

# SENATE, No. 1034

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator BRIAN P. STACK**  
**District 33 (Hudson)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Provides for spaying and neutering stray or feral cats and establishes fund therefor; designated as “Compassion for Community Cats Law.”

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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2

1 AN ACT concerning cat population control, designated as the  
2 “Compassion for Community Cats Law,” and amending,  
3 supplementing, and repealing various parts of statutory law.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. (New section) a. There is established in the Department of  
9 Health a special, nonlapsing fund to be known as the “Compassion  
10 for Community Cats Fund.” The fund shall be administered by the  
11 department and shall be credited with:

12 (1) all fees collected pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1983, c.181  
13 (C.4:19-15.3c);

14 (2) all penalties collected pursuant to subsection c. of section 3  
15 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

16 (3) moneys as may be appropriated by the Legislature; and

17 (4) any return on investment of moneys deposited in the fund.

18 b. Moneys in the fund shall be used by the department solely  
19 for grants to municipalities and counties to establish programs to  
20 humanely trap community cats, sterilize, ear-tip, vaccinate against  
21 rabies, and return each community cat to the location where the  
22 community cat was trapped.

23 c. The department shall not use any moneys in the fund for  
24 administrative costs of the department.

25 d. As used in this section, “community cat” means a cat,  
26 whether or not fearful of, or socialized to, humans, that has no  
27 known owner, lives and freely roams in the outdoors, and that may  
28 or may not be cared for by a person, including, but not limited to, a  
29 person who provides food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or  
30 outdoor protection from the weather.  
31

32 2. (New section) a. Except as otherwise provided pursuant to  
33 subsection b. of this section, in addition to the provisions of section  
34 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-19.16), no cat may be released for  
35 adoption from an animal rescue organization facility, shelter,  
36 pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound unless the cat has  
37 been spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian. The animal  
38 rescue organization facility, shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a  
39 shelter or pound may charge the cost of spaying or neutering the cat  
40 to the person assuming ownership from the animal rescue  
41 organization facility, shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter  
42 or pound.

43 b. The provisions of subsection a. of this section shall not apply  
44 to a cat that:

45 (1) is less than two months old;

46 (2) a licensed veterinarian determines cannot be spayed or  
47 neutered for other health reasons affecting the cat; or

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 (3) is being placed in a foster home or transferred to another  
2 shelter, pound, kennel operating as a shelter or pound, or animal  
3 rescue organization facility by a shelter, pound, or kennel operating  
4 as a shelter or pound, except as otherwise provided in subsection h.  
5 of section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16).

6 c. Any person who violates subsection a. of this section shall  
7 be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000, to be collected by the  
8 Department of Health in a civil action by a summary proceeding  
9 under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274  
10 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The Superior Court and the municipal courts  
11 shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty  
12 Enforcement Law of 1999" pursuant to this section, and all monies  
13 collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the  
14 "Compassion for Community Cats Fund," established pursuant to  
15 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
16 this bill) for the purposes of the fund.

17 d. The Department of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative  
18 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt  
19 rules and regulations necessary to implement this section.  
20

21 3. Section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1) is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 1. As used in P.L.1941, c. 151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.):

24 "Animal rescue organization" means an individual or group of  
25 individuals who, with or without salary or compensation, house and  
26 care for homeless animals in the home of an individual or in other  
27 facilities, with the intent of placing the animals in responsible, more  
28 permanent homes as soon as possible.

29 "Animal rescue organization facility" means the home or other  
30 facility in which an animal rescue organization houses and cares for  
31 an animal.

32 "Certified animal control officer" means a person 18 years of age  
33 or older who has satisfactorily completed the course of study  
34 approved by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and  
35 the Police Training Commission as prescribed by paragraphs (1)  
36 through (3) of subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1983, c. 525  
37 (C.4:19-15.16a); or who has been employed in the State of New  
38 Jersey in the capacity of, and with similar responsibilities to those  
39 required of, a certified animal control officer pursuant to the  
40 provisions of P.L.1983, c. 525 for a period of three years before  
41 January 17, 1987.

42 "Community cat" means a cat, whether or not fearful of, or  
43 socialized to, humans, that has no known owner, lives and freely  
44 roams in the outdoors, and that may or may not be cared for by a  
45 person, including, but not limited to, a person who provides food,  
46 water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor protection from the  
47 weather.

