

READER VIEWS: ON FERAL CATS

Break the cycle of killing feral cats

Unfortunately, the article on the Kansas Humane Society's plans for expansion overlooked one of the major contributors to the shelter's overcrowding and high kill rate -- the unnecessary impounding of feral cats ("Too cute, but too many begging for homes," Sept. 20 Eagle).

Most feral cats are brought to humane societies because the shelters allow the "service" of accepting them. But because these cats cannot be socialized or made into loving pets, they take up space that could be used to house adoptable pets, and are almost always killed after a short period. Not only is this a shameful waste of taxpayer and contributor funds, research shows it also doesn't reduce the overall number of feral cats in the community.

Rather than devote resources to an unending cycle of killing, communities should implement compassionate alternatives that actually work, including trap-neuter-return programs for feral cats and municipally subsidized sterilization clinics for all dogs and cats (owned and unowned). My organization, along with Sedgwick-based Friends of Felines, recently held a workshop in McPherson to press precisely this point.

BECKY ROBINSON
President
Alley Cat Allies
Bethesda, Md.