



Palm Beach Island Cats, Inc.

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Dear Town Council and Manager,

Palm Beach Island Cats is currently taking caring for 470 community cats. We caught and adopted out thirty three kittens this year. Twenty-four of them came from just two trap-shy moms. We successfully trapped one of the moms but sadly a passerby released her. Cats are still being dumped here and they seem always to be fertile and often are pregnant.

Our 11 euthanasias were all age related except for one dumped 6-week-old kitten who tested positive for FELUK (leukemia), FIV (aids), as well as herpes. For your information, our FELUK cats can live a long normal life. FIV, on the other hand, is fatal. Of our 11 euthanasias, many had cancer and no cat was younger than twelve.

For years we have we have tried in vain to get a well-meaning couple to stop periodically dumping big quantities of poor-quality food in public places. Last spring they started going out every other night. This was a big problem for us as our cats are trained to appear at the same time nightly so we can monitor their health and because we come back 2 hours later and clean up any remaining food. The dumped food was in spots where we need to keep a low profile too. Raccoons were attracted and 4 cats were injured by them, leading to vet bills from \$1,100 to \$2,200 apiece. The cats were traumatized by their necessary hospitalization. We tried to reason with the feeders and failed. The couple maintained they had to feed because we were not feeding every night. To answer this false claim we installed a GPS monitor in our feeding team car which is used every night. I wish to thank Code Enforcement Officer Julien Felix and Police Sgt. Reyes for their help in putting an end to this problem.

We are financially sound and have two wonderful new Board members.

We feed only where we have permission and at the same time in the wee hours of the morning when traffic is at a minimum. We feed high quality food. We fed 5,720 lbs. of dry food and 57,626 cans of wet cat food this year. Our Field Director handles hundreds of resident calls and does it promptly. We are one of the few truly successful TNR programs. Our success is based on our staff, adequate funding, good protocols and the support of our Town government. PBIC is very happy to be able to continue caring for our cats and residents.

Sincerely,

David Leavitt

President, Palm Beach island Cats

Palm Beach's Community Cat Caretaker