

From: [Alaska's KAAATs](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: RC: Proposal 144
Subject: Monday, March 7, 2022 10:14:47 PM
Date:

Dear Board Members,

As the author of proposal 144 I want to take a moment to thank the board for taking the time to review our proposal and have an open discussion about how to address the outdoor cat issue. I am writing a follow-up comment to express further the importance of adopting the change to the current regulation, **Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game**. After listening to the discussions at the meetings on Saturday and today, March 7th, I feel it is of utmost importance that we take the time to look at this situation in a more serious light. As an animal welfare advoCATE for over 25 years, I have witnessed time and time again the lack of understanding of cats behaviors, their positive contributions & the positive impact they have in this world. Cats are such uniquely special creatures whose care & well-being is the responsibility of us humans. It is also our responsibility to do right by all living creatures. That being said, our proposal provided longitudinal recent data relaying the effectiveness of a TNVR program which would positively impact all living creatures. Our proposal covered the concerns about disease control & public health concerns. Our proposal stated very clearly how the cost of such a program would be through rescues and other organizations, not the state or taxpayers. Our proposal provided details about cats who were euthanized at our local shelter due to their behaviors. Through our Mojo's Hope program we have rehabilitated numerous cats who were labeled as behavior issues and that is where education must come into play. It is nearly impossible to properly assess a cat in a shelter setting or an outdoor setting. Cats who get lost become fearful and display behaviors that are inaccurately assessed, which leads to euthanasia, sadly. We are striving for full transparency by bringing forward a program that has been proven to work and that the method that has been implemented for 30+ years has not been working. I encourage the board to reach out to me personally as I would be happy to invite you to my home where you can see cats who were deemed behavior issues, thriving, adapting and have become loving members of a family. This is entirely possible and I am hopeful that this will provide the board with a deeper understanding and a new perspective on cats. I leave you with this, from the heart of HarPURR, one of our representatives of cats with special needs, who was found outdoors at 3 weeks old, paralyzed. We are here to inspire, eduCATE, encourage and demonstrate compassion. That should be our daily mission.

Thank you for your time and understanding,

--

Shannon Basner **ACCBC/ABC-DT**
Founder/Volunteer/Foster/AdvoCATE
Certified Pet Loss & Bereavement Counselor
Paw Prints, Howls and Purrs
Mojo's Hope/Alaska's KAAATs