



University of the Philippines Manila
The Health Sciences Center

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

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21 March 2022

OVCR MEMORANDUM 2022-002

TO: All Offices of UP Manila

SUBJECT: Implementation of the OPCAT: Operasyon CATpon ng UP Manila

The UP Manila Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), in collaboration with the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), will launch its **OPCAT: Operasyon CATpon ng UP Manila**, a campus-wide initiative to humanely control the university stray cat population through a **Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR)** approach. The program will entail humane trapping of at least 90% of the campus cats to allow them to be neutered, vaccinated against rabies, and dewormed by licensed veterinarians before they are returned to their respective areas to naturally defend their territories against the entry of new stray cats.

The TNVR approach has been implemented in multiple communities locally and internationally with much success in controlling stray cat populations and safeguarding community public health. This method is possible through the cessation of feline natural reproduction by **neuter** or *kapon*, and facilitating **vaccination** and **deworming** to protect the campus cats from parasites and other diseases and prevent zoonotic transmission. Upon the release of the animals to their original colonies within the campus, a controlled feeding schedule in specified feeding areas will be implemented by the UP Police to **control** their feeding source, preventing them from rummaging through garbage bins, and encouraging them to instinctively protect their colony from other cats, eluding the entry of new felines.

The program's success depends on the cooperation of the students, faculty members, and employees of UP Manila. As such, we implore all members of the UP Community to strictly observe the following campus rules:

1. **No petting of cats.** All TNVR-ed cats will be identified by a notch on their ears and neck collars. The UP Manila community is discouraged from petting university cats to prevent unwanted injuries and disease transmission. This practice will also protect the cats from untoward abuse.
2. **No capturing of cats.** The university cats are the sole responsibility of the UP Manila. Thus, unauthorized capturing and releasing of cats within campus grounds is an unwarranted action. The incident of lost or abandoned cats should be reported immediately to the IACUC secretariat (iacuc.upmanila@up.edu.ph).
3. **No feeding of cats.** The project will implement a strictly controlled daily feeding plan to ensure that food sources will only be enough for the currently residing colonies. Please do not destroy or take bowls from the assigned feeding areas within the campus.
4. **Keep the campus areas clean and trash bins closed.** To prevent the campus cats from scavenging for edibles, kindly keep our sites clean by throwing our trash into the respective wastebins and keeping the lids tightly closed.



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UP Manila IACUC will further elaborate and share the project's goals and course of action through **information, education, communication (IEC)** initiatives. There will be regular seminars and other fun activities in the future to further help the UP Manila community uphold animal welfare inside the university while safeguarding everyone's health and wellbeing.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via e-mail (iacuc.upmanila@up.edu.ph).

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of Rohani Cena in black ink.

Rohani Cena—Navarro, DVM, MSc
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Chair

Handwritten signature of Edward H.M. Wang in black ink.

Edward H.M. Wang, MD, MSc
Officer in Charge, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

Noted by:

Handwritten signature of Carmencita D. Padilla in black ink, with the initials 'OIC' written to the right.

CARMENCITA D. PADILLA, MD, MAHPS
Professor and Chancellor