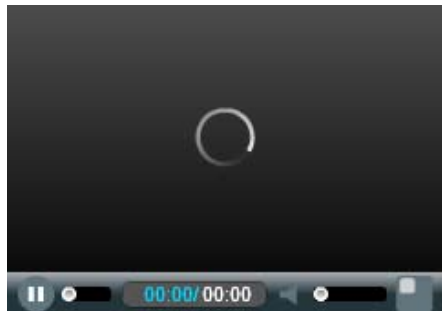


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Animal Organization Calling For Trap, Neuter, Release Ordinance



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[Phil Anaya](#)-KFOX News Reporter

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LAS CRUCES, N.M. -- On Sunday the Action Programs for Animals organization was donating dog food to low-income families. It's an event APA does weekly, but now the organization wants to help the entire county by reducing the number of feral cats in the streets.

"What we're proposing is for that leash law to go away because it doesn't make sense for cats. Cats don't belong in shelters," said APA executive director Michel Meunier.

APA wants the city and county to adopt a trap, neuter and release program that way feral cats can't reproduce. Currently, feral cats are just euthanized, but the numbers continue to climb.

"You can do that for decades as we've done here and it just doesn't reduce the population because they can breed faster than you can keep up with them," said Meunier.

In order to gain support before taking it to city and county leaders, APA has started an on-line petition looking to obtain over 2,000 signatures.

"Our community right now, we have a cat kill rate at our shelter of 80 plus percent," said Meunier. "Every month they're killing hundreds of cats."

At the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley Sunday, KFOX 14 reporter Phil Anaya was introduced to several feral cats scheduled to be euthanized later in the day. Something Meunier said cost more than spaying or neutering a feral cat.

"It cost more money for the taxpayer to haul them to the shelter and kill each cat, then it would cost to support TNR programs," she said.

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