**Sample Letter to Legislators**

**Letter on Leash Laws**

[Date]

[Official’s Name and Title]

[Official’s Address]

Dear \_\_\_\_:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I have lived in \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ years. I am writing to express my concern about Frederick County’s leash law for cats. In addition to increasing costs for the county, this law leads to more cats being killed at animal control where hundreds of cats are already killed.

This law threatens any cat outside with impoundment, whether they are owned or unowned. This law is particularly dangerous to community cats, also known as feral cats, because they are unowned and do not have traditional “owners” to leash them. Their home is outdoors. Community cats are unsocialized and therefore, unadoptable, so upon impoundment, virtually 100% are killed.

If the goal is to manage our community cat population, please consider supporting Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) or programs that partially or fully subsidize spay and neuter services.

TNR is the only humane and effective way to stabilize the community cat population. During TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped for identification, and returned to their outdoor homes. The community cat population stabilizes and decreases over time. TNR stops the breeding cycle, so no new kittens are born, and eliminates mating behaviors, such as yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting. I urge you to eliminate the leash law and consider TNR instead to achieve the county’s goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]