



The Greenbelt

Volume 162

July 2013

Homeowners Seek Solutions to Problem

Warmer, sunnier days bring us out of the house and into the garden. But for some Oak Hills homeowners the better weather brings renewed confrontations with the resident feral cat populations. These unneutered and unvaccinated animals can cause serious property and health damage.

Animal health experts say that a mere four feral cats can grow exponentially into a massive population of 5000 cats in just seven years. With this kind of reproduction potential, feral cats can literally take over a property. At the same time, they can pose significant health risks to your family pets because they are known to carry diseases like ring worm, cat parvo, feline aches and leukemia, in addition to rabies.

After consulting both our local SPCA and the Monterey County Animal Control, there are a couple different measures that homeowners may want to consider in dealing with the problem.

Both the SPCA and Animal Control say that you should not attempt to handle a cat that you suspect to be feral. Instead, you should set a trap. Traps can be purchased at Harbor Freight in Salinas. Prices vary from \$19-\$49, relative to size. Those in the know, say putting some tuna in the trap will usually work.

However, before setting the trap, you'll have to decide ahead of time where you will be taking the trapped cat, since the SPCA and the Monterey County Animal Control have different policies regarding stray and feral cats.

Monterey County Animal Control will accept the trapped cat at no charge. They will then attempt to determine if the feline is feral or stray. A stray cat is a cat that is lost or abandoned, but used to people and can be handled and is "adoptable." A feral cat is the offspring of a stray or a feral cat and is not used to people, is fearful, not able to be handled, and "not adoptable." Unadoptable cats are euthanized. If it is determined that the cat is a stray, Animal Control will try to find the cat a home.

The Monterey County SPCA accepts trapped cats, however you must make an appointment before bringing in the trapped animal, and there is a charge: \$10 for a male and \$20 for a female. Fees are charged to vaccinate and neuter any cat that is taken in, stray or feral. The SPCA will also determine if the cat is a stray or feral. Stray cats will be put up for adoption.

Regarding feral cats, the SPCA follows what is called a TNR policy: trap, neuter/vaccinate, and release. Under these guidelines, you would make an appointment to bring in your trapped feral cat, pay the required fees outlined above, and the SPCA will neuter, vaccinate and tag the ear of the cat. You would then have the option of bringing the cat back to your home and releasing the feral cat back into the wild to live within the feral cat colony. The SPCA encourages this policy, hoping that enough cats are trapped, neutered and vaccinated, tagged and released back into wild. It is their view, that this is a more humane way of cutting the feral cat population.

By Cynthia Suverkrop

Pool Season is in Full Swing

The weather has been great these past few weeks and people are heading for the pool to cool off. As the evenings are long now, please keep in mind the pool hours. The gates to the pool are open from 7am to 7pm. Please respect these times and make sure you are out of the pool by 7pm and **do not** prop open or tamper with the gates to keep them open during and after hours. You may lose your privileges of caught doing so.

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Board Election Results

The Board would like to thank everyone that participated in the Board Election last month. Please welcome Peggy Scoggin to the Board. This will be her first time as a Board member and she is looking forward to serving her community. Also, please welcome back Cynthia Suverkrop and Neal Murray to the Board. Cynthia and Neal both got re-elected for their second term with the Board.

Moss Landing Desalinization Project

On Tuesday evening June 18th, a group of about 25 interested North County residents gathered at the Prunedale Grange Bldg. to hear information about the People's Moss Landing Desalinization Project. Details of the support infrastructure already present at the site were provided by hydro-geologist Bill Peskins. Slides showing both the present site in Moss Landing at the former location of the National Refractory's brick manufacturing company and slides depicting proposed delivery pipe locations were presented. Information about the possible intake of up to 20 million gallons of seawater for processing by equipment currently existing and the resulting 4 million gallons of drinkable fresh water was discussed. A cost per acre-foot of \$1400.00 for fresh water was proposed.

Nadar Agha, owner and developer of the site, provided background on the progress since the 2004 inception of the project and his attempt to find a public entity to be a partner in this venture. Questions from the attendees followed this presentation. Petitions to encourage the Moss Landing Harbor District to become involved as a public partner in this project were available for participants to sign. More information concerning the People's Moss Landing Desalinization Project can be found at the following web site: www.thepeopleswater.com/
By Peggy Scoggin

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