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Free-roaming cats (*Felis catus*) are major threats to wildlife and a public health risk. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia urges Fairfax County to adopt the following measures that would treat cats more like dogs:

1. Fairfax County should expand the scope of County Ordinance 41.1-2-2, which covers the licensing of dogs, to apply to cats.
2. The County should adopt and enforce an ordinance similar to County Ordinance 41.1-2-4, which applies to dogs, requiring cats to be leashed or otherwise physically restricted when off the property or premises of the owner or custodian.
3. The County should establish policies supporting a reduction in the population of unowned cats.
 - It should impound unlicensed, free-roaming cats.
 - It should vaccinate, sterilize and put up for adoption or foster care cats that cannot be returned to their owners.
 - It should confine cats that are not adopted or are unsuitable for adoption or foster care so they cannot prey on wildlife or transmit disease in a shelter, “catio” (a cat patio) or an animal refuge. Cat licensing fees could be used to fund the trapping and sterilization expenses and construct and maintain shelters.
 - It should require that residents who feed unowned cats do so on their own property, confine them to that property and keep their vaccinations up to date.
4. The County should terminate its “Trap, Neuter and Release” program.
5. The County should conduct an educational campaign to:
 - Encourage cat owners to keep their pet cats indoors or keep them physically restricted when they are outdoors.
 - Encourage the sterilization of pet cats.
 - Inform the public that persons who feed unowned cats are required by law to provide them adequate food, shelter and veterinary care, including vaccinations.
 - Inform the public that releasing unowned cats that have been trapped and sterilized back to the environment violates state laws prohibiting the abandonment of animals.
6. The County should stop using the misleading term “community cats” to refer to unowned cats.