

# SPCA's Letter to MAPAQ re Barbara Lisbona and ARN - English

By [Susan Mackasey](#) on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 9:35am

Hello,

For over a year and a half, the SPCA TNR Program has been helping to sterilize feral cat colonies in Dollard des Ormeaux and Pierrefonds.

Andrea Banks of the Sunnybrooke Colony brought us a very feral (wild) female cat on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 to be sterilized. A member of a small colony cared for by a lady who provides them with winterized shelters and food, she was the most difficult to catch. This female had been a part of this colony for close to 10 years and had been producing litters of kittens on an average of 3 a year.

Upon examination by the SPCA vet, the cat was diagnosed with Rhinotracheitis, with visible secondary bacterial infection. Her condition was severe enough that our vet felt—that it would not be safe to sterilize her in such a condition. She was subsequently returned to Andrea with medications and with the understanding that Andrea would keep her in a large dog crate indoors for 2 weeks in order to assure that she received her daily antibiotics. We would then reschedule her surgery after her recovery.

It was not known to us at the time that Andrea was a volunteer with the Animal Rescue Network. Andrea subsequently did not return home with the cat but instead brought the cat to The Animal Rescue Network Shelter located at 2400 Rue des Carrieres, Montreal, Qc. H2G 1X8 by Barbara Lisbona, where she was placed in a cage for 2 months.

In late December, the cat was taken to Clinique Veterinaire de L'Est situated at 8700, av Chaumont, Anjou, QC H1K 1N6 by Barbara Lisbona to be sterilized.

Once on the operating table and opened up, the vet contacted Ms Lisbona to inform her that the cat was not only pregnant but ready to

give birth. Miss Lisbona insisted that the cat be sewn up so that she could deliver her kittens.

The cat delivered her kittens the next day while still recovering from invasive surgery.

The kittens were immediately removed because the mother cat was too stressed to nurse them.

A third kitten was delivered 6 days later, stillborn.

Subsequent to the delivery and its unusual circumstances, this feral cat remained in her cage up until the time she was brought to the SPCA Montreal by Andrea Banks on the evening of Monday, January 20th 2014 for sterilization.

On the operating table, our vets found evidence of recent internal stitches that corroborated the surgery of late December.

I was subsequently contacted by our staff in the Surgery Clinic who expressed concerns over the future well being of this creature.

I then contacted Andrea Banks who finally disclosed to me that she was a volunteer for Barbara Lisbona at The Animal Rescue Network and that the cat had been in Barbara's care rather than under her care.

Not only is it inconceivable to house a feral animal in a small cage for nearly 2 months, but I am amazed that this animal was allowed to develop a full term pregnancy without someone noticing. To permit an older female cat of roughly 10 years of age -who had a known history of multiple births- to be sewn up so that she could deliver kittens the next day while still recovering from the previous day's surgery is simply unconscionable.

This cat was sterilized January 21st in our TNR Program at the SPCA. Upon talking to Andrea, her plan was to return this animal back into Ms. Lisbona's possession.

My conversation with Ms. Banks prompted an e-mail from Ms. Lisbona where she herself confirmed the above details of this situation. She strongly recommended that the cat be returned to her.

We had grave concerns about this. In consultation with Alanna Devine, Clinic & Staff Veterinarians and Supervisors, we have collectively decided to not return this little cat into either Ms. Banks or Ms. Lisbona's possession. Our fear was that this cat would have to spend the rest of its stressed life living in a cage in an environment that permits and condones the warehousing of animals who can not advocate for themselves.

The SPCA has already found a reliable foster home for this cat in which she will be allowed to spend the next few months under the care of one of our TNR caregivers. She will not be caged unnecessarily. Pending contact with the original colony caregiver and consultation with our vets, we will decide whether returning her to her colony would be in her best interests.

Thank you for listening to my concerns about Miss Barbara Lisbona.

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