

**From:** [Kit Gordon](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** March 27, Item 3: Pets in Need  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 1:25:09 PM

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Hello Palo Alto City Council,

I am a cat owner and resident of Los Altos Hills, served by (and in-kind donor to) Palo Alto Animal Shelter.

I strongly urge that any contract for animal services should not allow release of feral cats. They are destructive to our ecosystem. They are predators of birds, mammals, amphibians and insects. They compete with our native species for food and shelter. And they spread diseases. Please don't create more problems for our community.

Please consider my comments in your discussion.

Thank you,  
Kit Gordon

**From:** [Carolyn Straub](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Palo Alto City Council: Item 3 on the 3/27 agenda: Please do not allow TNR  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 11:04:33 AM

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Dear Mayor Kou and City Council:

In your study today of a new contract with Pets In Need for a pet shelter, please do not allow a Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral cats!

We are Santa Clara County residents who have been the victims of released feral cats. They have been returned directly to our yard when we left them at the pet shelter.

Cats are bird hunters and the reason for the decrease in bird populations country-wide. For the cat, this release is not healthy. The cats get exposed to traffic, poor foods and general health depredation in addition to the birds.

We have five bird feeders and we must go around weekly spraying the yard with Critter Ridder. Not everyone does this here. Though owners without cats dislike cats prowling on their property, they don't readily buy Critter Ridder and spray it in the places that cats use as "toilets."

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon is right:

**"Predation by domestic cats is the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States and Canada.** Cats have contributed to the extinction of 63 species of birds, mammals, and reptiles in the wild and continue to adversely impact a wide variety of other species, including those at risk of extinction. The ecological dangers are so critical that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists domestic cats as one of the world's worst non-native invasive species."

A feral cat is already a cast-off from an owner's house. It is not necessary to offer a program which in the end also casts them out on the streets.

Cat lovers without thought favor re-releasing feral cats. They think that euthanizing the cat is "cruel" but so are they re-releasing cats whose lives then become impossible on the streets.

Thank you for your interest.

Carolyn Straub  
Steve McHenry  
San Jose, California  
SCVAS members



**From:** [Pat McGuire](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Item 3, Feral Cats....No Releasing!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 9:50:53 PM

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I join many others pointing out the uselessness of neutering feral cats and then **RELEASING THEM** to kill birds at this critical stopping point on the Pacific Flyway, a place where multiple endangered species nest on the ground and are at very great risk of predation. In addition to natural predators, we surely don't need herds of feral cats **RELEASED** to go kill 'em! An utterly insane plan. (Neutering of cats that people are going to take home, love, and **KEEP INDOORS**, makes perfect sense, but catching the huge feral population, neutering 'em, and turning them loose again into the areas that 2 decades' work has gone into restoring along the Bay shore is beyond nuts!

Feral cats are bad for many reasons; killing birds on one of the world's most important flyways is only one of them, but perhaps one you can use as a basis for a change in policy. Yes, please!

NJ

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pat

**From:** [Norma Jean](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Item 3 on the 3/27 agenda: Please do not allow TNR  
**Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 8:24:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Picture 2.png](#)

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Feral cats pose the greatest of all threats to birds, and birds are going extinct at a frightening rate, worldwide. The last thing that the living world needs is to have these natural predators released into the environment to continue killing birds! Decades of work has gone into returning land along what's left of the shoreline into bird sanctuaries. It is an absolutely critical stopover point along the Pacific Flyway. In addition, several endangered species that nest on the ground come here to nest and rear their young. Cats pose an enormous risk to those birds.

I have nothing against cats which have their place as loved INDOOR pets. But if they are allowed out of doors, they pose such an enormous risk to rapidly shrinking biodiversity. Please don't aid and abet them as bird predators.

Thank you for considering my input.

Norma Jean Bodey Galiher



**From:** [herb](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#); [Clerk, City](#)  
**Subject:** March 27, 2023 Council Meeting, Item #3: Animal Shelter  
**Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 5:45:58 PM

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

March 26, 2023

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

**March 27, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA ITEM 3  
OPERATION OF THE PALO ALTO ANIMAL SHELTER**

Dear City Council:

Forwarded below is my previous correspondence to you on this subject from February 12, 2022 and September 6, 2016.

I urge you to terminate discussions with Pets in Need and to direct staff to bring before the Council an operating model for the Animal Shelter that is limited to meeting California's requirement that the City "provide animal control and sheltering services for the purpose of ensuring the safety of people and animals, providing for the proper care, and sheltering of abandoned or neglected domestic animals, licensing domestic animals and providing humane disposal of animals when necessary" (Staff Report #2302-0940) by (a) either restoring the City's Animal Services function that existed before entering into the prior contract with Pets in Need or (b) contracting with another organization whose sole purpose is to fulfill California's requirement that local government agencies provide animal control and sheltering services as described in the staff report.

Pets in Needs purpose as an organization is not the same thing as the City's obligation to provide animal control and sheltering services as described in my letter below from last year.

The proposed term sheet would provide more money to Pets in Need to perform less of the services the City of Palo Alto is required to do by the state.

If you decide to pursue a term sheet with Pets in Need you should direct staff that it is the City Council and not staff that has the authority to approve the term sheet and, since an approved term sheet is binding on the City, that the Council approval of a term sheet is a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Thank you for your condieration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock

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**From:** herb <herb\_borock@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 1:37 AM

**To:** city.council@cityofpaloalto.org <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; city.clerk@cityofpaloalto.org <city.clerk@cityofpaloalto.org>

**Subject:** February 14, 2022 Council Meeting, Item #9: Animal Shelter and Pets In Need

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



**From:** [Joan Young](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Item 3 on the 3/27 agenda: Please do not allow TNR".  
**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 3:24:26 PM

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**Please do not allow the release of feral cats in Palo Alto.**

Cats have contributed to the extinction of 63 species of birds, mammals, and reptiles in the wild and continue to adversely impact a wide variety of other species, including those at risk of extinction.

Joan Young

**From:** [Charles Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral cats.  
**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 1:19:00 AM

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Mayor Kuo & the Palo Alto City Council,

Please DO NOT agree to the TNR program. Cats are the number one cause of the decline of our song birds in Palo Alto in both the residential areas and in the Baylands! Neutered or not, cats hunt birds and they are very good at it. I would like the city to require all cats outside the home to be wearing a bell. My neighbors cats hang out under my birdfeeder! I also often see cats on the hunt in the Palo Alto Baylands — they should be captured and removed.

Concerned,

Chuck Wilson  
770 E Meadow Dr.  
Palo Alto

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Karen Rohde](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Item 3 on the 3/27 agenda: Please do not allow TNR  
**Date:** Friday, March 24, 2023 5:20:13 PM

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Dear Mayor Kou and City Council Members,

Predation by domestic cats is the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States and Canada. Cats have contributed to the extinction of 63 species of birds, mammals, and reptiles in the wild and continue to adversely impact a wide variety of other species, including those at risk of extinction. The ecological dangers are so critical that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists domestic cats as one of the world's worst non-native invasive species.

Feral cats do not belong anywhere in our landscapes. Domestic cats should be pampered and cherished in our homes, and not be released to hunt birds and other small animals in the baylands, in parks and open space, along creeks or in our backyards.

It would be a service if you could trap feral cats. But, please do **not** allow the release or return of feral cats anywhere in Palo Alto (or anywhere else for that matter). Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Karen Rohde  
Palo Alto Resident since 1996  
3360 Thomas Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows