(Your Name)

(Your Address)

(Your Address)

(Your Address)

(Date)

Dear Mayor (Name),

I'm writing to you because I want to express my concern about cats and birds, and how their treatment is impacting our community and our environment.

Many cat owners let their cat outdoors to explore. But just like dogs, cats need supervision to be protected from traffic, other cats, animals, and the many diseases they can catch, not to mention getting lost. Additionally, free-roaming cats can spread diseases such as toxoplasmosis, cause conflicts between neighbours, and kill an enormous number of birds and other wildlife.

Environment Canada has estimated that pet cats kill 80 million birds a year in Canada (Blancher, 2013), and are the leading human-related cause of bird death. Many of Canada’s birds are in trouble; some have declined by over 90%, and cats add to the list of risks that birds face. The official list of Bird Species at Risk increased from 47 to 86 between 2001 and 2014.

It's imperative that we improve the treatment of both cats and birds, and adopt a no-free roam bylaw in our community. The bylaw needs to be accompanied by a campaign to inform cat-owners about the benefits to cats, to wildlife, and to our community. Ideally, the program also provides for licensing (a revenue stream) and gives cat owners rewards for compliance, whether return of a lost pet, or an incentive program. However, we do know that licensing fees can be an obstacle to compliance with bylaws, and encourage municipalities to be flexible on how fees are charged.

You can learn more about the issue at catsandbirds.ca, a campaign run by Nature Canada. I urge you to address the issue of cats and birds in our community.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)