

Dear Committee members:

The reason for our presentation today is to propose a project, a cat park in the Little League Park beside the arena. The name used around the world for a cat park is, "community cat colony's feeding station".

Creating a cat park may sound unnecessary to some, but in this paper, we will show you the benefits that it can bring to our community.

The project has already existed on Ottawa's Parliament Hill for decades: "Rene Chartrand, cat man on Parliament Hill...", CBC News, December 14, 2014.

The project is also implemented and valued in many cities across Canada and; especially, in Toronto by many different cat rescue groups such as: Animal Alliance of Canada, Canadian Animal Assistance Team and Toronto Feral Cat Coalition.

It is proven that this project works. Thanks to TNR, Trap Neuter Return program, and the feeding stations that congregate all the cats in just one location; the number of kittens born has been greatly reduced. The cats in colonies do not reproduce and the ones living there have their health monitored.

Our group, Safars.org, a feral cat rescue, has twelve years of experience creating feeding stations for cats living outside in private properties.

Abandoned cats have always roamed the streets victimized and persecuted as if they are a plague. Over the last century cats became more accepted in the modern world because they make great and silent companions for people living alone. The calm energy of certain cats is also beneficial for children who experience bullying or other problems in school or at home.

Sadly, during the Covid crisis backyard breeders found a way to make money through the sale of kittens. Unexpensive and even free kittens were adopted during the isolation period. However, a large quantity of those cats was later discarded as if they were garbage by irresponsible owners. People went back to work, or they could not find affordable housing.

The veterinary crisis exploded right after Covid. Pet owners could not find a veterinary hospital to treat their animals and even when they did find one, they could not afford it. The cost for veterinary care has tripled in five years. The price for spaying a cat passed from two hundred to six hundred dollars without any extras.

One final noteworthy stressor is the current housing crisis, this is causing an influx of homeless cats being cast to the streets.

In other words, and consequently, we are in a real cat crisis, and it is a heartbreaking reality. We cannot keep impounding and euthanizing them without first attempting to bring change. We need to do something about it, and to come up with innovative ideas that protect these innocent and beautiful animals.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

The Cat Park Project: "A Cat Colony's Feeding Station".

A feeding station is the home we create for cats outside. In general, after capturing, spaying/neutering/vaccinating/tattooing the cats on a property we have a signed agreement with the landowner allowing us to bring a few cats back.

When we bring the cats back, we also bring shelters and introduce our volunteers. The volunteers or the landlord itself will feed and monitor the cats' health reporting back to us.

Over the years we have built six stray/feral cat feeding stations and we always had excellent results and feedback. Already spayed and neutered cats not just guard the property from other cats, but also maintain the land and the cables and hoses in cars free of rodents.

If by chance a new cat appears in a colony it is easy for the volunteers to capture it. Cats become accustomed to the station's feeding time, and they wait for us. The station provides a family to cats, something similar to the one they lost.

Therefore, below are the reasons why we believe that a cat park will only bring benefits to our town.

First, the most important benefit of the project is to prevent cat overpopulation.

Instead of the cats roaming our streets hungry getting infections and giving birth under people's decks or sheds, they will be spayed/neutered/vaccinated and dewormed. They will be fed and have shelter to hide during the cold and rainy days. Some of them may be rehabilitated and possibly adopted to families.

In other words, the sad reality of indifference is replaced by respect for animals and a municipality that cares.

Secondly, of great importance is also the educational component of this project. Children deserve to see in our community same the lessons of kindness and compassion toward animals that they learn about in school and books. It is for children to see their community members and governance caring about helping.

Lastly is a potential positive impact on our thriving tourism sector.

Our town is one of the most beautiful tourist destinations on the island. Tourists who love cats, and most people do, will praise our culture when they see how much we care for animals. A cat park reflects a community such as the highlighted examples from Italy and Turkey. In Italy, the Ministry of Tourism is one of the sponsors donating the feeding station's cat houses. *see picture. In Turkey the government places cat shelters and feeding pipes everywhere.

Therefore, what would we need from Council if our request for the Cat Park is approved?

The answer is not too much. We will be asking for three minor things, but not for money. We prefer to work with the community's support like in older times. Where everybody can contribute with what they can because after all this is a community affair. We offer our experience, our passion and our hard work.

