**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 with the \_\_\_\_ (city council/commission)’s proposed leash law for cats. In addition to increasing costs for the city, this new law will lead to more cats being killed in the local shelters and pounds where hundreds of cats are already killed.

This law will threaten 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 reject the proposed leash law and consider TNR instead to achieve the [CITY COUNCIL/COMMISSION’S] goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]