



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS
PLANNING AND STRATEGY
COMMITTEE

9AM, MONDAY 1 MAY 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

PLANNING AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING

1 May 2017

4 Presentation - Manawatu SPCA

1. Presentation Manawatu SPCA

4



5/1/2017

ITEM 4 - ATTACHMENT 1

Manawatu SPCA
Deputation for Council

Over population of cats in Palmerston North

Bobbie O'Fee – Chairperson
Danny Auger – GM



INTRODUCTION

Palmerston North along with a great deal of the country is, and has been for some time experiencing an over population of cats. Despite the SPCA's efforts with many public de-sexing programs over a number of years the situation hasn't improved.

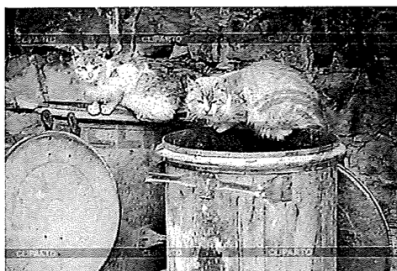


5/1/2017

NUISANCE

Residential properties – Digging, defecating, stealing food, attacking owned cat.

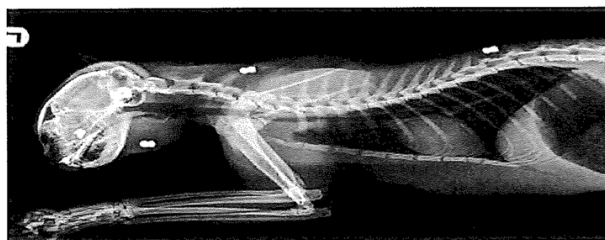
Business – Destroying rubbish bins, making a mess, using sandpits as litter trays



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OFFENCES

- Offending regarding cats is on the increase.
- One man prosecuted for illegally trapping
- Also on the increase is cats being shot with slug guns

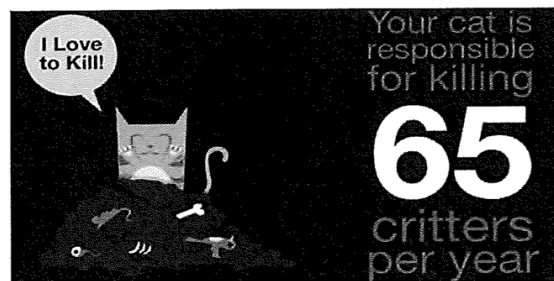


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ENVIRONMENTAL

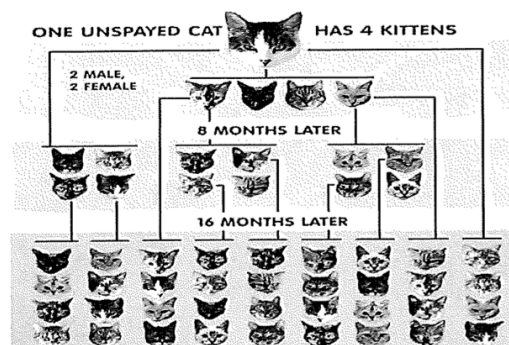
Studies have shown that cats are killing on average 65 native animals per year and are a real danger to the bird population of New Zealand



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STATISTICS

- Lets get to the numbers!



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5/1/2017

STATISTICS

SPCA Intake of kittens

- March 2012 – 2013 - 572
- 2013 - 2014 – 482
- 2014 – 2015 – 515
- 2015 – 2016 – 533
- 2016 – 2017 – 626

SPCA de-sexing of kittens

- March 2012 – 2013 - 392
- 2013 – 2014 - 316
- 2014 – 2015 - 314
- 2015 – 2016 - 326
- 2016 – 2017 – 427

Approximate de-sexing cost to the SPCA was \$97,600.00

SPCA Public de-sexing – numbers

- March 2012-2013 - 281
- 2013-2014 - 294
- 2014-2015 - 333
- 2015-2016 – 100
- 2016-2017 - 0

Approximate de-sexing cost to the SPCA \$55,440

PN Cat population increase with no public de-sexing campaigns

- March 2017 – 2018 – 2,000
- 2018 – 2019 – 7,998
- 2019 – 2020 – 19,992
- 2020 – 2021 – 43,980
- 2021 – 2022 – 91,956

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CONCLUSION

The SPCA, a charity whose core business is to enforce the Animal Welfare Act 1999 has spent \$153,000 in the last five years to try and keep a lid on the cat population.

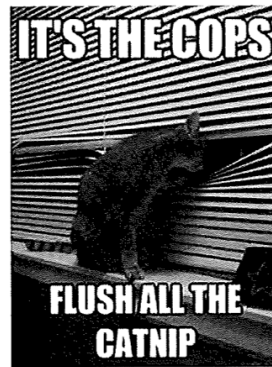
Most of, if not all the work done by the SPCA has been counteracted by pet shops repopulating and adding to the issue

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5/1/2017

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE MOVING FORWARD?

