

# Corning City Council discusses solution to feral cat problem

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2 COMMENTS

Corning >> The City Council Tuesday authorized City Manager Kristina Miller to move forward with finding a solution to the feral cat problem, asking her to work with a \$2,500 budget next fiscal year and look for grants for a Trap-Neuter-Return program.

The council chamber was filled with concerned residents as many did not approve of the euthanasia, or “catch and kill,” program mentioned at the April 25 council meeting.

On average the euthanasia program option would cost \$107, according to five veterinary clinics in the area. Neutering cost an average of \$78 and spaying cost an average of \$121.

The council heard testimony regarding the issue and decided the first step is to authorize Miller to save funds from the 2017/2018 fiscal year budget and obtain grant funding to begin addressing the problem. Policies will be created and discussed at a future meeting.

Council members Robert Snow and Darlene Dickison said the city is going to need the community’s help throughout the process.

Councilmen Jose “Chuy” Valerio and Dave Linnet said the city has received comments on social media regarding the previous meeting’s discussions on the issue, some stating “Corning is killing cats,” which is not what the city is doing.

Because some feral cats could carry diseases, the discussion of euthanasia programs was raised. A significant amount of research by city staff shows that “catch and kill” euthanasia programs are not effective in reducing cat populations, Miller said. Studies have shown the cats that remain after other cats have been destroyed will produce more kittens and at a higher survival rate, filling the habitat back to capacity, Miller said.

Trap-Neuter-Return programs can be successful in reducing feral cat populations, but are slow to show results.

While the cats are being neutered, the veterinarian will check for diseases and decide whether to euthanize the cat.

Starting in July, funding will be put aside to address the issue.