



**Chemung County Health Department
Environmental Health Services**

103 Washington St., PO Box 588
Elmira, New York 14902-0588 www.chemungcountyhealth.org

Phone: (607) 737-2019 Fax: (607) 737-0437

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Thomas G. Kump, P.E., Director of Environmental Health Services
DATE: September 27, 2006
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 because rabies has been declared as being present in our community.

Because feral cats are not recognized by the general public as being "wildlife", people feel free to have contact with these unvaccinated for 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 the feral cat population in our community will help to reduce the public health threat that these animals pose.