

Introduction I am Lindy Ranger. I live at 5 Manse rd. In Wakefield. On either side of my residence there are feral cats and kittens. I understand that there are large numbers of feral cats and colonies in our municipality.

Why I am here my understanding of the feral cat situation in La Peche is that since December 31, 2020, the contract for animal control between the Municipality of La Peche and the SPCA expired and animal control (dogs) was taken over by Anitek Animal Services, Claude Lachaine. Since that time there is no animal control for cats in place.

My Reasons for Concern Feral cat populations can increase as follows. Female cats can get pregnant as young as four months of age. She can have two to three litters per year, producing an average of 5 kittens each. Consider the possibility for a single female cat and her kittens to produce 420,000 cats in seven years.

Cats are susceptible to diseases and pests including fleas, ear mites, parasites, face and eye infections, viruses like FIV (feline equivalent to HIV in humans). As well they face starvation and infections from cat fights. In a population that has been neutered to eliminate reproduction, the cats are much healthier in general.

It has been two years now with no controls in place. It will take several years to address the current situation with the help of a cat control agency, such as the SPCA. A TNR, trap, neuter and release, program is needed, with access to veterinary care.

The case for trap, neuter and release improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with people who live near them, decreases size of colonies over time, STOPS the breeding cycle and improves their lives while preventing reproduction.

I am NOT advocating to trap and KILL these animals.

There is an urgency here In my own residence there are two females with kittens on either side. One litter is soon old enough to reproduce and the mother looks to be pregnant again.

Some questions for the Municipality What are the costs involved and can the Municipality budget for this?

Who can I contact at the Municipality to follow the developments in this matter?

Thank You.