

**KARPO SURVEY**

**1. What is your name?**

Brenda Slomka

**2. Do you have any pets? Do you consider them as a member of your family?**

I currently do not have any pets, however I owned two cats in the past, Magic and Snookey, and counted them as part of our family.

**3. Are you aware of the City's Responsible Pet Ownership Program and its goal of reducing stray animals, unwanted litters, shelter intakes and euthanasia of pets? Do you think this is a good goal?**

I am aware of the program, and I believe they are good goals. I believe that caring for a pet is a privilege, and pet owners have the responsibility to not only provide support and care for the animal but also for neighbors and the community at large. I feel this program is balanced and thoughtful in its approach. While pets make a positive contribution to our well-being as individuals and as a society, this program is an example of the importance of minimizing the negative impacts of losing a pet.

**4. Given the high number of homeless pets and euthanasias due to unwanted pets, and the high cost of spaying or neutering do you agree with using some municipal funds to try and combat this problem like other progressive Canadian municipalities like Calgary and Windsor have done?**

Support for homeless pets was addressed in question #3. In regards to unwanted pets, I believe that more investment needs to be done in education around pet ownership.

**5. Do you support the reduction of feral and free-roaming cats in the City through the use of Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return and Spay/Neuter voucher programs, with the goal of reducing feral cats, cats ending up in shelters, and lowering the high percentage of pet euthanasias?**

I do support the reduction of feral and free-roaming cats in the City through the use of TNVR. Based on the research I have done this method is safe and humane. "The City continues to work with Spay Neuter Kingston to help identify and spay or neuter and vaccinate the feral cat population. This program has been working well in the pilot areas and is now seeking dedicated volunteers so it can operate city-wide," says Kim Leonard, Manager, Licensing & Enforcement. It should be noted for those still learning

about this program that the reduction is not in the number of cats, but in the number non-neutered, non-vaccinated cats.

What is more important is that the City and the Spay Neuter Kingston Initiative are now seeking volunteers and the public to help expand the Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR) program, aimed at reducing the feral cat population, city-wide.

**6. Do you believe that the City should assist and support efforts to establish a low-cost/high volume spay/neuter clinic within the city? Why or why not?**

I do believe directing some funds to support this is important. Many people find benefit in owning a pet, however a number of people living within low-income brackets face barriers to responsible pet ownership. It is very unfortunate to see good pet owners who lose their pets without the means necessary to spay or neuter them in the first place. This is an opportunity for our community and businesses to contribute generously through fundraisers and national and provincial grants, to make pet ownership affordable and accessible for more families.