



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

*Office of the Secretary*

**Martin O'Malley**, Governor

**Anthony G. Brown**, Lt. Governor

**Earl F. Hance**, Secretary

**Mary Ellen Setting**, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us)

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

410.841.5914 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

## CLARIFICATION for Residents Concerned about Feral Cat Populations

ANNAPOLIS (April 25, 2014) - The Maryland Department of Agriculture recently closed public comments on proposed regulations guiding the Spay and Neuter Program, which was established by the Maryland General Assembly as a new program within MDA in 2013. MDA has logged more than 340 comments to date about the proposed regulations, the vast majority of them related to feral cat populations. MDA would like to clarify that **the proposed regulations do not state that grant applications proposing projects that manage feral cat populations are ineligible for funding**. The regulations only restrict funding for projects to spay and neuter feral cats if the project would violate local law. The legislation creating the program expressly states: "A competitive grant proposal may target feral cat populations if the Department determines that this targeting does not violate local law."

The Spay & Neuter Advisory Board is considering all public comments it has received and will make its final recommendation to the Secretary of Agriculture by the end of May.

For more information, contact: Vanessa Orlando, 410-841-5889 or Julie Oberg, 410-841-5888