

FERAL FEEDING BANS DON'T WORK

KEY POINTS:

Banning feral feeding will result in:

- a less effective Trap/Neuter/Return program as feeding bans are counterproductive because they interfere with TNR, the one method that can actually stabilize cat populations in a humane and effective way. Without daily feeding, cats will disperse over a wider territory scavenging for food with the result that fewer feral cats will be trapped; fewer kittens will be caught, and numbers will not be stabilized or reduced quickly.
- not allowing caregivers to gradually move the cats' food sources away from heavily trafficked areas to locations less intrusive to people and safer for the cats. None of this is possible with a feeding ban in place.
- concerned residents and feral caretakers defying a ban and still feeding (under the radar) but now the ban is encouraging the very behaviour that Council seeks to stop - feeding at night.

Raccoons, skunks and other wildlife are attracted to urban areas for reasons other than a few spots of feral feeding in a large city. Wildlife is encouraged by:

- availability of resident garbage cans, apartment and commercial restaurant dumpsters.
- availability of increasing numbers of composted garden materials containing vegetable scrapings, egg shells and other edible compostable materials and their smells.
- city park refuse cans and street container garbage bins that often have no lids.

The numbers of feral cats feeding on residents' decks or at managed feral cat colonies in an urban area are comparatively so small that daily feral feedings (done according to the suggestions below) will not have any effect on the numbers of raccoons, skunks, and other wildlife inhabiting urban areas.

HOW TO PROPERLY MANAGE FERAL FEEDING:

- feed only in the mornings;
- feed only enough food for the cats for one day so that all food will be eaten before dusk
- if possible, pick up food dishes and bring inside at night
- use raccoon-proof feeding boxes, where appropriate



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A Network of Caring in the Urban Wilderness