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1       “Community cat caregiver” means a person who provides care to  
2 a community cat, including, but not limited to, a person who  
3 provides food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor  
4 protection from the weather.

5       “Dog” means any dog, bitch or spayed bitch.

6       “Dog of licensing age” means any dog which has attained the age  
7 of seven months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth.

8       “Foster home” means placement of a cat or dog with an  
9 individual or group that is not an animal rescue organization for the  
10 purpose of temporarily caring for the cat or dog, without the  
11 individual or group assuming ownership and with the intent of the  
12 individual or group relinquishing the cat or dog to a suitable owner  
13 when one is located.

14       “Kennel” means any establishment wherein or whereon the  
15 business of boarding or selling dogs or breeding dogs for sale is  
16 carried on, except a pet shop.

17       “Owner” when applied to the proprietorship of a dog shall  
18 include every person having a right of property in that dog and  
19 every person who has that dog in **【his】** the person’s keeping, and  
20 when applied to the proprietorship of any other animal, including,  
21 but not limited to, a cat, shall include every person having a right of  
22 property in that animal **【and every person who has that animal in**  
23 **his keeping.】** and shall not include a community cat caregiver.

24       “Pet shop” means any place of business which is not part of a  
25 kennel, wherein animals, including, but not limited to, dogs, cats,  
26 birds, fish, reptiles, rabbits, hamsters or gerbils, are kept or  
27 displayed chiefly for the purpose of sale to individuals for personal  
28 appreciation and companionship rather than for business or research  
29 purposes.

30       “Pound” means an establishment for the confinement of dogs or  
31 other animals seized either under the provisions of this act or  
32 otherwise.

33       “Shelter” means any establishment where dogs or other animals  
34 are received, housed and distributed.

35       “Sterilize” means to render an animal incapable of reproducing  
36 by either spaying or neutering.

37 (cf: P.L.2011, c.142, s.1)

38

39       4. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.181 (C.4:19-15.3c) is amended to  
40 read as follows:

41       1. In addition to the fee charged pursuant to section 3 of  
42 P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3) and forwarded to the Department of  
43 Health pursuant to section 11 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.11),  
44 any person applying for **【the】** a license and registration tag  
45 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.2) shall pay an  
46 additional fee of \$0.20 for any dog.

1 All fees collected pursuant to the provisions of this section shall  
2 be forwarded to the State Treasurer to be placed in the ["Pilot  
3 Clinic Fund" created pursuant to P.L.1983, c.180 (C.4:19A-  
4 10 et seq.), to be used by the Commissioner of Health for the  
5 operation of the animal sterilization pilot clinic established pursuant  
6 to that act] "Compassion for Community Cats Fund" established  
7 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
8 Legislature as this bill).  
9 (cf: P.L.1983, c.181, s.1)

10  
11 5. Section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16) is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 16. a. The certified animal control officer appointed by the  
14 governing body of the municipality shall take into custody and  
15 impound any animal, to thereafter be euthanized or offered for  
16 adoption, as provided in this section:

17 (1) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person  
18 charged with the care of the dog, which is reasonably believed to be  
19 a stray dog;

20 (2) Any dog off the premises of the owner or the person charged  
21 with the care of the dog without a current registration tag [on its  
22 collar or elsewhere];

23 (3) Any female dog in season off the premises of the owner or  
24 the person charged with the care of the dog;

25 (4) Any dog or other animal which is suspected to be rabid; [or]

26 (5) Any dog [or other animal] off the premises of the owner or  
27 the person charged with [its] the dog's care that is reported to, or  
28 observed by, a certified animal control officer to be [ill, injured,  
29 or] creating a threat to public health, safety, or welfare, or  
30 otherwise interfering with the enjoyment of property; or

31 (6) Any animal reported to, or observed by, a certified animal  
32 control officer to be ill or injured.

33 b. If an animal taken into custody and impounded pursuant to  
34 subsection a. of this section has a collar or harness with  
35 identification of the name and address of any person, or has a  
36 registration tag, or has a microchip with an identification number  
37 that can be traced to the owner or person charged with the care of  
38 the animal, or the owner or the person charged with the care of the  
39 animal is otherwise known, the certified animal control officer shall  
40 ascertain the name and address of the owner or the person charged  
41 with the care of the animal, and serve to the identified person as  
42 soon as practicable, a notice in writing that the animal has been  
43 seized and will be liable to be offered for adoption or euthanized if  
44 not claimed within seven days after the service of the notice.

