

Kelby Bridwell

From: Heather Hannusch
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Kelby Bridwell; Todd McClanahan
Subject: RE: Garner State Park: Feral Cats
Attachments: Garner SP - Feral Animal Plan.doc

Kelby,

Sorry- we looked around and I couldn't find anything that is approved status. All I can find is this one which was a draft from years back.

I think the best move here is to update the draft plan and include the option for her removal for adoption. Then, submit it back to us and we'll get it approved. Let's definitely take advantage of her willingness to help while avoiding an opportunity for public outcry. I would just respond something to the effect of "Yes, we would greatly appreciate your participation in this. I will get back to you once final approvals are in-place." Then, establish parameters with her (including reporting, trap labels, duration of project, etc.) and get these in writing via email. I wouldn't volunteer our plan to her unless it is requested.

Thanks,
Heather Hannusch

From: Kelby Bridwell <Kelby.Bridwell@tpwd.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Todd McClanahan <Todd.McClanahan@tpwd.texas.gov>; Heather Hannusch <Heather.Hannusch@tpwd.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Garner State Park: Feral Cats

Sounds like a nice way to appease her for a while. When complaint came through I had reached out to J and Heather to see if they knew if we had a Feral Animal Control Plan. All I could find in site records were past documents for contract axis removal.

That was just couple days ago so I'll wait and see if they find something. If not I'll get one submitted for review.

Kelby L. Bridwell
Park Superintendent
Garner State Park
234 RR 1050
Concan, TX 78838
830-834-0321

From: Todd McClanahan <Todd.McClanahan@tpwd.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:31:34 AM
To: Kelby Bridwell <Kelby.Bridwell@tpwd.texas.gov>; Heather Hannusch <Heather.Hannusch@tpwd.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Garner State Park: Feral Cats

We had a lady at one time at Bastrop and Buescher who offered to trap and relocate cats from the parks and we added it to the Feral Animal Plan and specified that she had to put a label on the traps, otherwise we would continue with our management practices of trapping and euthanizing. She assisted for a while then she quit coming.

Todd McClanahan

Texas State Parks – Region 3 Director
1174 Hwy 71 East
Bastrop, TX 78602
O 512-308-1475 x224
C 512-332-1089

From: Kelby Bridwell <Kelby.Bridwell@tpwd.texas.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:29 AM

To: Todd McClanahan <Todd.McClanahan@tpwd.texas.gov>; Heather Hannusch <Heather.Hannusch@tpwd.texas.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Garner State Park: Feral Cats

Knew it wouldn't be that easy...please send me copy of our feral animal control plan. Would you like me to entertain the idea of her assisting or I can reference our plan, which I'm assuming only includes euthanasia.

Kelby L. Bridwell
Park Superintendent
Garner State Park
234 RR 1050
Concan, TX 78838
830-834-0321

From: N J <missionvalleygirl@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 5:16:30 PM

To: Kelby Bridwell <Kelby.Bridwell@tpwd.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: Garner State Park: Feral Cats

ALERT: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links in unknown or unexpected emails.

Thank you for your email. Please don't misunderstand...I was not complaining about the cats. I was alarmed to see them, and I'm very concerned for their welfare. I did not find them to be feral in the true sense of the word; they seemed wary of us but rather used to people. They definitely were very, very hungry.

When the cats are trapped, where are they taken? I hope they are not simply euthanized. I noted that there were many that were just beautiful and could possibly be adopted. I have much experience taking care of and rehoming stray cats after having them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. With time and patience, I've never had one that could not be tamed. I would be happy to work with your staff to find placement for any that can be trapped. Please let me know how I can assist.

On another note, I thoroughly enjoyed introducing my husband to Garner State Park. Like countless others, I have so many happy memories of my time spent there as a child with my family and friends. It truly is a Texas gem.

Nancy Johnson
817/821-3173

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021, 4:30 PM Kelby Bridwell <Kelby.Bridwell@tpwd.texas.gov> wrote:

Howdy Mrs. Johnson,

Thank you for reaching out to report your local sightings of feral cats at Garner State Park. As the new Superintendent to Garner SP, I too am concerned about our feral cat population and their impacts on our natural resources, as well as the safety of our visitors. Historically, Garner has attempted to trap and remove feral cats throughout the year with most success being during the colder months, when visitation is less and cats come to food in traps. Garner is only able to close for one week a year for natural resource management purposes and we have staff during that time that focus solely on feral animal control. I attempted to contact you by phone and you are welcome to reach out to me with any further questions or concerns.

Thank you and we look forward to having you back to the park in the future with hopefully less feline encounters.

Sincerely,

Kelby

Kelby L. Bridwell

Park Superintendent

Garner State Park

Concan, TX 78838

830-834-0321

Subject: Garner State Park: Feral Cats

We received the following complaint for the customer below:

Customer name: Nancy Johnson

Customer ID: 100768335

Date received: Fri. Nov 12, 2021

Time call received: 4:35pm

Callback requested? YES

Best number to contact: 817-821-3173

Best time to contact:

Second number: NA

Email address: missionvalleygirl@gmail.com

Park name: Garner State Park

Reservation number if applicable: 2-7628300

Date of arrival: Oct 31-Nov 4, 2021

First-time camper? No

Steps taken to resolve complaint:

Please add an alert added to customer account: Done

Complaint: The customer wants to report an issue of seeing 7-8 feral cats wandering groups of park visitors looking for food. She did speak to park staff and cleaning staff; no one had seen the cats but they said would be reported to park superintendent. Ms. Johnson does have experience with animal control and wants to offer her assistance as a volunteer. She did say they looked well fed and could easily be rescued and adopted. Her concern was someone getting hurt, the customers or the cats. She requested a follow up.