

ITEM	11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	21
COUNCIL MEETING	Mar. 21/77

Re: STRAY CATS

On March 14, 1977, Council requested a report on a problem involving stray cats which had become a matter of concern to a resident in Burnaby. Two newspaper articles which contain further information on this matter are attached.

Personnel from the Health and Licence Departments visited Mrs. Jennings on March 8, 1977 and advised that, if satisfactory to her, the following procedure of cat control would be carried out:

1. That the S.P.C.A. would provide a cage with which to trap the cats.
2. The S.P.C.A. would set the cage in a suitable location.
3. The S.P.C.A. would pick up the cats that enter the cage.

Mrs. Jennings stated that this procedure met with her approval, and as a result, the cage was placed on her property on March 9, 1977.

As of March 15, 1977, four cats have been removed from the premises, and Mrs. Jennings is of the opinion that the control program is proceeding satisfactorily.

It should be noted that the S.P.C.A., contrary to the information in the articles, provides as a routine service the impoundment of stray cats that are the subject of complaints by citizens. The S.P.C.A., however, is not able to respond immediately to complaints when all available cages are in use (as was the case when Mrs. Jennings had initially called the S.P.C.A. for assistance).

A \$20.00 deposit is normally requested when a cage is given out on loan; this amount is always refunded when the cage is returned. Cages are loaned, incidentally, to persons wishing to use them for cat control purposes. These persons can then either bring the cats to the pound, or alternatively, request that they be picked up by the S.P.C.A.

This is for the information of Council.

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David Clark photo

After taking out the garbage, Brenda Jennings casts a wary eye for the cats who will soon be upon it.

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Housewife terrorized by tabbies

By DENNIS BELL ON

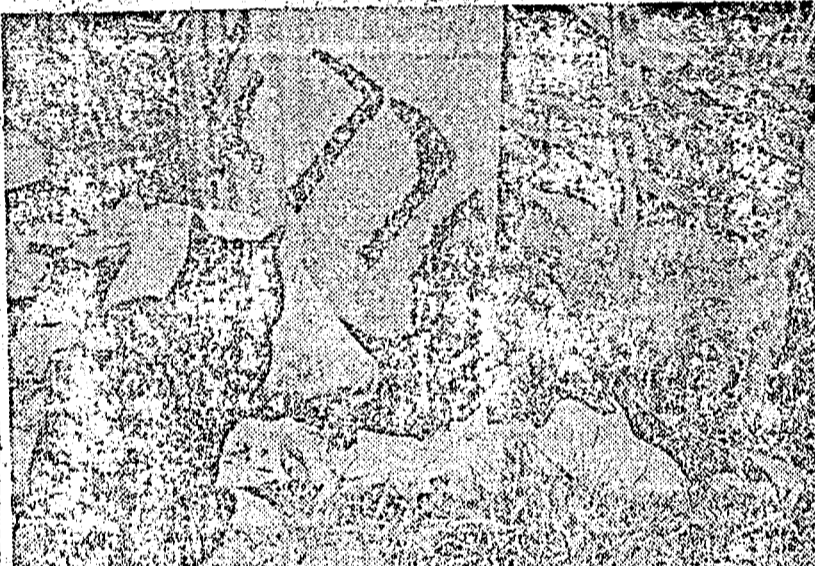
If Brenda Jennings stepped out on her back porch of Southeast Marine Drive and called "here, kitty, kitty, kitty," she would risk being trampled by a howling mob of many old tomcats and pregnant tabbies.

"I can't get rid of them," said the Burnaby mother of two young sons. "I've called everybody — the Burnaby SPCA, the municipal health department, the RCMP and even the provincial fish and wildlife branch.

"But there's nothing anybody can, or will, do."

Mrs. Jennings said about 15 wild cats are living under a derelict pickup truck on a nearby vegetable farm, "and there's going to be a lot more soon, judging from the number of pregnant tabbies I've seen lately."

The people who own the farm have offered to shoot the cats or poison them, "but I don't want to be cruel to them, I just want somebody to come down here and remove them."



There's no finicky act as cats come out to forage, right on cue.

Mrs. Jennings said she is afraid to let her youngsters Tom, 27 months, and Peter, eight months, toddle around the back porch for fear they'll be attacked by the famished feline foragers.

"Every time Tom takes a cookie out on the porch, cats appear and start licking up the crumbs," she said. "I get really scared. Some of these cats look diseased and I'm worried that they could pass something on to my children."

The Burnaby SPCA told her the municipality doesn't have a cat control bylaw. Unless she can teach the kitties how to bark or fetch the paper, they can't round them up for her.

"If they were dogs, no problem," said Mrs. Jennings. "The SPCA would be down here in a flash."

She tried to get the health department to look into the health aspects of the cat problem, but the department referred her to the SPCA.

Reasoning that the cats had gone wild, she went after fish and wildlife. But off-

icials there told her that domestic cats don't qualify under game management regulations. But if they were cougars . . .

A Burnaby RCMP community relations officer offered his sympathy and a few practical suggestions, but he didn't know how to get rid of the kitties either. Cops don't arrest cats.