45 c. A notice required pursuant to this section may be served: (1)  
46 by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served, or by  
47 leaving it at the person's usual or last known place of residence or

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1 the address given on the collar, harness, or microchip identification;  
2 or (2) by mailing the notice to that person at the person's usual or  
3 last known place of residence, or to the address given on the collar,  
4 harness or microchip identification.

5 d. A shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound  
6 receiving an animal from a certified animal control officer pursuant  
7 to subsection a. of this section, or from any other individual, group,  
8 or organization, shall hold the animal for at least seven days before  
9 offering **【it】** the animal for adoption, or euthanizing, relocating, or  
10 sterilizing the animal, except if:

11 (1) the animal is surrendered voluntarily by **【it's】** the animal's  
12 owner to the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or  
13 pound, in which case the provisions of subsection e. of this section  
14 shall apply; or

15 (2) the animal is suspected of being rabid, in which case the  
16 provisions of subsection j. of this section shall apply.

17 e. If a shelter, pound or kennel operating as a shelter or pound  
18 is not required to hold an animal for at least seven days pursuant to  
19 paragraph (1) of subsection d. of this section, the shelter, pound, or  
20 kennel operating as a shelter or pound:

21 (1) shall offer the animal for adoption for at least seven days  
22 before euthanizing **【it】** the animal ; or

23 (2) may transfer the animal to an animal rescue organization  
24 facility or a foster home prior to offering **【it】** the animal for  
25 adoption if such a transfer is determined to be in the best interest of  
26 the animal by the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or  
27 pound.

28 f. Except as otherwise provided for under subsection e. of this  
29 section, no shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound  
30 receiving an animal from a certified animal control officer may  
31 transfer the animal to an animal rescue organization facility or a  
32 foster home until the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter  
33 or pound has held the animal for at least seven days.

34 g. If the owner or the person charged with the care of the  
35 animal seeks to claim **【it】** the animal within seven days, or after  
36 the seven days have elapsed but before the animal has been adopted  
37 or euthanized, the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or  
38 pound:

39 (1) shall, in the case of a cat or dog, release **【it】** the cat or dog  
40 to the owner or person charged with **【it】** the animal's care,  
41 provided the owner or person charged with the care of the animal  
42 provides proof of ownership, which may include a valid cat or dog  
43 license, registration, rabies inoculation certificate, or documentation  
44 from the owner's veterinarian that the cat or dog has received  
45 regular care from that veterinarian;

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- 1 (2) may, in the case of a cat or dog, charge the cost of sterilizing  
2 the cat or dog, if the owner requests such sterilizing when claiming  
3 **[it]** the cat or dog; and
- 4 (3) may require the owner or person charged with the care of the  
5 animal to pay all the animal's expenses while in the care of the  
6 shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound, not to  
7 exceed \$4 per day.
- 8 h. If the animal remains unclaimed, is not claimed due to the  
9 failure of the owner or other person to comply with the  
10 requirements of this section, or is not adopted after seven days after  
11 the date on which notice is served pursuant to subsection c. of this  
12 section or, if no notice can be served, not less than seven days after  
13 the date on which the animal was impounded, the impounded  
14 animal may be placed in a foster home, transferred to another  
15 shelter, pound, kennel operating as a shelter or pound, or animal  
16 rescue organization facility, or euthanized in a manner causing as  
17 little pain as possible and consistent with the provisions of  
18 R.S.4:22-19.
- 19 i. At the time of adoption, the right of ownership in the animal  
20 shall transfer to the new owner. Prior to the release to the person  
21 assuming ownership of a cat that has not been spayed or neutered,  
22 the shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound shall  
23 spay or neuter the cat except as otherwise provided in subsection b.  
24 of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
25 Legislature as this bill). No dog or other animal taken into custody,  
26 impounded, sent or otherwise brought to a shelter, pound, or kennel  
27 operating as a shelter or pound shall be sold or otherwise be made  
28 available for the purpose of experimentation. Any person who sells  
29 or otherwise makes available any such dog or other animal for the  
30 purpose of experimentation shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth  
31 degree.
- 32 j. Any animal seized under this section suspected of being  
33 rabid shall be immediately reported to the executive officer of the  
34 local board of health and to the Department of Health, and shall be  
35 quarantined, observed, and otherwise handled and dealt with as  
36 appropriate for an animal suspected of being rabid or as required by  
37 the Department of Health for the animals.
- 38 k. When a certified animal control officer takes into custody  
39 and impounds, or causes to be taken into custody and impounded,  
40 an animal, the certified animal control officer may place the animal  
41 in the custody of, or cause the animal to be placed in the custody of,  
42 only a licensed shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or  
43 pound. The certified animal control officer may not place the  
44 animal in the custody of, or cause the animal to be placed in the  
45 custody of, any animal rescue organization facility, foster home, or  
46 other unlicensed facility. However, the licensed shelter, pound, or  
47 kennel operating as a shelter or pound may place the animal in an

