

**Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**03/20/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1137 Adopt a Shelter Pet Account Community Cats**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Jennifer Hunter For themselves	<p>Testimony in Support of Equitable Distribution of Pet License Plate Funds for TNR and Small Rescues</p> <p>Jennifer Hunter Neonatal Kitten Rescuer, TNR Advocate, and Mentor 2/18/2024 State Agriculture Committee Hearing</p> <p>Chairperson, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Jennifer Hunter, and I have been actively fostering kittens for over 12 years. I've personally fostered more than 1,000 kittens—so many that I've lost count. I also mentor rescuers across Colorado and nationwide. Some of my friends call me the "Colorado Kitten Lady" because of my deep commitment to neonatal kitten care and TNR.</p> <p>I led a well-publicized TNR effort at Coors Field, and I am currently leading the massive, ongoing effort to humanely manage a 200-cat colony at Cedar Run Apartments in Denver. I am here today to strongly support this bill, which will ensure that funds from our state's pet license plates are distributed equitably to include small and rural TNR groups. These groups are critical in reducing cat overpopulation and preventing unnecessary suffering, yet they often lack access to adequate funding.</p> <p>TNR is Common-Sense, Whether You Like Cats or Not</p> <p>TNR is not about personal feelings toward cats. It is about practical, effective animal population management. If left unaltered, community cats reproduce exponentially, flooding shelters, straining taxpayer-funded animal services, and increasing the number of suffering animals outdoors. By spaying, neutering, vaccinating, and returning these cats to their outdoor homes, we prevent the cycle from continuing. This means fewer kittens in shelters, fewer euthanasia cases, and fewer cats struggling to survive in our communities.</p>

	<p>The Majority of Kittens in Shelters Are Born Outside</p> <p>Most of the kittens I and my fellow rescuers care for come from outdoor litters. When I say "most" i mean easily over 90%. This is proof that TNR is necessary. Every kitten born outside is another sign that we need to expand our spay/neuter programs. If we don't, the cycle continues, and shelters remain overwhelmed. Without TNR, our rescue work will always be reactive—picking up the pieces after kittens are born, rather than preventing suffering before it begins.</p> <p>Most Outdoor-Born Kittens Don't Survive Their First Year</p> <p>For every kitten I have fostered, I know that there are many more who never made it to safety. Most outdoor-born kittens don't survive to their first birthday. They die from starvation, disease, predation, or harsh weather. The few that do survive often end up in shelters that are forced to euthanize due to overcrowding. This is an unnecessary tragedy, and one that we can prevent by investing in TNR.</p> <p>This Bill Ensures Fair Funding Distribution</p> <p>This bill isn't about taking money away from large shelters—it's about fairness. Small and rural rescues, many of which are entirely volunteer-run, are doing some of the hardest and most important work in animal welfare. They are preventing litters before they ever reach shelters, yet they are often excluded from funding opportunities. Without financial support, these groups struggle to continue their lifesaving work.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. It is a practical, humane, and fiscally responsible solution to cat overpopulation in our state. Thank you for your time and for considering the needs of all organizations working to create a better future for our communities and for the animals we share them with.</p>
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