- A. When we visited the park on a very rainy day we saw a section of chain-link fencing that it is not serving a specific purpose. If you would like to lend it or to donate it for our project we will gladly accept it.
- B. We would like to do two cat food and bottle drives and wonder if you have a central location where we can do them?

C. We will be launching a spay/neuter campaign and it will very positive if you can help us by promoting it a little in your website and by allowing us to place a poster in your City Hall.

Thank you for considering our project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MD', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Margarita Domínguez

Safars.org

HELP US BUILD A
CAT PARK.



West Coast Feral Cat Rescue – www.safars.org

CATS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT BETRAYAL, HUMANS DO.



ABANDONMENT

is the worst kind of BETRAYAL.

OUR MODEL HOUSE

SPONSOR
LOGO



HOUSE IN ONE OF THE PARKS IN TURKEY.



POSSIBLE CAT SHELTER MODEL





FEEDING STATIONS

WE HAVE SOME OF THIS MODEL IN OUR

WE ALSO FIND THESE IN GREECE & IN

ANOTHER COUNTRIES



Volunteers installed food and water stations for street cats in Damascus, in Syria.

Ottawa

René Chartrand, 'cat man of Parliament Hill,' dead at 92

CBC News · Posted: Dec 10, 2014 1:42 PM PST | Last Updated: December 11, 2014



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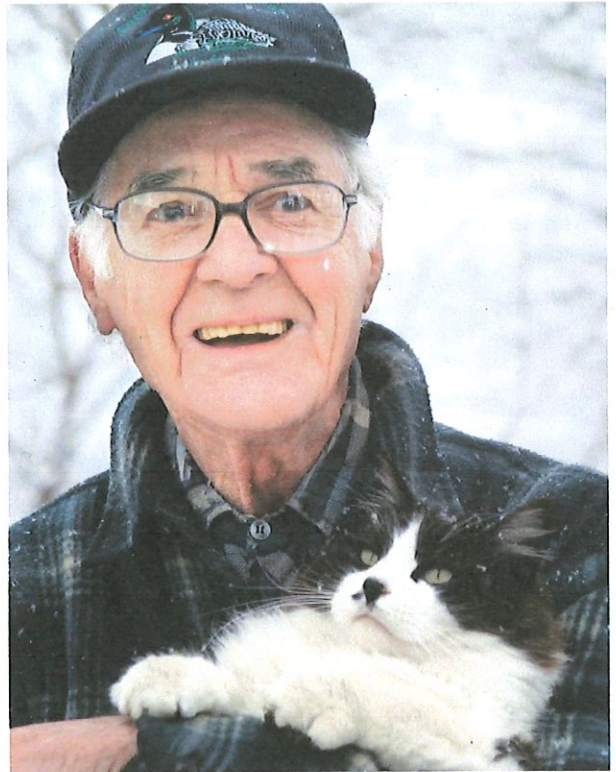
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René Chartrand, a veteran who spent years feeding and looking after a colony of outdoor cats on Parliament Hill, died on Sunday at the age of 92.

The cat sanctuary on Parliament Hill is no longer running, but was once home to as many as 30 strays. Volunteers took it upon themselves to take care of the animals.

Chartrand, a father of five children, took over in the 1980s and quickly became known as "the cat man." He built an elaborate wooden shelter for the animals and adopted the role as their full-time volunteer caregiver.

Chartrand cared for the cats without government help, relying entirely on public donations, until retiring in November 2008, when he stopped due to health reasons.



René Chartrand was 83 years old when he posed for this photo with one of his charges at a now defunct, decades-old cat sanctuary nestled behind the Parliament buildings in Ottawa. (The Canadian Press)

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JOHN TORY
MAYOR

Proclamation

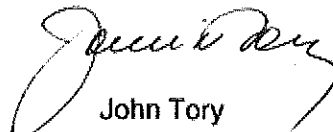
Feral Cat Awareness Day

October 16, 2017

WHEREAS Feral Cat Awareness Day is an opportunity to educate cat owners and caregivers about a number of resources available to them including the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program and colony management in Toronto, to help control the feral and street cat populations.

Toronto Animal Services is a member of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition and participates in the TNR program. Catching feral cats, spaying/neutering them and returning them to their colony is one of the ways Toronto Animal Services is helping to control their population.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **October 16, 2017** as "**Feral Cat Awareness Day**" in the City of Toronto.


