



## Street Cat Sterilization Agreement

**Below, we've outlined obligations of "Street Cat" caregivers who wish to use Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's subsidized spay/neuter services for their cats. Street cats include feral, fractious, undersocialized and other cats living outside a home.**

Caregivers of one or more cats living outside a home environment must agree to the following for the life of their animals:

- Monitor their cats at least once every 24 hours for signs of illness and injury, and provide veterinary medical attention when needed.
- Provide appropriate food and clean water at least once every 24 hours.
- Provide appropriate shelter from weather conditions and other risks to their well-being.
- Maintain cats on a property which is owned by an informed and willing landlord.
- Maintain cats on a site which is not a sensitive or critical habitat for native wildlife (including but not limited to native songbirds).

Individuals who wish to read more about this issue should review the position statement on the reverse side of this document.

By signing below, I assert that I comply with the requirements listed above and assure that the cats in my care are maintained in such manner.

Individuals found not in compliance with the statement will be denied access to PHS/SPCA's spay/neuter services and, further, may be prosecuted for violation of California law.

Name:

Signature:

Date:



## **A Brief Position Statement regarding Colonies of “Street Cats” and the Responsibility of their Caregivers who wish to use PHS/SPCA’s Subsidized Spay/Neuter Services:**

Complex problems rarely have simple short-term, effective solutions. One such problem, there are many undersocialized, fractious, and feral cats living without human families – abandoned domestic animals who have reverted to a quasi-wild state and their offspring: “street cats”, most often all lumped together and referred to as “feral cats.”

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA finds no simple, short-term, fully viable solution to this issue.

Long term, PHS/SPCA knows that spaying/neutering cats and dogs is the answer. PHS/SPCA was the first humane society in the nation to provide public, low cost clinics (now along with free mobile spay/neuter clinics for low-income communities in San Mateo and San Francisco counties). As the result of this commitment to a humane solution to the companion animal overpopulation crisis, euthanasia of dogs and cats has declined by 96% over the years. Still, the problem is not yet fully solved.

Trapping cats for euthanasia is not the answer. Nor, however, is returning them to a life on their own once spayed and neutered. These cats are not wildlife; they are neglected companion animals. They deserve better, as do the native wild animals which never evolved to develop successful strategies to avoid predation by cats. Many sources consider predation by housecats the greatest single cause of death of many native wild species, and a leading cause of extinction of certain species.

California Penal Code section 597s states that it is a misdemeanor to willfully abandon any animal. That section exempts the release of native California wildlife but makes no other exemptions. Since cats are not native California wildlife, those who willfully abandon these animals are guilty of a crime. Releasing or returning a spayed or neutered cat to life outside without ongoing care and monitoring is abandonment.

In recognition of this issue which is complicated, proponents of “trap, neuter, release” cat programs who wish to use the low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter options provided by PHS/SPCA **must**:

- Monitor their cats at least once every 24 hours for signs of illness and injury, and provide veterinary medical attention when needed.
- Provide appropriate food and clean water at least once every 24 hours.
- Provide appropriate shelter from weather conditions and other risks to their well-being.
- Maintain their cats on property which is owned by an informed and willing landlord.
- Maintain cats on a site which is not a sensitive or critical habitat for native wildlife (including but not limited to native songbirds).

Individuals found not in compliance with the statement will be denied access to PHS/SPCA’s spay/neuter services and, further, may be prosecuted for violation of California law.