

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Regent Park Spay/Neuter Project

TORONTO, July 31, 2012: A new initiative is starting in Regent Park by a coalition of groups concerned about the over population of cats in Toronto. This coalition is working collectively to improve the lives of feral cats through strategic trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs and to address the numbers of homeless and feral cats living on the streets.

The Toronto Feral Cat TNR Coalition includes Toronto Animal Services (TAS), Toronto Humane Society (THS), Toronto Feral Cat Project, Toronto Cat Rescue, Urban Cat Rescue, Annex Cat Rescue, Action Volunteers for Animals, Animal Alliance of Canada and the OSPCA.

Our mandate is to help reduce the feral cat over-population in Toronto via TNR and accessible spay/neuter clinics in a coordinated manner. We also educate and build awareness amongst cat owners and caregivers about the breadth of resources available for TNR and colony management in Toronto. Additionally, we advocate with politicians and support the ongoing welfare of Toronto's colonies.

“With everyone working collectively, we’re finally starting to see a difference for the cats of Toronto,” says City veterinarian Dr. Esther Attard. “We have a lot of work to do, but it’s a very exciting time.”

We were recently awarded a PetSmart grant to cover the costs associated with sterilizing free-roaming cats in the Regent Park area. Additionally, we have a team of volunteer trappers to trap free-roaming cats, volunteer drivers to bring the cats to the Toronto Humane Society for sterilization, and volunteer vets and vet techs to perform the surgeries.

“Residents are so appreciative of this service, and we’re happy finally to be able to do this for them and their cats,” says Dr. Hanna Booth, THS board member and clinic vet. “And this wouldn’t have been possible for Regent Park without the support of PetSmart Charities of Canada”.

Not only does spaying and neutering help to control the overpopulation it is also better because:

- Spaying and neutering can prevent or reduce a number of serious and expensive health problems.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam, run away or get into fights.
- Spay/neuter eliminates unwanted breeding behaviour including urine spraying to mark their territory and unwanted nighttime mating noise.
- Animals that are spayed or neutered often exhibit fewer behaviour problems and are less likely to bite.

***If you know where there are colonies of cats in Regent Park please contact us either by email or by phone at 416.678.1786 / [regentpark@gmail.com](mailto:regentpark@gmail.com). It is our hope that the residents who live in or near Regent Park will support and assist with this project.***

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For further information: [www.torontostreetcats.com](http://www.torontostreetcats.com)  
Dr. Hanna Booth: 416.678.1786 / [regentpark@gmail.com](mailto:regentpark@gmail.com)  
Dr. Esther Attard: [eattard@toronto.ca](mailto:eattard@toronto.ca)