John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



CAAT COMMUNITY CORNER | KITTENS AND CATS

Feral / Community Cat Colony Care

By Kris Burns September 25, 2020



Feral Cat Colony Care

Do you have a feral or stray community cat colony that lives near you? Do you help them out in your community?

We've been working with communities to work on feral cat care and feral cat population control. Some people enjoy the cat colonies that exist in the communities we visit, and other people really don't like having feral cats around outside. There are numerous solutions for reducing cat colony populations. Did you know that removing cats or rehoming cats that live in a cat colony could actually increase the number of cats in that colony? It's called the "vacuum effect" – when one cat moves out, more cats move in. This can lead to more fighting within the colony, and decreased colony health.

The most effective way to control the colony is to trap them, spay or neuter them, then release them back to their colony. This will maintain the colony as is and stop new cats from filling in the space left by cats that do not come back. The spayed/neutered colony of cats cannot reproduce. While this is a wonderful solution, we do realize that spaying and neutering simply isn't available in most communities. In this case, sometimes maintaining the colony and supporting their health can play a big role in keeping the numbers stable and preventing it from getting larger.

Here are some basic pointers for feral cat colony care that you might find helpful.

Provide food and water sources

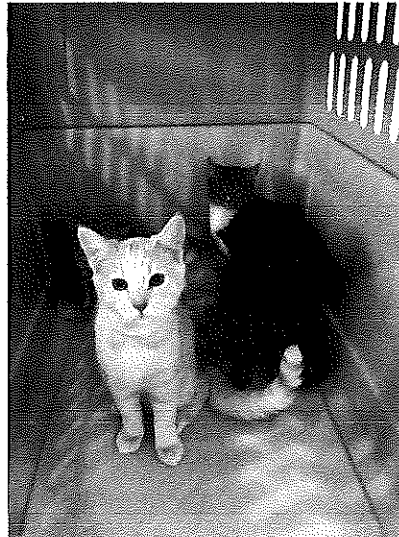
- Cat colonies can be self sufficient, but when food sources become less available, or when it's difficult for them to hunt, they would benefit from some help

- The key here is once you start, make sure you continue to provide for them as much as you are able to
- If you're providing cats with food or water, they will start to learn that your location is a reliable source of nourishment for them. If you're heading out of town, try to have someone else take over the food and water duties while you're away
- Remember, in the cold winters the cats will need more food to stay healthy, and their water sources will need to be checked daily/nightly to prevent freezing
- Using dark coloured bowls in the winter can help absorb the energy from the sun and slow down the risk of the water freezing



Provide safety

- These cats have a lot of hazards in our communities – roaming dogs, eagles, large mammals might put the cats at risk. And we know that food and water could attract them all to your location
- When setting out food, try to place it in an area that is not easily reachable by dogs, and doesn't leave the cat exposed
- Placing the food and water on an elevated, hidden surface can be helpful for the cats
- If they can eat while hiding, it will help them to feel secure in your feeding station
- If you're feeding them daily or twice daily, you can remove uneaten food a half hour after feeding to avoid attracting wildlife to the area
- Kibble will attract less flies and insects



Getting them Spayed and Neutered



- Trapping feral cats is quite a process and it will take planning and preparation. If you have a team coming to your community to spay and neuter, reach out to them early to ensure they can help you with your cat colony care



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Cats in Italy – beloved and protected

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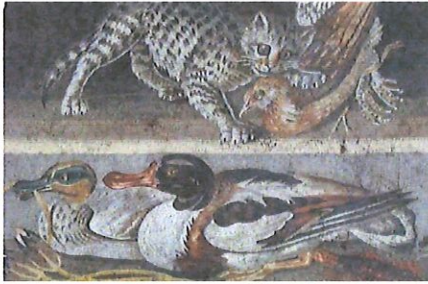
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SHARES

Italians love cats so much that there are laws to protect feral cat colonies. Cats can freely roam wherever they want – even in famous historic landmarks. Anyone who harms a cat in Italy can be charged with a crime. Cats can also live wherever they like – and must be fed. They cannot be relocated. Local Italian authorities are responsible for neutering local street cat colonies.

In ancient times, cats were companions to wealthy Romans and served as pest control. Cats were considered sacred by the Goddess Diana, who was believed to give special powers to cats.

