.