

PRESENTATION to BOG

I authored Proposal no. 63 to amend 5 AAC 92.029—permit for possessing live game—to specifically outlaw release of feral domesticated cats, *Felis catus*, under the aegis of “trap-neuter-release” or any other so-called “no-kill” program based on trapping, vetting and re-releasing stray and feral cats, or feeding or otherwise maintaining unconfined cat-colonies anywhere in Alaska.

My presentation summarizes the first through the fourth, and the sixth, paragraphs of my proposal. It was based in part on definitions of “game” provided in 5 AAC 92.029 (d) and AS.69.05.940 which classify a species as “deleterious exotic wildlife” if it can survive in the wild in Alaska, is capable of significantly reducing indigenous Alaskan species’ populations, can transmit disease or otherwise presents a threat to the health of indigenous Alaskan species, or presents concerns of or threats to human health and safety.

Feral cats qualify as deleterious exotic wildlife on all counts, and are disqualified thereby from even temporary release into the wild. Although my proposal’s sixth paragraph used the term “*vermin*”, my intent was to urge the Board to classify stray and feral cats as deleterious exotic wildlife—per 5 AAC 92.029 (d)—thus establishing legal basis for unlimited take on all public or private land where hunting is permitted.

Domesticated cats did not exist in Alaska prior to Russian colonization. They’re reflex-killers which destroy tens of billions of small native mammals annually in North America, thus they significantly compete against native fur-bearers for prey. In Europe they’ve starved-out and driven to the brink of extinction even their closest wild relative and parent-species, the Old World wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*).

Cats are the definitive host of *Toxoplasma gondii*—a pathogen which reproduces exclusively in feline digestive tracts, and which is contaminating and killing thousands of sea and river otters, mink and other native fur-bearers, as well as seals, walrus, dolphins and whales from Arctic Canada to New Zealand, and from California to the UK.

It has infected one-fifth of the US population, and is the leading cause of pathogenic blindness; 1.3 million Americans’ eyesight is threatened by this

pathogen. It can be transmitted by eating undercooked game, raw dairy products processed from animals grazing cat-contaminated pastures, fruits and vegetables grown in contaminated soil, raw shellfish, drinking water, toxoplasmosis-contaminated human breast milk and semen, and from infected mothers to their unborn children.

40%-70% of feral cats carry this pathogen. Thanks to the efforts of irresponsible TNR practitioners, 60% of Ohio's white-tailed deer population is now infected with toxoplasmosis. How many hunters and their families are consuming those deer?

Toxoplasmosis is in Alaska. In 2011 Ms. Lauren Hamm ate a medium-rare steak from a moose her husband shot during her 26th week of pregnancy. The moose had browsed an area contaminated by so-called "community" cats. Her son Bennett was born prematurely, with a heart-rate of 200 beats per minute and organ cavities filled with lymphocyte fluid; he had lesions on his eyes and brain. He'll remain at risk for blindness, hearing-loss, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and other serious disorders for the rest of his life. 85% of infants born to infected mothers exhibit symptoms within months, or after several years, of birth.

I urge the Board to reject Proposal 62—please don't allow Shannon Basner and her ilk to further establish this cat-vectored epidemiological nightmare in our state.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9250185>

<http://news.ubc.ca/2014/02/13/bigthaw/>

<https://veterinarypracticenews.com/Study-Toxoplasmosis-in-Northeastern-Ohio-Deer-Population-Hits-60/>