1 animal rescue organization facility, foster home, or other unlicensed  
2 facility if necessary pursuant to subsection e. or h. of this section.

3 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and sections 3  
4 and 4 of P.L.2011, c.142 (C.4:19-15.30 and C.4:19-15.31) to the  
5 contrary, no cat or dog being transferred between shelters, pounds,  
6 or kennels operating as shelters or pounds, or being transferred to  
7 an animal rescue organization facility or placed in a foster home,  
8 shall be required to be sterilized prior to that transfer.

9 m. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or any other  
10 law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or municipal  
11 ordinance, to the contrary, a shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a  
12 shelter or pound shall not be required to hold a community cat for  
13 any period of time before sterilizing, ear-tipping, vaccinating the  
14 community cat against rabies, and returning the community cat to  
15 the location where the community cat was trapped.

16 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.7)

17

18 6. Section 2 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1) is amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 2. The department shall establish and implement an Animal  
21 Population Control Program **[(hereinafter referred to as the**  
22 **"program" )]** . The purpose of **[this] the** program shall be to  
23 reduce the unwanted increase in population of **[unwanted and stray**  
24 **dogs and cats] cats and dogs** by encouraging **[the owners of dogs**  
25 **and cats to have them permanently sexually sterilized] the**  
26 permanent sexual sterilization of cats and dogs, thereby reducing  
27 potential threats to public health and safety posed by the growing  
28 population of these **[unwanted and stray]** animals, and by providing  
29 low-cost animal sterilization services to cat or dog owners  
30 **[meeting] or community cat caregivers who meet** at least one of the  
31 criteria of need enumerated in section 3 of **[this act] P.L.1983,**  
32 c.172 (C.4:19A-2).

33 (cf: P.L.1983, c.172, s.2)

34

35 7. (New section) As used in sections 2 through 11 of P.L.1983,  
36 c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et seq.):

37 "Community cat" means a cat, whether or not fearful of, or  
38 socialized to, humans, that has no known owner, lives and freely  
39 roams in the outdoors, and that may or may not be cared for by a  
40 person, including, but not limited to, by a person who provides  
41 food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor protection from  
42 the weather.

43 "Community cat caregiver" means a person who provides care to  
44 a community cat, including, but not limited to, by a person who  
45 provides food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor  
46 protection from the weather.



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1 “Program” means the Animal Population Control Program  
2 established pursuant to subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1983, c.172  
3 (C.4:19A-2).

4  
5 8. Section 3 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-2) is amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 3. In order to be eligible to participate in the program, an  
8 owner of a cat or dog **【or cat】** or a community cat caregiver shall be  
9 eligible for, and participate in, at least one of the following:

10 a. The Food Stamp Program authorized by Title XIII of the  
11 Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, Pub.L.95-113  
12 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.), the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
13 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
14 Nutrition Act of 2008,” 7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq., or the New Jersey  
15 Supplementary Food Stamp Program established pursuant to the  
16 “New Jersey Supplementary Food Stamp Program Act,” P.L.1998,  
17 c.32 (C.44:10-79 et seq.);

18 b. The Supplemental Security Income Program established  
19 pursuant to Title XVI of the federal “Social Security Act, 【(】 ”  
20 42 U.S.C. s.1381 et seq. 【】】;

21 c. The program for aid to families with dependent children,  
22 pursuant to P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1 et seq.) or the special  
23 supplemental food program for women, infants and children, also  
24 referred to as the “WIC” program, established pursuant to  
25 42 U.S.C. s.1786;

