COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Fayette County Humane Society	Presenter(s):	Chairman Steve Brown; Jane Reed
Meeting Date:	Thursday, October 23, 2014	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Presentation by the Fayette County Humane Society about Fayette County's approved Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program, based on an analysis and results of identified feral cat test sites, and approval of the Humane Society's request to submit proposed county ordinances pertaining to the TNR program.

Background/History/Details:

During the April 10, 2014 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board was given a presentation by Ms. Sharon Marchisello, Secretary of the Fayette County Humane Society, and by Animal Control Officer Rani Rathburn. At the end of the report, the Board approved a motion to create an exemption to Fayette County's Leash Law for the purpose of creating four test Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) sites, with the permission of the City of Fayetteville and the City of Peachtree City for their prescribed sites, with the sites being the Fayette Pavilion Shopping Center Business District area, Bryson Lane in Fayetteville, Highway 85 Connector, and Paschal and Dividend Drive Industrial area, for adequate reports to be provided to the Fayette County Animal Control on a regular basis as determined by the Fayette County Animal Control Department, and for funding for the project to come through the Fayette County Humane Society.

From that time to current, the Fayette Humane Society has conducted TNR test site operations. Humane Society grants paid for the program rendered to feral cats at the test sites. Additionally, the Fayette Humane Society was given permission by the County Commissioners to conduct TNR operations outside of the test sites. The Humane Society was able to obtain multiple grant awards for this project. The goal of the project is to lower Fayette County's costs, for the Fayette County Humane Society to pay for the project, to utilize volunteer labor and freeing Animal Control resources, to reduce concerns about disease among the animals, to sterilize the animals, to motivate animal loves to partner with Fayette County Animal Control to save the cats, and, ultimately, to be more humane to

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Fayette County Humane Society's request to submit proposed county ordinances pertaining to the Trap/Neuter/Return program.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable. The Fayette County Humane Society will be responsible for all necessary funding for this project.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

Ms. Kim Davis of the Fayette County Humane Society and Animal Control Officer Rani Rathburn will make the presentation to the Board.

Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Test Site Report

presented by

Fayette Humane Society and Fayette Animal Control

Oct 2014

PURPOSE

To present TNR test site data/results and request approval to submit draft county TNR ordinances and TNR program processes for review and approval.

BACKGROUND

In April 2014, BOC approved FHSs' request to conduct trial TNR of feral cats for a 6 month trial basis (Apr – Sep 2014).

TNR Test Site Data

SITE	Estimated Number	Fixed	Surrender Kittens	Euthanized
4 Seasons	75	70	5	2
Bryson Lane	20	13	2	1
Kenwood Mobile "In Progress"	176	63	3	2
Brooks	50	79	20	2
County	300	278	21	1
TOTALs	**621**	**503**	**51**	**8**

Intake Comparison – AC and FHS

(1 Apr - 30 Sep)

	INTAKE	ADOPTIONS	EUTHANIZED	EST COST
Animal Control	323	138	185	$35,060.00
Fayette Humane Society	554	49	8	$24,930.00

Summary

- FHS fixed/vac'd 554 cats; AC trapped/removed 185
- FHS TNR program sterilized 67% more cats than AC Trap/Removed (euth)
- FHS, in partnership with AC, significantly reduces the feral cat population and euthanasia rate.
- FHS pays TNR costs. No cost to county.
  - FHS Fund Raisers – golf tournament; Tour of Homes; yard sales, book sales and donations
  - Grants pending:
    - Best Friends = $5K
    - Bernice Barbour = $3K
    - Petco = $5K
    - Petsmart = $10K

TNR Program

Request County Commissioner approval to conduct TNR in Fayette County. Implemented by:

Proposed ordinances - collaborative effort between FHS and AC.

Examples from existing TNR programs available for ordinance development

Community TNR education and training classes

Reporting process from FHS to AC

KENNEL CAB

Glynn County program aims to control feral cats

'We know it would work here. We just need to get started.'

By Kelly Quimby
Brunswick News

Most Glynn County commissioners say they'll back local efforts to boost a program to trap, neuter and release feral cats in the community. A humane society representative called it a "proactive, humane and effective way" to control the feral cat population.

Troy Salsbury, a spokesman for the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia, gave a presentation on the program last week and asked the board for its blessing to ramp up the program, which would be headed mostly by unpaid volunteers. He offered the program as an alternative to euthanasia for dealing with feral cats, which he described as those that live in groups and avoid humans.

"The people performing trap, neuter, release are not asking for money, and they're not asking for volunteers," Salsbury said. "The county is actually going to spend less money ... because those cats will no longer be brought to the shelter. It's been done successfully in many communities. We know it would work here. We just need to get started."

Glynn County Police Chief Matt Doering told the commission there is currently no reference to feral cats in the code of ordinances. The county makes no proactive efforts to address the feral cat populations, he said, and it doesn't typically pick up cats when Glynn County Animal Services receives a complaint. Most cats in the animal shelter are brought in by citizens, he said.

Doering said he backs the effort, as it provides an opportunity to have the feral cat colonies in Glynn County sterilized and inoculated and then returned to their environment. The animals then live out their natural lives without producing more cats.

"That's better than what we're doing now, which is nothing, or having them euthanized," Doering said. "Subsequent to that, we'll have fewer animals coming in to be euthanized, and more money can be spent on animals that are adoptable."

The chief said the county would maintain a list of the volunteers and the colonies they manage. Cats brought in as part of the program would have an ear clipped so they can be more easily identified. If one of the altered feral cats turns up in animal control, the volunteers can pick it up and return it to its colony, he said.

Salsbury said there are already many residents willing to monitor colonies and trap cats for the program. The only thing standing in the way was a thumbs up from the commission, he said, so volunteers don't have to worry about being prosecuted for animal abandonment, an offense punishable with a $2,000 fine.

The program is likely the quickest way to increase the live release rate at Glynn County Animal Services, he said. Once the program is fully up and running, the county could see a decrease in the number of feral cats at the shelter within six months.