

## **FERAL CAT ORDINANCE PASSES: MANDATORY SPAY AND NEUTER NEXT**

Animal Talk, Fall 2008

The Clark County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the Feral Cat Ordinance on October 9, 2008 at the Animal Advisory Meeting. Under the ordinance, the policy of trapping and euthanizing feral cats has been replaced by one which continues to allow cats to be trapped and euthanized, but also allows residents the option of TNR—Trap, Neuter, and release to caretaker. Under this residents may elect to continue to feed stray and feral cats if they are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and registered with a Central Sponsor. Other rescue groups may register as sponsors who oversee the caretakers of these colonies. The ordinance does not apply to the outlying areas of Clark County and colonies are not allowed in conservation areas, state or national forests, Wetlands, or any other lands managed for wildlife. After changes were made to the ordinance, the LVVHS supported the ordinance and a number of its members spoke on its behalf. The LVVHS Board has not made a determination of whether or not it will serve as a sponsor for purposes of the ordinance.

Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani was instrumental in the passage of the ordinance, and has said that a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance, which the LVVHS has supported for some time, is next on her agenda. Part of the issue is public safety. All of the vicious dogs who have bitten people or children or as in the incident in NLV, killed a child, were not spayed or neutered. The proposed ordinance will be heard on October 9, 2008 at an Animal Advisory Meeting.