26 d. **【The program for general public assistance, pursuant to the**  
27 **provisions of the "General Public Assistance Law," P.L.1947, c.156**  
28 **(C.44:8-107 et seq.)】** The Work First New Jersey program  
29 established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), the  
30 general assistance program established pursuant to the "Work First  
31 New Jersey General Public Assistance Act," established pursuant to  
32 P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.), or any successor program  
33 thereof;

34 e. The program of medical assistance pursuant to P.L.1968,  
35 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

36 f. The program of "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and  
37 Disabled," established pursuant to P.L.1975, c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et  
38 seq.) or the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program, established  
39 pursuant to “Senior Gold Prescription Discount Act,” P.L.2001,  
40 c.96 (C.30:4D-43 et seq.);

41 g. The rental assistance program authorized pursuant to  
42 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, Pub.L.75-412,  
43 as added by the Housing and Community Development Act of  
44 1974, Pub.L.93-383 (42 U.S.C. s. 1437(f)) or the State rental  
45 assistance program established pursuant to P.L.2004, c.140  
46 (C.52:27D-287.1 et seq.);

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1 h. The "Lifeline Credit Program" established pursuant to  
2 P.L.1979, c.197 (C.48:2-29.15 et seq.); **[or]**

3 i. The "Tenants' Lifeline Assistance Program" established  
4 pursuant to P.L.1981, c.210 (C.48:2-29.30 et seq.) ; or

5 j. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
6 established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 8621 et seq.

7 **[A resident of New Jersey who owns a dog or cat shall also be**  
8 **eligible to participate in the program if the owner: (1) submits to a**  
9 **veterinarian participating in the program proof, in the form of a**  
10 **certificate of adoption, that the dog or cat was adopted from a New**  
11 **Jersey licensed animal shelter, a New Jersey municipal, county, or**  
12 **regional pound, or a New Jersey holding and impoundment facility**  
13 **that contracts with New Jersey municipalities, or proof that the dog**  
14 **or cat was adopted through a non-profit corporation operating an**  
15 **animal adoption referral service in New Jersey and whose holding**  
16 **facility is licensed in accordance with State and municipal law; or**  
17 **proof that the dog or cat was adopted through a non-profit**  
18 **corporation operating an animal adoption referral service in New**  
19 **Jersey that does not operate a holding facility; and, in the case of a**  
20 **dog, proof that the dog is duly licensed pursuant to State and**  
21 **municipal law; and (2) pays a \$20 fee, to be deposited in the**  
22 **fund.]** The Department of Health may adopt, pursuant to the  
23 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
24 seq.), **[such]** rules and regulations **[as may be]** necessary to  
25 implement **[this amendatory act]** P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-  
26 1 et al.).

27 (cf: P.L.1991, c.405, s.1)

28

29 9. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-3) is amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 4. a. Any person submitting a **[dog or]** cat or dog, pursuant to  
32 the provisions of **[this act]** P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et al.) for  
33 spaying or neutering, as the case may be, shall:

34 **[a. Furnish]** (1) Provide any State licensed veterinarian [of this  
35 State] participating in the program with proof that the cat or dog  
36 owner or community cat caregiver, as applicable, meets at least one  
37 of the eligibility criteria pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of  
38 **[this amendatory and supplementary act]** P.L.1983, c.172  
39 (C.4:19A-2);

40 **[b.]** (2) Sign a consent form (a) certifying that the person is the  
41 owner of the dog or cat, or is authorized by the owner to present the  
42 dog or cat for the procedure[; and] , or (b) attesting that the  
43 community cat to be sterilized, ear-tipped, and vaccinated against  
44 rabies has no known owner; and

45 **[c.]** (3) Pay a fee of [ \$10.00, which ] \$10.

1       **b.** The fee shall be forwarded to the commissioner for deposit in  
2 the "Animal Population Control Fund," established pursuant to  
3 section 6 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-5).  
4 (cf: P.L.1983, c.172, s.4)

5  
6       10. Section 5 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-4) is amended to read  
7 as follows:

8       5. a. Any licensed veterinarian of this State may participate in  
9 the program upon filing with the commissioner an application  
10 therefor, on forms prescribed by the commissioner, which  
11 application shall supply, in addition to any other information  
12 requested by the commissioner, an animal sterilization fee schedule  
13 listing the fees charged for animal sterilization in the normal course  
14 of business. These fees may vary with the animal's weight, sex and  
15 species. The commissioner may, however, disqualify from  
16 participation in the program any veterinarian whose fees are  
17 deemed unreasonable.

