



# For the Love of Cats

## **SUMMARY**

The City of North Baltimore ("City") has contacted For the Love of Cats ("FLOC") to assist with the overpopulation of feral "community" cats. The City has identified an influx of feral cat colonies in their community and wishes to implement a trap-neuter-return ("TNR") program with the goal of reducing the number of feral/free-roaming cats in our community. TNR programs have been widely adopted as industry best practices relating to the control of feral cat colony populations.

## **FLOC BACKGROUND**

This year, over 200 cats have gone thru our TNR program, and in the past three years, almost 1000. We have seen success in the areas we have focused on for two years and those we have helped with a smaller number of cats. We have stopped the breeding cycle, fighting and spread of diseases among colony cats, suffering of sick cats and kittens, and nuisances created by too many feral cats.

## **TNR PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

For the Love of Cats is a nonprofit whose mission is TNR and is located in Bowling Green, Ohio. Their Trap, Neuter, Return program consists of:

- Humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, ear tipping, and returning of feral cats to the location where trapped;
- Ear tipping is the process of removing one-quarter inch (or less) tip of the feral cat's left ear, performed while the feral cat is under anesthesia, to identify the feral cat as being sterilized and lawfully vaccinated for rabies;
- Sterilization of feral cats is carried out by licensed veterinarians,

For the City of North Baltimore, For the Love of Cats ("FLOC") will handle the trapping, transportation of cats to and from veterinary clinic, recovery of the animals and return to location trapped.

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

The average basic TNR cost per cat is \$80. Quite often, TNR is the only time a community cat will receive veterinary care, and if a cat is sick, it will receive any additional treatment it needs before being released. At the heart of our mission is the welfare of the cat and we ensure that they are given the opportunity at the best quality of life.

The City has agreed to provide a minimum of \$5000 for FLOC to assist with the TNR program. With the initial amount agreed upon, that will cover spay/neuter of approximately 62 cats. FLOC will provide to the City information on the TNR program, including date of TNR, color and sex of cat and location. We will remain in contact with the city administrator on progress of the program.