

PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
P.O. BOX 42516
WASHINGTON DC
20015-0516
(301) 770 - PETA
FAX (301) 770 - 8969

July 12, 1995

The Honorable Seymour Gelber
Mayor, Miami Beach
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Mayor Gelber,

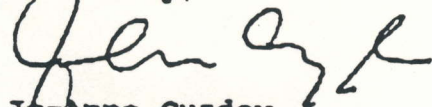
It has been brought to our attention that the city of Miami Beach will be contracting to trap feral cats from an area known as The Boardwalk.

First, we would like to tell you that we wholeheartedly support the city's efforts to capture the cats and remove them from the streets. Living on the streets is a hard, miserable life for a domestic cat, and we commend you for trying to assist these poor animals. We have heard disconcerting reports that kittens under 8 weeks will be turned over to a Redlands resident who will attempt to find homes for them. This is the only part of the city's plan to which we take exception. We would appreciate your written assurance that the trapping will be done humanely and that all the animals, kittens included, will be taken to an appropriate animal control facility where they will either be placed into carefully screened homes or euthanized by sodium pentobarbital injection.

We understand there are approximately 1000 cats who need to be rescued. Unfortunately, in these situations, public emotions tend to run high. A moratorium on the trapping will not help matters. We urge the city to take immediate action, for the safety of the cats, and public health, by trapping the entire colony. The problem will recur unless all the cats are removed. In order to accomplish this, it is imperative that no individual be allowed to continue the routine feeding of the cats, thereby making the trapping more difficult. We realize that with a limited budget, such an undertaking would be impossible, therefore we urge the city's animal control to provide euthanasia services for a significantly reduced fee, instead of \$15 per cat, and that more resources be directed for this humane and responsible action.

We appreciate your prompt response on this matter, and thank you again for caring about Miami Beach's homeless cat population.

Sincerely,



Jo-Anne Cuzdey
Cruelty Caseworker

cc: Kevin Smith, Director for Recreation, Culture, and Parks