

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 1, 2026

RE: Repeal Ordinance 8768 – Incompatible with Community Cats, Caregivers, and TNR

Dear Mayor Branham, Mayor Pro Tem Selby, and Honorable Members of the Council of the City of Nevada,

Alley Cat Allies is aware of the recently passed Ordinance 8768, which addresses outdoor cats and the people who care for them. While we recognize, and are grateful, that the city is willing to transition away from outdated methods and formally recognize Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the only humane and effective approach to community cats, we have serious concerns that the vague language and unreasonable expectations within this ordinance will harm community cats and caregivers.

Specifically, we are deeply concerned that the ordinance does not include language to distinguish community cat caregivers from owners. Without an explicit definition, caregivers will be subject to ownership requirements, which is not practical or fair. We urge the council to repeal this ordinance and, instead, consider language that is compatible with and fully supports community cats, caregivers, and TNR.

Founded in 1990, Alley Cat Allies is the leader of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats. As the leading advocacy organization for cats, we work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public toward humane, nonlethal, and effective laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live. We offer our expertise and resources to the City of Nevada.

Caregivers Are Not the Owners of Community Cats

Caregivers do not and cannot control where community cats live. They simply provide a community service by caring for the cats where they have already been living.

Community cats are, by definition, *unowned* cats who live outdoors. They are generally not socialized to people and are strongly bonded to their outdoor surroundings, which may include public property, or sections of property that belong to people other than their caregiver.

To protect community cats and their caregivers, the law must make it clear that caregivers are not the owners of the cats, nor subject to the legal requirements of an owner, and plainly distinguish community cats from pet cats. In Ordinance 8768, these lines are blurred, making comprehension and enforcement ambiguous. This could lead to caregivers fearing penalty for their compassionate care of community cats, which in turn can impede TNR efforts.

Mandatory Registration Causes TNR to Fail

Section 5-29(b) states that only people "authorized by animal control" can "feed or harbor stray or feral cats." Alley Cat Allies strongly opposes any mandatory registration requirements for community cat caregivers.



Restricting citizens from feeding cats without authorization from animal control is challenging to enforce and misallocates valuable municipal resources. Such policies create a chilling effect on vital community-led cat care due to fear of public harassment or arbitrary enforcement.

When caregivers are intimidated out of providing care to community cats by these requirements, TNR participation may decrease; as a result, cat populations will rapidly increase. Rather than embedding unrealistic penalties into law, Animal Control should expand public outreach and collaborate with residents on TNR efforts.

Support TNR, Repeal Ordinance 8768

Alley Cat Allies appreciates that the City of Nevada is recognizing TNR, and we are invested in ensuring the city's policies encourage the success of these efforts as well as the safety of community cats and caregivers. As written, Ordinance 8768 will do more harm than good. And so, Alley Cat Allies urges the council to repeal Ordinance 8768 and enact an ordinance that fully supports community cats, caregivers, and TNR, instead.

Our team of experts offers support in policies that humanely and effectively address any problems or concerns you have. We are happy to provide any other information that would be helpful and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Slezak, *Research and Community Change Manager*
Alley Cat Allies