18       b. The commissioner shall, to the extent that moneys are  
19 available therefor from the "Animal Population Control Fund,"  
20 reimburse participating veterinarians for 80% of the fee for each  
21 animal sterilization procedure administered, upon the submission of  
22 an animal sterilization certificate, prescribed by the commissioner,  
23 signed by the veterinarian and the **owner of** person submitting the  
24 animal for each sterilization procedure.

25       c. The commissioner shall reimburse from the fund any State  
26 licensed veterinarian **of this State** participating in the program  
27 for:

28       (1) the **presurgical** immunization of dogs against distemper,  
29 hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus **, or** ;

30       (2) the **presurgical** immunization of cats against feline  
31 panleukopenia, calici, pneumonitis and rhinotracheitis **, as the case**  
32 **may be,** which immunization shall be administered at least 10 days  
33 prior to reproductive surgery, on animals not previously immunized.  
34 The reimbursement shall be for no more than \$10.00 upon the  
35 written certification, signed by the veterinarian and the owner of the  
36 animal, that the immunization has been administered. **;** or

37       (3) the immunization of community cats against rabies.

38       d. The reimbursement shall be for no more than \$10 upon the  
39 written certification, signed by the veterinarian and the person  
40 submitting the cat or dog for spaying or neutering, that the  
41 immunization has been administered.

42       e. A community cat spayed or neutered through the program  
43 shall also be ear-tipped and vaccinated against rabies by the State  
44 licensed veterinarian performing the spaying or neutering.

45 (cf: P.L.1983, c.172, s.5)

1       11. Section 6 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-5) is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       6. a. The commissioner may:

4       (1) solicit and accept funds from any public or private source to  
5 help carry out the provisions of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et al.);  
6 and

7       (2) contract with a nonprofit organization that is exempt from  
8 federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the federal  
9 “Internal Revenue Code,” 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3), for the  
10 administration of the Animal Population Control Program  
11 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1).

12       b. All fees collected pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1983, c.172  
13 (C.4:19-15.3b) and sections 3 and 4 of P.L.1983, c.172 (C.43:19A-2  
14 and C.4:19A-3), all moneys from the application and renewal fees  
15 collected for animal welfare license plates issued pursuant to  
16 P.L.1993, c.184 (C.39:3-27.55 et seq.), and all moneys received  
17 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be placed in a special  
18 fund to be known as the "Animal Population Control Fund," which  
19 shall be separate from the General State Fund. All moneys in the  
20 "Animal Population Control Fund" shall be used by the  
21 commissioner exclusively for the implementation and promotion of  
22 the program and for the costs associated with the administration of  
23 P.L.1983, c.172 (C.4:19A-1 et al.), except as provided in subsection  
24 c. of this section.

25       c. Moneys deposited into the fund generated by the collection  
26 of application fees for animal welfare license plates issued pursuant  
27 to P.L.1993, c.184 (C.39:3-27.55 et seq.) shall be utilized by the  
28 commissioner to reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles for all  
29 costs incurred by the division, as certified by the director, of  
30 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of  
31 animal welfare license plates.

32       No moneys deposited in the "Animal Population Control Fund,"  
33 established in subsection b. of this section, except for the moneys  
34 generated by the collection of application fees for animal welfare  
35 license plates issued pursuant to P.L.1993, c.184 (C.39:3-  
36 27.55 et seq.), shall be utilized by the Department of Health or the  
37 Division of Motor Vehicles for any expenses, administrative or  
38 otherwise, related to the animal welfare license plates, or the  
39 advertising and publicizing thereof, including, but not limited to  
40 notices, posters and signs to be circulated or posted by the  
41 department or the division.

42       d. The director shall annually certify to the commissioner the  
43 average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding  
44 year by the division in producing, issuing, renewing, and  
45 publicizing the availability of animal welfare license plates. The  
46 annual certification of the average cost per license plate shall be  
47 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its  
48 successor.