- Mandatory micro-chipping of all cats over 3 months of age
- Mandatory de-sexing of all cats over 6 months of age without a permit
- The banning of entire cat/kitten sales in pet shops



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INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL ON CAT ISSUE IN PALMERSTON NORTH

Introduction

Palmerston North along with a great deal of the country is, and has been for some time experiencing an over population of cats. Despite the SPCA's efforts with many public de-sexing programs the situation hasn't improved. With an over population of cats in a city nuisance becomes a factor and the SPCA fields calls from homeowners and renters almost every day regarding cats causing problems on their properties. We have investigated several complaints about cats being shot with slug guns which seems to be getting more regular. One man even had to be prosecuted by the SPCA in 2016 for using an illegal trap to catch cats that were digging up his garden. Although the man had to be punished for this it shows the level of frustration people are feeling with nuisance cats. The SPCA has also fielded many calls from business owners such as butcheries complaining about cats hanging around the property and destroying rubbish and kindergartens having a problem with cats using there sandpits as litter trays. These types of issues are multiplying every year so some action needs to be taken.

The other aspect of an over population of cats is environmental. It has been well documented in recent years the effect cats have on local wildlife, birds in particular. Studies have been done by the Morgan Foundation which show that's cats have a roaming area of up to 69 Hectares. They have also shown that cats will enter non cat household properties up to two times per day and kill approximately 65 native birds per year.

One of our issues in Palmerston North is pet shops being allowed to sell cats and kittens that are not de-sexed and a radio advert from Wet Pets, playing in 2016, said they sold 1,000 per year. That is a huge amount of entire cats going into the city each year which completely counteracts the work of the SPCA.

Statistics

SPCA Intake of kittens

March 2012 – 2013 - **572**
2013 - 2014 – **482**
2014 – 2015 – **515**
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2016 – 2017 - **626**

SPCA de-sexing of kittens

March 2012 – 2013 - **392**
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Cat population increase with no public de-sexing campaigns

March 2017 – 2018 – 2,000

2018 – 2019 – 7,998

2019 – 2020 – 19,992

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2021 – 2022 – 91,956

These figures are made up from;

1,000 kittens sold by wet pets per year. We will say that 1/3 of the owners will get them de-sexed, 1/3 will be male and 1/3 will be female and get pregnant with an average of 6 kittens. We have only allowed for one litter per female which is conservative as they can have up to three litters in a breeding season. The numbers then continue on the same line plus 1/3 of the off-spring in the same manner.

It is astonishing just how quickly cats can breed and how quickly the numbers would go up without the current work of the SPCA.

Conclusion

The SPCA is a law enforcement organization that polices the Animal Welfare Act 1999 through complaints of animal cruelty generated by the public, this is our core business. However we now find that we are having to deal with a continuing public and environmental problem with very little help from the council.

As you can see from the statistics the numbers of kittens coming into the SPCA over the last five years have been reasonably similar. In order to keep them this way the SPCA has had to spend approximately \$153,000 in de-sexing. This is a huge amount for a small charity to take on and is not necessarily sustainable.

We congratulate this council on being one of the first to introduce the 3 cat bylaw. Although not actively policed it is a tool in the toolbox for council enforcement officers to use when needed, but more controls around cats need to be put into place.

The SPCA would like;

- **Mandatory Micro-chipping of all cats over 3 months of age**

This is something that has been in place for many years now in Australia and has recently been taken on by the Wellington City Council. Micro-chipping can help in

10/10/2018

many different ways with regards to identifying owners of lost cats, knowing if a cat is owned and identifying owners of nuisance cats.

- **Mandatory de-sexing of all cats over 6 months of age without a permit**

The benefits here are obvious with regards to population control.

- **The banning of pet shops being allowed to sell entire cats**

There are a few reasons why we have an issue with the over population of cats. One main one is pet shops being allowed to sell entire cats at a huge rate in order to make profit. People in this position should be promoting responsible pet ownership rather than adding to an already out of control issue. There is also an issue with members of the public selling or giving away kittens over social media sites. We have often found that these are the offspring of the cats sold entire by pet shops.

The SPCA released a petition a couple of months back which lead to us being here today. I leave the council with that petition showing a strong support from the public on the banning of entire cats and kittens being sold in pet shops. It should also be noted that this has been an online petition along with forms at our Palmerston North Centre and op-shop. No work has been done in the CBD etc at this point.

The SPCA's efforts over many years has made little to know positive impact on the population and has barely held the status quo which isn't acceptable. It is time to put more controls in place in order to make a difference.

The SPCA would welcome a relationship with the council to work on this problem together. Although not our main focus we have taken a leading role in this area for many years and thus so are invested in trying to make a difference.

