**Community Cats**

 What is a “stray” cat? What is a “community” cat? A stray cat is a cat that is found wandering with no clear indication that it has an owner (e.g. collar/tag/microchip). A community cat is a cat that lives outside**. It is important to note that not all community cats are feral**.

 Studies show that there is an estimated 1 community cat for every 10 people in a population. In today’s world there is really no difference in seeing a cat outside than seeing what people traditionally see as wildlife e.g. raccoons.

 Studies also show that a true “stray” cat is 10X more likely to find its own way home than if it ends up at a shelter.

 The City of Brantford does not have any existing cat bylaws, therefore the Brant County SPCA is not required to take them in. Attempting to bring in large number of cats would overwhelm a shelter and result in high numbers of illness in the shelter cats and lead to an increase of euthanasia.

 The Brant County SPCA has worked diligently to reduce our euthanasia rate, which is the direction that the public at large agrees we should be taking.

 While we are continuously looking at ways to increase our adoption numbers through methods such as adoption promotions, adoption partners (e.g. Pet Valu, Paulmacs, Global, PetsMart), and reduced adoption fees, the polls show that the majority of people that adopt a cat are getting them from other sources rather than a shelter.

 When someone calls and they are concerned about a cat that they are seeing outside:

* If the cat is sick/injured and in the City of Brantford then the Brant County SPCA will pick the cat up, once it is called into the shelter.
* If the finders call into the Brant County SPCA the staff can check our lost reports to see if anyone has reported the cat missing.
* The finders can act as a temporary foster home for the cat(s), via the Brant County SPCA’s “foster to surrender” program. With this program the finders would keep the cat(s) in their home, the Brant County SPCA will provide vaccines, deworm, deflea, etc. and would arrange for the cat(s) to be spay/neutered/microchipped when appropriate. The cat(s) would then be placed for adoption when there is an opening. Or if the foster family falls in love with the cat, they can adopt it.
* The Brant County SPCA has a managed intake, so finders who cannot or will not be willing to be a foster home, would have to schedule a day/time to bring in the cat when the shelter has the capacity to care for it.
* Cats that are not claimed after the 72 hour hold period are assessed for health/temperament. Healthy, adoptable cats will be placed up for adoption, healthy but not adoptable cats will be RTF’d (Returned to Field).