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13

1 e. In the event that the average cost per license plate as  
2 certified by the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
3 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee  
4 established in subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.1993, c.184 (C.39:3-  
5 27.55) in two consecutive fiscal years, the director may discontinue  
6 the issuance of animal welfare license plates.  
7 (cf: P.L.1995, c.145, s.3)

8  
9 12. Section 3 of P.L.2010, c.89 (C.45:16-9.4a) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 3. a. The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners shall  
12 establish, through the promulgation of regulations, any specific  
13 courses or topics which are to be required for continuing veterinary  
14 education, and designate which are the core requirements for  
15 continuing veterinary education, including the number of required  
16 hours, subject matter and content of courses of study.

17 For purposes of this section, “core requirements” means the  
18 continuing veterinary education determined by the board to be  
19 necessary to maintain currency in professional knowledge and skills  
20 in order to deliver competent veterinary care.

21 b. The board may offset up to 10 percent of the requisite  
22 number of hours of continuing veterinary education required  
23 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1952, c. 198 (C.45:16-9.4) by the  
24 number of volunteer veterinary services rendered by licensees, at a  
25 rate of one half of one hour of continuing veterinary education for  
26 each hour of volunteer veterinary services, provided that a  
27 veterinarian shall be required to complete at least the core  
28 requirements established pursuant to subsection a. of this section. In  
29 addition, the board may adopt a formula providing a minimum  
30 number of spaying or neutering procedures that shall be deemed the  
31 equivalent of one hour of continuing veterinary education.

32 The board may reduce, in part, an application by a licensee to  
33 offset credits of continuing veterinary education pursuant to this  
34 subsection if the board finds, in its discretion, that the applicant  
35 requires continuing veterinary education in order to maintain or  
36 restore professional competence, or may deny all applications if the  
37 board finds that continuing veterinary education above the core  
38 requirements is necessary because of developments in science or  
39 technology.

40 The board may also, in its discretion and for good cause, notify a  
41 veterinarian that the veterinarian is ineligible to offset credits of  
42 continuing veterinary education pursuant to this subsection for any  
43 other reason established by regulation by the board.

44 c. As used in this section [ , “volunteer”]:

45 “Community cat” means a cat, whether or not fearful of, or  
46 socialized to, humans, that has no known owner, lives and freely  
47 roams in the outdoors, and that may or may not be cared for by a  
48 person, including, but not limited to, by a person who provides

1 food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor protection from  
2 the weather.

3 “Volunteer veterinary services” means veterinary care provided  
4 without charge to:

5 (1) a person eligible for, and participating in, at least one of the  
6 programs enumerated in section 3 of P.L.1983, c. 172 (C.4:19A-2);  
7 **[or]**

8 (2) a licensed shelter [or] , pound [licensed by the Department  
9 of Health and Senior Services or a municipally approved managed  
10 cat colony, provided that the municipality or nonprofit group or  
11 organization managing the cat colony has attested in writing to the  
12 veterinarian that the cat to be spayed or neutered or otherwise  
13 treated by the veterinarian is feral or stray with no known owner.] ,  
14 or kennel operating as a shelter or pound; or

15 (3) a municipality, county, or nonprofit group or organization  
16 that is operating a program of humanely trapping community cats,  
17 and sterilizing, ear-tipping, and vaccinating the community cats  
18 against rabies before returning the community cats to the locations  
19 where the community cats were trapped.

20 A person or entity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this  
21 subsection providing or receiving veterinary care without charge for  
22 a community cat shall attest in writing that the cat has no known  
23 owner.

24 (cf: P.L.2010, c.89, s.3)

25

26 13. Sections 3 and 4 of P.L.2011, c.142 (C.4:19-15.30 and  
27 C.4:19-15.31) are repealed.

28

29 14. This act shall take effect immediately.

30

31

32

#### STATEMENT

33

34 The bill establishes the “Compassion for Community Cats Fund”  
35 for the Department of Health (DOH) to provide grants to  
36 municipalities and counties to establish programs to humanely trap  
37 community cats, and sterilize, ear-tip, vaccinate against rabies, and  
38 return each community cat to the location where community cat was  
39 trapped. The bill defines “community cat” as a cat, whether or not  
40 fearful of, or socialized to, humans, that has no known owner, lives  
41 and freely roams in the outdoors, and that may or may not be cared  
42 for by a person, including, but not limited to, by a person who  
43 provides food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor  
44 protection from the weather.

