

## **Resolution 1A**

### **PROVINCIAL PROGRAM FOR LOW COST FELINE SPAY AND NEUTER (PASSED)**

⇒ County of Annapolis

**WHEREAS** the escalating population of feral cats is of grave concern to residents of Nova Scotia and represents a distinct threat for the spread of communicable diseases to domestic pets and livestock populations; and

**WHEREAS** the most humane and responsible way to avoid a cycle of abuse, neglect and cruelty, and to alleviate the threats represented by feral cat populations is to control overpopulation with spay/neuter strategies; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of availability of low cost spay and neuter programs is a contributing factor in the escalation of feral cat populations; and

**WHEREAS** Municipalities do not have the necessary financial resources to undertake a program on a scale sufficient to be effective.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM and municipalities enter into discussions with the Province of Nova Scotia concerning the possibility of creating a province-wide program for low cost spay/neuter and trap neuter release.

Response from:  
*Department of Agriculture*

#### **RESPONSE:**

*The Province of Nova Scotia is aware of the complex problem of growing populations of feral cats in Nova Scotia, which represents a strain on animal control systems in many urban and rural municipalities. Municipalities will continue to take the lead on animal control issues as defined by the Municipal Government Act (MGA).*

*The Department of Agriculture has a mandate to prevent cruelty to animals and is working on regulations to the Animal Protection Act to promote standards of care for both cats and dogs. We have had some preliminary discussions with UNSM about the potential for municipalities to play a role in preventing animal cruelty. Follow-up discussions with UNSM are planned in the near future to discuss the proposed Animal Protection Act regulatory changes.*