

WHY DO WE HAVE FERAL CATS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

British Columbia has a coastline along the ocean and waterways that flow to the ocean are a conduit for rodent infiltration into the surrounding communities. Feral cats thrive along waterfronts, near rivers and inland lakes because of the incredible numbers of rats and mice.

Grain cars moving through the Province from the Prairies constantly spill grain along their track route, providing rats and mice with a huge and continuous source of food.

Garden compost bins usually contain vegetable peelings, egg shells and other edible waste materials. Rats and mice are attracted to these bins and thus provide another continuous source of food for feral cats. There is a positive aspect to this situation. If we didn't have some feral cats in our communities, we would be dealing with an overwhelming rodent infestation.

Generally mild weather conditions in our province, the ocean location, and a grain source combine to give communities a continuing large number of rats and mice, consequently providing ideal conditions to sustain a large feral cat population.*

(*Source – prepared by Pacific Animal Foundation)

GOING GREEN TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know . . . ?

Organic farmers list feral cats under their rodent control methods when registering with the United States Dept. of Agriculture.*

(*Source – from Alley Cat Allies)

VACUUM EFFECT

Feral cats establish territories based on availability of food sources and shelter. If the cats are removed from this environment through “trap and kill”, other new cats quickly move in to take advantage of those resources. These new unsterilized cats will breed to the capacity of this site. The vacuum effect has been documented around the world. *

(*Source – Care Feline Rescue, Inc.)