



SUPPORT SB 1682 (ZAFFIRINI) HB 3660 (VASUT)

WHAT IS TNR?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a method of humanely trapping community cats, transporting them to veterinary clinics for sterilization and vaccination, tipping their ear as a sign that they are part of the TNR program, and returning them to their communities.

TNR is widely regarded as a humane method of managing unowned feral cats that live outside year-round, while improving their health and stabilizing their population. TNR programs save tens of thousands of Texas cats annually, preventing new litters and creating healthier communities through vaccination.

THE PROBLEM:

Recently, there has been confusion among rural animal sheltering professionals that TNR is considered "abandonment" under Section 42.092 of the Texas Penal Code, better known as the Texas animal cruelty law. This threatens TNR programs across the state, which are vital to the health and wellness of community cats.

- Community cats are unsuitable for adoption and their health declines when taken into shelters and forced to live indoors. If TNR programs are eliminated, thousands of Texas community cats will be euthanized at taxpayers' expense.
- The legislative intent of abandonment under Texas' animal cruelty law was not meant to include TNR programs. In 1997, when THLN worked to pass Texas' original animal cruelty statute, TNR was already widely practiced and endorsed by THLN. TNR programs have never been subject to the Texas animal cruelty law as originally passed, or the five times it has been strengthened since 1997.
- Individuals and organizations who carry out TNR are proactively working to protect animal and human health in their communities and should not face prosecution for TNR under Texas' animal cruelty law.

THE SOLUTION:

HB 3660 clarifies the Texas animal cruelty law so that TNR programs are not misconstrued as abandonment and that unlawful, unreasonable abandonment of owned animals under the statute is not weakened. HB 3660 is necessary to ensure that TNR programs continue without the threat of prosecution for abandonment under Texas animal cruelty law.

WHO SUPPORTS TNR?



CONTACT & CONNECT:

Director of Government Relations, Stacy Sutton Kerby, at stacy@thln.org



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