Archaeologists did not find many preserved cat remains while excavating the ruins in Pompeii. Some theorize that cats were instinctively aware of danger and quick to leave before Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city in 79 CE. However, cats are featured in some restored frescoes in the remains of luxurious Pompeii villas.



Cats in Pompeii frescoes

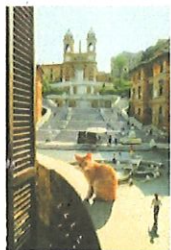


Famous cat colonies

The most famous cat colonies in Italy are in Rome, Sicily and Venice. Throughout Italy, it is estimated that tens of thousands of felines are undomesticated, and many of the lucky ones live in registered and protected cat colonies. Many *gatti di Roma* live and roam ancient sites such as the Colosseum and the Baths of Caracalla, and famous tourist attractions such as the Spanish Steps.



Cats at the Colosseum and the Spanish Steps.



A well-known cat colony lives in Largo di Torre Argentina, a square with four Roman Republican temples and the remains of Pompey's Theatre. The square is fenced off, but visitors can meet some of the cats at the cat sanctuary's gift shop.

Ministry of Tourism in Italy
is one of the sponsors of the
Community Cat Colony's Feeding Stations



CATS ARE PROTECTED IN TURKEY

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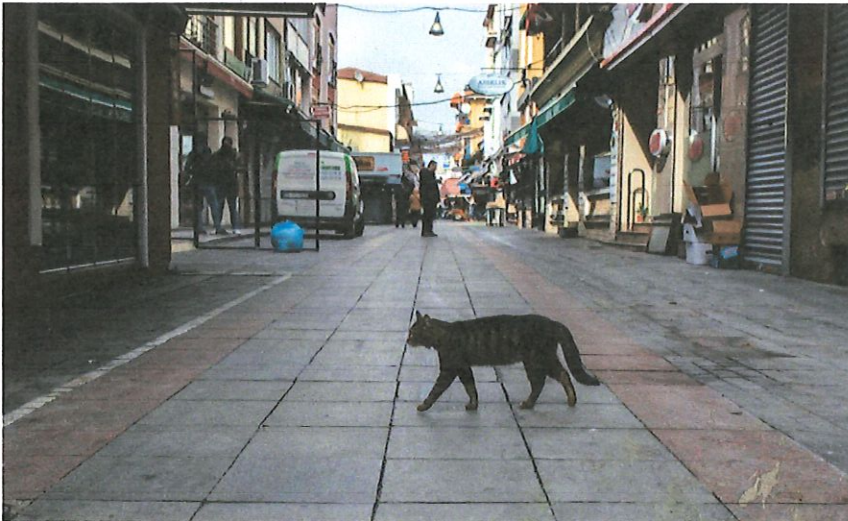
Turkey to ensure beloved street cats don't go hungry during coronavirus crisis

MENA (taxonomy/term/14) 3 min read

The New Arab (taxonomy/term/68959) | 06 April, 2020

Turkish animal lovers have been ordered to stay at home due to the corona outbreak, leaving many to worry who will feed the country's beloved stray animals?

(/facebook) (/x) (/whatsapp) (/reddit) (/flipboard) (https://www.addtoany.com/share?url=https%3A%2Fturkey-ensure-beloved-street-cats-stay-well-fed&title=Coronavirus%3A%20Turkey%20to%20ens fed)



(https://www.newarab.com/sites/default/files/media/images/0895FF84-5A5E-4D78-ABC7-186E5580049D.jpg)

Locals who usually feed stray cats have been told to stay at home [NurPhot]

Turkey (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/6/turkeys-free-coronavirus-masks-scheme-overwhelmed-by-applications)'s government has urged local authorities to feed stray cats and dogs (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/2/lebanons-pets-are-being-killed-over-inaccurate-coronavirus-claims), in order to keep concerned animal lovers off the streets (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/6/turkey-exempts-young-workers-from-confinement-order) during the coronavirus (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/3/coronavirus-has-cost-two-million-jobs-turkish-opposition-says) crisis.

The move comes amid widespread concern for strays (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/3/2/british-animal-lover-killed-by-stray-dogs-in-egypt%E2%80%BB), many of which are usually well-fed despite living on the streets.

