

**From:** Kathy <[kgleason@astound.net](mailto:kgleason@astound.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2023 2:23 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board <[ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us](mailto:ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us)>  
**Subject:** Animal Services meeting August 8, 2023

August 4, 2023

To: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

From: Kathy Gleason, Concord, CA

I am contacting you regarding the Monday August 7 meeting to discuss Animal Services issues. I cannot attend the meeting but wish to express my concerns. I represent hundreds of volunteers doing cat TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release), and other cat and dog rescues in this county.

- Rescues and the public desperately need more no cost/low cost spay neuter options for pets, especially for cats. Volunteers are willing to trap cats but are not able to get enough appointments. In addition, the general public cannot afford current Veterinary prices, now increased by corporations that have bought up independent Veterinary hospitals. Average cat neuter in a Vet hospital is now \$500 and up, average cat spay is now \$1,000 and up. Spay/neuter for dogs in Vet hospitals is unaffordable as well.
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- The current policy adopted by Animal Services to advise the public to put healthy cats and kittens back where they found them, un-spayed or un-neutered had backfired for rescuers and the public. As a result, the cat/kitten overpopulation in this county is out of control. Any female cat or kitten returned to where they were found, should be spayed. Expecting rescues to keep up with this cat overpopulation is not reasonable, or sustainable.

Please work with rescues towards a better solution. I see both sides of these issues – Animal Services staff and volunteers are just as overwhelmed as the local rescues are. Public volunteers involved with rescues are willing to do the work (trapping, transport, recovery, return to field), but we need support from the county. Can we work together to find a path to reduce cat and dog overpopulation in this county?

Thank you,

Kathy Gleason  
Retired Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano employee, current full time CC County animal advocate and rescuer