Back to the SPCA. They offered to lend her a trap for a \$20 deposit so she could catch them herself but she said she doesn't have time to catch the cats and haul them off to the animal shelter.

A Burnaby SPCA spokesman said the SPCA can't do a thing about cats because there aren't any bylaws on the books under which they can be controlled.

"We're doing what we can in the cat control field with our spaying and neutering program," said the spokesman.

Mrs. Jennings said the situation is getting more serious every day.

"A bunch of them beat up my landlord's cat."

Woman bugged by cats ^{Columbian style}

Who's afraid of the cats?

Brenda Jennings, for one. The Burnaby resident says she's being bothered by a mob of toms and tabbies, who live in the underbrush on a vegetable farm near her Southeast Marine Drive home.

The problem is that she can't get rid of the pesky kitties, and there doesn't seem to be anyone who can help her, short of poisoning or shooting them.

"There's no by-law against cats," she told The Columbian, ruefully, adding she's tried to have the municipality deal with the problem but has had no success.

"I've called everybody—the Burnaby SPCA, the municipal Health Department, the RCMP, and even the provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch."

"But there's nothing anybody can, or will do."

"The SPCA has told me I can rent a cat trap, and I can trap them and transport them to the SPCA," she said. "If they were dogs, no problem. The SPCA would be here in a flash."

Jennings said she is afraid to let her children—aged 27 months and eight months—play on the back porch for fear they will be attacked by the hungry cats.

"Every time Tom takes a cookie out on the porch, cats appear and start licking up the crumbs."

"I get really scared. Some of these cats look diseased and I'm worried that they could pass something on to my children."

She tried to get the Health

Department to look into the health aspects of the situation, but the department referred her back to the SPCA.

Thinking that the cats had gone wild, she contacted the Fish and Wildlife Branch, but she was told domestic cats don't come under game management regulations.

A Burnaby RCMP officer offered a few practical suggestions, but police don't arrest cats.

Meanwhile, Jennings says the situation is deteriorating.

"A bunch of them beat up my landlord's dog recently,"

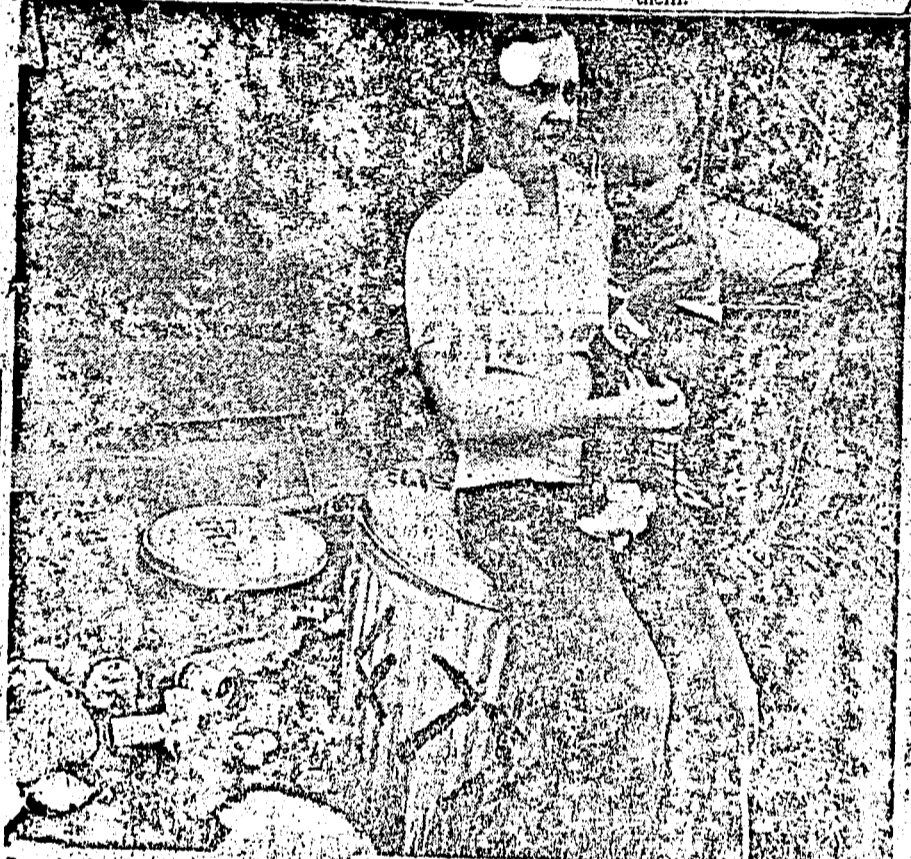
And Jennings doesn't want to shoot or poison the creatures. "I don't like them," she said, "but I don't want anyone to be cruel to them."

"I just want to get rid of them."

THE COLUMBIAN

MARCH 3, 1977

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Brenda Jennings and her infant son survey the damage caused by hordes of marauding cats. Columbian photo by Cray Hodge



Clutch of cats cluster around the Jannings' garbage can, looking for spoils.