



Roaming and Feral Cat Information

09 October 2019

The increasing roaming cat and feral cat population is a common problem across North America. It is a complex problem, a community problem and can only be reduced if it is approached strategically by the Town, along with widespread buy-in by the community at large.

Feral cats are defined as those cats that are not sufficiently socialized to be handled by humans and, therefore, are unsuitable for living in a home environment. Feral cats can live in the wild, hunting and feeding on natural prey. Many people who encounter feral cats start feeding them, but feeding alone can actually make the situation worse. Feeding feral cats increases their ability to give birth to even more kittens who are destined to suffer and die premature deaths. Feeding and providing shelter in sheds or abandoned structures encourages more breeding and a cat colony to rapidly form. Female kittens can become pregnant at early as 5 months old. Feeding should only be done as a prelude to trapping, to get cats accustomed to eating in a certain place at a certain time. A lot of people with good intentions will feed, feed, and feed feral cats. Nobody wants cats to be hungry but that's not providing a solution. **Feeding feral cats is contributing to the problem.**

Free-roaming and feral cats are a threat to wildlife as they CAN kill a multitude of birds and small mammals every year, including endangered species. Feral cats can also contribute to health concerns and can be a nuisance for neighbourhoods. Taking cats to the local shelter is not a viable option as shelters are full with cats. Unless kittens are adopted out at a very young age, feral cats are generally not suitable as house pets.

Our Town council, as a response to residential concerns, is currently reviewing feasible, best options to address feral cats. The Town council recognizes that the problem is complex and, without community buy in, the problem will continue to grow.



What can residents do to help reduce feral cat colonies near or on your property?

- Eliminate food and shelter. Remove trash and secure garbage bins - human scraps are among the top food sources for feral cats. Clean up any leftover food, drinks or pet food. **Avoid feeding cats** or other wild animals on your property. Secure and prevent access to sheds and structures on your property that cats can find housing in.
- Spay or neuter you own cat(s).
- Secure your cat(s) to your own property. Roaming cats can become lost and/or can contribute to increasing feral cat colony populations if not spayed or neutered.
- Provide information to the Town about any known feral cat colonies (location and estimated number of cats, if possible) as this information is valuable and will be considered as council determines feasible best options. Provide this information as soon as you are aware of it to either:

Town Council Office
744 Logy Bay Road
Logy Bay, NL
A1K 3B5

or

Email office@lbmccoc.ca