While the government has not formally imposed a lockdown in Turkey (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/4/twin-earthquakes-shake-turkey-lebanon-and-syria), residents have been strongly encouraged to stay at home in a bid to reduce the spread of the virus. Citizens over-65 and under-20 have also been ordered (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/3/turkeys-erdogan-issues-coronavirus-confinement-order-for-under-20s) to stay at home.

The interior ministry on Sunday ordered local government officials to feed stray animals to prevent citizens from taking matters into their own hands.

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"Food and water will be left at the living environments of street animals such as parks and gardens, particularly animal shelters," the ministry said in a statement according to local media.

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Cats are particularly esteemed in Turkey (https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/3/turkish-bowl-merchants-following-prolonged-hunger-strike), with local residents traditionally feeding and taking care of strays in their neighborhoods (https://www.newarab.com/privacy-policy) Most Viewed ^

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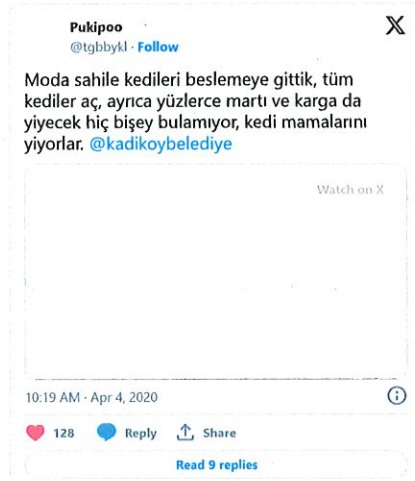
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The Hagia Sophia, a Byzantine church-turned-Ottoman mosque and now-museum, even has its own feline mascot, a not-uncommon occurrence in offices and businesses.

When an Istanbul (<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/3/istanbul-engineers-using-3d-printers-to-make-masks>) neighbourhood mascot died in 2016, thousands of people demanded a sculpture to memorialise [Tombili](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/tombili-istanbul-cat-and-worldwide-meme-honoured-with-statue-a7344671.html) (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/tombili-istanbul-cat-and-worldwide-meme-honoured-with-statue-a7344671.html>), the cat's signature pose.

Before Sunday's directive, [Turkish](https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/2/turkey-rocked-by-actors-death-from-coronavirus-complications) (<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/2/turkey-rocked-by-actors-death-from-coronavirus-complications>) citizens took to social media to speak of their horror about the thought of stray cats and dogs starving during the coronavirus pandemic.

"There are lots of cats on the side streets where there are only closed businesses," Twitter user Ozge Ozan said last week. "I haven't seen food anywhere for days. The cats are running after us [looking for food]."



Ozan called on Istanbul (<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/3/istanbul-becomes-epicentre-of-coronavirus-outbreak-in-turkey>)'s central Beyoglu municipality to feed the stray cats.

"Dogs are especially hungry and aggressive because people can't go out and feed them," Twitter user Ebru Dogan said in a tweet calling for support from Istanbul's Atasehir municipality.

"We are feeding the cats in front of our door, but we are waiting for the support of municipal teams to feed the dogs."

Another Twitter user wrote to Istanbul's Kadikoy municipality: "Take the cats and dogs to a shelter. We are not able to feed them all. The animals are hungry and thirsty. Nobody can go out and feed them. These are not our duties!!"

Twitter user Tugba Baykal posted a video to the popular social media site, showing her attempt to feed stray cats on Istanbul's Moda seaside promenade.

"All of the cats are hungry, and hundreds of seagulls and crows also have nothing to eat," she wrote. "They are eating cat food."

In the southern province of Antalya, a 63-year-old retiree who has been confined to her home due to chronic illnesses called for the government to establish an emergency hotline to assist in feeding stray cats.

Muazzez Turan told state news agency *Anadolu* that she usually feeds around 300 stray cats a day, but due to being at high risk of contracting the Covid-19 illness, has been forced to stay at home.

"My mind was always with the cats. I didn't know whether they would be hungry or full," Turan said.

"I will sleep peacefully for the first time today" she said, after local authorities promised to feed the animals on her behalf.

Turkey has reported more than 27,000 confirmed [coronavirus](https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/1/turkey-sends-resources-to-italy-and-spain) (<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/4/1/turkey-sends-resources-to-italy-and-spain>) cases, including 574 deaths.

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