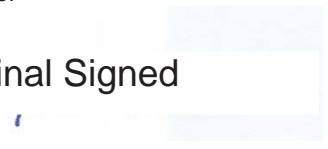


Request for Council's Consideration		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<b>X</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>		
<b>Date of Council Meeting:</b> Tuesday, August 4, 2015		
<b>Subject:</b> Funding for local TNR Program		
<b>Request:</b>  That Halifax Regional Council approves a \$50,000 joint grant to the Nova Scotia SPCA and SPAY Day HRM Society to extend the TNR (trap- neuter-release) Program.		
<b>Reason:</b>  Due to the delay in forming an HRM Domestic Animal Advisory Committee, it is proposed that Council provide a \$50,000 joint grant to the SPAY Day HRM and Nova Scotia SPCA's Spay/Neuter Clinic to provide funding for a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for free roaming cats in HRM.  Both organizations are registered charities and have collaborated on past Spay/Neuter initiatives and have the experience and resources to manage all aspects of a project of this size with a thorough understanding of the issues.		
<b>Outcome Sought:</b>  Award of a \$50,000 joint grant to the Nova Scotia SPCA and the SPAY Day HRM Society to allow for 2 full surgery days per month for a period of one year that will spay or neuter 1000 cats. The coordination of surgical time, supplies, transportation and volunteer engagement will be organized through the Nova Scotia SPCA and Spay Day HRM.		
<i>Councillor</i>  Original Signed 	<i>District 11</i> <i>Spryfield, Sambro Loop, Prospect Road</i>	



July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **Motion to HRM Council**

### **Background of Participating Organizations**

Nova Scotia SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic:

Since opening in May of 2013, the Provincial Animal Shelter and Veterinary Clinic has spayed or neutered over 6000 animals. The clinic is open to other SPCA Branches, low income individuals and families, as well as local animal rescue and TNR groups. The goal of the clinic is to provide affordable veterinary care to those animals most at risk and to focus on targeted Spay/Neuter initiatives that are aimed at decreasing the cat population within HRM.

Spay Day HRM Society:

The Spay Day HRM program was started in 2011 in response to the undisputed growing cat population of HRM and the number of cats in need. Their goal is to target those cats most at risk of not receiving access to veterinary care or being spayed or neutered. They include low income individuals and families as well as stray, abandoned and feral cats. Spay Day focuses on areas around public housing and some of the most economically challenged neighbourhoods throughout the city. To date Spay Day HRM has spayed and neutered 1300 cats, the majority altered at the SPCA's Spay/Neuter Clinic. Spay Day HRM is a registered charity operating throughout the city.

### **The Dilemma**

In order to make impactful change, 80% of breeding aged animals need to be altered in order to see a reduction in the number of animals needing shelter or rescue. The Nova Scotia SPCA is dedicated to the support of TNR projects as overpopulation directly affects the cycle of neglect, abuse and cruelty.

Spay Day HRM and the Nova Scotia SPCA have already partnered on multiple successful projects in regards to the cat overpopulation crisis. Spay Day HRM also uses the SPCA's high volume Spay/Neuter Clinic on a weekly basis and is familiar with the clinic's protocols in regards to TNR.

What is not in dispute is that the cat population throughout HRM is at crisis levels and there are thousands of free roaming cats reproducing, continually adding to the problem. Animal

shelters, cat rescue and TNR (trap-neuter-return) organizations throughout the city are without enough funds and resources to address this ever growing problem.

Where aggressive, targeted TNR initiatives have been introduced, there is a visible reduction in the cat population proving the effectiveness of this method of humanely controlling the cat population.

Local animal welfare organizations, including Spay Day HRM and the Nova Scotia SPCA are waiting for the formation of a Domestic Pet Advisory Committee which is currently delayed pending a study by HRM staff. A Domestic Animal Advisory committee will be advantageous in that it will bring animal care/rescue experts to the table with HRM staff and Council to discuss viable, affordable, effective solutions to issues related to domestic animals.

The committee volunteers will be able to share expertise, brainstorm new ideas, form collaborative partnerships and increase understanding, thereby saving the city money, increasing efficiency and reducing the number of unwanted cats roaming throughout HRM.

#### **MOTION for HRM Council**

Due to the delay in forming an HRM Advisory Committee, it is proposed that the City of Halifax extend a \$50,000 grant to Spay Day HRM and the Nova Scotia SPCA's Spay/Neuter Clinic to provide funding for a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for free roaming cats in HRM.

It is recommended the grant be administered jointly by the Nova Scotia SPCA and the Spay Day HRM Society. Both organizations are registered charities, have collaborated on past Spay/Neuter initiatives and have the experience and resources to manage all aspects of a project of this size with a thorough understanding of the issues.

The funds from this grant would allow for 2 full surgery days per month for a period of one year that will spay or neuter 1000 cats. The coordination of surgical time, supplies, transportation and volunteer engagement will be organized through the Nova Scotia SPCA and Spay Day HRM.