

City of Surrey Election Day: November 15, 2014

Questions for Candidates

Cat Overpopulation Problem in Surrey

1. Are you aware of the situation in Surrey concerning free-roaming, feral, stray, and abandoned cats?

The Surrey Community Cat Coalition estimates that Surrey has 34,000 free-roaming community cats living on the streets. They suffer from starvation, disease, injuries, and endless cycles of pregnancy, don't get medical attention, and die an inhumane death, including kittens.

2. Are you aware that the number of these cats living on the streets is increasing every year?

Cats from Surrey accounted for 33% of the intake at the Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA) in 2012 and nearly half (48%) in 2013. And the number of Surrey cats in VOKRA's care increased 46% in just one year (607 cats from Surrey in 2012 compared to 888 in 2013).

Spay/Neuter

3. Did you know the best way to solve this problem is to get all cats spayed and neutered?

Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR), which involves humanely trapping these cats, spaying or neutering them, and returning them to the community, goes a long way to stop the production of homeless kittens and keep more cats from dying due to the lack of a safe environment and spread of disease.

4. Are you aware that there are no facilities to assist any animal rescue groups in Surrey with TNR? What resources are you going to provide rescue groups to carry out trap-neuter-return of feral cats?
5. Are you aware that Surrey also has a problem with people not spaying or neutering their own cats and then letting them go outdoors, where they can produce more homeless kittens?
6. Are you aware there are no low-cost spay and neuter programs for pet owners living in the 2nd largest city in BC? How are you going to help Surrey residents with low income who can't afford to get their cat spayed or neutered?
7. Are you going to mandate cat owners to spay/neuter their cats? If so, how will you enforce it? If not, why not?

Animal Shelters

8. Are you aware that there is no single animal shelter in Surrey that has facilities or resources to rescue, shelter, and rehome surrendered animals?
9. Are you aware that the Surrey Animal Resource Centre does not receive any funding for facilities or ongoing programs to accommodate volunteers who want to help with the animals, such as cleaning, walking, socializing cats, and fostering cats and orphan kittens who may require bottle feeding?

Cat-Friendly Housing

10. Many cat owners leave their cats behind because there are not enough rental units that allow animals. What are you prepared to do about this problem?