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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Jonathan Keough, Director of Environmental Health Services

DATE: May 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Feral Cat Statement

Cats that are 4 months of age and older are required by New York State Public Health Law to be immunized against rabies, however, feral cats are often unvaccinated because they're not domesticated.

Because feral cats are not recognized by the general public as being "wildlife", people often feel free to have contact with these unvaccinated animals, putting themselves at risk.

Feral cats pose a public health threat to our community due to their lack of a proper rabies vaccination regimen.

The Chemung County Health Department has an obligation to protect the public from the threat of rabies.

Any effort to eliminate or vaccinate the feral cat population in our community will help to reduce the public health threat that these animals pose.