45 The bill also provides, with limited exceptions, that:

46 1) no cat may be released for adoption from an animal rescue  
47 organization facility, shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter

1 or pound unless the cat has been spayed or neutered by a licensed  
2 veterinarian; and

3 2) any community cat trapped and impounded at a shelter,  
4 pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound, or trapped and  
5 taken to an animal rescue organization facility, must be spayed or  
6 neutered, ear-tipped, and vaccinated against rabies before being  
7 returned to the location where the community cat was trapped or  
8 given to a person assuming ownership of the community cat.

9 A person who violates the provisions of the bill would be subject  
10 to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000, to be collected by the Department  
11 of Health in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the  
12 "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10  
13 et seq.). The "Compassion for Community Cats Fund" is to be  
14 credited with the monies collected for violations, the surcharge on  
15 dog licenses imposed by section 1 of P.L.1983, c.181 (C.4:19-  
16 15.3c), any moneys appropriated by the Legislature, and any return  
17 on investment of moneys deposited in the fund.

18 The spaying and neutering requirements do not apply to a cat or  
19 a community cat that:

20 1) is less than two months old;

21 2) a licensed veterinarian determines cannot be spayed or  
22 neutered for other health reasons affecting the cat;

23 3) is placed in a foster home or transferred to another shelter,  
24 pound, kennel operating as a shelter or pound, or animal rescue  
25 organization facility by a shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a  
26 shelter or pound; or

27 4) is to be euthanized in accordance with the provisions of  
28 section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16) and R.S.4:22-19,  
29 which provide for humanely euthanizing animals after a shelter,  
30 pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound has offered the  
31 animal for adoption for at least seven days.

32 The bill authorizes an animal rescue organization facility,  
33 shelter, pound, or kennel operating as a shelter or pound to charge  
34 the cost of spaying or neutering the cat to the person assuming  
35 ownership of the cat. The bill also authorizes the DOH to adopt  
36 regulations necessary to implement grant programs and fund the  
37 spaying and neutering requirements established in the bill. Finally,  
38 the bill amends various sections of existing law to allow for the  
39 implementation of the new spaying and neutering requirements  
40 established by the bill and other provisions of the bill.

41 The bill also repeals sections 2 and 3 of P.L.2011, c.142 (C.4:19-  
42 15.30 and 4:19-15.31), the "Pet Sterilization Pilot Program.

43 Feral cat populations have existed in the State since the time of  
44 the first European settlements and they continue to exist primarily  
45 due to a lack of effective management in the form of spaying and  
46 neutering. To a lesser but still important extent, cats are abandoned,  
47 stray from their owners, or are allowed to roam unsupervised, and,  
48 if sexually intact, will reproduce. Feral cats are known as

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16

1 “community cats” because they live outdoors and are not owned by  
2 anyone but may be cared for by members of the community. The  
3 practice of “catch and kill,” whereby community cats are trapped  
4 and subsequently euthanized, has failed to effectively manage feral  
5 cat populations and the continued use of “catch and kill” is an  
6 inhumane practice that is incompatible with the moral values of this  
7 State.

8 “Trap, neuter, vaccinate and return,” also known as “TNVR,” is  
9 the most effective, compassionate, and humane method of  
10 managing these populations of community cats. TNVR is a  
11 nonlethal population control method in which community cats are  
12 humanely trapped, vaccinated against rabies, and spayed or  
13 neutered by licensed veterinarians, and then returned to the location  
14 where they were trapped. TNVR is also the most effective method  
15 of reducing the burden of community cats on the State’s animal  
16 shelters. The Office of Veterinary Public Health in the Department  
17 of Health reported that cats accounted for more than half of the  
18 animals impounded and nearly 80 percent of the animals that were  
19 euthanized in the State’s animal shelters in 2017. The TNVR  
20 method of managing community cat populations is also cost  
21 effective for the State’s taxpayers, the most beneficial to public  
22 health, and results in improved quality of life for the residents of the  
23 State. Five counties and more than 150 municipalities in the State  
24 and the National Animal Care and Control Association, the  
25 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the  
26 Humane Society of the United States endorse TNVR for managing  
27 community cat populations.

28 This bill would promote the use of TNVR by enabling  
29 municipalities and counties to implement this effective,  
30 compassionate and humane method of managing community cat  
31 populations through provision of municipal startup grants and by  
32 appropriately aligning the use of the Animal Population Control  
33 Fund with spraying and neutering services in the State to manage  
34 community cat populations.