**Sample Letter to Legislators**

**Trap-Neuter-Return**

[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 support for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Community cats, also known as feral cats, are unowned cats who live happy and healthy lives outdoors. Community cats are the same species as pet cats. However, since most community cats are not socialized or friendly to people, they cannot be adopted and live indoors. During TNR community cats are humanely trapped, taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped for identification, and, after recovery, are returned to their outdoor homes.

I am involved in the following ways to implement TNR in our community: \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Or

I am involved in the following ways to help protect and care for cats in our community: \_\_\_\_\_\_.

TNR is a community-based program that will benefit the cats *and* residents of \_\_\_\_\_\_. TNR stabilizes community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle. TNR improves cats’ lives and benefits public health by relieving them of the constant stresses of mating and pregnancy and vaccinating them against rabies. TNR stops disruptive mating behaviors—like yowling, spraying, roaming, and fighting—so cats and people can coexist peacefully. Lastly, TNR saves taxpayer’s money by reducing shelter intake, shelter euthanasia, and calls of concern to animal control.

Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. It’s time for the cats and residents of \_\_\_\_\_\_ to experience the many benefits of TNR firsthand.

Please see the enclosed materials for more information on the benefits of TNR.

(IF YOU INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, SUCH AS FACT SHEETS AND STUDIES)

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]