



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2026

Ms. Myrna Palfrey
Superintendent, San Juan National Historic Site
U.S. National Park Service
501 Norzagaray Street,
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

RE: Proposed Elimination of the Trap-Neuter-Return Program in the Paseo del Morro National Recreation Trail in the San Juan National Historic Site.

Superintendent Palfrey,

I write to express my opposition to the U.S. National Park Service's (NPS) upcoming plan to end the longstanding Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program administered by Save-A-Gato Inc. and Alley Cat Allies in the Paseo del Morro National Recreation Trail (the "Paseo").

The TNR program was established in 2005 to humanely reduce the stray cat population in the Paseo. Through the program, cats are fed, live trapped, assessed by a veterinarian, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. Socialized cats are put up for adoption while unsocialized adult cats are returned to the location where they were trapped.

It is our understanding that NPS intends to contract with a removal agency to capture and remove the stray cats from the Paseo, an action that would likely result in the euthanasia of many of them. This plan is both inhumane and counterproductive. Removing cats from the Paseo might result in new cats migrating into the vacated area, creating a cycle of removal and euthanasia, precisely the outcome the TNR program is designed to prevent. NPS's plan also ignores the cultural and historic importance of the community cats of the Paseo and could negatively impact visitors' experience in the capital.

My constituents have expressed their support for the community cats of the Paseo and favor the continuation of the TNR program.

I urge NPS to immediately suspend its removal plan and commit to a period of public outreach and stakeholder consultation to reach a solution that puts people and animals first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pablo J. Hernández".

Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress